A message from the NSW/NZ President: Harold Wolpert

On behalf of the AIES NSW Committee we all thank David Hull, the outgoing President for his time and contribution while in the role.

As your new Divisonal President responsible for both NSW and NZ, in my term ahead, I see the AIES NSW/NZ Division needing to develop a new energised focus. During the past year there were a number of disruptions for NSW Committee Members for which I apologise to all our members, but we are now back on track to keep in contact. Our Committee has your interests in mind, yet also needs much support to achieve the best results for members. So it is time to set some new goals to increase the profile and importance of the AIES to our NSW and NZ members.

Our goals in NSW/NZ are:

- To be a strong voice on behalf of Emergency Services members to influence policies and seek ways to enhance their education
- To provide a forum for members to discuss issues affecting emergency services and create learning opportunities for members
- To identify improvements in what we offer our members
- To build a significant base of members in NSW and NZ representing all direct and related areas of emergency services

To achieve this in the next 12 months, I would like to invite all AIES NSW members to help us to share in these challenges as one team by:

- Building our membership base
- Energising all members to more actively participate in the institute events,
- Adding more value for members

No one imagined after the events of 2011 that even more was on the way but Emergency Services have had a busy 2012.

- Much more rain
- More flooding
- Many more evacuations
- Many more emergency related incidents
- Snow in the Blue Mountains in October.
It is often seen that a crisis brings out the best in people, and again our emergency services teams have excelled. There is ongoing demand for Emergency Services to deliver to their communities. With 2 very busy years operationally, many emergency services personnel have been performing outstanding service.

While that is the good news, there is also much room for improvement and this has been highlighted by several investigations and reviews.

The Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry and the complexities of the Christchurch Earthquake have seen greater focus on multi agency cooperation, training and learning that have resulted from these tragic events. There is a greater need for more and better training, improved processes, additional equipment and financial and human resources. Yet while more disasters seem to hit the headlines each month, week and day, governments of all levels are applying severe financial constraints.

So now is the best time for all emergency services to work closer together to achieve more with less while not reducing their overall capacity to serve their communities. As is seen during disasters, cooperation achieves better results. That is why everyone in Emergency Services needs to be a member of AIES – so that we can collectively continue to collaborate, build these bridges by learning, sharing and growing our skills together. We encourage members to call on all your colleagues to join the AIES.

On behalf of the NSW/NZ committee, we look forward to being of service to our members and hope you will join us at our events, dinner meetings and on our LinkedIn group to keep AIES active as ‘the voice of emergency services’ both at a state and national level.

To our members, we look forward to your participation. To anyone not yet a member now is your time to join our professional institute to recognise your active involvement in these vital services.

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Upcoming event:

We invite all members to join us for our next dinner meeting at 7pm on 26 November 2012 at Burwood Club, 96 Shaftesbury Avenue, Burwood.


Our dinner speaker will be Chief Superintendent Gary Picken who is Assistant Director Operational Logistics at Fire and Rescue NSW who will present on the topic: “A Disaster Recovery Case Study”.

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Have you joined our LinkedIn group yet?

It’s easy!! log into LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com Click on Groups and type in Australian Institute of Emergency Services Join in the conversations and learn what people in Emergency Services are thinking. This is a great way to share knowledge and learning.
Your 2012/13 Committee

The NSW Division held its Annual General meeting on 2 April 2012. The 2012/13 Committee is:

- Harold Wolpert – President
- Peter Dixon – Vice President
- Steve Sanson
- Danny Fraticelli
- Stephen Anderson
- Michael Wongung
- Peter Lalor
- Jim Pullin

Important Note

Due to illness, Steve Sanson will temporarily hand over responsibility of the Registrar duties to Jan Maguire who will be Acting Registrar and Peter Kokkonis who will be Acting Treasurer. Steve will remain on the Committee. Steve has been a long serving and dedicated Committee member. On behalf of the Committee and all members we all wish Steve a speedy recovery.

Please continue to send emails to: registrar.nsw@aies.net.au

Welcome to our new Members

On behalf of the committee and all our members we welcome the following people to our NSW/NZ Division:

Stuart Amos  RFS Volunteer
Matthew Burgess  SES Volunteer
Michael Borg  RFS Volunteer
Carl Holden  SES volunteer
Jan Rashbrook  Dingo Gully Pty Ltd

If you know of anyone who should be or would like to be a member, encourage them to join. Details on our website at www.aies.net.au

And a special challenge to our NZ members; we’d like to see many more members from NZ. We need your help to increase the visibility of the AIES throughout NZ. Please let the committee know how we can assist. Contact president.nsw@aies.net.au with any suggestions.
Who do you know in the Mining Sector?

The AIES is seeking to attract people working in the emergency management area in the mining sector to join our institute. If you know anyone in the mining sector please invite them to take a look at the AIES website at www.aies.net.au and consider becoming a member.

Profiling a Committee Member

Peter Lalor

Peter has been a member of the NSW SES for more than 42 years. In that time he has been involved with emergency responses including the Thredbo Landslip during the response to which he served as SES Convoy Commander for the first SES Relief Column and Night Shift SES Commander over 60 hours. Other incidents saw him involved in the Sydney Hailstorm Event as a commander at various locations as well as ADC to one of the Region Controllers, several large-scale local storm damage responses, and number of forensic searches involving more than 120 SES volunteers including the Kiesha Abrahams search. His Diploma in Training & Assessment saw him involved in the development of a number of NSW SES Competency Based Training [CBT] courses.

Peter has previously held the position of Division Controller, Sydney Western Division and since 1992 has been Local Controller at the Mount Druitt Unit. He has been awarded two Unit Citations, a Commissioner’s Commendation for Service and an Emergency Services Medal.

Apart from being a member of the NSW SES Uniform Committee, Peter is also the State & Territory Emergency Services Representative on the Australia Emergency Management Volunteers Forum and Vice President of the NSW SES Volunteers Association Inc.

Widowed with 5 grown up children he currently lives alone and is self-employed as a consultant making use of his background in Industrial Chemistry [BSc (Tech) UNSW] and extensive industrial experience in manufacturing and chemical industries.

AIES Member helps with Community Education by Michael Wongung.

With the 2012-2013 Bushfire season now here, I would like to say just remember to put an evacuation plan in place. That’s the Message of the NSW RFS this summer: Plan ahead, and survive.

Recently over the last two months, I have been very active with the local fire control office Community Safety Officer here in the Lower Western Zone promoting this exact message.

With recent visits to schools, scouts and the girl-guide movements, and open days, the message has been getting across. It is quite amazing listening to the little children in the schools, telling you
about fire safety - only one word can sum it up “Awesome”. And it shows the long hours of planning and travelling to get the message across is working.

The RFS open day here at Buronga on Saturday 15th of September was one example with plenty of current information on bushfire danger ratings - and the major emphases on the plan and survive, campaign being run.

**NSW Ambulance Wentworth Gets a New Home**

The NSW Ambulance service in Wentworth has been successful in receiving a grant to assist with the moneys raised to construct a permanent Ambulance Station here in Wentworth. The current station is now operating from the Old Wentworth Hospital.

This news has made the Ambulance Officers/Paramedics very joyous about finally having a home, and somewhere to hold their state-of-the-art equipment and supplies. The Station is due to be completed and operational in early 2013.

More information on its progress to come as it gets near the completion.

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**Victorian Retrospective**

In May 2012, Victorian Deputy Premier and Minister for Emergency Services Peter Ryan announced a $56.8 million package for the State’s emergency services infrastructure and equipment.

Emergency services will receive $21.7 million over four years to renew or renegotiate current communications service contracts. The funds would also provide for a new communications system and major upgrades for the Country Fire Authority, facilitate the integration of the Victorian State Emergency Service into Incident Control Centres and improve existing technology to reduce the risk of a Triple Zero system failure. The Department of Sustainability & Environment also receives $8.8 million over four years to publish fire risk mapping data.

“Funding for emergency communications will be used to commence the Emergency Services Communications Master Plan,” Ryan said in a statement. This plan would help overcome “disparate, out-dated communications systems and poor regional coverage”, he said. The Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority received a further $21.9 million to enhance its computer-aided dispatch system. ESTA oversees 1.8 million emergency calls annually from three control centres.

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**Feedback On This Newsletter**

We would welcome your comments and views on this newsletter. Please email to president.nsw@aies.net.au Brickbats and bouquets equally welcome.......
Hacker attack

A hacker attack on NSW SES unit websites caused closure of many Unit websites in early October following unauthorised access and inclusion of a provocative statement on Inter-faith relationships.

Committee Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a NSW Committee member. If you would like to play an active role in shaping the future of AIES in NSW please contact Harold Wolpert at president.nsw@aies.net.au

We are also looking to create regional subgroups around the State. More to follow!

We need your input!

What would you like to see in our NSW/NZ Divisional newsletter? Please write two paragraphs on a relevant subject. Letters to the Editor are also welcome - send them to president.nsw@aies.net.au

We would like to get some dialogue going so let’s hear from you….and to get things started we’d like a new fresh name for the NSW Division’s newsletter. Please send your suggestions. There’s a mystery prize for the winner! Please let us have your feedback. To meet your needs we must hear from you. Keep us informed and we’ll do our best to keep making improvements.

Plans are that the next edition of the Newsletter will be distributed in January 2013.

Acknowledgement of Country

This edition of the NSW AIES October Newsletter was created on the land of the Wangal people, a part of the mighty Eora Nation. The Wangal tribe lived on the banks of the Parramatta River in what is now known as Canada Bay. We pay our respects to their elders past and present - and acknowledge the valuable contribution made by Aboriginal people in many of our NSW Emergency Services today.

St John’s Ambulance

AIES Committee Member Peter Dixon is Divisional Superintendent of the Western Suburbs Cadet Division St John Ambulance (NSW).
Better Homes and Gardens

For the first time this year the Better Homes and Gardens Show at Olympic Park, Homebush featured a stage show by members of the NSW SES from Sydney Western Region to complement the NSW SES Information Stand. Sponsored by NRMA Insurance the show depicted two dysfunctional homeowners, the NSW SES Mascot Paddy Platypus, and an "SES Volunteer". The theme was Storm Safety, with advice to move items that could get blown around in high winds or secure them safely....clean out gutters and down pipes...trim overhanging branches...and have a home emergency kit ready for use. The "SES Volunteer" was played by a professional actor. The dysfunctional "husband" was AIES Member Bill Hoyles (Deputy Local Contro...ler: Canada Bay SES), his "wife" was Allison Flaxman (Deputy Regional Controller, SES Sydney Western Region) and "Paddy Platypus" was Katie Moulton (recently appointed as Community Engagement Coordinator, SES Sydney Western Region). The stage show was held on each of the three afternoons of the Better Homes and Gardens Show. Comments from the audience included "best part of the Show", and "worst ham acting I have ever seen" .... but at least they watched it! Rumours of a new SES “Oscar night” have been circulated.....

Fire awareness program for Scouts and Schools

The NSW Rural Fire Service, Lower Western Zone has been working on a fire training and awareness package for the Curlwaa Scout troop in Wentworth Shire. The idea was put to the Fire Control Centre by a Member of the Pomona Brigade and NSW AIES Committee Member Mick Wongung.

Mick has been working in a volunteer capacity with the community education section of the RFS at the Fire Control Centre as a Community Safety Assistant - assisting with Community Education of children in the schools around the district.

“Fire Awareness, is a big thing, and if we can instil the youngsters with the safety tips, then half the battle is one” Mick said. “I came up with the idea of taking the message to the scouts, and it was welcomed with open arms, the program will be presented to the Curlwaa scout Group on the 17th of October this year, and if it is a success it will be an ongoing program for many years to come. Other places we have taken the package to are schools in the area. the District Fire Officer Scott Connor and I would spend many hours talking with the kids, and then I got the fun part” said Mick. I got to show them through the truck and continued with the new safety tip of STOP DROP COVER AND ROLL. “The kids love the practical sessions - especially the ability to spray a bit of water around.”

Mick added: “I think the most fulfilling thing I get out of it is when you see the child at the local IGA store and they say ‘Hi’ and their parents talk with you about the visit to the School; I am sure after that the message has got across, and it was rewarding to have the feedback.”

Remember:

Please ensure you have a working smoke detector, and please have an escape plan. Stay alive and survive this summer with an action plan. Please remember to teach all children to call 000 and report any emergency.
Introducing Peter Kokkonis – Acting Treasurer

At an AIES Board meeting in Burwood (NSW), the treasurer’s baton was passed to me in lieu of Steve Sanson’s much needed time-off to recuperate. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Steve for having served in this role with diligence, dedication and knowledge, as his contribution to AIES was always greater than that required by both the treasurer and registrar positions. As the acting treasurer, I unequivocally have large shoes to fill. I welcome the opportunity to join forces with the all the Board members to strategically grow and invest in AIES strategic priorities. Over the next few weeks, Jan Maguire and I will be work together to assist members with their registrations and renewals so feel free write to us if you need any assistance, have concerns about any AIES matters of interest, or just to introduce yourselves.

Please continue to contact either Jan or me at registrar.nsw@aies.net.au

Introducing Jan Maguire – Acting Registrar

Hi everybody. My name’s Jan Maguire and I’ve recently taken on the role of Acting Registrar for AIES NSW while our friend Steve Sanson is unwell. I’m sure you all join me in wishing him the best and thank him for his contribution as Registrar. I jumped at the opportunity to assist the institute as I really admire the work that the emergency services do. Fortunately, I’ve never had a need for assistance but I know many that have. They are truly grateful for the hard work and tireless dedication of emergency workers, not to mention the life endangering risks they themselves often face. You’ll find that AIES NSW is going to be much more active for its members in 2013. We’ll be offering more informative, interesting events and will keep you up to date as they approach. I look forward to meeting many of you over time (hopefully at our Christmas meeting in Nov). Feel free to send us your ideas and suggestions for future events – we welcome your input. And of course, please don’t hesitate to contact me if you need any assistance.

Please continue to contact either Peter or me at registrar.nsw@aies.net.au

Emergency Challenge

In an emergency could you speak English continuously for one minute without using the letter “A” in any of the words?

It’s actually very easy. Answer in the next Newsletter.
Comments from General Secretary/National Registrar AIES: Bob Maul.

I know that it has been sometime since I have corresponded with members in regard to the activities and developments which have taken place at National level, but I have purposely done so because I believe it is more appropriate for the State Division Committees to keep their State members abreast of progress and developments, although a lot of what is being done at a national level is contained in the AIES’ quarterly journal “National Emergency Response”. For those of you who have not been receiving the journal of late, because of possible administrative error or oversight in the past, you can access copies of the journal by clicking on the Institute’s national web site address: www.aies.net.au.

Unfortunately, due to changes of executive members of the AIES’ Division Committee in NSW in the past few years, as a result of job requirements and severe illness, there have been “hitches” in

a. Lack of communication with members in NSW;
b. Non compliance with the Articles of Association particularly in regard to renewals of subscriptions, advice concerning the admittance of persons applying for membership of the Institute and notification to them of their admittance and the issue of Certificates to them as Members of the Institute;
c. Late advice/or no advice of meetings of the NSW Division;
d. Non issue of receipts to some members who have paid their subscriptions in the past;
e. In the Up-dating of the NER and Membership data bases on the AIES’ National website; and
f. Changing the subscription year from a financial year to a calendar year.

This letter is not meant as an excuse for these shortcomings, but I do ask members for their forbearance, specifically because of those factors outlined above, and especially as members of the Division Committees perform their duties in a voluntary capacity and have full time occupations.

Due to incomplete NSW records which I currently hold, I am not in position to verify whether you are still a financial member of the AIES or not, but nonetheless, in the absence of verification, I am assuming you are a member, or in the process of renewing your membership, which incidentally can be claimed as a tax deduction. If you are no longer a member you might consider in the light of information contained below rejoining the Institute, but this is entirely a matter within your province. Should you wish to do so, fees should be sent to me at the undermentioned address.

The aim of this letter is to principally advise you of a number of initiatives which have been agreed to by the National Board of Directors and the NSW Sub Committee in recent times, which include, inter alia, the following:

a. The appointment of a number of new AIES operatives to the NSW Sub Division Committee. These include some very experienced persons with executive and long involvement in Emergency Management organisations and associated agencies, namely, Mr Harold Wolpert, as President, Mr Peter Dixon as Vice President, Mr James Pullin and Mr Peter Lalor as Committee Members. These individuals have extensive backgrounds in emergency
management and are extremely keen to ensure that the Institute in NSW operates in a professional manner, as it did in the 1990's when NSW membership of the Institute totalled close to 300 members, and the executive of the Division had a very close association with NSW members. From now on the Committee has assured me that the Registrar’s, Treasurer’s and President’s duties will be carried professionally, and that members will be communicated with frequently and advised of meetings and other activities in a timely manner. I know that the National Board can count on them. As a start, Ms Jan Maguire will carry out the duties of Registrar for the time being and ensure that all of the duties as Registrar as detailed in the Articles of Association will be performed diligently and efficiently. She will liaise with me frequently to ensure that the NSW Membership Register and NER distribution list is maintained, and that members will be regularly informed of meeting dates, renewals of membership, amendments to addresses etc., and other aspects of NSW Divisional/National activities and initiatives.

b. The revamping of the Institute’s national membership and journal distribution databases on the website. As from January 2013, or as soon as the National membership database in trialled successfully and the “bugs ironed out” subscription notices (invoices), where the member’s email; address is held, will be sent out automatically via the email system and receipts also issued automatically when a member’s subscription fee is received. Moreover, a member will be considered financial for a full year from the date the subscription fee is received. That is, if a member joins the institute on 2 Feb 2013 then his or her membership will be financial from 2 Feb 2013 to 1 Feb 2014. In other words, a renewal subscription invoice will be automatically generated from the 1 Feb 2014. In addition, each member will be allocated a number that he/she can access his/her financial status on the web database at any time, but the member can only access their own membership details for security and privacy reasons. This applies also to the NER Distribution Register; so that a member can change details re their new address etc., themselves.

c. The conduct of two x 3 day AIES emergency management conferences in Brisbane and Adelaide next year in conjunction with SA and QLD government agencies and associated emergency management organisations. Details of these conferences will be advised in the AIES quarterly journal. Members of the AIES will obtain discount rates if they attend.

d. The establishment by General Council of an awards system whereby any AIES member can nominate another AIES member for a specific AIES award. Details of the award system have been promulgated to Divisions previously and are also contained on the National AIES web site: aies.net.au. This year Deputy Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart (now the Police Commissioner for Queensland) was awarded with the Institute’s highest medal, the National Medal of Excellence, for his outstanding work during Cyclone Yasi and the Brisbane floods in 2011. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Institute’s web site.

e. Amendments to the AIES’ Articles of Association which now allow persons who have attained the age of 18 years to be admitted on the recommendation of the Divisions provided they meet the necessary criteria and have demonstrated a significant involvement, and a continuous involvement, in a emergency management capacity or an emergency management agency. Previously the age was 25 years - then lowered to 21 years.

f. The establishment on a yearly basis of the AIES’ Young Volunteer Endeavour Award. This award is given to a young volunteer between the ages of 18/25 years, nominated by any emergency management agency, who can demonstrate outstanding service in emergency
management activities. The person given the award spends two weeks aboard the sailing ship “Young Endeavour. So far, three outstanding volunteers from SA and NSW (Ambulance Service, Fire Services and Surf Life Saving) have received the award. Details of the award and nomination form are contained on the AIES’ national web site: www.aies.net.au. Members of the AIES are encouraged to nominate suitable young volunteers for this award. It is jointly funded by AMSA and the AIES and is worth about $5000.

g. Review of the Articles of Association, Memorandum of Association and By Laws of the AIES project. This is an ongoing with the aim of replacing the foregoing with a contemporary constitution and a team of AIES members have been nominated to work towards completion of this project.

h. The issue of a gold nib Parker or Waterman expensive fountain pen on a yearly basis to a member of the Institute who in the opinion of General Council has provided the best article for inclusion in our quarterly journal “National Emergency Response”. All members of the Institute are invited to contribute articles to the journal, and are indeed encouraged to do so. The journal is your gateway in expressing your opinion about any emergency management subject or issue, and an alias can be used if the article is contentious, but factual, provided it is not libellous.

i. In conjunction with our publishers, the establishment of an AIES social media site. This site will be funded and maintained by the publishers of the AIES journal. Details will be sent you members in the near future. I also encourage members to access our National web site and provide information for inclusion on that site which is of interest to all members of the AIES in Australian and overseas. Should you wish to provide information please contact our National Vice President, John Rice via his email site vice.president@aies.net.au

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Clasping

As you may be aware in the year 2000 the UN decided to approve of a medal (UN Emergency Management 2000 medal) recognising the voluntary work carried out by emergency management volunteers throughout the globe. Each EM organisation could on their own initiative, subject to government approval, mint these medals for presentation to individuals considered worthy of the medal. The AIES decided to mint these medals, after approval, for worthy recipients who had contributed outstanding service to the AIES over a number of years prior to and including the year 2000. It was left to each Division to determine what constituted outstanding service.

At the 2011 meeting of General Council it was decided to mint a clasp and rosette to the UN medal for persons who were presented with the UN Medal during 2001, and who had served a further period of 10 years with the AIES. It is important that the clasps and rosettes be presented to the previous recipients, provided they have continued to be members of the AIES at a formal meeting.

Bob Maul.

Note: clasps (both full size & miniature) plus the rosettes can be obtained for other Emergency Service organisations who have issued the medals to their volunteers, in bulk orders of 10 sets or more from the National Registrar of the AIES, Bob Maul at the price of $18.00 per set.
Young Leaders in Emergency Management Forum

President of the NSW/NZ Branch of AIES Harold Wolpert represented the AIES NSW branch at the Young Leaders in Emergency Management Forum in Sydney.

NSW SES Volunteers Association Inaugural Annual Conference

The first Annual Conference of members of the NSW SESVA is being held on Saturday 24 November 2012 at the Bankstown Sports Club. Contact your local NSW SESVA representative for details.

Feature Article

New South Wales Ports Operations in recent times by AIES NSW/NZ Committee Member Jim Pullin

I sit and reflect on events that have occurred in recent times in the maritime sphere and in the world theatre the staff from Sydney Ports, Newcastle, Port Kembla and officers from Roads and Maritime, formerly NSW Maritime have contributed to the very successful operations that have taken place in the Pacific in recent years.

At any time the importance of following the 5 Ps is never better illustrated than in the realm of Maritime emergencies.

The documents that gives these principles’ their credence is the NSW State Waters Marine Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan. This is a sub-plan to the NSW State Disaster Plan (Displan) and the National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil and Other Noxious and Hazardous Substances.

Both these plans are under serious review following recent operations in Australia and New Zealand.

The recent events that saw resources and personnel deployed are summarised below with information available in full detail from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority:-

Pasha Bulker – 8th June 2007
While waiting offshore to load coal, the *Pasha Bulker*, a 6,741 tonne deadweight Panamax bulk carrier ran aground during a major storm on June 8 2007 on Nobbys Beach in Newcastle New South Wales. The Australian MaritimeSafety (AMSA) released the *ETV Pacific Responder* to assist with the refloating operation. *Pacific Responder* was used to lay three heavy sea anchors as part of the three sets of ground tackle some 400 metres from *Pasha Bulker*, with two attached to the bow of the ship and one connected to the stern through on board winches.

Throughout the duration of the incident, AMSA’s Maritime Emergency Response Division Commander continued to liaise with NSW Maritime and the Incident Control Centre at the Port of Newcastle. AMSA also provided a marine surveyor to act as Casualty Coordinator as part of the team at the Incident Control Centre in Newcastle. Pollution response personnel were deployed to Newcastle throughout the duration of the incident until the successful salvage operation was complete.

The *Pasha Bulker* was successfully refloated and moved to a safe location offshore on 2 July 2007 at 9:48pm with no significant damage done to the environment and no pollution incidents recorded.

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Montara Wellhead Platform Incident 21st August 2009

At approximately 5.30am. WA time (7.30am Australian Eastern Standard Time) on Friday 21 August 2009, the Montara Wellhead mobile drilling unit located 140 miles offshore from the NW Australian coast, had an uncontrolled release of hydrocarbons from one of the platform wells. Consequently oil escaped to the surface and gaseous hydrocarbons escaped into the atmosphere.
Initial estimates provided by the operator (PTTEP Australasia) were that 64 tons per day (400 barrels) of crude oil were being lost. It should be noted, however, that this estimate could not be confirmed at any time during the incident, nor was it possible to provide any more accurate assessment. The leak continued until 3 November 2009 and response operations continued until the well was capped on 3 December 2009 (105 days).

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) was advised of the oil leak at approximately 10.00am, and within 15 minutes implemented the National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil and Other Noxious and Hazardous Substances (the National Plan). The Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre (AMOSC) in Geelong was advised and activated at 10.35am.

Over 130 surveillance flights were conducted throughout the duration of the operation commencing on the first day of the incident. These flights gathered oil spill intelligence, environmental data, and directed the surface vessels and dispersant spraying aircraft to heavy concentrations of oil.

Pacific Adventurer Incident 11th March 2009

At 3.12 am (Queensland Time) on 11 March 2009, the 1990 built, 23,737 dwt, Hong Kong China registered general cargo ship Pacific Adventurer lost 31 containers of ammonium nitrate overboard some 7 nautical miles east of Cape Moreton while enroute to Brisbane from Newcastle. The ship reported later that it was holed on its port side near its engine room and a fuel service tank had been breached with the loss of some oil before the remainder was pumped from the damaged tank. The ship later estimated that up to 270 tonnes of heavy fuel oil was lost into the sea. However, there also was damage to one of the ship’s starboard bunker fuel tanks below the waterline. After an independent audit of the oil aboard in Brisbane, it was estimated more than 270 tonnes was lost.

The oil impacted significant portions of the south-east Queensland coast, in particular the eastern and northern beaches and headlands of Moreton Island (a National Park), the eastern beaches of Bribie Island (north of Brisbane), the beaches and foreshores of the Sunshine Coast (north of Brisbane) and small areas of the Brisbane River. Under the National Plan response arrangements, the
Queensland Government through Maritime Safety Queensland was responsible for management of the oil spill response. AMSA as manager of the National Plan provided specialist and logistical support.

While the majority of oiling occurred on sandy beaches, the clean-up operations were complicated by the large amounts of oil buried by sand being deposited back on the beaches because of the weather and sea conditions. As all areas have high tourism and community amenity value, a high standard of clean-up was required to support the recovery of the tourism industry and restore previous levels of amenity.

Clean-up operations continued for two months. A total of about 2,500 people were deployed for the entire clean-up including workers from many agencies including Maritime Safety Queensland, the Department of Environment and Resource Management, local regional councils, Emergency Management Queensland, as well as workers from QR, Road Tek, Skilled and private contractors, the State Emergency Service, Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. AMSA personnel as well as 72 members of the National Response Team from all States/NT, the oil industry and contractors also provided assistance during the period. At the height of the response operation 400 response personnel were working on Moreton Island each day.

Approximately 3,000 tonnes of sand contaminated with oil was removed from Moreton Island. The work was mostly manual labour using shovels and rakes to fill about 8,000 bags each day to achieve this result. Specialised sand sieving equipment was also used to assist the cleanup operations on Bribie and Moreton Islands.

Considering the size of the oil spill a very small number of wildlife was affected. Birds, turtles and sea snakes were captured, rehabilitated and released by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Rena – On Wednesday 5th October 2011 at 0220 NZDT the fully laden container ship Rena ran aground at speed on a reef 22km north of New Zealand North Island – Coordinated response from Australia was managed by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority through the MOU in place with New Zealand.

Shen Neng1 3rd April 2010

On 3 April 2010, the 230 metre-long bulk coal carrier Shen Neng 1 left the Port of Gladstone bound for China, carrying 68,000 tonnes of coal as cargo. The Chinese-registered ship was traversing a well known shipping route south of the Douglas Shoal, when it ran hard aground 38 nautical miles east of Great Keppel Island at about 5.30pm. The impact ruptured the ship’s fuel tanks and released approximately four tonnes of fuel oil into surrounding waters.
MV Tycoon 9\textsuperscript{th} January 2012

On Sunday 8 January 2012, the cargo vessel The MV Tycoon broke free from its mooring at Flying Fish Cove, Christmas Island and subsequently washed against the seawall and nearby cliff face.

The ship had been loading phosphate at the time of the incident and around 7:00am on January 9, Christmas Island time she had broken in half, consequently sinking adjacent to the cliff and the crane at Flying fish Cove.

Image 1: MV Tycoon being washed against cliffs – Courtesy AMSA
The MV tycoon was carrying around 102 tonnes of intermediate fuel oil, 11,000 litres of lubricant oil, 32 tonnes of diesel oil and 260 tonnes of phosphate. It is believed that the majority of the oil on board leaked quickly and was variously dissolved in the heavy sea conditions into the local water column, washing up on nearby beaches, or floated out to sea.

The crew were all recovered with the assistance of the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Federal Police.

The National Plan was activated and a Marine Pollution Response Incident Coordinator and a Casualty Coordinator from the Western Australia Department of Transport, appointed by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) under the National Plan arrangements, arrived on Christmas Island on 9 January 2012. AMSA worked closely with the Christmas Island Emergency Management Committee, which includes Parks Australia employees. Clean-up of the spilled oil proved to be challenging during the swell season. However, the rough weather also assisted in naturally dispersing much of the leaked oil into deeper waters offshore.

Global Peace 24th January 2006

Just before midnight on the 24 January 2006, approximately 25 tonnes of heavy fuel oil was spilt from the bulk carrier *Global Peace* while berthing at the RG Tanner Coal loading facility in Gladstone in Queensland.

The spill occurred as a result of a collision with one of the attending tugs, the *Tom Tough*, after it suffered an engine failure. As a result of the engine failure the tug swung sharply to port and penetrated one of the *Global Peace*’s heated day service bunker tanks.

On notification of the incident, the local Harbour Master activated the Port Oil Spill Contingency plan and immediately activated response crews and the Incident Management team. The response to the spill continued for eight days and involved more than 100 personnel.
All the above operations resulted in the mounting of Oil and Chemical spill response operations by many organisations but in particular from the Ports and Maritime Organisations in NSW.
NEXT EDITION

The next edition of the NSW AIES branch newsletter “News and Views” is scheduled for completion on 26th January 2013. Contributions should be emailed to the President by 14th January 2013.

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