

THE PREMIER'S SPEECH

The following is the speech delivered at the Torrens Parade Ground by the Premier Mike Rann:

As Premier and Minister for Volunteers and in echoing the remarks of Her Excellency, I want to do one simple thing this lunchtime and that is to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your outstanding work over the past year.

Together you've shown extraordinary dedication and selflessness. You may be volunteers and you may be unpaid but you are, in every other sense of the word, complete professionals.

This week's deluge across greater Adelaide caused widespread damage and it turned many people's lives upside down.

It did, however, give us yet another chance to see the SES at its very best.

Carmel and I visited a number of flood-affected areas on Tuesday morning...such as Norwood, Waterfall Gully and Hawthorn and we saw the impact of your prompt and efficient work.

Your efforts remind us of a number of things that South Australian's don't always understand about SES volunteers.

The first is that your job doesn't just involve dealing with material and property damage. You're in fact at the front line of dealing with distraught residents – people who are injured, people who are looking for lost relatives or friends or pets or people who sometimes have lost everything but the clothes they're wearing.

The second trait of SES volunteers is your willingness to think of others before yourselves.

How many times have we heard of SES members putting themselves in harm's way to save someone's property while their own homes are at similar or even greater risk?

For me, there can be no greater

demonstration of courage and citizenship than that.

Another very admirable quality of the SES is the highly co-operative way in which you work with other emergency services.

Your work with Police and the MFS, for example, is critical to

will see the work of the SES on nightly television news.

But they don't always realise that you deal with many other crises during the course of a normal year. Incidents that go largely unnoticed.

I know that when this week's floodwaters recede and the

and caves and off cliffs.

The emergencies just keep coming.

And every time you, "the people in orange", are there to lend a hand and return things to some semblance of order.

We in the State Government greatly appreciate the work you do.

And we applaud the way you exemplify the volunteer spirit. A spirit the government is seeking to encourage through our work with the volunteer sector.

And through the target we've set down in South Australia's Strategic Plan, which is to increase the level of volunteerism in this State to 50 per cent by 2010.

In order to help the SES continue its inspiring work, the Government used the State Budget in May to instigate a four-year, \$4 million vehicle replacement program for the SES and CFS.

As part of that, the SES will be able to replace 83 four-wheel drives between now and 2008.

This follows on from the recent provision of new rescue vehicles and boats to the SES as well as new sheds and stations.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's a privilege to spend time with you today and to celebrate your heroic actions and huge contribution to the State.

You should feel extremely proud of your efforts.

And you deserve every bit of praise and recognition that comes your way today.

And as part of SES Week, again I thank you for what you've done for the people of South Australia.

I wish you all the very best for the future.

And I look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

This is your day and I hope you enjoy it.

Thankyou.



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the responsiveness and smooth running of our entire system.

Perhaps the most significant thing about the SES is that you are on call or working every single day of the year.

When a high-profile emergency occurs - such as this week's flooding - South Australians

cleanup is over, you'll still be out there.

You'll be out there attending road accidents, working with rescue dogs and horses, looking for missing boats and missing people, anticipating and responding to bad weather and rescuing people in mines

IN A FLASH, THE GOVERNOR SHOWED WHY SHE IS SO ADMIRABLE

What were the comforting words that the Governor Marjorie Jackson-Nelson spoke out aloud to break the ice with Graeme Olsen and pose for a photo?

After receiving the prestigious Keith Lane Award for the most outstanding individual, the KI based volunteer enjoyed walking around the Torrens Parade ground talking to other colleagues from around the state and receiving their congratulations.

But apart from the brief surprise moment of being invited to the official party to receive his award, Graeme had little else to do with the officials. He was totally surprised to win the award after his colleagues at Kangaroo Island, who were in the know, went to absolute pains to ensure he made the journey across the water for the day. Graeme thought it was just to take part in the annual parade.

It obviously took a minute to sink in after his name was called.

He regards himself as just another ordinary volunteer. But Graeme's humility and willingness to get involved is why the Kangaroo Island SES Unit nominated him and why the selection committee chose him for 2005.

Graeme joined the Kangaroo Island Unit in February 1997 when he settled there for a new life. He'd travelled and worked extensively around Australia before hopping on a boat and making KI his home.

The choice to join the SES was simply to put something back into the small, close community. But he has evolved into one of the most active members not only in training and responding to call outs, but also instigating many key projects within the unit.

For instance, he's been responsible for refurbishing



"Oh, no. I'm just as ordinary as you."

Graeme Olsen with Governor Marjorie Jackson-Nelson and Premier Mike Rann

and painting trailers, designing and constructing storage for crew bags, designing and constructing security storage and the first volunteer to come forward for any working bee.

Beverly Overton, the Administration Officer for the Kangaroo Island SES Unit, says "Graeme is a member I would recommend to any Unit and would like all members to emulate."

For his reward, Graeme receives a personal plaque, his name on the perpetual plaque and a cheque from Countrywide Media (sponsors of the Keith Lane Award) for \$1000.

At the end of the parade, while the sausages were being passed out, and the casual conversations between colleagues carried on, I

approached Graeme to get him to pose for a photo with the Governor and the Premier.

He looked back a bit humbled and then quickly and sincerely responded "No, I'm not important enough."

"No", I said, "we need the picture for Frontline, I'll ask her."

There was Her Excellency, a few feet away munching on sausage and bread with the others. Once asked, she quickly agreed to be in the photo.

The Premier Mike Rann also agreed. Graeme still felt a bit "out of place" despite their willingness, so I told the Governor what he'd said about "not being important enough".

Well, what a response!

That's when big smile beamed across Marjorie Jackson-

Nelson's face. The laughter was heartwarming. Within a flash and typical of the woman lovingly known as "the Flash" she put her arms around Graeme and declared "Oh, no. I'm just as ordinary as you."

That broke the ice!

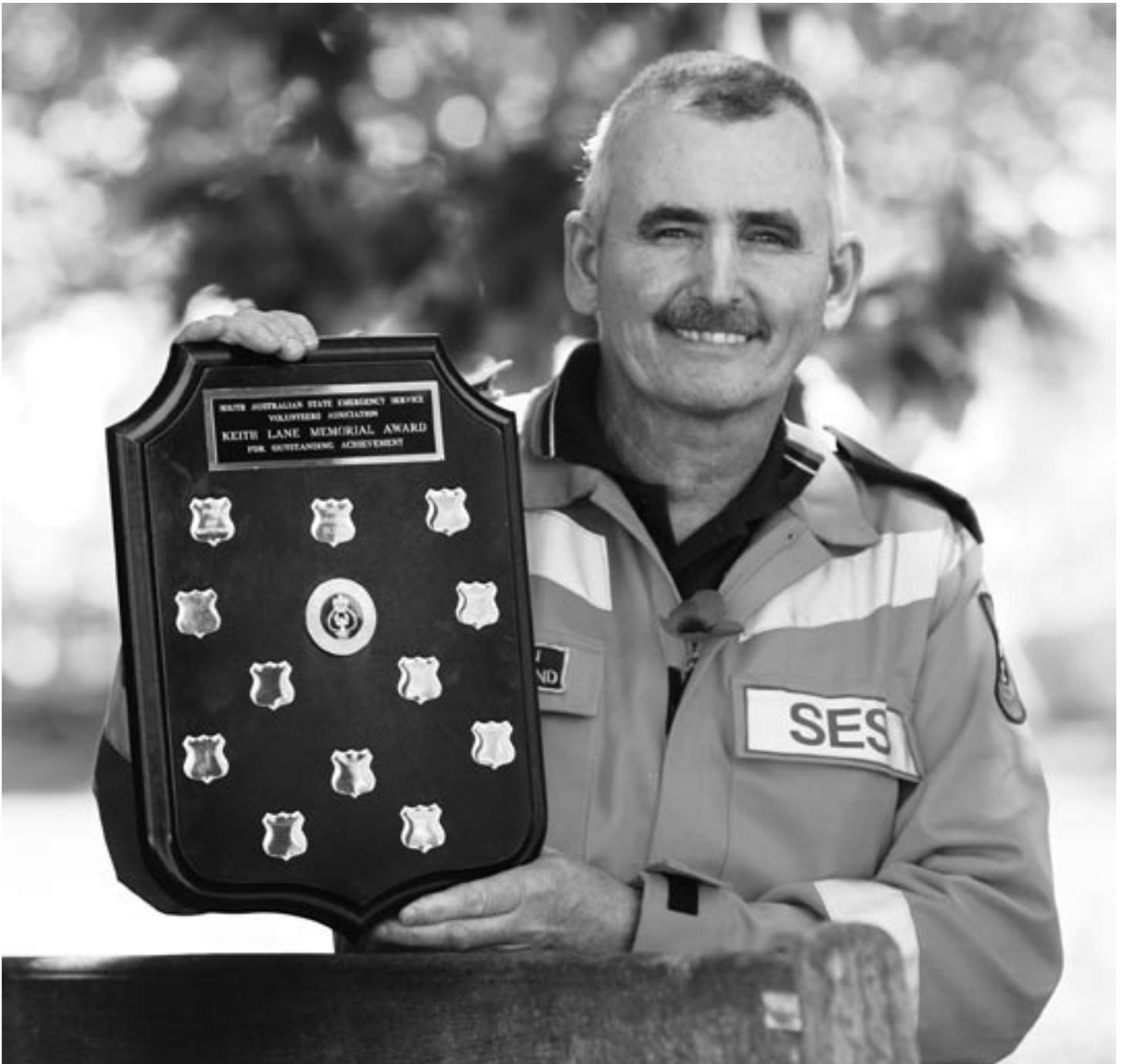
Of course Graeme is grateful for what his colleagues have done by nominating him.

He's an absolute enthusiast for the SES with it only equalled by his passion for motorbikes. "If the SES gets a motorcycle squad I'll be in that."

The \$1000 first prize will also come in very handy.

"I was worrying where I would get the money for the trip to Tasmania with the family. Now I've got it."

By Allan Calleja



Graeme with the Keith Lane Memorial Award and below with Dean Overton of the King Island SES Unit

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RIVERLAND FIELD DAYS – 2005

The Riverland Field Days began life in 1957 as ‘Gadget & Field Days’.

It was held at Paringa with 52 gadget and 64 commercial exhibitors occupying 85 sites. Successive years saw it hosted at several different townships in the Riverland with sites being chosen for their ability to show and demonstrate cultivation, spraying and other agricultural machinery and equipment. The original emphasis for the gadgets was to make life easier for the horticulturists, and later came to include agricultural inventions.

In 1996, the event officially became known as the ‘Riverland Field Days’ and continued to grow to the extent that space to accommodate exhibitors became a problem, so a new permanent site was located at Barmera in 2001. Since then the event has grown to over 900 sites being booked, with millions of dollars worth of agricultural, horticultural and domestic machinery being demonstrated and displayed (big boys toys), along with general exhibitors. This year

saw a crowd of over 18,000 people pass through the gates. The Field Days are always held in September on a Wednesday and Thursday, so the usually vacant site comes alive on Tuesday with several hundred people buzzing around setting up and, mingled with the smell of steak sandwiches,

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hot doughnuts and baked potatoes, it takes on somewhat of a carnival atmosphere. Fortunately in the Riverland, you can generally count on nice spring weather in September, and once again it didn’t let us down this year. The Riverland SES Units have had an involvement in the past, but in 2001 we decided to enter a display as a Region,

and since that time have continued to ‘fine tune’ our ways of promoting the service to the public. As in last year, the SES, CFS, SAAS, MFS and SAPOL worked together and hired a marquee large enough to house everyone and their displays. ‘The Horror House’

was our main theme, in an attempt to educate the public as to safety in and around the home. We set up a series of rooms, each had its own ‘horrors’ e.g. the kitchen had large knives sitting on the sink, an iron way too close to the curtains with a frayed electrical cord, candles on the window sill and cleaning fluids falling out of a cupboard

onto the floor. All services provided personnel to attend a room and assist the public in identifying the problems in each room. Although the house was more relevant to the other services, it was very successful in promoting a positive image of all emergency services working together.

As in the past, we invited the Dog Unit members and their two legged handlers. They’re always a crowd favourite, never failing to attract attention and again promote the service as more than just ‘people in orange’ who tarp roofs. Many thanks this year to Keith & Tyke and Carl & Jack.

Overall, I think we presented the SES in a positive and professional manner, well done and thank you to everyone involved.

One thing’s for sure, the Field Days are great fun but hard work! Now it’s back to the ‘think tank’ for some more ‘fine tuning’ in time for next year.

By Caren Lawrenson
BSO East Region



MINE RESCUE FOR MUD RESCUE

“Thank God we’re back on dry ground”, chorused the four Mine Rescue/SES volunteers and one weary, mud bound tourist.

All had gone well for the two interstate travellers as they enjoyed the remoteness of the Len Beadell Highway connecting Laverton WA to Coober Pedy. That is until rain began falling on Monday afternoon, 17 November. They were west of Mabel Creek and realized the potential for trouble so decided to try and reach civilisation. However, their travel came to a sticky end when their four wheel drive vehicle and camper trailer became hopelessly bogged 15 km west of Mabel Creek homestead.

With no means of communication and rain still falling, they decided that one of the stranded party would try to reach help the following day. After a long wet walk on Tuesday the 18th, this person reached Mabel Creek Homestead and was fortunate to receive a lift to Coober Pedy where the Police were notified of their situation. An attempt was made that day by local police to reach the stranded vehicle, but with continuing inclement weather and unpassable roads the rescue was aborted.

On Wednesday the 19th, the SA Police Aeroplane arrived and a reconnaissance flight to locate the vehicle and establish contact with the stranded occupant took place. A supply pack containing a UHF radio and rations was dropped to the much-relieved motorist. At last he could talk to someone and be assured that he had in fact not been forgotten. From the aerial survey it was obvious a ground party would not get through and plans for a rescue attempt were postponed until Friday 21 November.

Mine Rescue/SES volunteers Dylan Lewis, Fred Jeffree, Roger Vanajek and Mick White undertook the challenge and left Coober Pedy early Friday morning equipped with just about everything except a hovercraft. By this time, the Mabel Creek had subsided, allowing them to proceed west.

A very grateful traveller greeted them on their arrival but the task

of freeing the vehicle and camper trailer from the knee-deep bog of the Woorong Creek flood plain was just beginning. After four hours of constantly winching, repositioning of the Rescue Vehicle, cutting timber, winching again and again, they finally reached the security of solid ground.

After his five day ordeal, it was a very muddy but thankful traveller who pulled into Coober Pedy. That night he chose to forgo the homely comforts of his camper trailer and opted to enjoy the luxury accommodation at the aptly named Mud Hut Motel. The travellers were very grateful for the assistance provided by our local Rescue Squad members and the reward for the intrepid rescuers was the satisfaction of a challenge successfully accomplished.



SAPES GAMES BACK FOR 2006

The South Australia Police and Emergency Services are set to hit Adelaide again from Friday 3 to Saturday 11 March, 2006.

The SAPES Games have been designed to promote a healthy lifestyle, team work and encourage the fostering of partnerships with other emergency service organisations. The 2004 Games were a huge success with the participation of 1,110 competitors from 23 agencies.

The 2006 Games will commence with an Opening Ceremony in Victoria Square on Friday 3 March from 12.00pm to 2.00pm. As part of the festivities, the highly anticipated tug-of-war and muster bucket brigade will take place at the opening ceremony. A new component to the games will be the closing party, to be held on Saturday 11 March at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

The SAPES Games sport team, are pleased to offer 30 sports for the 2006 Games, and for the first time paintball will be included in the Games sport line up. The SAPES Games team are encouraging all agencies to participate in the six compulsory sports of dragon boats, muster (bucket brigade), mixed netball, stair race, toughest competitor alive, and tug-of-war.

2006 SAPES Games eligible agencies are:

1. South Australia Police
2. South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service
3. State Emergency Service, SA
4. South Australian Ambulance Service
5. Country Fire Service of South Australia
6. Emergency Service Administrative Unit
7. Australian Customs Service
8. Australian Federal Police
9. Australian Protective Service
10. Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting Service
11. Department of Correctional Services
12. National Crime Authority
13. Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Services
14. Office of the Sheriff of South Australia
15. Police Association of South Australia
16. Primary Industries and Resources South Australia
17. Royal Australian Air Force
18. Royal Australian Army
19. St. John Ambulance Australia
20. Surf Life Saving SA
21. Transfield Services, Edinburgh Air Base
22. Transport SA
23. South Australia Police Special Constables

The 2006 SAPES Games website and registrations will go live on Monday 7 November, 2005. You can get all the up to date Games information by logging onto www.sapes.com.au.

Start your training regime now, the Games commence in 134 days. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the competition and fun!

For more information please contact Melissa Librandi, PR and Sponsorship officer for 2006 SAPES Games on 08 8375 9718 or 0434 076 113 or visit www.sapes.com.au.

