

# FRONTLINE

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

- Sam Fox Series
- Around The Units

- VERSP
- Unit Managers Forum



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S.A.S.E.S. VOLUNTEERS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

GPO BOX 2706, ADELAIDE 5001

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON	DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON	SECRETARY/TREASURER	EXECUTIVE OFFICER
<b>WARREN HICKS ESM</b> GPO Box 2706, Adelaide SA 5001 M 0424 435 416 warrenhicks2@bigpond.com	<b>PETER CODRINGTON ESM</b> PO Box 386, Ceduna SA 5690 W 8625 2077 M 0427 269 161 sesceduna@internode.on.net	<b>TREVOR BOND ESM</b> GPO Box 2706, Adelaide SA 5001 M 0457 005 083 bondtr8@gmail.com	<b>SUSAN CARACOUSSIS</b> GPO Box 2706, Adelaide SA 5001 M 0414 877 374 susan@sasesva.org.au caracoussis.susan@ses.sa.gov.au

## COMMITTEE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

SOUTH REGION		NORTH REGION	
<b>DAVID COUSINS</b> 14 Mark Lane, Goolwa SA 5214 M 0412 809 919 dmcgoolwa@gmail.com	<b>ALEX ZAHRA</b> PO Box 731, Noarlunga SA 5168 M 0411 243 236 ajzahra@live.com.au	<b>LYN BERGHOFER ESM</b> PO Box 2503, Whyalla Norrie SA 5608 M 0427 492 974 lberghof@bigpond.net.au	<b>RICHARD DAVISON</b> PO Box 3071, Port Lincoln SA 5606 M 0427 013 924 davisonhome@internode.on.net

**WILLIAM JOB (BILL)**  
PO Box 245, Millicent SA 5280  
M 0417 819 817  
F 8733 2936  
william.job@bigpond.com

**PETER CODRINGTON ESM**  
PO Box 386, Ceduna SA 5690  
M 0427 269 161  
W: 8625 2077  
sesceduna@internode.on.net

**FRONTLINE**  
Editorial email  
susan@sasesva.org.au or  
caracoussis.susan@ses.sa.gov.au



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# CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

CHRIS BEATTIE



South Australia's State Emergency Service relies on approximately 1,650 dedicated volunteers who willingly provide their time to support communities during emergencies and times of crisis. Indeed, South Australia's capacity to respond to natural disasters is entirely dependent on a range of specialised volunteer-based organisations including the SASES, Volunteer Marine Rescue associations,

Country Fire Service, Red Cross, St John Ambulance, and the Salvation Army (amongst others) most of which rely on a small cadre of paid (or career) staff and a much larger workforce of (unpaid) volunteers who are mobilised and deployed in response to an emergency or particular disaster. The distinct roles and functions played by each organisation are important components that contribute to the overall effectiveness of the State's emergency management arrangements. The specialised training, equipment, doctrine and culture within each organisation relies on enormous contributions from volunteers themselves as well as base resources from the community or governments.

It is fitting then that the value of our volunteers is recognised in the Council of Australian Government's National Strategy for Disaster Resilience which acknowledges that volunteers are at the forefront of strengthening disaster resilience in Australia. It is to our volunteers that Australians often turn for support, advice or assistance in an emergency and the dedicated work of SASES volunteers throughout the State is critical to helping communities cope with and recover from disasters of all types.

While volunteering has always been a strong tradition in Australia it is worth reflecting on the main policy drivers that provide the rationale for governments at all levels to support emergency service volunteers. These drivers include (1) the effects volunteer agencies have on direct government expenditure on services; (2)

the contribution of volunteering to the stock of social capital; (3) the contribution of volunteering in providing pathways to economic, social and civic participation; and (4) the benefits derived from saving lives, protecting property and supporting the community during times of crisis. In order to truly understand the value of emergency service volunteers these four domains must all be considered.

Understanding the economic benefits derived from the SASES and its volunteers is important. Such assessments can help to justify the cost to government of providing resources for staff, training, facilities and equipment. Although the total economic benefits of the SASES has not been researched, analysis of State Emergency Service volunteering by Gaminda Ganewatta & John Handmer in 2009 found the value of volunteer time alone (given for community services, operational response, training and unit management) averaged around \$52M, \$19M and \$12M a year in NSW, Victoria and South Australia respectively (in 2009 dollar values). Last year, the University of Adelaide released a study that revealed the true extent of the monetary value of the nation's volunteers more broadly - more than \$200 billion a year for the country. According to this research by Dr Lisel O'Dwyer the economic contribution of volunteers to Australian society outstrips revenue sources from mining, agriculture and the retail sector. While focusing on the monetary value of volunteering has a place in helping to justify the expenditure of taxpayers' money on the service, it is critical to be mindful that volunteering is not all about saving money as the real value of volunteering is much more complex.

SASES volunteers train, respond, engage with and educate the community. Our volunteers also form enduring friendships and recreate together. These interactions form strong internal and external networks which contribute to the social capital in South Australian communities. Indeed, it has been long understood that one of the positives of limited government is that it allows the voluntary sector to develop and prosper and deepen social relationships in a community. Within SASES recent community engagement and recruiting activities focussing on people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities has led to increased participation of volunteers from a range of backgrounds.

Expanding social capital and the capacity of members of local communities to resolve problems themselves are explicit goals of the Commonwealth's Stronger Families and Communities Strategy and the SASES and its volunteers support these objectives by building trust and providing an avenue for community participation and reciprocity.

Volunteers within the SASES are provided training and gain skills, expertise and experience in a broad range of operational, technical, leadership and management areas, many of which are transferable to their workplace. Building human capital within communities makes an important contribution to economic, social and civic participation. Indeed, a recent empirical study titled *Volunteering as a Pathway to Employment: Does Volunteering Increase Odds of Finding a Job for the Out of Work?* released in June 2013 has shown that volunteering is associated with a 27% higher odds of employment, statistically significant at the 99.9% confidence level. This relationship between volunteering and employment was stable across gender, race, and ethnic categories, age, time, geographic areas, and unemployment rates. Aside from employment outcomes, volunteering within the SASES leads to stronger bonds between members and allows volunteers to build links with other local services, councils and broader networks. It is no wonder then that SASES volunteers are also found participating in a wide range of complementary voluntary or civic organisations.

The benefits of supporting volunteer based emergency service organisations, such as the SASES, extend beyond monetary value (ie reduced government expenditure), improved social capital or enhanced employment and civic participation rates. Indeed it would be disingenuous to think that these aspects alone could define the value of emergency service volunteering. How do you value rescuing an injured person from being trapped in a car? Or the relief of a family when their child, lost in the bush at night, is found? Indeed, how do you value the losses forgone during emergencies because of better community preparedness for floods and storms? These are difficult issues but are perhaps the most important when it comes to the value of our service. It is the unquantifiable benefits derived by achieving our mission, to minimise the loss of life, injuries and damage from

emergencies and natural disasters that provide the strongest case for supporting, recognising and honouring SASES volunteers.

Our volunteers make a critical contribution to the resilience of South Australia and they do so within an emergency management framework that recognises the need for specialised roles, functions, training, equipment, doctrine and culture. I am tremendously proud of our volunteers' skills, expertise and their tireless willingness to help communities in times of need. Collectively, SASES volunteers provide a high quality emergency service and there are substantial benefits that flow to governments at all levels, the community as well as to the individuals who volunteer. Such benefits and values should never be overlooked and I thank all members for their service and devotion.



## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

SUSAN CARACOUSSIS

**Y**ou may have noticed that there is no message from the Chair in this issue of Frontline and the reason is simple SES policy of "family first" is currently Warren's priority and the Association's Committee are trying to ensure that this occurs. Warren's wife Linda has been in Flinders Medical Centre again and will shortly move to the Repatriation General Hospital, Daw House Hospice. At the time of writing this message there were lots of unknowns and we know that Linda is keeping her spirits up as she is worried about the impact on her loved ones.

Our thoughts are also with Warren, Aaron and Ashley at this time and on a personal basis, missing the many meetings with Warren over Association issues where Linda also provided invaluable insight.

In the interim, Trevor Bond has stepped in for the monthly meetings with the Chief Officer and our Deputy, Peter Codrington and other committee members are also assisting as required.

By the time Frontline is distributed, the Association will have appeared before the Select Committee on Community Safety and Emergency Services in South Australia. There have been several articles in the media and in the October edition we will provide an update.

More importantly, on Wednesday 19 June 2013 the **Road Traffic (Emergency Service Speed Zones) Amendment Bill** legislation passed the Legislative

Council, which means that when passing emergency services vehicles attending a callout, other vehicles will now be required to reduce their speeds from 40 to 25 km/h. In supporting the Amended Bill in the Legislative Council Russel Wortley said:

*"Underpinning this approach was advice from the University of Adelaide Centre for Automotive Safety Research which showed that, while the risk of fatal injury to a pedestrian by a passing vehicle at 25 km/h is 0.95 per cent, the risk rises to 3.56 per cent if the vehicle is travelling at 40 km/h. We would agree that is a significant difference.*

*The government encountered considerable support as to the general tenor of the provisions from other key stakeholders, including the SES, the United Firefighters Union, the Ambulance association, the SES Volunteers' Association and the CFS volunteers, but acknowledged SAPOL's responsible reservations regarding their enforcement.*

*Given the need for all agencies involved to have access to an appropriate forum for comment on the matter, the establishment of a select committee was agreed. The government agrees with the select committee that the research data provides a compelling argument for a preventative approach to road safety for emergency service workers; however, there still remains some concern on our part about the proposed penalties in the revised bill.*

# Anonymous Supporter

Supporting the SES

*Consequently, I take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the member for Stuart's willingness to accept the government's suggestion that penalties should align with those applied to general speeding. I want to thank all members for their outstanding work on the select committee. Their bipartisan approach to road safety has been much appreciated and the spirit of all concerned in working through these issues in the interests of enhanced road safety demonstrates a shared willingness to deliver good results for all emergency services and the community generally. I commend the bill."*

Your Association, together with the CFSVA, UFU and Ambulance Employees Association have been lobbying for this change since late 2009 and then lodged a joint submission to the Select Committee on the Road Traffic (Emergency Vehicles) Amendment Bill. We subsequently appeared before the committee in December 2011 and whilst it's been a long haul, are delighted with the bipartisan support that ensured the passage of the bill.

We have also been extremely busy as a result of rumours that are again doing the rounds, possibly due to both the Select Committee on Community Safety and Emergency Services in South Australia and the Review of the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005, which is being undertaken by the Hon Paul Holloway, or even the tight budgetary climate and support cuts under which volunteers operate as they provide support to the community 24/7. The Association continues to respond to these rumours on the basis that the SES with its many roles and responsibilities is part of a national body and extremely different to the CFS and will not merge. Ironically, the Association, which was formed over a decade ago, was established to fight similar rumours and even today our feelings in this area have not changed.

Whilst considerable time has been spent on these issues, we have also been following up or assisting with many complaints and grievances, providing advice or seeking clarification in some instances.

Finally, this quarter we'd like to thank **Badge Constructions Staff** who held a casual day and donated the proceeds to the SASESVA and the **Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources** who has continued its partnership with the Association by again providing a limited number of National Park Pass Cards to SES volunteers for 2013/14 year. This partnership is really appreciated by our volunteers and we thank DEWNR for its ongoing support. Information together with the application form is available for downloading in the Members Only section of the Association's website ([www.sasesva.org.au](http://www.sasesva.org.au)). It is imperative that all sections of the application form are completed, otherwise we will be unable to issue a pass.

As the Chair says, until next time stay safe and we know that you are all prepared for those callouts that occur at this time of the year, again freely giving of your time to support your communities in their times of need.

# TRAINING

Greg Mennie



**F**rom reviewing existing courses to development of new projects, the Training section continues working to support members with skills training and professional development opportunities.

## Review of Rescue Operations training

We've started work on the review and redevelopment of our training for basic rescue skills. This course is well overdue for review and updating. At the same time we are aligning it to the national standard so that members who successfully complete the course will receive a nationally recognised Statement of Achievement.

The first stage of the review process involved mapping it against the accredited unit of competency PUASAR022A Participate in a rescue operation to identify any gaps. The main change required was to include a section which provides an overview of the whole rescue process.

Next stage in the process was to consider the scope of the course. Through consultation with members, Regional Commanders and District Officers, the decision was made to move some of the content, which relates to managing mass casualties, to an advanced Disaster Rescue course. The new Rescue Operations course will focus much more on the most common skills required for most rescue work.

Much of the course has not changed. A couple of knots were dropped (bowline on the bight and timber hitch), and in the casualty handling section, the knee lift has been removed. We have also added some information about contamination; and the information on triage has been updated to match the current approach.

The formatting and layout have been updated, and we have identified where we would like new diagrams, illustrations and photographs, which we are currently sourcing. (If you have any photographs from your unit training nights that clearly

illustrate different techniques we would love to hear from you).

This rough first draft was then circulated to the Training Reference Group for feedback. We have been delighted with the involvement and level of input from volunteers. We received several submissions from individuals as well as unit teams. At time of writing this, we have started the work to incorporate their suggestions for improvement. By the time this issue of Frontline is published, we hope to have the second draft ready for circulation.

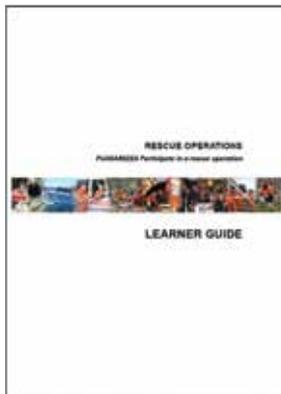
The next stage of development will involve consideration of delivery and assessment strategies. We are committed to providing a range of approaches which will provide for greater flexibility. If you have any great ideas, please get in touch.

Working collaboratively with volunteers in this way contributes immensely to the quality and relevance of our training resources. If you would like to be involved in the Training Reference Group for this and future course development, contact Senior

Curriculum Development Officer Diana MacMullin at [macmullin.diana@ses.sa.gov.au](mailto:macmullin.diana@ses.sa.gov.au).

## New faces in training

Recruitment for our new Coordinator Rescue Systems and Safety has finally been completed and we are very fortunate to have engaged Brenton Clarke to the role. Brenton's previous job was a WHS Inspector



in the Investigation Team at SafeWork SA and he is an ex-SAPOL member with 15 years' experience. Brenton's last position in SAPOL was in STAR Group, with duties in high risk operations, search and rescue, bomb technician and underwater recovery.

SASES has recently been funded by the Australian Government to develop a training course for Community Response Teams in remote Indigenous communities (more on this project below). We are delighted to welcome Ian Bonython to the training team for the next six months in the role of Project Officer for this exciting initiative. Ian has 18 years volunteer experience with the Noarlunga SES, the last two and a half years as Unit Manager. He has Trainer/Assessor qualifications in Basic Rescue, Storm and Flood, Vertical Rescue and Advanced Tools and Equipment. He recently finished working with a large wine producer, where for the last three years he was the Management Systems Training Coordinator, developing and delivering the Quality, Safety and Environmental training packages for all Accolade Wines Australian sites.

Many of you would have already heard about Cathy Allen, our new State Training Officer, who commenced with SASES in January this year; however we haven't had the chance to introduce her properly yet. Cathy has worked in the training industry for over 20 years across Australia. She has worked for both Government and non-government organisations as well as in a variety of training environments – NSW Police Academy, Correctional Centres, Community Health Centres, TAFEs, small and large RTOs. She is passionate about training and enjoys the flexibility and practicality of VET to help each learner achieve their goals.

## Volunteer Portal Training pages

Hopefully most of you have already checked out the new Volunteer Portal and especially have had the opportunity to see the changes that have been made in the Training section.



As you explore the site the most significant change you will find is the introduction of on-line learning. The first courses to be added include an Induction package for new members, an Introduction to Incident Management and a new Workplace Health and Safety course. We will gradually be adding other new courses – keep a look out for further WHS courses, including hazard management and duty of care for supervisors amongst other topics, plus a course on driver safety, which will form part of the response to the need for driver training (as identified in the Training Green Paper).

We have introduced a Training News section so that we can let you know about any changes or new initiatives. You will be able to find copies of Training Bulletins, new curriculum, and information about events coming up. We will also be adding articles which we think will be of interest to members. For example, recently uploaded articles included a piece about interacting with people who have dementia (including a link to a short film of an SES member helping a woman with dementia to evacuate her home), and a short piece about the recently released Climate Commission report entitled *The Critical Decade: Extreme Weather* (with a link to the report). Coming soon will be footage of an AFAC production entitled *Safety and Photovoltaic Arrays*. The content in the Training News section will change regularly, but old news stories will still be available in the Training News – Archive section.

In the About Us section you can find information about the strategic direction for training, as well as information about the staff training team. The Policies & Procedures section provides easy access to the existing Learning and Development Manual, and we will gradually be adding new policies. These policies affect you, so check in with this section from time to time and provide your feedback as new policies are developed. And of course you can still find the Training Calendar, TAS Records and Training Forms from the old site

Please log in and familiarise yourself with the new site and especially your new email address. This will increasingly become our main channel for communicating, and will be critical for you to stay in touch. We will be continuing to work on the site, so do contact us if you have any suggestions for information that you would like to see.

### Community Response Teams project

SASES has received funding from the federal government for the development of a training package and national guidelines for Community Response Teams in remote Indigenous communities.

The project is intended to enhance resilience in remote Indigenous communities through the development of a training program that addresses the skills required for initial response to emergency incidents and guidelines

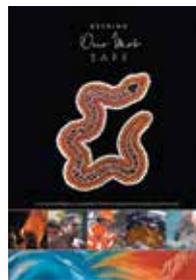
for implementation; and is designed to progress the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (NSDR). Development of the program will be consistent with Keeping Our Mob Safe, also part of the NSDR, which was developed by the Remote Indigenous Communities Advisory Committee.

The primary desired outcome of the project is enhanced resilience in remote Indigenous communities. Deliverables include a national training program (curriculum, learner guide and assessment materials); and guidelines for delivery of the training program.

The training program will be based on elements from existing programs in the skill areas of general rescue, land search and road crash rescue, and will be limited to the skills for initial response activities that will enable the responders to maintain life whilst awaiting the arrival of a fully equipped crew from the sponsoring SES unit. Guidelines addressing cultural protocols for agencies intending to deliver the training program will also be developed.

### State Rescue Challenge 2013 update

The State Rescue Challenge 2013 to be held in Adelaide at the Metropolitan Fire Service Training facility, Angle Park on the 17 – 18 August, will be based on rescue skills, map reading and navigation, storm damage operations and land search operations. Also, in some instances the challenges may involve casualties therefore leadership, reconnaissance, safety and basic first aid skills will be required. The stands will reflect the work conducted by both metropolitan and regional units.



Even though this is a competition it is also a unique and valuable learning opportunity for volunteers who have recently acquired their qualifications in the relevant rescue operations. For those volunteers who are already experienced, it is a skills maintenance opportunity and a chance to show off your skills while sharing your knowledge with volunteers new to the organisation. We will also be taking this opportunity to showcase demonstration stands focusing on skills, techniques, tools and equipment.

Our competing teams are:

- Western Adelaide
- Metro South
- Mount Barker
- Eastern Suburbs
- Edinburgh
- Tea Tree Gully
- Yankalilla
- Southern Region Composite Team (Western Adelaide & Mt Gambier)
- Port Lincoln

The winning team from Challenge 2013 will, as the state champions, represent SASES at the National Disaster Rescue Competition to be held in Victoria on 21 – 22 September 2013. As the winner of the 2011 National Challenge, South Australia will be competing to achieve back-to-back wins.

### In brief

The Training section has been involved in the working group which is organising this year's Unit Managers Forum (see Frontline article, this issue). We have been especially active in the development of an interesting, varied program that will meet members' needs. Engaging with members, listening to their concerns and responding appropriately, is an essential part of the new SASES training environment and our broader cultural change process.

Over the coming months we will be working on the development of a new SASES Youth Strategy, which will incorporate and extend on the existing Cadet program. Keep an eye out for more information, and make contact if you would like to be involved.

Until next time  
Keep learning and stay safe

**Greg Mennie**  
Manager Training and Organisational Development



## VOLUNTEER SERVICES BRANCH

TONI RICHARDSON

### Are you 'Recruitment Ready'?

The Volunteer Services Branch (VSB) of SAFECOM provides recruitment and retention advice to members of the SES and CFS. One of the first things we will do when asked to assist with recruitment is to do a Health Check. A Health Check is a simple review to see if the unit is 'Recruitment Ready'.

So what does it mean to be 'Recruitment Ready'? It means that members of a unit are ready to commit to a campaign, that the unit is a position to welcome and retain new members. See if your unit is recruitment ready by answering a few questions:

- Is your unit clean and welcoming to new members?
- Are your members a cohesive group of volunteers, but also inclusive of new members?
- Do you have an induction program to your unit?
- Do you have a good relationship with the local media?
- Are your training nights well planned out and structured with interesting activities?

If you answered 'yes' to these questions, then you may be 'Recruitment Ready'. There is still value in having a Health Check, but you are in a good place to start your recruitment campaign.

A successful recruitment campaign will only occur if there is ownership of and commitment to the campaign by the unit, not only in recruiting but retaining the new members. Additionally, a recruitment campaign needs to be a partnership between the members of a unit, SES staff (especially the District Officer) and VSB. When we all work together and support one another, we can attract and retain new members.

### Meeting with the District Officers

by Toni Richardson, A/Manager Volunteer Services Branch

On June 11, I had the pleasure of meeting with the SES District Officers in SES HQ. We discussed a range of issues including Police Checks and Recruitment. It was really pleasing to meet with a bunch of committed people with great ideas about how to assist volunteers within the units they support.

VSB is looking forward to working in partnership with volunteers and District Officers in the range of services we provide for the SES.

# Anonymous

Proudly Supporting the  
SES Volunteers

# INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

AIIMS Fourth Edition

**T**he Australasian Interservice Incident Management System (AIIMS) has been an integral part of emergency incident management processes in Australia now for over twenty years. The system has enabled emergency services across the nation to come together to resolve incidents in an 'integrated' and 'scalable' response. Over the years Australia has enhanced incident management processes and practises, through learning from thousands of responses to emergencies across the nation.

During late 2013, the fourth edition of AIIMS will be released across Australia. This edition and its framework has been established through the experiences and learnings that all levels of emergency services have shared, from flood to fire, cyclone to rescue.

The new edition continues the five fundamental principles of incident management, which have been adopted by the SASES, being:

- Flexibility,
- Management by Objectives'
- Functional Management
- Unity of Command and
- Span of Control

The exciting changes and additions see an expansion of the functional areas, the grouping of activities to assist the Incident Controller in resolving an emergency. The expanded functional areas that can be integrated into the incident management system are:

- Control – the management of all activities necessary for the resolution of an incident;
- Planning – the development of objectives, strategies and plans for the resolution of an incident;
- Intelligence – the task of collecting and analysis information, which is recorded and disseminated to support decision making and planning;



- Public Information – the timely provision of warnings, information and advice to the public and liaison with the media and affected communities;
- Operations – the tasking and application of resources to achieve resolution of an incident;
- Investigation – the task of conducting investigations to determine the cause of an incident and/or to determine factors that contribute to the impact of an incident;
- Logistics – the acquisition and provision of human and physical resources, facilities, services and materials to support the achievement of the incident objective; and
- Finance – the task of managing accounts, purchasing, insurance, compensation and the provision of costing and estimates to manage and resolve an incident.

SASES, with its partner agencies will be identifying opportunities to deliver the new AIIMS and the various functions in late 2013, with a focus on expanding on the basic roles of each function and expanding on the ability to promote and operate multi-agency incident management teams.

### AIIMS Course for Northern Adelaide District.

On the weekend on 15 and 16 June, SASES conducted an AIIMS course for the Northern Adelaide district at the Campbelltown SES Unit. The course's 25 participants came from a number of units and included staff from the Adelaide City Council. Feedback on the weekend included .... "Excellent course, it helps me understand how we (SES) manage incidents" ..... "explained why we (SES) need to take control of incidents we are responsible for" ..... "the training will assist me as a team leader in managing incidents for SES" .... "great training, extremely useful for operations coordination"

# ANZAC EVE YOUTH VIGIL 2013

**O**n Wednesday 24 April 2013 cadets from the State Emergency Service (SES) and Country Fire Service (CFS) participated in the fourteenth ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil held at the South Australian War Memorial on North Terrace.

Ten SES cadets from Andamooka, Enfield and Hallett and twelve CFS cadets from the Adelaide Hills and South East joined members of various other youth volunteer organisations to recognise the legacy of ANZAC. SES cadets were:

Rodney Weetra, Zac Clayton, Elissa Rathjen and Renee Smirnios from Andamooka Unit, Shona Mayne from Hallett Unit, and Michael Bishop, Craig Rowe, Madison Glover, Jess Jenkins and Kayla Lambert from Enfield Unit.

The ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil stems from the military tradition of 'Holding Ground' whereby a reconnaissance patrol would find and hold strategic position in

preparation for the arrival of their army. This would often involve an all-night vigil, keeping awake, on watch and alert that the area of battle is secured against threat.

The ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil commenced at 6.00pm on Wednesday 24 April and concluded at 6.00am on Thursday 25 April 2013, with the handover to the Defence Force Catafalque Party at 6.00am on Thursday morning who in turn 'held ground' during the Dawn Service and the ANZAC Day March.

This year young people from 12 different youth groups including SES, CFS, Girl Guides, Surf Life Saving, Scouts, Blue Light Rangers, Australian Army Cadets, Girls Brigade, Australian Navy Cadets, Australian Air Force Cadets, Boys Brigade and St John took part in performing various duties in the ceremony and throughout the night.

The young people were excellent representatives for the formal ANZAC Eve ceremony performing duties such as laying tributes to the fallen, meeting His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia, standing guard and delivering eloquent speeches to the assembled guests.

Congratulations to all the cadets who participated in the ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil.



# BELLA AND COOPER



**After a recent visit to Keith SES Unit and noting that it is now a year since Bella was rescued, we thought that it would be appropriate to see how she was and this is the response we received:**

“Thank you for your email and for thinking of us still. A year on, we still think of the people that assisted us on that day, and in answer to your question Bella and Cooper are doing well. They are very glad to be with each other, as we are to have Bella back with us.”

Darren and Darryl sent us a photo of Bella with Cooper and we were told that of course the dog who went missing namely Bella, is the one who likes having her photo taken, whereas Cooper has always been most reluctant.

## A miracle dog reunited

AFTER their dog ran away from their horrible crash on the Dukes Highway, Darryl Kirchner and Darren Mesecke have been reunited with their dog with the help of Keith SES.

Darryl Kirchner and Darren Mesecke were on their way to Melbourne for a holidays on May 30 with their two dogs Cooper and Bella when their caravan began swaying 13 km out of Keith, sending them off the road into a tree.

After surviving without a single scratch both men looked for their dogs, finding Cooper, but not Bella.

Darryl said: “She must have ran off once we stopped, and it was not only worrying because of her chance of being injured, but also because of her history of seizures which are managed by medication.”

Call it a miracle, after two days from the crash Bella was spotted on a neighbouring farm, but not without the help of Keith SES member Miles Hannemann and Anne Brennan who advertised the incident of a lost dog through 5TCB.

Both Darryl and Darren rushed to the Tatiara to get their dog, only to find no sign of her.

She was again spotted by local Mark Sherriff who fed her, and contacted Miles who picked her up with Anne, after calling her from under a shearing shed.



**RESCUE:** SES Members Miles Hannemann and Anne Brennan handing the lost dog “Bella” over to Darryl Kirchner and Darren Mesecke.

Miles took photos of Bella as evidence to her owners that she was alive, as vets had told the men she may not survive more than four days without medication.

Miles said: “When Darryl and Darren saw the photo of Bella they could not believe she was still alive as they had already mourned her loss and held a wake for her in Adelaide with their friends.”

Anne nursed Bella overnight until the men came down from Adelaide to collect her.

Darren said: “It is a miracle, because as time went on, we thought, she’s a small dog, she might be fox food by now, and we were quite amazed that

she made it on her own. “She’s fine now, back to normal, she looks like a little rat at the moment though as the vet needed to shave her from prickles and operate due to an ear infection.”

“We both really want to thank 5TCB and the SES, particularly Miles and Anne who did a great job looking after her before we picked her up.”

“The help and friendship that they gave us

was amazing, nothing was too much trouble, they went out of their way to help us.”

“The incredible thing was that Miles said he will find our dog and when he rang up and said he found her, I was like ‘are you for real?’”

Miles added: “All people present at the rescue agreed that this was the great thing about being a volunteer member of the SES, a feel good story.”



**SCARED:** Bella hiding under the shearing shed.

# EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL RECIPIENTS

## Congratulations to our Queen's Birthday Honours Emergency Service Medal Recipients

Two of the longest-serving members of the SA State Emergency Service (SES) have received Emergency Service Medals (ESM) in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours.

They were **Trevor Heitmann**, Unit Manager, Murray Bridge, and **Sue Gage**, District Officer for SES Mid North.

A former member of Australia's defence forces, Trevor was one of three foundation members in 1970 of the SES Murray Bridge Unit. Over the years he has been one of the driving forces behind the SES capacity to respond to road crash rescues, writing the initial SES Vehicle Accident Rescue Manual,

and conducting numerous road crash rescue training courses.

A resident of Murray Bridge, Trevor was also the first chairperson of the State Emergency Service Volunteers Association (SESVA) and was involved in our Frontline magazine getting off the ground.

In 2007, work commitments forced Trevor to step back from an active role with the SES. However, earlier this year he rejoined the service and is currently Unit Manager at Murray Bridge.

Sue's involvement with the SES began in 1997 when she joined Metro South Unit, as a volunteer. In 2003 she became Unit Manager and in December, 2005

was appointed State Training Officer for North Region.

A Gladstone resident, Sue, who is based at Port Pirie, has had significant involvement over the years in SES training. She has also worked with local councils on such things as assessing the risk of severe storms and flooding and their capacity to respond effectively.

Sue is well known as the SES coordinator for our teams who participate in the SAPES Games.

Forty two members of the SA State Emergency Service have received Emergency Service Medals since 2000.

## TREVOR HEITMANN, A DAUGHTER'S REFLECTION ON HER FATHER'S ESM

We thought it would be appropriate to ask District Officer Jodi Green to comment on her father Trevor Heitmann and this is her response:

"I am extremely proud of my father and what he has given to the service, its members and the community of Murray Bridge during the last 40 years. From the service's conception as Civil Defence to the present day.

I have learnt so much from Dad and his broad range of rescue experiences and exposure. Such invaluable knowledge as a rescuer and a Team Leader that you just can't obtain from a classroom or a text book.

We had some 'interesting' moments during the early days of learning how to work together as father and daughter but we soon evolved into great team mates and I cherish these memories.

Trevor has taught me many lessons in what it takes to be a good leader and rescuer. How to remain calm and in control under pressure, humanity during great tragedy, the value in appreciating differences and getting the best out of your people, the importance of working together during the good times and the bad and most importantly how to give respect and earn respect. Simply being a decent person in the challenging and diverse world of a rescue volunteer.

I remember many times growing up when Dad could not be around because of his commitment to the service and his life saving role of helping others. But I always understood the importance of what he was doing and just how much he was giving to those in need. I remember watching him tear down the driveway on the way to a vehicle accident and feeling so proud and scared for him all at the same time. There were many bad accidents in the early days so this tended to be a weekly occurrence.

I'm not too shy to say that my Dad is my hero on many levels and I am privileged to have had the opportunity to have witnessed him in action and to have worked alongside of him for the same cause.

Trevor has always set outstanding examples to others of pride, honour, loyalty, team work, acceptance, commitment, hard work and mateship and in turn has gained the respect of all I have seen him work with, both within the SES and throughout the other emergency services, community leaders and groups.

I certainly wouldn't be where I am today without his influence and guidance and I thank those responsible for allowing Dad's commitment, hard work and ongoing service to the SES to be acknowledged in this way."

Jodi Green.  
District Officer, South East

# TRAPPED PUP RESCUED

A six month old puppy was rescued after being trapped between two buildings at Edwardstown on 16 April. It took more than three hours and a team effort between the MFS, SES and Marion Council staff to free the staffy cross from the buildings at the corner of Conmurra Avenue and Waverley Avenue.



The Council's Community Safety Inspector Bryan Abbott was called after a puppy was seen wandering in the

area. Mr Abbott tried to offer the pup treats, but he was scared and disappeared into a gap which was narrower than a brick.

The pup was finally freed after a hole was cut into the wall.

It was amazing to see everyone working together and it had a really happy ending," Bryan said.

"It was sort of like the situation you see on the TV show RSPCA Animal Rescue."

He said the pup was unharmed but they were now trying to find its



owners, with the puppy being held at the RSPCA's Lonsdale shelter.

*This story featured on Adelaide Now and whilst there must be so many better ways to showcase Metro South's shoring skills a puppy is always going to beat a car through a house.*

Photos courtesy Marion Council.

## STORM AND WATER DAMAGE COURSE

A Storm & Water Damage course was held at Bordertown, in the South East, on the weekend of 25 and 26 May.

It was an exceptional weekend due to the high level of teamwork and outstanding volunteer spirit by all course participants and trainers.

Thanks and well done to everyone for your involvement in such a fun & rewarding weekend.

Jodi Green, District Officer South East



Teams undertaking Roof Safety system and Water pumping exercises.



From Left to right: Lindsay Couzner, Zandro Sta-Maria and Geoff Dunkin from Bordertown Unit, David Pearson and Suzanna Quin from Mount Gambier Unit, Tyson Baker Kingston SE Unit and, Marlaena Payne Mount Gambier.



Safe ladder access for roof safety system.



Bordertown Unit Manager Andrew O'Brien with Rescue Member Zandro Sta-Maria building a well with sandbags.

# 4WD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

**O**n Saturday 2 March, five members from the Victorian SES along with 10 South Australian SES members from across the South East combined their knowledge and experience to undertake a 4WD Professional Development day in Canunda National Park.

The development weekend was initiated by the Victorian SES Regional Trainer, David Brown who approached the SASES inviting us to participate in the day.

SASES South East District Officer, Jodi Green, liaised with David to plan an initial low key 4WD Development

day with the hopes of making this an annual event due to the benefits received by both services.

The five participants from Victoria attended with a view to becoming instructors as this was a 'shadowed' competency maintenance trip with their Regional Officer David Ralston being both the Victorian SES staff presence and trainer for the event.

SASES participants from Bordertown, Keith, Millicent and Mount Gambier attended to share and build existing knowledge and experience.

Both services were keen to grasp the opportunity to develop relationships

with their fellow rescuers from across the border.

Victorian SES Regional Trainer, David Brown said "beach access is not permitted for vehicles in Victoria and so it makes it difficult for members to gain 4WD experience. Having approval to undertake this training in South Australia was a very unique opportunity for the members involved and provided a starting point for further driver training qualifications down the track. Working alongside the South Australian SES on the day with their local knowledge and experience of the area was an added bonus".



Participants met at Mount Gambier Unit for a pre-activity briefing provided by Simon Poel, Mount Gambier SES Unit Manager, Wayne Usher, Mount Gambier Communications Officer and Victorian SES Regional Officer, David Ralston.

Whilst at the Mount Gambier Unit the Victorian contingent took the opportunity for a tour around the headquarters, viewing the range of equipment and unit setup to provide some ideas for future service development.

The activity commenced at Carpenter Rocks with some 4WD driver training along the 'intermediate level' sandy tracks which weaved throughout the National Park.

The day progressed to more advanced driving techniques as the terrain deteriorated. Equipment such as a sand anchor and the "MAXTRAX" vehicle recovery device were used during this session. The 'MAXTRAX' device is a vital piece of equipment and is utilised frequently by the Millicent Unit.

Wayne Usher, from Mount Gambier Unit, kindly provided communications coverage and a running log for the day from the Mount Gambier headquarters. A big ask on Clipsal day with Wayne keeping on top of the race from the Unit's TV!

A huge thanks to Wayne for his professionalism and contributions to the day which provided participants with an opportunity to gain some GPS, grid reference and



communications training along the way. This also added an increased safety aspect to the event.

Next year we plan to assemble an event 'working group' a couple of months prior to provide a more structured delivery of skills and techniques catering for both advanced and intermediate level participants.

It is hoped that this event will continue annually to provide essential skills and knowledge in this specialised skill set area.

A Professional Development day such as this is a great opportunity to provide the necessary knowledge and experience to perform this high risk driving in a safe and controlled environment reducing the likelihood of injury or damage to members and the public.

Thanks to the Victorian SES for inviting us to participate in the event which has provided a benchmark for the SASES to establish an avenue of ongoing 4WD skills development.

In turn possibly providing the foundations for the development of a 4WD Techniques training package. The idea stemming from feedback and discussions between the District Officer and participants following the event.

All in all the day was a great success and sets the scene for bigger and better events in future shared between the States and the Units across the South East.

Thanks to all who participated.

**Jodi Green,**  
District Officer South East

# SAPES GAMES

**T**he SAPES Games have now concluded and, once again, SASES has been very successful, particularly in the shooting events and athletics. The standout performances came from Roseanne Cruickshanks in athletics. Her five medal haul was matched by Western Adelaide's Darren Beck who took part in various shooting events. Two gold medals were also won by Amanda Todd from Tea Tree Gully in tennis.



Twenty-one competitors from the SASES took part in this year's games, with nine being from country areas. Roseanne Cruickshanks came from Mount Gambier, while four travelled from Hallett and three from Laura to participate in the rifle shooting event. Additionally, four staff members also competed in shooting, golf, angling and 8 ball.

Thirteen of the SASES competitors won twenty seven medals between them. They were:

- Roseanne Cruickshanks, Mount Gambier, competed in 6 Track and Field events and won four gold (100m, 200m, long jump and javelin) and one silver (shot put).

- Darren Beck, Western Adelaide, won a total of 5 medals in Shotgun 2 Gold – B Grade Skeet (24/25) and Team Double Barrel Trap 2 Silver – Double Barrel Trap (23/25) and Team Skeet Rifle shooting 4th – Centrefire B Grade on a count back
- Dean Garrett, Western Adelaide, took part in Triathlon and came 4th in his age group and 12th overall less than 2 weeks after competing in the Melbourne Iron Man event (The Melbourne Ironman is a 3.8km swim, 180 km bike ride and 42.2 km run). He then took part in the 10 km road run and won Gold.
- Hayden Feder, Western Adelaide, Shotgun, Bronze – B Grade Skeet (19/25) and Rifle Shooting
- Sue Gage, North Region and Laura, Rifle Shooting, Gold – Team "Shooters with Hooters,"
- Plus Silver – Ladies Rimfire and Silver – B Grade Rimfire
- Rachel Incoll, Kapunda, Equestrian won Gold – Obstacle course and Silver – Hack under 15hands
- Robbie Klemm, Laura, Rifle Shooting won Silver – Team "The Awesomes"
- Deidra Klemm, Laura, Rifle Shooting Silver – Team "The Awesomes" and a Bronze – Ladies Rimfire
- Norma Mayne, Hallett, Rifle Shooting, Gold - Team "Shooters with Hooters"
- Alexander McDonald, David McDonald and Adrian Marlow from Hallett, Rifle Shooting Bronze - Team "Rough as Guts"
- Amanda Todd, Tea Tree Gully, Tennis, Gold – Ladies Singles and ladies Doubles

Congratulations to all who took part and thanks to Mid North District Officer, Sue Gage for co-ordinating our involvement.



Includes SES members from left to right - Robbie Klemm, Deidra Klemm, Norma Mayne, Sue Gage, Alex McDonald, Adrian Marlow, David McDonald.



# KEITH LANE AWARD

## 2013 KEITH LANE AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Nominations are now open for the 2013 Keith Lane Award which this year is again being supported by the Police Credit Union who will present \$1,000 to the recipient of the award. The recipient also receives a trophy and has their name placed on the perpetual shield, which remains on display at their Unit for the ensuring twelve months. The award, which is open to any current serving member of the SES and Association, will be announced and presented at the Annual SES Awards Dinner on Saturday 26 October 2013 at the Adelaide Sailing Club, West Beach.

Keith Lane was a person who always went above and beyond the call of duty in the roles he undertook, especially during his time with the State Emergency Service and the S.A. S.E.S. Volunteers' Association.

The Keith Lane Memorial Award is judged on "outstanding contribution by an individual member", and the emphasis is not based just on an individual's skills, but their commitment to the SES and their local Unit.

We would encourage you to nominate that colleague who you feel meets this criteria. Nominations are simple. We require a short statement of 300 to 500 words on why you believe the person you are nominating deserves to be considered for the award, and you may also wish to include supporting endorsements from other members at the Unit. Nominations are confidential and we also require a covering sheet with your contact details as the nominator, plus the name, Unit and rank of the person you are nominating.

Nominations are to be forwarded to the Association by either email or post:

**susan@sasesva.org.au or**  
**Keith Lane Award**  
**c/- SASESVA**  
**GPO Box 2706**  
**ADELAIDE S.A. 5001**

Nominations close Friday 4 October 2013.



## Keith Lane Award Recipients

- 2004 Ian Bonython
- 2005 Graeme Olsen
- 2006 Brian Hunter and Laurel Shaw
- 2007 Stuart Lambert and Peter Larvin
- 2008 Keith Smith
- 2009 Brian McCourt
- 2010 Peter Cumberworth
- 2011 Colin and Judy Schriever
- 2012 Robert Bowley
- 2013 ???????

# SASES UNIT MANAGERS FORUM

**T**he forthcoming SASES Unit Managers Forum is shaping up to be the best ever!

In considering constructive comments following last year's event, Chief Officer Chris Beattie recommended a committee be established to put together a package that better meets the needs of the service and its people. Subsequently the Unit Managers Forum Committee, with representation from SASES volunteers, staff and the Volunteers' Association, was formed and has been working together to plan a forum that provides the best possible value for attendees. In determining the way ahead, the committee conducted a review of past events and distributed a questionnaire, the results of which has enabled the identification of important and emerging issues, priority areas and preferred formats.

Having received many valuable submissions it is difficult to fit everything into a two day program, but the committee is confident that it has put together a programme that focusses squarely on bringing the maximum benefit to the majority of attendees.

This year's program has incorporated increased opportunities for discussion, breakout sessions and topical guest speakers, as well as equipment displays and the opportunity for informal consultation with area managers and subject matter advisors.

The two day program will be held over the weekend of 26 and 27 October at the recently constructed SA Police Academy at Strathfield Terrace, Taperoo, which incorporates state-of-the-art audio visual equipment and a contemporary comfortable environment.

Of course one of the highlights of the forum weekend will be the SASES

Awards Dinner to be conducted on Saturday evening at the Adelaide Sailing Club, West Beach, where SASES Life Memberships, the Keith Lane Award and other notable service achievements will be presented.

Invitations have been extended to all Unit Managers, Deputy Unit Managers and key staff across the service, and a dedicated email address created to receive responses, which close on Friday 16 August.

Chief Officer Chris Beattie is looking forward to this year's event. "Having been briefed about the proposed programme and renewed format,

I'm looking forward to the significant opportunities that it provides for discussing and communicating important issues and priority areas, as well as being able to recognise those of our people who have made significant contributions. I would encourage all Unit and Deputy Unit Managers as well as identified staff, to make every effort to attend" he said.

Further information can be obtained by visiting the Volunteer Portal, or by directing an enquiry to Robyn Faraguna at SASES State Headquarters on 08 8463 4039, or via the dedicated email address [unitmanagersforum@ses.sa.gov.au](mailto:unitmanagersforum@ses.sa.gov.au).

## To all that came to our aid about 2pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> March.

There were just so many wonderful people there that day who helped us that I do not know where to start.

There was a traveller who was travelling south and was the first on the scene and I shall probably never know who he was.

There were the people who went straight to my husband when I said I was ok and they cared for him.

There was the wonderful S.E.S. man a farmer from Crystal Brook who stayed with me and kept me calm.

Then there was the lady who despite the chaos managed to find my glasses and my husband's glasses. I was so grateful for that.

There were the police who did their bit.

I know there are many others I have not mentioned I heard their voices only .... But I do remember the man who put the steering wheel up and the seat back to make it easier to get me out of the car.

I do not remember who belonged to the ambulance or the S.E.S but to all of you we send our sincere thanks. I am sending two copies of this note in hope that you will both get a copy of it.

Thank you Judy and John 5/5/2013

## ANGRY SUMMER SHAPED BY A SHIFTING CLIMATE

**The hottest summer on record. The hottest month on record. The hottest day ever recorded for the whole of Australia. Heatwaves, bushfires, record rainfall and floods – extreme events across the land. This was the angry summer.**

The Climate Commission's latest report, *The Angry Summer*, assesses the events of this summer and the influence of climate change on them.

Australia is a land of "droughts and flooding rains". Our history is defined by extreme events. Black Friday in 1939, Cyclone Tracy in 1974, Ash Wednesday in 1983, Black Saturday in 2009 and the terrible floods of the last few years – disasters are etched into the Australian psyche. The angry summer continues this history of extremes.

The angry summer is unusual for the record-breaking intensity and duration of the weather events. The season began with one of the driest periods on record from July to December. The heatwave in late December 2012 and the first weeks of January 2013 was unusually long and widespread. During this heat event more than 70% of Australia experienced extreme temperatures

at some stage. The hot, dry weather contributed to dangerous bushfire conditions in many parts of Australia.

Later in the summer, parts of Queensland and New South Wales experienced record-breaking heavy rainfall, with daily rainfall of more than 400 millimetres in many locations. This rainfall produced severe flooding along the coast of Queensland and northern New South Wales.

All weather is influenced by climate change. The climate system is warmer and moister than it was 50 years ago, and this influences the nature, impact and intensity of extreme weather events. All of the extreme weather events of the angry summer occurred in a climate system that has vastly more heat compared to 50 years ago. That means that they were all influenced to some extent by a climate that is fundamentally shifting.

The average temperature in Australia has risen by 0.9°C since 1910. The change in average temperature has greater impacts at the margins of the temperature scale. It is highly likely that extreme hot weather will become more frequent and severe in Australia over the coming decades.

Australia's angry summer shows that climate change is already adversely affecting Australians.

Looking towards the future, it is virtually certain that extreme hot weather will continue to become even more frequent and severe around the globe, including Australia, over the coming decades. It is also likely that the frequency of heavy rainfall will increase over many areas of the globe.

In Australia and around the world we need to take urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The preventative action we take now and in the coming years will greatly influence the extent of climate change in the future, and therefore the severity of extreme weather events that our children and grandchildren will have to cope with.

This is the critical decade to get on with the job.

This article was first published in *The Conversation* on 4 March 2013  
 Author: Professor Will Steffen, Australian Climate Commissioner, Executive Director of the ANU Climate Change Institute at Australian National University and keynote speaker Unit Managers' Forum October 2013.

# SAM FOX SERIES

## Edinburgh members become stars of the small screen

Four members of the Edinburgh SES Unit are destined to become stars of the small screen.

The four – Lisette Reinke, Matt Brooks, Jesse Bull and Stuart Smith – were cast as SES ‘extras’ in a new series for children called ‘*Sam Fox: Extreme Adventures*’.

In March, the four travelled to a location just north of Mallala to take part in the shoot. It involved rescuing one of the male stars of the series after he injured himself in a mine shaft.

Lisette and Matt were later involved in a second shoot at the SA Film

Corporation’s new studio at Glenside where Lisette even got to say a few words.

“It was a great experience and good fun but quite hard work, especially as we had to do about eight takes of the scene where we carried Andrew down the sand dune in a Stokes Litter,” Lisette said.

(Andrew is actor Andrew Lindqvist who plays one of Sam’s brothers in the series).

“I really enjoyed working with the film crew who were so professional in how they went about things ... and the SA Film Corporation facilities at Glenside are absolutely fantastic,” she added.

*Sam Fox: Extreme Adventures* is a 26 by 24-minute series aimed specifically at 8-12 year olds.

It will be broadcast locally on both Network Ten and the Cartoon Network with the production company involved in the series – SLR Productions – hoping to sell it to broadcasters overseas. Germany is one of its key target markets.

Based on the action adventure books by popular children’s author Justin D’Ath, *Sam Fox: Extreme Adventures* is an action-packed comedy adventure series about teenage ‘danger magnet’ Sam Fox as he braves the wilds from open ocean to deepest jungle.





# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

BORDERTOWN – 23 MAY 2013

The first Volunteer and Employer Recognition and Support Program for 2013 was held in Bordertown in May. The Bordertown SES and CFS Station was the perfect venue for local members of the SES and CFS to get together and recognise the valuable contribution of employers and self employed volunteers.

Welcoming the approximately 100 guests was MC for the evening, Deputy Chief Executive of SAFECOM, Mr David Place. Volunteers from

the local Bordertown Lions Club worked extremely hard to prepare an amazing selection of food for volunteers and other guests.

Special guest speakers included Zandro Sta. Maria of Bordertown SES, who gave an insight into the motivations of an emergency services volunteer and why volunteering is so important to him and CFS Regional Commander John Probert. Also in attendance were SAFECOM Chief Executive Mr Tony Harrison, CFS A/Chief Officer

Mr Andrew Lawson and SES Chief Officer Mr Chris Beattie.

17 certificates were presented to local employers and self employed volunteers. All are worthy recipients and were publicly acknowledged for their support of the emergency services in South Australia.

There is another VERSP event scheduled for the Mid North in September and more information will be available soon through the Volunteer Services Branch.



Pictured from left to right: Tony Harrison, Chief Executive SAFECOM, Brendan Jones, Keith SES, Zandro Sta. Maria, Bordertown SES and Chief Officer Chris Beattie.

Volunteer Employer representative recipients.



## TUMBY BAY UNIT PRESENTED WITH CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

On Sunday the 19 May Tumbay Bay Unit Manager Bob Pycroft attended the District Council of Tumbay Bay's Volunteer Week Meeting to be presented with a Tumbay Bay State Certificate of Appreciation for Recognition of Community Service by the Tumbay Bay SES Unit. The certificate was presented by the Tumbay Bay Mayor Laurie Collins.

**Bob Pycroft ESM**  
Tumbay Bay



# BEING AN SES VOLUNTEER

ZANDRO STA. MARIA

**Z**andro Sta. Maria, joined the SASES in Bordertown in 2009 and presented the key speech at the recent Bordertown Volunteer and Employer Recognition and Support Program (VERSP) held on Thursday 23 May 2013.

Zandro's speech had such an impact on all in attendance, we felt it should be reproduced for others:

'Good evening ladies and gentlemen, first please let me thank you for giving me the privilege of speaking before you tonight. Before I start sharing my thoughts and perhaps experiences with being a volunteer, I would like to introduce myself. I'm Zandro Sta. Maria of SES Bordertown Unit.

I joined SES sometime in 2009, first I was hesitant in joining, for a couple of reasons, like being new in the place and I didn't know much of the people in the town. Not to mention that, I don't have the natural looks of an Aussie and I wasn't even a permanent resident yet at that time.

However, my desire to help others who are in need especially at their most critical time of their lives has urged me to overcome my hesitations.

Well at this point, I think it would be safe to say that my experience with the SES as a volunteer is both interesting and challenging as well as rewarding. I may say interesting, in a sense that I meet people that I've never met before and am able to help them and even be a part of their unforgettable experience.

Challenging at the same time rewarding, in the sense that I learn new skills.

A skill that will help me do the things that both SES and CFS do best .....and that is "saving lives and property".

We the emergency volunteers are just a call away, even in the most extreme weather conditions and that makes it very challenging. "we will always be there."

It is also rewarding in the sense that I become a part of an elite and professional group of volunteers who .....unselfishly choose "to live a life that matters."

For me, these group of volunteers (SES and CFS) are the true "unsung heroes" of our community.

And being part of this amazing group is truly rewarding enough.

My being a volunteer did not happen by accident, neither a matter of circumstance....but of choice.

Like all of you, I volunteered ..... because I choose to live a life that matters.

Again, thank you very much and may God bless you.'



Jennifer Rankine MP  
Member for Wright  
P.O. Box 1111  
Golden Grove Village 5125

Mr Chris Beattie  
Chief Officer  
State Emergency Service  
GPO Box 2706  
Adelaide SA 5001

SA State Emergency Service

25 MAR 2013

Received

Dear Mr Beattie,

I am writing to you to express my appreciation to the State Emergency Service for their participation in my twelfth annual Community Safety Day promotion held recently at the Golden Grove Village Shopping Centre.

I would be most grateful if you could pass on my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the volunteers from Community Flood Safe and the Enfield Unit who gave up their time to attend. Through their involvement, residents were able to find out more about various safety issues within the community.

Once again, thank you for your continued support for this important community awareness program.

Yours sincerely,

  
Jennifer Rankine  
Member for Wright  
22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013

# AROUND THE UNITS

## CEDUNA SES ASSISTS SAPOL

On Thursday 22 March 2013, 9 Ceduna SES members assisted members from SAPOL conduct a search in an area North of the Dog Fence out from Penong. The area to be searched was in very thick scrub and the searchers had to be airlifted into the location by helicopter.



The search related to the finding of a motor vehicle with human remains alongside of it. SES members involved in the Search Operation were Bev Bedson, Peter Codrington, Brian Dew, Grant Drummond, Margaret Oakley, Don Skinner, Jamie Swain, Rod Thomas and Kevin Trewartha.



Other Ceduna SES members Perry Will and Christopher Stockham, provided initial support on Wednesday the 21st with setting up the Operation.

**Peter Codrington**  
Unit Manager  
Ceduna SES.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UNIT ASSISTS WITH RECRUITING



Burra

The Community Engagement Unit (CEU) recently assisted three units with recruiting in conjunction with Volunteer Support Branch.

Bute SES Unit held a recruitment BBQ family day on Sunday 14 April with three members from the CEU and its transit van providing support.



Burra

Burra SES Unit then held a recruitment BBQ on Saturday 20 April with CEU again in attendance and accompanied by Paddy.

Snowtown SES Unit held its recruitment BBQ on Sunday 28 April with three CEU members in attendance.

Each event resulted in potential members and it is hoped that these interested parties have now joined their local Units.



Snowtown

Volunteer Support Branch assisted the Units with posters, advertising and organising the recruitment event.

Lyn Little  
Community Engagement Unit

## LOCAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT VISIT EDINBURGH UNIT

On 12 June the Member for Light and Minister for Volunteers, Tony Piccolo and the Member for Little Para, Lee Odenwalder, visited the Edinburgh Unit. Minister Piccolo thanked the members for their service and watched training, including a rescue exercise and a project involving the use of multiple hand tools. He also presented four members with their Basic Rescue certificates.



Pictured from left to right: Lee Odenwalder, Minister Piccolo with Gabriel Atem, Lachlan Titchmarsh, Manyok Ajak and Aaron Lloyd showing their Basic Rescue certificates.

## STRATHALBYN REMEMBERS THEIR FALLEN



From left to right at the Memorial: Colin Gambling; Andrew Kerslake, John True, Lisa Boswell, Richard Hammond, Judy Schriever and Colin Schriever.

For Judy and myself, Reveille was at 0330hrs. Farm jobs had to be done first before attending the Dawn Service at Strathalbyn. Jobs like checking the sheep, as it is lambing season. Whilst doing the rounds, one was giving birth to twins and we were to find out later that one was female and one was male. Judy named them Anne and Zac. Returning to the house I proudly raised the flag on our flagpole before the traditional lowering to half mast. Standing in the fresh early morning air watching the flag flutter through the almost full moon lit sky, I had time to reflect on the good and bad times of my military career but more importantly to stand silent and thank those who served and paid the supreme sacrifice for what freedom we have here today.

Two wreaths were purchased to be placed at the Strathalbyn Memorial by our members. The task of laying them was given to Judy Schriever and Richard Hammond, as they both had members of their family who paid the supreme sacrifice and never returned home after serving their country and dying overseas.

Judy laid a wreath for her uncle, SX11385, Private Ronald Keith Williams, who had served with the 2/3 Machine Gun Battalion

and died in a POW camp in Thailand aged 23 years.

Richard Laid a wreath on behalf of the SES remembering all those who served their country.

Richard also lost an uncle, SX12074, Private Walter Hammond, who served with the 2/27th Infantry Battalion. He was killed in action on the Kokoda Track fighting the Japanese in Papua New Guinea, aged 32 years.



Judy with Anne and Zac

Let us all not forget the men and women who have paid the supreme sacrifice for they died for our freedom.

**They are our Heroes.  
Lest We Forget  
Colin Schriever**

# AROUND THE UNITS

## MILLICENT SES SAYS THANKS

The “top brass” of the State Emergency Service (SES) recently came to Millicent to officially congratulate four local members, to welcome another and to thank retailer Foster’s Foodland.

Adelaide-based SES chief officer Chris Beattie has oversight of approximately 2,000 volunteers across 68 units in South Australia.

The Millicent SES Unit meets for training every Wednesday night and one of the purposes of Mr Beattie’s visit was to acknowledge the support given to this community.

His first presentation was the membership certificate for the latest Millicent Unit member Sat Pimental.



**Brian Foster and Rod Harkness**



**Millicent SES deputy unit manager Andrew Sargeant, Bill Job, Michelle Collins, Gordon Hateley and SES chief officer Chris Beattie.**

Mr Beattie then presented long service medals to rescue officer Gordon Hateley and deputy team leader Michelle Collins and a National Medal to deputy trainer Bill Job.

Colin Spink is currently the Millicent SES Unit’s training officer but he was unable to be present to be thanked for his 20 years of service.

With all four recipients, Mr Beattie detailed the various roles they had filled with the SES as well as their diverse field qualifications.

Millicent SES unit manager Rod Harkness then presented a framed certificate of appreciation to Foster’s Foodland proprietor Brian Foster.

Mr Harkness said he had lived in Millicent for the past five years and was well aware of the strong support this supermarket provided to the community.

“Any time of the day or night, Foster’s Foodland can be relied upon to open up and provide vital supplies to the emergency services,” said Mr Harkness.

Mr Foster said that this was a service that his supermarket was happy to provide in emergency situations.

He said Foster’s Foodland had food prepared and ready to go in times of need.

“Thankfully, there haven’t been any major incidents or fires in the past couple of years,” said Mr Foster.

In addition to the ceremonial aspect of his visit, Mr Beattie gave a private address to Millicent unit members as well as met with senior personnel of Wattle Range Council.



**Millicent SES unit manager Rod Harkness, new member Sat Pimental and SES chief officer Chris Beattie.**

**John (Fred) Luckhurst Smith**  
Journalist  
SE Times



**Tea Tree Gully members participated in the recent Little Heroes fun run .**

# YANKALILLA AREA SCHOOL

The poster competition was an idea that I had to raise awareness within the community of the SES and how it operates. I put the idea to our committee, and co-incidentally we had received a \$500 donation from the Senior Citizens, which we thought we would put back into the community.

I approached Christine Bell, the school Principal about the idea, and she agreed it was a good project. I then drew up a cover list of what we were looking for in the poster such as our national telephone number, where we are located, what we do, and we then placed the competition into the school grades as determined by the school. The winners were Serene, Year 6, Dylan, Year 7 and Sienna, aged 5.

Bearing in mind we already have a relationship via the old Premier's ACTIVE8 Programme, and the school's own programme, we have in the past attracted quite a few valuable members to the service., so we again ran two days of practical and theory for the school at our base in June to provide ongoing connection with the younger community.

We had about 20 students attend, and ran them through various skill sets over a 5 hour period. These ranged from ladder climbing, stretcher lashings, road crash rescue to communications, and some firefighting with portable fire extinguishers.

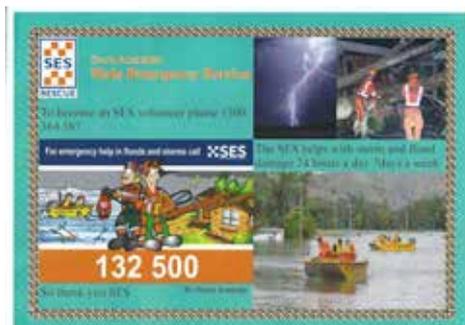
The picture "Trista" is where she had to do a presentation for her course subject, and she explained the difference in PPC between SES, CFS and CFS PBI GOLD and what each piece of protective clothing was utilised for in our work. Trista is also an active SES member, and has just completed her Basic Rescue as well as BF1.

John Talbot-Smith from the CFS assisted me with the course.

John Edge  
Yankalilla SES Unit



Serene



Dylan



Sienna



Students - showing enthusiasm when questioned about the roles of SES within the community, and how we go about training for the tasks.



John Talbot-Smith making a presentation to the class. The teacher is Andrew Gray, who we have had a relationship with in this programme for many years.



Trista

## VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FEEDBACK

**N**ever in my wildest dreams would I have been walking out of our December program with the expectation that I would be calling upon all my skills and knowledge so soon, however on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013 our terrible Tasmanian bush fires claimed at least half of the town where my Fire Brigade is located and another 25 or so houses in my town of Murdunna.

On a personal level, our house survived, but we lost my brother's house (he has 4 children, one born since the fires) my parents lost their business premises and associated earth moving equipment, and my In-laws were already in the process of building a new house, but all their possessions which were stored in a shipping container also got burnt out.

I hope that you can all take some pride in the fact that your teachings proved to be so valuable in the face of tragedy, and I thought that I might provide a few examples.

**Dave.** Your session on personality types allowed me to understand what I needed at different times to prevent me having a breakdown or to assist in my decision making process (there's no 3 staff to sack here). I have also been able to identify why certain tensions have developed from time to time in my relationship with my wife, we're fine now. I have spent many nights lying in bed re-reading my profile to keep me in check.

**Alastair.** You would be proud. I wasn't in an elevator, but I did end up in a radio studio "green room" with our premier, and I had 60 seconds before her interview was to start. I needed to establish who was in charge of the school rebuilding process, and have input to the fire resources associated

with it. My company is now on a select list of three tenderers for the work and the scope has included the fire brigade preferences. I have met with her twice since and she remembered me by name, however I'm not sure if this is a credit to her memory or your teachings.

We have used the media to our advantage on many occasions and I have only told them to "Piss off" once. Nothing should interrupt a 20 twenty cricket match.

**Brett** – There has unfortunately been a fair share of conflict, and as the dust settles this seems to be slightly increasing. WOW I had almost passed off the whole emotional intelligence thing as a load of crap. I was so wrong. There were some mornings going to work that I sat in my car and cried, but I'm not the only one, and our sessions helped me to identify stresses and emotions in others that I might have otherwise missed. 4 months later I'm travelling reasonably o.k. but others in our brigade are still having night mares about the fire.

**John** – Life has been busy. I've done some things, delegated some others, I've delayed a whole heap (including building my own next house) and I've dumped a few things too (do, delegate, delay, dump). Your little session on decision making has played a big part in my ability to not go completely nuts in a high stress environment. Thanks also for your friendship/fellowship from afar. I've thought of you often.

**Peter** – Fortunately the Tas Fire Service is currently the furthest thing you could find from "an organization in crisis" but I have used some of the snippets in dealing with conflict which came from your session. Thanks

**Vanessa** – The one thing you gave me, was the most simple, yet the most powerful "CAN DO!" It has been my motivational mantra for the last 4 months and will probably continue to be for the next 6. I even have my kids reciting it when they think things are getting a little difficult. It's on my desk at work and on the whiteboard in the fire station. CAN DO!

**Anne Maree** – You gave me the "talking stick", and when we had no power, no running water, very little food, the fire danger had subsided, and 10 or so broken fire fighters (who had been on the fire ground for over 24 hours), before we went to bed we did the talking stick activity. Some cried, some got angry, most were overwhelmed, but we were all better for having a chat. I went to bed, but it was 72 hours (and 3 shifts) before my brain and the adrenaline running through it would let me sleep.

**SO.** Words can not describe how much of a MASSIVE fan I am of the V.L.P. It has quite literally been life changing for me, and I am sure that those around me have also been indirect beneficiaries of your hard work. Please continue with your time in the VLP. You are having a profound effect from the weekends of volunteering and I would love to assist in any way possible if required in the future.

**Thank you just isn't enough.**

**Sincerely**

**Aaron Millar**

**Tasmania Fire Service**

**Dunalley Fire Brigade**

**15 May 2013**

*John Lawrence, Unit Manager, Edinburgh was one of the facilitator's at this course.*



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Government  
of South Australia



# Emergency Management

June 2013

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S DISASTER RESILIENCE NEWSLETTER

### Keep calm and go online

Many of you would be familiar with the Alert SA website— if not the site address is [www.alert.sa.gov.au](http://www.alert.sa.gov.au)

The SAFECOM team responsible for developing the site recently completed a media campaign to promote the site, encouraging the public to bookmark the site so they have it handy when they may find themselves in an emergency situation.

The site provides the public with an additional reliable source of emergency warning information as it delivers social media messages from South Australia's emergency services.

A number of new and exciting enhancements to the Alert SA site are currently being developed.

Firstly, the site will become mobile and tablet friendly, meaning that users will

be able to easily view the site and its contents on their mobile phone or hand-held tablet.

Secondly the site will host additional tabs, one for viewing live video streams direct from the SAPOL media room and the other for current alert information. This means if there is an event occurring and users want to find out the latest information on that specific event, this tab will contain social media feeds only on this event.

Work is progressing to involve the appropriate agencies.

For more information on how your agency's social media account can be included in the new social media current alert, please contact Amanda Stewart on [stewart.amanda@safecom.sa.gov.au](mailto:stewart.amanda@safecom.sa.gov.au)

The new enhancements are expected to go live in August 2013.



### Applications for Resilient Australia Awards closing soon

Applications for the Resilient Australia Awards close in a few weeks time on Friday 5 July.

The Resilient Australia Awards are an Australian Government initiative sponsored by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in conjunction with states and territories.

They recognise innovative practices and achievements across the nation that make our communities safer, stronger, more resilient and better prepared to manage any emergency situation.

Entries in the 2013 awards must relate to projects or initiatives started after 1 January, 2011 or demonstrate significant outcomes since 1 January, 2011.

The six categories for awards are:

- Not-for-profit sector (including volunteer, youth, community)
- Education and research sector (including primary, secondary and tertiary)
- Private sector (including individuals, small-to-medium enterprises, business, infrastructure providers)

- Local government
- State and territory government
- Australian Government and multi-jurisdiction (including projects of national significance).

Each entry will be assessed on its contribution to community safety and/or community resilience in the emergency management context.

Relevance to the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience will also be considered.

Nomination is as simple as completing an application, providing a summary of the project and brief responses to the judging criteria on the online entry portal.

For further information, including assistance and advice on submitting a nomination, please contact Jackie Neo, Resilient Australia Awards Coordinator (SA), SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission on (08) 8463 4147 or email [neo.jackie@safecom.sa.gov.au](mailto:neo.jackie@safecom.sa.gov.au)

More information can also be found on [www.em.gov.au](http://www.em.gov.au)



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## Positive feedback from risk assessment process

The stakeholders in SAFECOM's Emergency Risk Management Program (ERM), which include private sector and local government bodies, continue to provide positive feedback about the risk assessment process and the value to their respective organisations in taking part in workshops.

On average, around 20 to 30 organisations/agencies are represented at each workshop.

To date, the focus at zone level has been on the risk assessment process which includes risk identification, analysis and evaluation.

The Zone Emergency Risk Management System (ZERMS) project is now moving in to the risk treatment phase of the emergency risk management cycle where the focus shifts to strengthening existing controls and identifying and assessing potential new risk options.

The SAFECOM ERM team has been working with lead Hazard Leader personnel to develop and refine a risk treatment process that is rigorous yet practical.

All efforts are being made to streamline the process to minimise the demand on stakeholders.

## Nominations for 2013 Community Achievement Awards now open

Nominations for the 2013 Community Achievement Awards are now open.

Presented by Channel 7, nominations are open in the following categories:

- Prime Super Community Group of the Year Award
- Rural Doctors Workforce Agency Rural Community Health and Wellbeing Award
- Medibank Community Healthy Participation Award
- SA Power Networks Leadership and Innovation Award
- Hunt & Hunt Lawyers Community Road Safety Award
- Haigh's Chocolates Career Achievement Award
- Fivestar Print Environment and Sustainability Award
- Carers SA Carer Achievement Award.

The winner of each category will receive a \$2000 Everyday Account from the Commonwealth Bank and a trophy.

Nominations for the awards close on Wednesday 24 July, 2013.

Finalists will be presented and winners announced at an awards dinner on Friday 1 November, 2013 at the Stamford Grand Adelaide.

More information and nomination form can be found on [www.awardsaustralia.com](http://www.awardsaustralia.com)

## SES investing in online training

The State Emergency Service is currently undertaking a significant investment in online content to equip its members with the skills and knowledge to perform their roles.

One of the products currently being developed is an Introduction to Emergency Management.

The Introduction to Emergency Management online training course has been developed using key information from the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) which outlines the responsibilities, authorities and mechanisms to prevent and, where necessary, recover from incidents and disasters within South Australia. It is prepared pursuant to Section 9 of the Emergency Management Act 2004.

The SEMP has been prepared and reviewed by the State Emergency Management Committee, a multi-agency committee chaired by the CEO of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, and has representatives from other government agencies including SA Police,

Department for Communities and Social Inclusion and the Department for Health and Ageing.

The aim of the training is to provide those in an emergency management role with a broad understanding of the jurisdiction's emergency management framework in order to undertake their work responsibilities.

Due to the multi-agency state and local government focus on emergency management, it is planned for the Introduction to Emergency Management online training to be shared widely in future across the interested parties within both state and local government.

It is proposed that the course will be hosted on the learning management system and also available on DVD.

After completing this course the learner will have an understanding of:

- organisational requirements for emergency management
- roles and responsibilities for different organisations

- emergency management plans and how they are developed, maintained and implemented
- strategies to prepare and engage stakeholders and organisations
- prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies for emergencies
- who is responsible for arrangements, and
- how emergency management plans are developed and implemented.

The State Emergency Management Training Committee (SEMTC) is currently undertaking the final stages of quality assurance and developing an implementation strategy for this new online content.

For further information please contact the chair of SEMTC Greg Mennie on 0401126123 or via email at [Mennie.Greg@ses.sa.gov.au](mailto:Mennie.Greg@ses.sa.gov.au).



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## Disaster Recovery and Renewal Current and Future Focus Forum

The Australian Emergency Management Institute hosted a major forum last month for researchers and practitioners, working in the field of disaster recovery, to share research, explore possibilities and springboard innovation to support and develop resilient communities.

During the two days, participants heard more than 25 presentations from an international, national, state, local government and non-government perspective.

Presentation topics were wide-ranging encompassing: how we think about resilience; embracing diversity; the emergence of community action and response; giving children and young people a voice in recovery; business recovery; and flexible and community response and engagement.

The plenary sessions encourage a lively discussion and debate on topics such as how international events influence the future focus for recovery in Australia and what should be the focus of future research directions and policy and practice.

Highlights included a key note address from Bob Jensen, from the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency, on Hurricane Sandy: communication, policy and politics.

Other highlights included presentations from Mary Hay from the Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Build Team on Building resilience into the heart of the Christchurch rebuild and Anne Leadbeater from the Murrindindi Shire

Council on Strathewen: Exploring community leadership in disaster recovery.

The South Australian State Recovery Office was well represented and gave the following presentations:

- Engaging culturally and linguistically diverse community organisations in disaster recovery
- Developing sustainable government-business partnerships to benefit recovery
- A sustainable disaster recovery workforce
- How the lived experience of older people influences their preparedness for emergency events.

Participants were also invited to develop poster sessions that focused on the themes of resilience, preparedness and knowledge and learning in disaster and community renewal as well as working in the recovery environment.

Some practical resources were on display including community and household disaster resilience toolkits developed by the Torrens Resilience Institute, as well as information about a preparing for disaster manual for the Cairns tourism industry prepared by James Cook University.

Some of the key themes emerging from the discussions included being better prepared for recovery, a strengths-based approach to recovery, recovery workforce issues, the timing of recovery funding and the shared responsibility of

government, business and community.

A summary paper of the forum, and information about the presentations, will be available in July through the Australian Institute of Emergency Management's Knowledge Hub

<http://www.emknowledge.gov.au/>.

The Knowledge Hub, which is currently being upgraded with new features, provides research, resources and news relevant to emergency management and includes statistics and information, photos, video and media about past disaster events.



Recovery work can be extremely challenging and very rewarding. The forum presented a worthwhile opportunity to learn about current research and new innovations, hear first-hand about recent events both nationally and internationally, and for researchers and practitioners to network with other like-minded individuals to discuss these challenges and share some of the successes.

## 2013 Resilience Conference being held next month

What is building community and organisational resilience?

That is the question to be explored at the 2013 Resilience Conference which has been organised by the Australian Institute of Emergency Services (SA branch) in collaboration with the SA Government.

It will be held on Thursday and Friday 18-19 July at the Adelaide Town Hall.

Leading speakers from South Australia, interstate and overseas will share lessons and best practice approaches for building community and organisational resilience to major emergencies and disasters that participants can reflect upon to ascertain the relevance to their environment.

Speakers include Professor Graeme Hugo, a demographer from the University of Adelaide, Dr Michael Eburn from the Australian National University and Professor Paul Arbon from the Torrens Resilience Institute.

The conference will include a discussion forum that will provide the opportunity for participants to contribute to a strategic report to be presented to the State Emergency Management Committee on what delegates perceive as the resilience issues, opportunities and priorities into the future.

To register or for more information go to [www.resilienceconference.org.au](http://www.resilienceconference.org.au)



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## SEMPOs engaging with Hazard Leaders and providing assistance

The two State Emergency Management Project Officers (SEMPOs) involved in the State Emergency Risk Assessment System (SERAS) have been engaging with Hazard Leaders and providing assistance as required.

At state-level workshops, the SEMPOs (Peter Heylen and Catherine Frieriks) are supported by a number of Zone Emergency Management Project Officers (ZEMPOs).

State-level risk assessment workshops have already been conducted for Rural Fire (23 April, 2013) and Human Disease (12 June, 2013).

Further workshops have been scheduled for Foot and Mouth Disease (27 June, 2013), Extreme Storm (5 July, 2013), Plant Disease (22 August, 2013) and Urban Fire (26 August, 2013).

Initial discussions regarding state-level risk assessments for the other hazards have now commenced.

Preliminary discussions have indicated that for the more complex hazards such as Human Disease and Animal and Plant Disease there may be a need to conduct risk assessments for a range of events.

SERAS will continue on from the risk assessment phase into risk treatments. A state-level Foot and Mouth Disease Risk Treatment workshop has tentatively been scheduled for 1 August, 2013 and a Plant Disease Risk Treatment workshop is planned for 12 September, 2013.

## Second workshop conducted in relation to lessons management

Twelve months ago the Australian Emergency Management Institute and the Attorney General's Department held a workshop to understand and progress lessons management between local, state and national jurisdictions.

The workshop focused on three aspects – developing a good practice guide, promoting lessons management around Australia and finally improving exercise management and evaluation.

One of the other achievements from the past 12 months work has been the development of a community of practice between seven different jurisdictions that also included the Centre of Army Learning.

This month (June, 2013) saw a second workshop being conducted with over 20 federal, state and private sector agencies attending and sharing their lessons from 2011.

Their sharing of the lessons saw the development of several national issues that will be summarised and promoted through a report which will then be shared across Australia's agencies. This will be the third report produced and circulated.

The major lessons identified from this recent workshop included incident management systems, intelligence, public information, multi-agency situational awareness, relationships, community expectations, national arrangements and personnel management (which includes fatigue management).

The workshop also reviewed the national themes that provide a common coding between agencies and allows for common observations to be aggregated.

It was identified that the community of practice has developed a greater understanding of the lessons management process and one of the observed challenges was to bring other agencies along on the journey.

This also included the sharing of a standard format for coding and data bases and sharing observations. It is hoped that the production of the good practice guide, exercise evaluation course and better liaison between agencies will enable greater cooperation and sharing of lessons.

Further information about this work can be obtained from Mark Thomason (CFS), Bob Stevenson (SASES) and Mark Searcy (SAMFS).

## Is it dementia films launched by Minister Butler

A series of 12 short films aimed at helping identify people who may have dementia has been launched in Adelaide by the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler.

Is it dementia is a world-first initiative created by Alzheimer's Australia SA with funding from the Federal Government.

The films were created in consultation with various industry groups including correctional services, retail, banking, transport and emergency services (the State Emergency Service and the Metropolitan Fire Service).

Alzheimer's Australia SA chief executive officer Kathryn Cunningham said the education resource would change the way industry and business will forever see and interact with people with dementia.

"As the population ages, people are more and more likely to come into contact with someone with dementia," she added.

Alzheimer's Australia SA spokesperson Lorrie Beattie said the response to the films had been overwhelmingly positive.

"We are now starting to hear of organisations changing the way they go

about the training of their people so they can better recognise someone who has dementia," she said.

About 200 Australians are diagnosed with dementia each day. The disease can impact people in their fifties, forties or even thirties.

The Is it dementia films can be viewed at [www.isitdementia.com.au](http://www.isitdementia.com.au).

The film involving the State Emergency Service, which was filmed last year at Mawson Lakes, can also be viewed on the SES website [www.ses.sa.gov.au](http://www.ses.sa.gov.au).