



Frontline



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

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

October 2009
PP 337586/00070
ISSN 1445-3991



**FLOODSAFE
NATIONAL
DISASTER RESCUE
COMPETITION
30 YEARS OF SES
IN TUMBY BAY**

CONTENT FOR FRONTLINE

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Content deadlines

February 20th

June 1st

August 31st

November 9th

Advertisers Alert

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

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

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

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Cover: Royal Show promotion: Judith Bleachmore from FloodSafe with Birdie Yates, Stephen Reynolds and Sophie (Golden Labrador) from the Dog Operations Unit. Of course, we all noted Sophie was the star attraction at the SES/CFS/SAFEKOM site.

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Chairperson's report



The last months of winter proved to be a busy time for many units across the state as wet winter weather that the state had missed over the last few years returned with a vengeance. Providing much-needed rain, but also catching many members of the public unprepared for the wild weather. While this may have increased units' call-out figures for the year, it probably came at the wrong time, if there ever is a good time. Most units would have been going through the process of reviewing the year past, in preparation for individual Unit Annual General Meetings. It is a time when the amount of hours spent on training and call-outs is tallied up and people are surprised just how quickly this time adds up. I know from writing my own reports that this year has been busy.

Annual General Meetings are an important part of the communication system; they provide

Headquarters with a snapshot of not only how busy a unit is and how well it is coping, but they also allow volunteers the opportunity to voice any concerns and suggestions.

The Association has also been busy – we managed to get an article into *The Advertiser* (Saturday 13th June) which expressed our concerns on any future possible cutbacks on spending in the Emergency Services sector would create extra work for volunteers.

We have also met with the Minister to voice these concerns and recently it was announced that the SES will be holding a review on not only workloads but how it manages its people. This is an opportunity for all to contribute their ideas and concerns on a number of areas. If you have something to say, please say it, as these opportunities don't come around all that often. Be a part of the solution, not part of the problem.

Recognition for what we do does not always come when we expect it. This was recently brought home to me when my younger brother was interviewed by *The Advertiser* and managed to mention that he had shared some of his good fortune with me, not only because I was his brother, but because I was an SES volunteer and was always out there helping people. I did not ask him to do it, but he saw an opportunity to publicly promote what the SES does.

The Annual SES Parade and SES Week itself provide such an opportunity that needs to be used to the fullest. It is not easy to get to the parade or become involved in the activities planned for the week. But the fact that these events are planned is a form of recognition in itself and we need to make time to support them. Even though the running of the parade is now managed by State Headquarters, it needs the support of units and volunteers to make it a success.

With SES Week and the parade approaching, it is time for the Association to prepare for our own Annual General Meeting and the presentation of the Keith Lane Memorial Award. So if you would like to nominate a fellow volunteer for their efforts throughout the year, now is the time to send in your nominations. I cannot guarantee that we can get the winner's name in *The Advertiser*, but the winner does get an article in *Frontline*.

Till next time, stay safe.

Warren Hicks
Chairperson, SASESVA

Volunteer anger
Morale plunges in heavy workload

KIM WHEATLEY
THE men and women who volunteer to be at the front line of floods, storms, car accidents and search-and-rescue operations are being consumed by excessive paperwork and relentless training. The workload, which comes on top of an increasing number of emergencies, has led to morale plummeting among the 1700 State Emergency Service volunteers, with many reportedly close to breaking point.

SA SES volunteers association chairman Warren Hicks told *The Advertiser* that goodwill was evaporating as volunteers had also taken on extra workloads to compensate for cutbacks in public service support staff and overtime.

"It's becoming like a second job for some – some are putting in 20 to 24 hours a week – and that's on top of their normal job," Mr Hicks, who is a high school teacher, said yesterday.

"It's starting to cause problems, people are burnt out." Adding to the pressure was a lack of paid trainers, which had resulted in training being delivered by volunteers.

Volunteers must also undertake three hours of mandatory training a week, with voluntary courses on weekends.

Mr Hicks also said SA Police SES to help out the bl...

paperwork. "Every job just seems to have a lot more paperwork attached than before," Mr Hicks said.

"In the old days there was someone who did that and now, we're finding with cutbacks they (public servants) haven't got time, so it's being forced down to a unit level."

Chief Officer of the SES Stuart Macleod acknowledged volunteers were having to undertake more paperwork to meet regulatory requirements including WorkCover and Occupational Health and Safety.

"He's dead right about paperwork... mostly it's about compliance, evidence trails... it's not the same easy environment that it was," he said. "We've analysed there is a huge workload in paperwork and forms. We're trying to put better mechanisms in place."

Mr Macleod however, disputed that there had been cutbacks to staff, instead saying the 36 full-time public servants were also stretched.

He said another major factor contributing to workloads was a drop in the number of volunteers (down from 2000) as generations become less unit-oriented.

Tell us - Your volunteer story. Are you swamped with paperwork?
adelaideonnow.com.au

from the Chief Officer's Desk

This issue of *Frontline* comes to you at yet another time of change and of progress for the Service in a very wide range of areas. The Fire and Emergency Service Act 2005 has now been passed by Parliament, and work is proceeding on the review and amendment of the Regulations to the Act, the actual “mechanics” of the legislation by which we exist as a Service, and through which SASES activities are governed. Over the past months, some very thorough consultation was carried out on likely changes to the Act and Regulations, and I believe that the final approval of the legislation will have little impact on SASES or its members. Many changes have come into play for the management of the risk of major bushfires. These have been well documented since the Deputy Coroner's findings on the Wangary bushfire, and will greatly facilitate the overall management major fire emergencies.

The final stages of this significant legislative work will see the inclusion of a range of routine management processes and procedures into the Regulations. Once again, I can see very little in this that will impact on our membership. It is, to many extents, a process of tidying up the legislation and providing greater simplicity of use and future improvement.

By this time, everyone in SASES should be very much aware of the Cultural Climate Assessment being conducted throughout the Service. Following significant discussions with the Minister of Emergency Services, the Hon Michael Wright MP, the key officers of SASESVA and David Place the CEO of SAFECOM, I requested that the SAFECOM Volunteer Strategic Services Branch under Mark Groote conduct a total review of SES organisation, systems and processes. This review is a measured reaction to input and feedback from SES volunteers over many months. It targets how volunteers believe they are supported by the system and organisation (or otherwise), and what needs to be done to improve our Service and to ensure that the SES maintains a close focus on volunteer support. I very strongly urge every volunteer to contribute to this assessment so that we know the issues and problems and can then work together to manage them effectively.

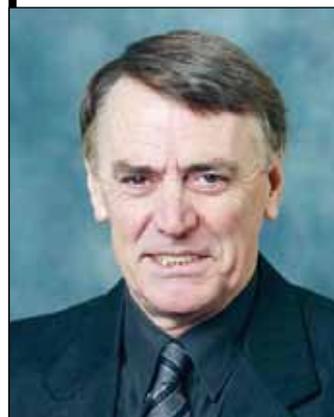
Another current major project is the relocation of East Region HQ to Murray Bridge.

This is a decision that is not universally popular, but it has been made to improve the service to the community as well as to volunteers and Units. Right now, the Commander, Business Support Officer and part-time Admin Officer are located at Berri. The Senior Regional Officer and second part-time Admin Officer are at Mount Gambier, and the State Training Officer works out of Meningie. Bringing the team together at Murray Bridge will help them work better as a team, and it will place them to respond to any part of the Region in a better timeframe. We must focus on the community first and foremost, and I believe that we can manage the impact of change on Units, so long as we talk with each other to address important issues.

Recent times have also seen the opening of the new Headquarters at Mount Gambier and Tea Tree Gully. These are two of the three major building projects that have kept everyone very busy for the last couple of years. Port Lincoln is the third project, and that is proceeding very nicely at this time. Interestingly, the Tea Tree Gully HQ is the first new Unit facility in the Metro area in about six years, and it is the very first HQ custom built for a Metropolitan SES Unit. I was very pleased to attend these two openings, and to be able to publicly recognise the efforts of SES volunteers within their communities.

The last two months have seen some “interesting” weather across the state and a high level of SES response to storm and flood incidents. Search continues to be a focus role, and the need for road crash responses simply never seems to ease up. Now it is highly likely that we will move into an early, high-risk fire season and heat event risk, without yet having seen the end of the storm season (if there is such a creature). These operational risks may change and pose varying levels of threat, but the commitment, determination and passion of SASES volunteers is constant. I am confident that together we will meet the challenges of climate change, operational roles and increased risks. The key to our success will be, as always, in working together, looking after one another and staying safe.

Stuart Macleod



Executive Officer's report

The time has simply flown since my last report and so much has occurred, from the consultation process about to commence, the numerous meetings attended, which have covered a wide range of issues and then of course, for all volunteers, culminating in the unbelievable weather and over 500 call outs for SES assistance on Monday 21st September.

The adverse weather and exceptional rains on Monday caught many by surprise and volunteers spent many hours on tasks. Support that needs greater recognition.

Why do I say this, simply when discussing many aspects of the SES at the recent North UMAG, one of the topics raised, and concern expressed, was identity and lack of awareness about both the SES and the fact that the so

called "workers" are in reality volunteers serving their communities. Congratulations though, is due to the *Adelaide Hills Magazine* for the profiles in its winter edition of SES volunteers Peter Wicks, Unit Manager Onkaparinga (who is also a CFS Group Officer) and Shaye Williams of Strathalbyn Unit. This story reflected and emphasised the commitment and diversity of roles provided by SES volunteers.

This of course flows to the consultation, which by now you should all be aware of, and just in case you are not, details have been summarised in this issue of *Frontline*. Consultation will be talking place over the next few weeks and I would urge you all to be involved, as the SES would not exist without you, the volunteers, and the best input is often obtained by listening to those out there at the "coalface".

This consultation provides all volunteers with the right to have a say on the future direction of the SES, how you believe it should be run, what needs to be done, and of course we are all aware of the ongoing need for more funds for buildings, plant and equipment, etc. However there may be other issues which you may consider just as important so please feel free to have your say. Of course it goes without saying that this includes positive aspects where you feel change is not required.

You can be assured that all notes taken at the consultations will be a summary of comments only and no names will be taken.

Once the consultation process has been finalised, a report will go to the SAFECOM Board and a summation will also be provided for all volunteers. Depending on the timing, this summation will either be published in the next issue of *Frontline* or appear on our website.

I would like to thank North Region for having asked me to join their weekend forum and for the opportunity to both hear and participate in discussions on so many areas that impact on volunteers, many of which again were raised when the Association's committee forum was held as a part of the consultation process.

Even the presentations by paid personnel highlighted the administrative requirements of units. An aspect that reflects the amount of work undertaken by volunteers and also the amount of support that is required from paid personnel. The forum also provided me with the opportunity to meet all North Region staff, who must be thanked for the weekend arrangements.





Additionally, in early August I attended a meeting held at Mount Gambier to hear about issues that were impacting on the Unit. The discussions were detailed and it is hoped that solutions will be forthcoming to address the issues and concerns raised. SHQ representatives have undertaken to develop some new forms from this meeting and to follow up on issues raised.

For me it provided me with an opportunity to meet with other members of the Unit and learn about the unit and its role in the region.

Long Service Medals continue to be presented progressively to many volunteers, and paid staff, and all of you must be congratulated for your ongoing commitment.

Two of the presentations, where I was present, were also attended by the DCO, Matt Maywald, who outlined details of a proposed leadership course to be run in each region over the next year and he emphasised the importance of the need to listen to volunteers. He also acknowledged that communication needs to improve and that this area is to be addressed. One way is that all volunteers will be provided

with an email address and then be able to access all information, via a members only portal, including policies and procedures, plans etc.

Finally, please do not forget that the Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on the 7th November and secondly an apology to Terri Purvis who was also involved in organising the Road Crash Rescue Challenge at Brukunga with Cindy and Scott.

Susan Caracoussis
Executive Officer SASESVA

SES CHIEF OFFICER CONGRATULATES FLOODSAFE'S SUCCESS IN THE 2009 AUSTRALIAN SAFER COMMUNITIES AWARDS

Stuart Macleod congratulated Judith Bleechmore on being invited to present at the 50th Annual Floodplain Management Authorities Conference (“2060 What Will Your Flood Legacy Be?”) in Gosford, next February.

He then congratulated both Judith and her team for their success in the Safer Communities Awards. He said: “I also take this opportunity to congratulate you and the FloodSafe team for the excellent result in today’s award of the Safer Communities trophy for South Australia.” He concluded by saying: “more and more recognition of the outstanding work of the team under your excellent leadership.”

The Chief Executive of SAFECOM hosted the 10th Safer Community Awards and outlined the background to the awards which were then presented by Martin Studdert, Assistant Secretary, National Security Capability Development Division, Attorney-General’s Department.

Prior to announcing the awards for Martin to present, David invited Martin to address guests.

Martin acknowledged the importance of the occasion in recognising the winners in the various categories for the awards and then said: “the emergency management community takes the Safer Community Awards very seriously as they provide an opportunity for us to both encourage and recognise best practice and innovation by organisations and individuals that help to build safer communities across Australia.”

He then spoke about the impact of the natural disasters during the last 12 months, in particular the devastating bushfire in Victoria and the significant flooding that occurred in Queensland. He said: “this has again resulted in severe community disruption, with communities being evacuated from the path of fire and flood and some being directly and severely impacted.

Australian communities will continue to be affected by events such as these, and therefore any contribution we can make in mitigating the effects of emergencies on communities and helping to build community resilience can make a real difference to those communities that experience these events.”

Martin concluded by thanking all and for being a part of the announcements.

David Place then announced the various recipients by categories.

Of particular significance was the award presented in the **Local Government - Collective Councils** for the **Community Flood Safe project**. The award was presented to representatives of the City Councils of Mitcham, Marion, Unley, Holdfast Bay, West Torrens and Adelaide, the Bureau of Meteorology, the Project Manager Judith Bleechmore and many of the participating volunteers.

David then stated: “As you can see, this project has been a collaborative effort of many agencies and volunteers. The FloodSafe project was initiated after a risk assessment of the Brownhill and Keswick creeks floodplains. With 5,000 properties at risk of a 1 in 100 year flood, only 6 regions in Australia have more residential properties susceptible to flood risk.

A flood mitigation study in 2006 recommended both structural treatments and “more importantly a program to increase community awareness and preparedness”.

In response, the SES and participating Councils co-funded and also sourced a Commonwealth Working Together grant to establish the Flood Safe community awareness and preparedness program.

Judith Bleechmore was appointed project coordinator and the Bureau of Meteorology came on board as an active contributor.



The program integrated a range of best practice ideas from across the country.

A particular challenge as raised in the 2006 study is that “flood threat is generally under-rated in the community mind – however in South Australia flood damage accounts on average for 39% of the annual cost of natural disasters”.

Whilst the program conducted traditional style door-knocks in extreme risk areas, and also public meetings, a particularly effective strategy was to engage the community through existing networks such as visiting schools, local clubs, and displays in council offices and at community events. The program even set up a display at the recent opening of the Anzac Bridge.

The Judging Panel considered that penetration into the community was exceptional.

A second benefit of the project is attributed to recruitment and retention of emergency services volunteers. A barrier to volunteering in the SES is that older, and much experienced volunteers reach a stage where they can no longer participate in response operations, and other members of the community are willing to volunteer but are not in a position to be on-call.

The FloodSafe program has provided an alternative community education role for emergency service volunteers. In the first 5 months the program recruited 37 dedicated volunteers that went beyond all initial expectation.

The program has seen local council staff and elected members out into the community meeting face to face with flood risk residents, as has the Bureau of Meteorology.

The success of the Flood Watch program has encouraged other councils and SES units to adopt the FloodSafe approach, with Judith and the team providing much encouragement and advice.

The SES and 6 northern councils have recently sourced a Commonwealth Working Together Grant along with \$90,000 co-contributed from councils to implement the Flood Watch program in the northern metropolitan area.

This is an excellent example of moving beyond emergency response and reaction, to anticipation and mitigation and I congratulate both staff and volunteers who have made this program such a success.

It is now my pleasure to announce the Flood Watch program a **2009 State Winner**.

The First Assistant Secretary then presented the **State Winner Trophies** – and also **Certificates** to the SES, Councils, the Bureau of Meteorology, Judith and SES volunteers.

The other State winning entry was “**Wash Wipe Cover – don’t infect another**” campaign submitted by **SA Health in the State Government category**. Every success was then conveyed to both category winning recipients for further success in the forthcoming National Awards to be announced in Canberra later this year.

Stuart Macleod



SES WEEK

The annual parade will this year mark the commencement of SES Week activities being held across the state.

The parade is being held on Saturday 7th November and information has been forwarded to all Units.

The salute for the parade will be taken by His Excellency, other invited dignitaries and Service Chiefs.

At the conclusion of the parade, formalities will occur, including the announcement and presentation to the 2009 recipient of the Keith Lane Award.

Afterwards, there will be a sausage sizzle for all parade participants, families and friends in attendance.

SES Week in Adelaide will conclude with demonstrations and activities in Rundle Mall on Sunday 15th November.

Reminder: have you nominated that special colleague for the 2009 Keith Lane Award?

Nominations are sought for the Keith Lane Memorial Award, named in honour of the late Keith Lane.

In his time with the State Emergency Service and the SA SES Volunteers' Association, Keith was always recognised as a great volunteer leader and someone who always went above and beyond the call of duty in the roles he undertook.

Judging is based on "outstanding contribution by an individual member."

The emphasis is not based just on an individual's skills, but on commitment to his/her unit and the SES in general.

Individual nominations are now sought from members, so nominate that colleague who you feel meets the criteria.

To lodge a nomination, we require a covering letter which includes your name, address and contact details, together with the name, address, phone number, unit and rank of the person nominated.

On a separate sheet, we need a short statement of approximately 300-500 words on why the individual deserves to be considered for the award, plus supporting references or endorsements from other members would be useful.

Nominations may be emailed or posted to the Association.





FLOODSAFE

FloodSafe volunteers at the Royal Show display.

FloodSafe is going from strength to strength as it heads towards its first-year mark in November 2009. By end of August, it had reached 40 members including a broad spectrum of talents and experience in volunteers such as a multicultural counsellor, businesswomen, former teachers, retired police officers, a scientist, small business operators and many more.

FloodSafe volunteer ages are just as diverse as their backgrounds, from 13-year-old Enfield SES Cadet Michael Bishop to Western Adelaide legend Keith Smith, who is 77. We take great pride in having a number of unit manager's and deputy unit managers amongst our crews, and this shows that some Units are recognising the potential of community education to reduce risk and damage, and to increase community confidence and resilience.

Achievements in recent months include completion of the whole 12-month program for the initial 6 funding councils (Mitcham, Unley, Marion, Adelaide, Holdfast Bay and West Torrens) in just 7½ months with the ticks in all the right boxes.

Again, FloodSafe is being supported by Emergency Management Australia with a major grant of \$50,000 to establish the FloodSafe program in the northern metro and near country council areas such as Gawler, Mallala, Barossa, Port Adelaide Enfield, Salisbury and more. This support from EMA ensures the program will continue to expand during 2009-10 and hopefully will be statewide by 2012.

All the pioneer funding councils have extended their involvement for the year ahead, and Port Adelaide Enfield has signed up for a pilot scheme for the tidal inundation in Port Adelaide, and Birkenhead, Charles Sturt and Salisbury are considering pilot programs, and Playford and Adelaide Hills are looking at funding options for joining the program as soon as they can. Gawler Council looks like being the first northern council to take on the FloodSafe program across their council areas, and they will be joined by Mallala who have a number of coastal towns with inundation issues and flooding along the Light and Gawler Rivers.

The first 2009-10 FloodSafe training day took place at Enfield Unit in August with 25 attendees hearing a really innovative approach to school presentations from Allan MacDougall. Allan has adopted the FloodSafe schools program and has provided presentation content and advice to the volunteer crews who visit schools. The Bureau of Meteorology's Aija Mee updated the volunteers on Bureau services and how the "watch" and "warning" systems work. Chris Wright, formerly with the Bureau and now with the Adelaide and Mt Lofty NRM Board, also offered insights into the background of discussions between eastern councils on the matter of flood mitigation, dams and wetlands to solve flash flooding along Brown Hill, Keswick and Parklands Creeks.

The FloodSafe calendar of events is now on the SES website, with events scheduled beyond March 2010. These include football matches, community events, community meetings, displays, local festivals, school visits and presentations to service clubs and councils. Most FloodSafe volunteers undertake two or three activities per month in addition to their regular SES volunteering.

FloodSafe is working with the Insurance Council of Australia to increase the choice SA residents have on flood insurance. At present, only two companies offer flood insurance in SA yet in other states the range is over six-seven companies. Increased competition should lead to better value for residents. More flood insurance cover will reduce the community risk and distress during flood incidents and increase resilience to recover after flooding.

For further information on FloodSafe, see www.ses.sa.gov.au and go to the FloodSafe icon. If you would like to join the FloodSafe crews, please call Judith Bleechmore on 08 8345 9103.



The combined SES/CFS/SAFE COM site at the Royal Adelaide Show. The site won a highly commended award for its presentation.



FloodSafe display at the shows.



Unley FloodSafe crew at the Goodwood Alive Festival. The crew has been invited to participate again at the next two festivals on 21 November 2009 and 30 March 2010.



Mitcham FloodSafe volunteers from left to right: Peter Miller, Alan Mundy, Ken Cocks and Allan Cuk, with Mitcham Council employees Sharon Kelsey and Susan Bennett, at the thank-you function celebrating the first 12 months of FloodSafe held at Darriwill, Hyde Park.

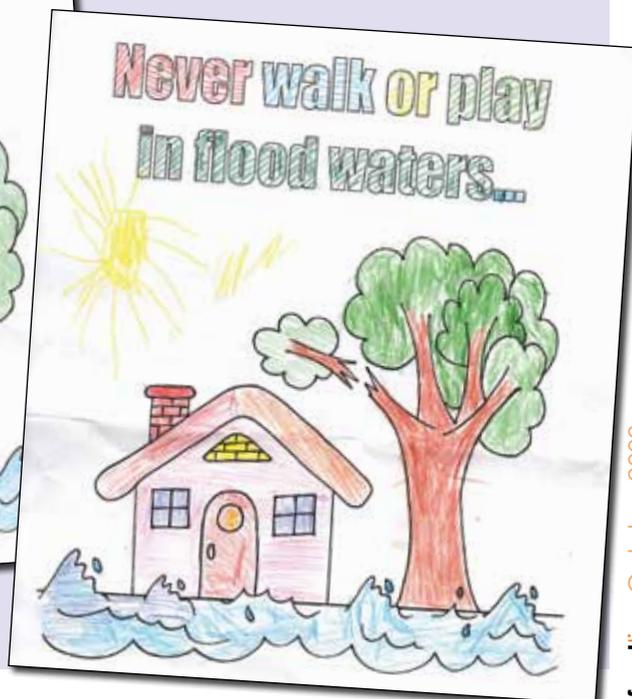
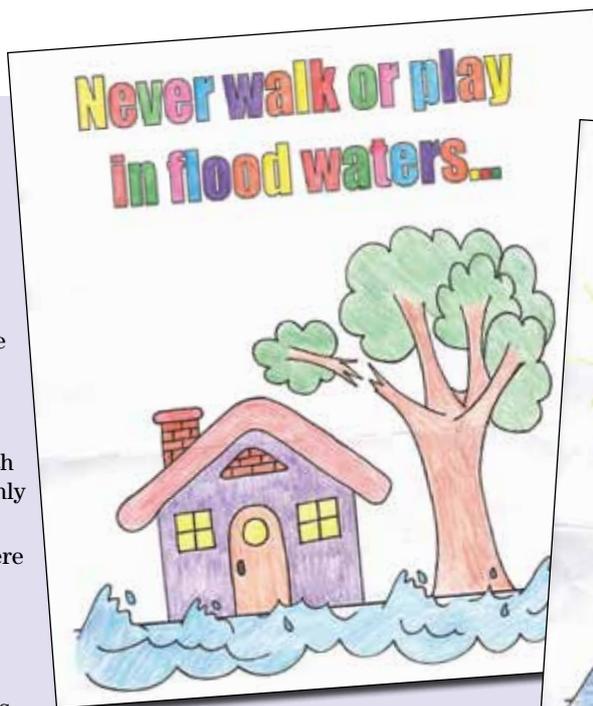
NEVER WALK OR PLAY IN FLOOD WATERS

As a part of the Royal Show activities, a colouring-in competition was conducted in two age groups by both the SES and CFS, with \$50 gift vouchers being the prizes.

Many entries were received from a diverse age group, with the youngest entrant being only 2 and the eldest 18.

The winning SES entrants were Jacinta, aged 9 and Rebecca, aged 5.

Congratulations to both entrants who have been sent their prizes and whose entries are reproduced right.





BEAUTIFUL ONE DAY – FLOODED THE NEXT

Unley FloodSafe crew held a community meeting in the playground between Le Hunte and Young Streets at Wayville on Sunday 20 September from 9.30am-noon. Around 50 local residents attended, collecting their FloodSafe kits, locating their houses on the flood maps and learning FloodSafe tips from crew members. David Hall, Unley crew leader, John Evans, Unley crew member (both from SOCU) and James Lovell, Eastern Suburbs SES member and FloodSafe administration and information support officer, are seen talking to a local resident during the morning.

One elderly Joslyn Street resident gave the crew notes from a diary kept during extensive local flooding in 2005 and talked about various flooding incidents dating back to 1949 when she moved into the area.

One of the highlights for volunteers is meeting long-time residents who can provide valuable local flood history and anecdotes. Mrs Yeates has also offered to give the group other flood information she has kept over the years. Another resident, a Chilean student who lives locally with his wife and young son, indicated he would like to join SES during his two-year stay here as he was heavily involved in the local emergency services committee in his home city, and he is studying for his Masters in water resource management here. The FloodSafe meetings

generally discover one or two potential SES volunteers during each session. The meetings are casual, one-on-one interaction with locals, and this gives the FloodSafe volunteers opportunities to discuss SES roles in detail and this sometimes leads to a resident saying that they have long wanted to join the SES.

The meeting was held on the banks of the Glen Osmond Creek, which rose to flood levels very quickly during the downpour on Monday 21 September so the meeting provided a timely warning to prepare for flooding to these flood-prone residents.

Judith Bleeckmore

Community FloodSafe Project Officer

METRO SOUTH'S LONG SERVICE MEDAL PRESENTATION NIGHT

Deputy Chief Officer Matt Maywald visited Metro South Unit in late August to present long service medals to those members eligible, and then remained for the Unit's Annual General Meeting. He also apologised on behalf of the Chief Officer, Stuart McLeod, who was unable to attend due to a standing commitment.

Prior to the presentations, Matt addressed members in attendance, outlining the background to the awards. Matt stated that "a medal was necessary for recognising ten years, or more dedicated service."

He then went on to say that it was a "medal to be proud of and it's a state medal. The medal is presented to those volunteers who have achieved ten years of consistent and continuous service to the organisation." He concluded by saying "well done to anyone who's earned it to date."

Matt then provided an update on issues within the SES and acknowledged that internal communications had not been brilliant in the past and that the Service was about to embark on an electronic internal communications system. The proposal being that each SES volunteer will be issued with an email address and then have access through a portal on the website to access information such as policy and plans. This access will then increase transparency and he said the Service's aim is to "always look to do better."

Medals were then presented to:

Brian Hunter joined Metro South in August 1981 and is known as a person who always makes himself available for tasks, training and supporting others in their pursuits. All Unit members, both past and present, always acknowledge his quiet commitment and achievements, as he supports the Unit and fellow members.

Graham Simpson joined the Unit in March 1992, and since that time has provided valuable service and support to the Unit, assisting in the education of new members, and then providing them with guidance after they have obtained their initial qualifications. Graham also willingly assists other members.

Warren Hicks also joined Metro South in 1992, in May, and then subsequently due to employment, transferred to Port Augusta Unit where he was a valued member for approximately ten years prior to returning to Metro South. During his period

in Port Augusta, Warren held many roles, including that of Unit Controller/Manager, and on his return to Metro South has assumed the role of Rescue Officer. Warren, who has participated in all forms of training within the SES, is also an instructor in a variety of skill areas.

Colin Carter is another member who joined the Unit in 1992, this time in December. Since that time, Colin has held many positions including Deputy Team Leader, Team Leader and is currently the Unit's Deputy Training Officer. Colin has participated in all forms of personal development training that the Service has offered and additionally always makes himself available for those day-to-day tasks of the Unit.

Matt Fitzpatrick joined Metro South in August 1997 and since that time has attained the highest standard possible in all the training that has been offered to him. He has then proficiently and competently utilised these skills and knowledge as and when required. Somehow Matt manages to juggle his extremely hectic work commitments to find time for the Unit and has worked well as a Team Leader and then Deputy Rescue Officer, amongst other roles.

David Mitchell was a late apology on the night. David joined the Unit in May 1994, and subsequently held many roles in the areas of Communications and Administration, taking on the positions of Communications Officer and later Unit Manager, where he steered the Unit on a

successful path, gaining respect and being recognised by the Unit and within the local community.

Acknowledgement was also made of other recipients unable to be present:

Paul Ortmann (June 1980), **Greg Gogler** (May 1977), **Robin van der Wielen** (October 1992) and **Scott van der Wielen** (May 1992).



Deputy Chief Officer, Matt Maywald presenting Long service Medals to: Brian Hunter, Graham Simpson, Warren Hicks and Colin Carter.

This access will then increase transparency and he said the Service's aim is to "always look to do better."

PORT PIRIE UMAG AND STAFF RECOGNISED

North Region UMAG was held over the weekend of 29th and 30th August at the Royal Port Pirie Yacht Club and at dinner on the Saturday evening, held at the Flinders Ranges Motor Inn. The Deputy Chief Officer, Matt Maywald, presented long service medals to Sue Gage and Kaylene Wilson.

Prior to presenting the medals, Matt stated that the "SES medal award recognised volunteers and staff equally."

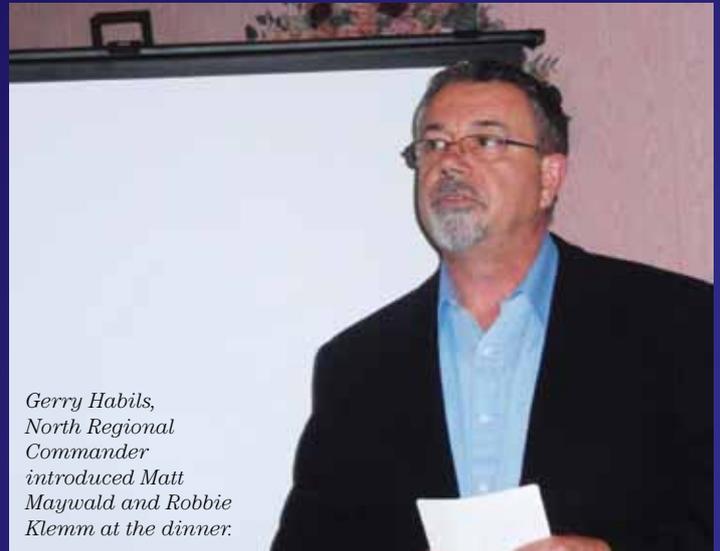
He then presented the first award to **Sue Gage**, who joined Metro South Unit in August 1997, at a time when the late Keith Lane was the Unit Manager. Sue readily acknowledges the significant influence Keith had on her and the way he always encouraged her.

Over the next few years, Sue was actively involved in many aspects of the Unit and in 2003

turn up because they want to."

Kaylene Wilson joined the SES on 11th June 1997. Kaylene commenced as a Regional Administration Officer in what was then Mid-North Region. Then in 2005, she won the position of Business Support Officer for the newly formed North Region, and since then has been running the financial aspects of the region and also looking after the finances for 22 SES units.

In her spare time, Kaylene also manages to fit in family and sport. She is passionate about the SES and its volunteers and actively contributes to the



Gerry Habils, North Regional Commander introduced Matt Maywald and Robbie Klemm at the dinner.



Kaylene Wilson with Gerry and Matt.



Sue age with her Long Service Medal flanked by Gerry Habils and Matt Maywald.

was appointed Unit Manager. Then in December 2005, Sue applied for and won the position of State Training Officer in North Region. The hardest part about her new job was leaving Metro South, but this has subsequently been balanced by the fact that she is now a member of the 24 units with which she works.

Sue believes that there is no better job than working for volunteers, who she says "only

success that is North Region.

Besides the presentations, all in attendance were privileged to hear an extremely informative speech and slideshow by "**Sir Robbie Klemm**" on the Laura team's experience in South Africa, where they won the "Rapid Extraction" section at the 2006 World Rescue Challenge, which certainly provided an insight into other services' capabilities, the preparation and then

support that was needed to have enabled the team to compete.

The North UMAG provided a forum for open and frank discussions on topics concerning the units in North Region and ranged from strategy and training to actual needs and support required for their units. Another key aspect raised and then discussed was the need to recognise and acknowledge the importance

of local knowledge when addressing tasks.

Concern was also expressed about awareness and the profile of the SES and the need for this to be addressed at all levels.

Thanks to all who participated and for their contribution in what was a two-way communication with updates being provided from regional staff and then unit managers and their representatives sharing ideas and concerns.



The Laura winning team.



Gerry and Neil Gibson, Unit Manager Clare, listen to Robbie's address.

Left: Neil Gibson, Chair North UMAG, at the UMAG meeting.



Robbie Klemm addresses all.

NATIONAL DISASTER RESCUE COMPETITION TEA TREE GULLY UNIT

Tea Tree Gully State Unit was the runner-up in the two-day biennial National Disaster Rescue Competition, which was held in Brisbane on the weekend of the 19th -20th September. They were beaten by the team from New South Wales, scores being 1057 points, South Australia 1022 points and Australian Capital Territory was third with 991 points.

The competition was contested by teams of volunteers from every state and territory, competing against each other in a series of events that demonstrated their skill, knowledge and ability to work in a team environment in the most trying of conditions.

Participants were put through their paces in a series of staged events including a hydraulic exercise, heavy lifting exercise, a series of search and rescue operations from heights, an explosion site exercise, a blacked out building and a large bus crash.

Acting Chief Officer Matt Maywald praised the team members for their hard work.

“The Tea Tree Gully Unit is made up of highly dedicated people, committed to continuous improvement and achievement. The team that competed in Brisbane consisted of six volunteers who have been part of the SES for more than ten years,” he said.

“It is a fantastic achievement that the Tea Tree Gully Unit has finished in the top two places for the last two competitions.”

Judging criteria included casualty management, leadership skills, rescue techniques, safety and the completion of each task.

The next National Disaster Rescue Competition is in 2011, with South Australia being the host.







30 YEARS OF SES

A brief history of the Tumby Bay State Emergency Service.

As a foundation member of the Tumby Bay SES, I have put together a brief history of our Unit.

On Sunday 24th June 1979, Mr Ned Roberts and Mr Lloyd Woolford attended the State Emergence conference in Port Augusta. Discussion included the appointment of three regional officers to cover emergency operations across the state and these positions were to be in addition to Adelaide Headquarters staff. The first appointed regional officer for the west coast was Darian Stringer, who happened to come from the Tumby Bay area. There was to be a maximum subsidy of \$2,500 for each local council authority and as a part of this, tools were no longer allowed to be included on the subsidy list. Public liability insurance also had to be made available to cover all registered members.

We were advised that mobile training teams would come to the country if there was sufficient interest in establishing a unit and assurances were forthcoming that at least 30 members could be mustered from the Eyre Peninsula region.

Policy at this time was that a “state emergency” could be declared by the Governor in Executive Council, and that a “24 hour emergency,” could be declared by a controller.

In the following month, around mid-July, the Tumby Bay Council, together with the then Regional Officer Darian Stringer, called a meeting of interested people to discuss the formation of a service in

for two 6 foot by 4 foot trailers. The records reveal that Mr Ned Roberts was the first appointed controller.

On the 23rd November, under the leadership of Training Officer Mr W Keegan, a field unit was established with some 12 personnel, and training was undertaken on a weekly basis. Three members attended a training day at Cowell with the Whyalla Unit.

The Unit had no buildings, and training was undertaken in the local St John Centre or local community halls.

Tumby Bay. Existing service volunteers named in the Tumby Bay disaster plan were also invited to attend.

From this meeting, a list of names were recorded and these volunteers became the first members of the Tumby Bay SES.

On the 19th July 1979, council received a subsidy of \$1,000 for the development of the SES in the area, and an order was then placed with MS McCleod

The State Emergency Service was a very different organisation to that of today. The Unit had no buildings, and training was undertaken in the local St John Centre or local community halls. The Unit had no vehicles, with members using their own private vehicles for call-outs. Equipment, also, was very limited.

Training continued to be held in the local St John

building for several years, and our equipment at this time comprised: the two 6 x 4 trailers, a modra generator, six man packs, six drizabone jackets and secondhand blue ex-RAAF overalls.

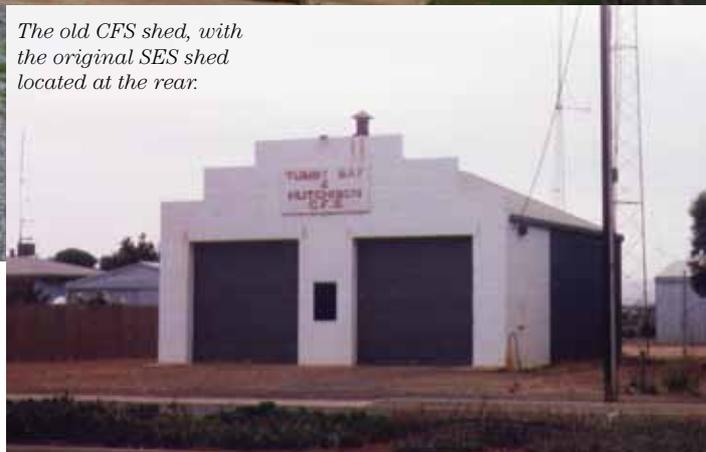
Call-outs were via the Tumby Bay Hospital, being the only centre with 24-hour services. And then they were through a pyramid telephone system. On 23rd November 1979, the three local councils of Tumby Bay, Port Lincoln and Cummins agreed to establish two funds, with each contributing \$300 and \$500, one being for aircraft search and rescue, and the other to fund equipment requirements.

This occurred as a consequence of an incident involving both air and sea searches, north of Tumby Bay at Lipson Cove, where an aircraft was required to locate missing fishermen, but no one was willing to take responsibility for the cost. This aircraft search and rescue fund was put in place to ensure that in future, reimbursement was made to the relevant rescue organisations. This fund no longer exists.

On 21st December 1979, the Tumby Bay field training unit conducted its first rescue



The old CFS shed, with the original SES shed located at the rear.



and recovery which went extremely well with some ten personnel participating. On 15th February 1980, the field training instructor requested from council the provision of more equipment for the SES trailers. The equipment being: extension leads and lights for the power generator, spare wheels for the trailers, plus steel tubing and timber for trailer partitions and fire extinguishers. All equipment was approved.

At this time, our SES trailers and equipment were housed in the CFS shed located in West Terrace.

On 15th April 1980, SES lobbied council for a shed to house its trailer and equipment, due to the limited space in the CFS shed. Permission was also sought to erect a shed on the rear of the Tumby Bay CFS site, where it still remains and even today is used for vehicles and equipment storage. Council also agreed to investigate the purchase of a suitable shed, as membership had grown to 19.

A shed 30 foot by 20 foot was subsequently ordered by council and then erected by our members, who also laid a hand-mixed concrete floor. The centre door was painted with the then official SES logo

and is still visible today. The original shed had no electricity or telephones connected, so telephone services had to be conducted from the controller's home. Additionally, there were no operations, training, kitchen or toilet areas at the site.

On 26th August 1980, council agreed to connect electricity and telephone services to our new building from the existing CFS building.

In early 1981, State Headquarters appointed Sergeant Bob Boscence to the position of Staff Officer – Operations, and Senior Constable I Jackson as Rescue Officer. Funding at this time was on a matching basis with \$2,500 available for the development of local SES units within their areas.

In May 1981, Ned Roberts resigned as Controller and discussions were held to find a suitable replacement. Jim Darling and Peter Fry nominated for the position.

At the following council meeting, Jim Darling was appointed Controller with Peter Fry as his deputy.

In those early days, units had to actively fundraise to purchase equipment.



The existing combined SES/CFS facility.



Tumby Bay's Marine and Coastal Station run by Garry (pictured) and Sue Smith.

Tumby Bay's "Yalluna" returning from Operation Overdue.



So when council approached the SES in February 1982 to see if we would perform the paid function of firemen at the local Soldiers Memorial Hall, we agreed, and from these funds, together with income generated from catering for local functions and the selling of bingo tickets, the Unit was able to purchase its first vehicle.

Our first vehicle was a second-hand council Ford utility, which cost us \$600.

As one of our members happened to be the local crash repairer, the Unit refurbished and repainted the vehicle as well, again using fundraising funds. Emergency lighting and a siren were also fitted by members. Whilst the vehicle could only seat three at a squeeze, we weren't concerned; at least we had our first vehicle.

In September 1985, a private line was established from the hospital to our shed and a paging system was installed. This work was carried out by Kayem Electronics of Tumby Bay. As the ambulance was also paged from here, it was a simple matter to page both services.

In August 1988, due to limited space and inadequate buildings,

a joint proposal by the SES and CFS was put forward to council to buy the then redundant Telecom Depot in Tenant Street. A committee was formed consisting of Roger Burford (local police officer), Gordon Hartley (Divisional SES representative), Quentin Russ (CFS), G Holliday

(CFS), Jim Darling (SES), and Peter Fry (SES). Regrettably in November 1988, council rejected our proposal due to it being a non-complying development re-zoning. Council subsequently offered us the existing council depot as an alternative site, as they were planning to relocate to a new site on land which was being used by the Highways Department in Pampa Street. However, this proposal never eventuated, and council still remains on this same site today.

In October 1990, the Unit, in conjunction with our Cadet Leader John Lawton, lodged a submission with council to upgrade our Ford utility using the then vehicle subsidy scheme. Council called for tenders, and Geoff Philips delivered the Unit's first Toyota Hilux, which was blue/

in our Hilux and trailer. We were lucky to then receive a Mitsubishi Canter. This vehicle had been originally destined for Streaky Bay, but as they wanted a 4 x 4, Tumby Bay received the vehicle instead. This was the Unit's first real rescue truck.

Many training weekends were held in the joint emergency complex at Wudinna.

This was mainly due to Wudinna being approximately 2 hours' travelling time from Tumby Bay, Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Ceduna.

Generally, members provided their own catering and slept on the complex floor. If you were one of the lucky ones, you got to sleep in the St John section, which had carpet.

Many friendships and training experiences were formed and shared around the campfire at night.

Early 1994 saw tenders being called to construct a joint facility for the SES and CFS on the existing site. The successful tender was won by JW & PJ Darling of Tumby Bay. The existing CFS building, which was also constructed by JW & PJ Darling, was demolished. A new joint facility for SES and

Tumby Bay, due to its geographic location with the Sir Joseph Banks Group, just off the coast, always had a marine capability.

grey in colour, and the Unit fitted it out to look like a rescue vehicle.

From this time on, vehicle replacement became routine under the then taxation system, with units being able to purchase vehicles tax exempt, and sell them at full retail price.

This allowed us to replace our old vehicle with a new one every two years. We even made a profit of \$800 one year.

In October 1998, after a visit from Headquarters staff, it was realised that we were carrying too much equipment



Currently the Unit rents space to store its boat and tow vehicle.



Tumby Bay's Mitsubishi Canter.



Bob cuts the cake with Ned Roberts.



Peggy and Jim Darling at the dinner.



Unit Manager, Bob Pycroft addresses guests.

CFS was constructed and the building was officially opened by the then Minister of Emergency Services, the Honourable Wayne A Matthew on 3rd March, 1995.

In 2007, the front of the building was extended out three metres to provide much-needed additional space. This building, while still in use today, is now too small for both services, as they have both grown considerably over the years.

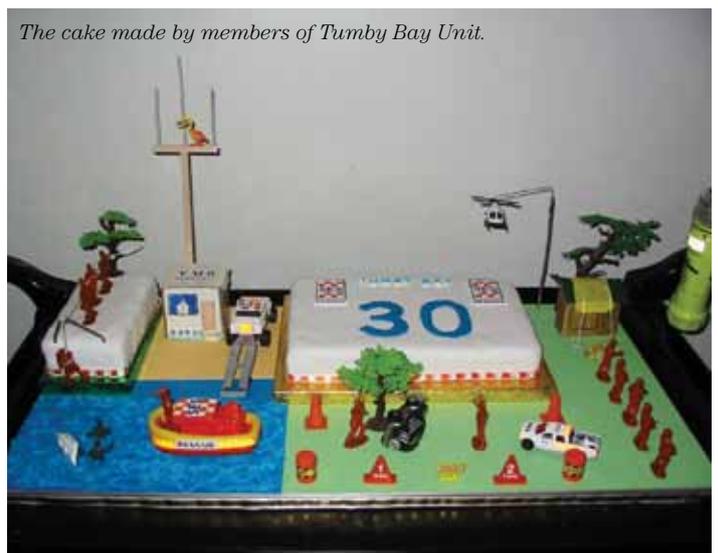
In actual fact, in December 2004, Tumby Bay SES had commenced negotiations with Tumby Bay Council and State Headquarters to acquire additional land located to the rear of the existing premises to construct a new building. There is a good chance that funding will be made available this financial year.

Tumby Bay, due to its geographic location with the Sir Joseph Banks Group, just off the coast, always had a marine capability. This was achieved in the early days by the use of volunteers boats, the local coastguard and crews coming from the SES. While this worked well, there was always the problem of insurance coverage for the volunteers' boats.

So in October 1999, the Unit, in conjunction with Garry and Sue Smith, put forward a business case plan for a dedicated search and rescue vessel for Tumby Bay.

After securing funding of \$98,000, the Unit commenced its search for a suitable boat. Several secondhand craft were considered including an ex-Department of Transport boat (Marine 05), but all of these were considered unsuitable. It was finally decided that Tumby Bay should have a new rescue boat and extra funding was found. A design specification was put together by the local Unit and tenders were called for its construction.

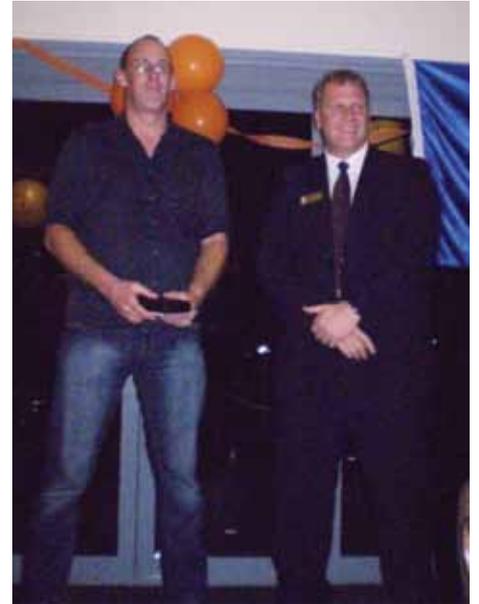
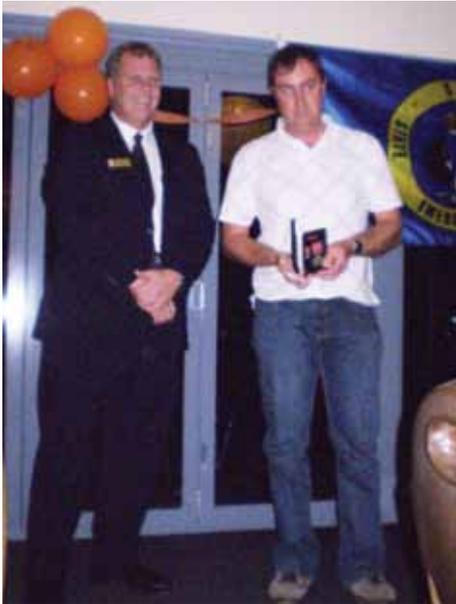
From the three tenders forthcoming, Pro-Marine in Melbourne was selected. The boat was an 8-metre purpose-built aluminium monohull with a Volvo 260 hp inboard super turbocharged motor. State-of-the-art electronics included radar, plotters, GPS, eight-man life raft sounder and communication equipment. Jim Darling, Al Cormack, Geof Carter, all from the SES and Andy McMillan from the SA Water Police made several trips to Melbourne to supervise its construction. In late 2004,



The cake made by members of Tumby Bay Unit.



West Region's three Regional Officers, from left to right: Robert Charlton (now Commander), Darian Stringer (who was the region's first Regional Officer) and Gordon Hartley (the second Regional Officer).



Deputy Chief Officer Matt Maywald is featured presenting long service medals to Nigel Carr; Gavin Hammond and Mick Figg.

Tumby Bay took delivery of its new boat.

We had to lease temporary shed space to house both our new boat and the towing vehicle.

The Unit's Mitsubishi Canter was then modified with a new engineered towing capability with upgraded tow bar and electric over hydraulic brakes, as the new vessel had a GMV of approximately 4.5 metric tonnes.

Tumby Bay subsequently received a dedicated towing vehicle, a Ford F250, for our rescue boat and the Mitsubishi was upgraded to the current Isuzu. Our Canter went to Sturt Unit in Central Region.

May 2003 saw the Tumby Bay Coastguard coming under the banner of the State Emergency Service, while still maintaining a strong alliance with the local Unit, as it is run by SES volunteers Garry and Sue Smith. This station "Volunteer Marine Rescue Tumby Bay" also acts as a 24-hour SES radio station. Garry has recently moved to his new state-of-the-art radio room situated in his backyard. He conducts daily weather schedules and provides valuable marine communications to the boating community.

Port Lincoln, Tumby Bay and Streaky Bay were instrumental in the formation of air observers, dropmasters and dispatchers with local members conducting these

services as individuals from the Port Lincoln Airport before the SES became involved. Tumby Bay still has three air observers, with two being qualified in RDF equipment.

Operations undertaken by Tumby Bay include Marine, RCR, Search, Storm, Air Observers, Communications and Welfare.

There have been only five

the search for survivors

- an air search after a helicopter crashed at Coober Pedy
- an air search for a missing fisherman off Mount Gambier.

While more recent incidents were:

- Tulka fires
- Wangary fires (over a two-

on 15th August 2009 at the Sea Breeze Hotel. This event was attended by 85 past and present members.

Official representatives were David Place, Chief Executive, SAFECOM, Matt Maywald, Deputy Chief Officer SES, Peter Treloar and his wife, the Liberal candidate for Flinders, Graham Stirling and his wife, the Mayor of Tumby Bay District Council, Ned Roberts the Chief Executive Officer of Tumby Bay District Council, Darian Stringer and his wife, past Regional Officer Western Region.

Apologies were received from the Honourable Michael Wright, Minister for Emergency Services and Stuart McLeod, Chief Officer, SES.

Long service medals were presented during the formalities to Nigel Carr, Mick Figg and Gavin Hammond.

Ned Roberts cut the cake which had been made by members of the Unit and the cake itself depicted the diverse roles of our Unit.

A great night was shared by all and many old friendships were renewed.

Operations undertaken by Tumby Bay include Marine, RCR, Search, Storm, Air observers, Communications and Welfare.

controllers (managers) over the Unit's 30-year period, being Ned Roberts, Jim Darling, Peter Fry, Matthew Carr and current Manager Bob Pycroft.

Examples of incidents that our Unit has been involved in the past include:

- a tiger snake bite on the Sir Joseph Banks Group
- a fisherman blown out to sea in a 12-foot dingy off Lipson Cove
- a fisherman plucked out of the sea after his cutter sank
- a four-day search for a missing fisherman near the Sir Joseph Bank Group
- Air search at Cook for a missing bushwalker
- Whyalla Airlines crash and

week period)

- Whyalla gas shut down
- Disabled 10.5 metre yacht 20 nautical miles off Tumby Bay
- Fishing boat out of fuel 22 nautical miles off Port Neil.

Tumby Bay currently has 29 members and two cadets. The Unit trains every Thursday night and once a quarter holds a social night where members meet at a local venue for a meal and fellowship.

On 24th July 2009, Tumby Bay achieved the milestone of 30 years' service to our local community.

To both recognise and celebrate this achievement, a celebration dinner was held

Jim Darling

Deputy Unit Manager
Tumby Bay

SHOWING OFF “SEA ANGEL”

Port Pirie SES Unit Manager Dave Clark and member Pete Ellis show some keen Stirling North CFS cadets their magnificent rescue boat “Sea Angel”. Dave explained the capabilities of Sea Angel and showed the cadets through the

cabin area and some of the equipment used by the Unit to assist with the various taskings they face on the water. The cadets were very impressed and appreciated the time and effort taken to show them the vessel while they were visiting Port Pirie.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS TO BE COVERED BY WORKERS COMPENSATION

On the 15 August 2009, the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Julia Gillard and Attorney-General Robert McClelland announced that personnel engaged in a range of disaster response activities, both domestically and internationally, will now be appropriately covered by workers compensation as soon as teams are formed.

Australians who are part of emergency response teams deployed by the Attorney-General's Department will now automatically be covered for the purpose of workers compensation under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (the Act).

The Attorney General stated that teams may comprise personnel with expertise in search and rescue, fire-fighting, surgery and medicine, or other areas of technical or professional expertise.

“This could include people from state and territory governments or from private corporations who are called on to be part of the emergency response teams,” Mr McClelland said.

“These teams coordinated by EMA, are often deployed at short notice – less than 24 hours – and it is important that this coverage be in place as soon as the teams are formed,” Mr McClelland said.

The Deputy Prime Minister stated it was appropriate that all members of these teams be covered as they would be undertaking activities at the request or direction of the Australian Government.

“People in these teams are going into difficult, challenging circumstances,” said Ms Gillard.

“Putting this provision in place is important not only administratively, but in recognition of the important and often dangerous role that we have called on them to do.”

This ongoing declaration under the Act extends workers compensation coverage for all non-Australian Government personnel, deployed by the Attorney-General's Department to disaster-affected zones, both within Australia and overseas.

Teams recently deployed by Emergency Management Australia (EMA) – a division within the Attorney General's department – have responded to a range of emergencies including the Indian Ocean tsunami and the Yogyakarta earthquake.



It's been a busy quarter, with the opening of new facilities at **Port Pirie** and **Snowtown** in June, together with the presentation of long service medals. Port Pirie is the key marine rescue Unit in North Region, responding to an average of three rescues each month; whereas the majority of incidents attended by Snowtown are in relation to road crash rescue. Of course, both units are also active attending to flood storm, search and general rescue incidents.

Then in early July, **Leigh Creek Unit**, for the third year in a row, conducted its now annual clean up project, where members of the Unit and friends collected discarded tyres and other rubbish along the Strzelecki and Birdsville Tracks. In actual fact, this year the project was extended to include the roads to Cameron Corner, Coongie Lakes and the Copley, Balcanoona and Wooltana

Tracks. The convoy comprised seven vehicles, several trailers, a truck and nearly 30 volunteers and friends.

Mount Gambier's new joint facilities were opened on 15th August by the Member for Mount Gambier and Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Forests, Regional Development, the Honourable Rory McEwen. The new combined facility houses the SES, CFS and Forestry SA, with the end result being a purpose – build Level 3 Incident Management Centre, for the shared coordination of major incidents.

East Region held long service medal presentations for the **Murray Bridge/Fleurieu Region** on the 26th July, then in the **South East** on the 2nd August finishing in the **Riverland** on the 8th August. Congratulations to all recipients.

Fleurieu employers were then recognised for supporting

volunteers at a Volunteer and Employer Recognition and Support Program Awards Presentation at the joint SES/CFS facility at **Port Elliot**, on the 27th August. 49 employers and self employed volunteers from Victor Harbor, Port Elliot, Langhorne Creek, Strathalbyn and surrounding regions were presented with certificates by David Place, Chief Executive SAFECOM. One of the recipients was John Ellers, Managing Director, Ellers Earth Moving, a company where one-third of his staff are volunteers in the SES, CFS or Volunteer Marine Rescue, including John himself. John said: "I am supportive of members of my team volunteering, because without volunteer services there would be a lot of people who would be without assistance in emergencies."

Saturday 29th August heralded the opening of the new facilities at **Tea Tree Gully** by the Honourable



Michael Wright Minister for Emergency Services. The Minister said the government is supportive of its volunteers and, on an ongoing basis, will endeavour to ensure they are provided with modern facilities and suitable equipment to enable them to safely perform their very important roles.

Then on Sunday 20th September a marine rescue vessel was launched on **Kangaroo Island**, being the former SA Police vessel "Pedro Warman", which had been made available through the State Government's Community Emergency Services Fund. Funding was also provided for a new storage and training facility located at Kingscote. The CFS has donated a decommissioned fire truck, the former Bowhill 34P water pumper, which will be used as the vessel's tow vehicle, showing the spirit of community cooperation from emergency services.



EXTRACT FROM THE SA STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1978 NO 1

This newsletter has been mooted on several occasions over the years but for various reasons – up until now – it has not been a “goer”. With your help and interest that will change but let us all be clear on its purpose, which is NOT to replace official advices or instructions, but as a means of relating to all members of our organisation’s items of interest and topical events.

COMMENTS

It is intended to invite and include articles or comments from members in issues of the newsletter and in this first instance a contribution from Peter Tobe, Controller of the Murray Bridge SES Unit, is reproduced in the hope that his comments will stimulate comment from you.

“In the past there has been much controversy as to how SES in this state should be promoted. The responsibility of this task seems to be shrugged at all levels for reasons not quite apparent to me at this stage although

I must admit that on the surface it appears to be a quite formidable task.

First of all, let us realise that without public support and recognition, this organisation will never be the viable service most of us would like it to be.

I think we are all aware that to even commence a unit within a certain locality, we need the support of the local governing body within that area and the only way, I feel, we can obtain this is through the public (or more appropriately), the ratepayers. The reason for this statement, of course, is that generally speaking,

before local government will undertake the responsibility of supporting the anticipated SES unit, they will call for a ratepayers’ meeting to find whether there is support or rejection by the public for financing the proposed undertaking. This initial support should not be very difficult to obtain as there is not a great amount of finance required to maintain the basic equipment which a unit carries when it first commences. However, as time progresses, the stockpile of equipment increases hence the money required for maintaining this equipment

that the unit is accepted on the same plane as other essential services. Furthermore, the controller or regional officer should make himself available to high schools, institutions, clubs and organisations which not only results in more public recognition, but often also provides financial or material assistance from the public sector.

CONCLUSION

In my opinion, until such time as SES is ‘sold’ to the public as a capable emergency service necessary in today’s society,

First of all, let us realise that without public support and recognition, this organisation will never be the viable service most of us would like it to be.

will also increase. In addition, money will also be eventually required for such items as buildings, vehicles and specialised equipment necessary in that locality, which may not be available from the state.

The way to obtain this ever-increasing financial demand is by actually proving ourselves to be an asset to the community. This may be done in various ways. As mentioned at the Controllers Conference of November 1977, much of our public recognition was obtained by closely associating ourselves with the SA Police and St John Ambulance Service with the end result being

we will never enjoy the close support from any government department or the public whose support we require to achieve the targets and status we are striving for.”

It is interesting to note that even 30 years ago comments reflect some of those still discussed today in that the SES is still seeking public support and recognition. Awareness has increased, but we can all still do more.

SES SEEKS INPUT FROM VOLUNTEERS

The SES recently asked SAFECOM to undertake a statewide consultative process to assess the SES' cultural climate following concerns raised about the increased demand for SES services, and the impact on both volunteer and paid staff.

As it is important for the SES leadership team to provide support to volunteers and staff, and to understand the issues being faced in SES units, all volunteers and staff are being given the opportunity to provide feedback on issues such as:

- communication systems and processes
- leadership
- training
- current systems in place
- management of resources
- any other issue that you believe needs to be considered.

Obviously, suggestions are welcomed on ways to improve and of course the recognition of what is good is also imperative.

We are also well aware, as has been repeated on many previous occasions, that gatekeeping and hence the failure to pass on communications is an issue that must be addressed and that leadership again reflects on both paid staff and volunteers.

The first session for volunteers was held on Thursday 24th September at Millicent and other dates are listed in the table. All sessions commence

REGION	DATE	VENUE
EAST	Monday 12 th October	Berri Unit, Hughes Street
NORTH	Wednesday 14 th October	Port Augusta Unit, Woodcock Street
	Thursday 15 th October	Clare Unit, New Road
	Monday 19 th October	Maitland Unit, Rogers Terrace
WEST	Tuesday 20 th October	Ceduna Unit, Poynton Street
	Wednesday 21 st October	Port Lincoln Unit, Les Watts Drive
	Thursday 22 nd October	Wudinna Unit, Richards Avenue
CENTRAL	Tuesday 27 th October	Enfield Unit, Hoods Road
	Wednesday 28 th October	Metro South Unit, 33 Beagle Terrace, Lynton
EAST	Thursday 29 th October	Strathalbyn Unit, 51 Murray Street
	Tuesday 3 rd November	Kangaroo Island Unit, Telegraph Road
	Thursday 5 th November	Keith Unit, Wynarling Road
NORTH	Monday 9 th November	Andamooka Unit, Hospital Road

... suggestions are welcomed on ways to improve and of course the recognition of what is good is also imperative.

at 7.00pm For those unable to travel to a Unit to participate, two teleconferences are also being held on Monday 19th October and Friday 30th October, both commencing at 7.30pm and volunteers are invited to dial in: Phone 8220 0711 (or dial 1800

701 193 if in the country), then dial in the code 942268# when prompted.

To enable frank and honest feedback, the Chief Officer of the SES requested that the consultation be led independently by SAFECOM and as a part of this

consultation, it is important to emphasise that no names will be recorded, just the feedback provided.

At the conclusion of the consultation, a report will be presented to the SAFECOM Board for consideration and will include recommendations from the consultations which could include topics such as future development and support of volunteers and staff. A summary will also be provided across the SES community and subject to the deadline date, may appear in the next issue of *Frontline*.

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SA SES VOLUNTEERS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2009, AT THE TORRENS PARADE GROUND (WESTERN END UNDER THE TREES) COMMENCING AT APPROXIMATELY 12.30PM

- 1. APOLOGIES**
 - 2. PROXIES**
 - 3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 15th NOVEMBER 2008**
 - 4. BUSINESS ARISING**
 - 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
 - 6. TREASURER'S REPORT**
 - 8. ELECTION OF:**
 - i). Executive positions – Chairman and Treasurer
 - ii). Regional representatives – nominations sought for
 - Central Region
 - East Region
 - North Region
 - West Region
- Current representatives, unless they have otherwise indicated, offer themselves for re-election. Both Stefanie Zakrzewski in Central Region and Dean Overton in East Region have advised that they will be stepping down.
- 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nomination forms and proxy forms can be downloaded from the Association's website at www.sasesva.org.au.

WEBSITE REVAMPED

The Association website has been revamped and this includes the Members Only section, where the Association will be placing copies of minutes and other pertinent matters from time to time.

Access to this area has a login and username and these have all now been input. Please email susan@sasesva.org.au to be advised your new access details.

Emails have been sent to some members, but the Association doesn't have all email information on file.

Please visit our new website and of course, contributions are always welcome.



Greg Malseed
PO Box 1010
Mount Gambier SA 5290

June 1st 2009

Dear Greg,
On behalf of myself and my partner, I would like to thank the SES for their dedication to duty in the search for my elderly and frail mother (Margaret Hartnett).
Nothing was too much for them as they searched properties, gardens, vacant blocks in the cold and wet.
Please thank them on our behalf. I really don't know what we would have done without their support and encouragement. It gave us real hope that we would find her – and we did! Words cannot express what a relief it was.
Many thanks once again.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Yvonne Hartnett - Bernard Geraghty'.

Yvonne Hartnett and Bernard Geraghty

SASESVA CLOTHING AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE

All prices GST inclusive.

Tax invoice ABN 57 187 794 493

ITEM NO.	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY ORDERED	COST PER UNIT \$	TOTAL COST \$
VAPS1	Polo shirt Men's	Navy blue Micromesh Cool Dry Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left chest. No pocket. Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, 2XLarge, 3XLarge, 4XLarge Custom made to order		\$44.00	
VAPS1L	Polo Shirt Ladies cut	Navy blue Micromesh cool dry polo shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left chest. No pocket. Sizes: 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, Then refer to Men's polo shirt sizing		\$44.00	
VAPS2	Polo shirt Men's	Navy blue Micromesh Cool Dry Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left chest. With pocket. Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, 2XLarge, 3XLarge, 4XLarge Custom made to order		\$45.00	
VASPS3	Polo shirt Men's	Blue/White Cross Dye Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left hand chest. No pocket. Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, 2XLarge, 3XLarge, 4XLarge Custom made to order		\$42.00	
VASPS3L	Polo shirt Ladies cut	Blue/White Cross Dye Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left hand chest. No pocket. Sizes: 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, Then refer to Men's polo shirt sizing		\$42.00	
VAPS4	Polo shirt Men's	Blue/White Cross Dye Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left hand chest. With pocket. Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, 2XLarge, 3XLarge, 4XLarge Custom made to order		\$44.00	
VAV1	Vest	Shower-proof reversible vest with polar fleece inner and full zip with SES logo on the outside left hand chest. Johnny Bobbin brand. Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, 2XLarge, 3XLarge		\$42.00	
VAPF1	Polar Fleece 1/2 Zip	Navy blue 1/2 polar fleece jumper with SES logo on left hand chest. Winning Spirit. Sizes: XXSmall, XSmall, Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, 2XLarge, 3XLarge, 4XLarge, 5XLarge		\$38.00	
VAPF2	Polar Fleece Jacket	Navy blue full zip bonded polar fleece jacket with SES logo on left hand chest. Winning Spirit. Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, 2XLarge, 3XLarge, 4XLarge, 5XLarge		\$44.00	
VAWBH	Wide Brim Hat	Akubra style. Synthetic, putty colour with SES logo embroidered on front. Bushie plus brand. Sizes: Small 55cm to 57cm, Large 59cm to 61cm		\$42.00	
SEST	Tie	SES		\$27.50	
UME	Epaulettes	Unit Manager set		\$13.50	
OE		Officer set		\$11.00	
SAE		Stripes set		\$11.00	
SB	Badges	Shoulder set		\$3.30	
SESP	Plaque	Quality timber - SES logo		\$49.50	
SESWB	Water bottle	Black		\$4.40	
SESTM	Thermal Mug	Blue		\$7.70	
		Black		\$7.70	
CCM	Coffee mug	China with SES Logo		\$5.00	
MYOV	Badge	Mini Year of the Volunteer		\$2.20	
MPP	Mobile phone pouch	Orange with SES logo		\$5.50	

ORDER TOTAL			
PLUS DELIVERY			
TOTAL			

DELIVERY COSTS SOUTH AUSTRALIA	
Up to 5 garments \$12.00	Up to 10 garments \$15.00
Up to 15 garments \$20.00	Miscellaneous items \$15.00

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

DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS
Name:
Unit:
Contact number:
Mailing address:
.....

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE
S.A. S.E.S. VOLUNTEERS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

NAME IN FULL.....

ADDRESS

TOWN / SUBURB..... POSTCODE.....

MAILING ADDRESS (if different to the above address)

.....

TOWN / SUBURB..... POSTCODE.....

EMAIL

TELEPHONE OR MOBILE

FACSIMILE.....

UNIT.....

Signed:..... Dated:.....

Please return your completed membership application form to:

**S.A. S.E.S. Volunteers' Association
G.P.O. Box 2706
ADELAIDE S.A. 5001**

Or Email to: **susan@sasesva.org.au**
Or Fax to **8410 3115**