

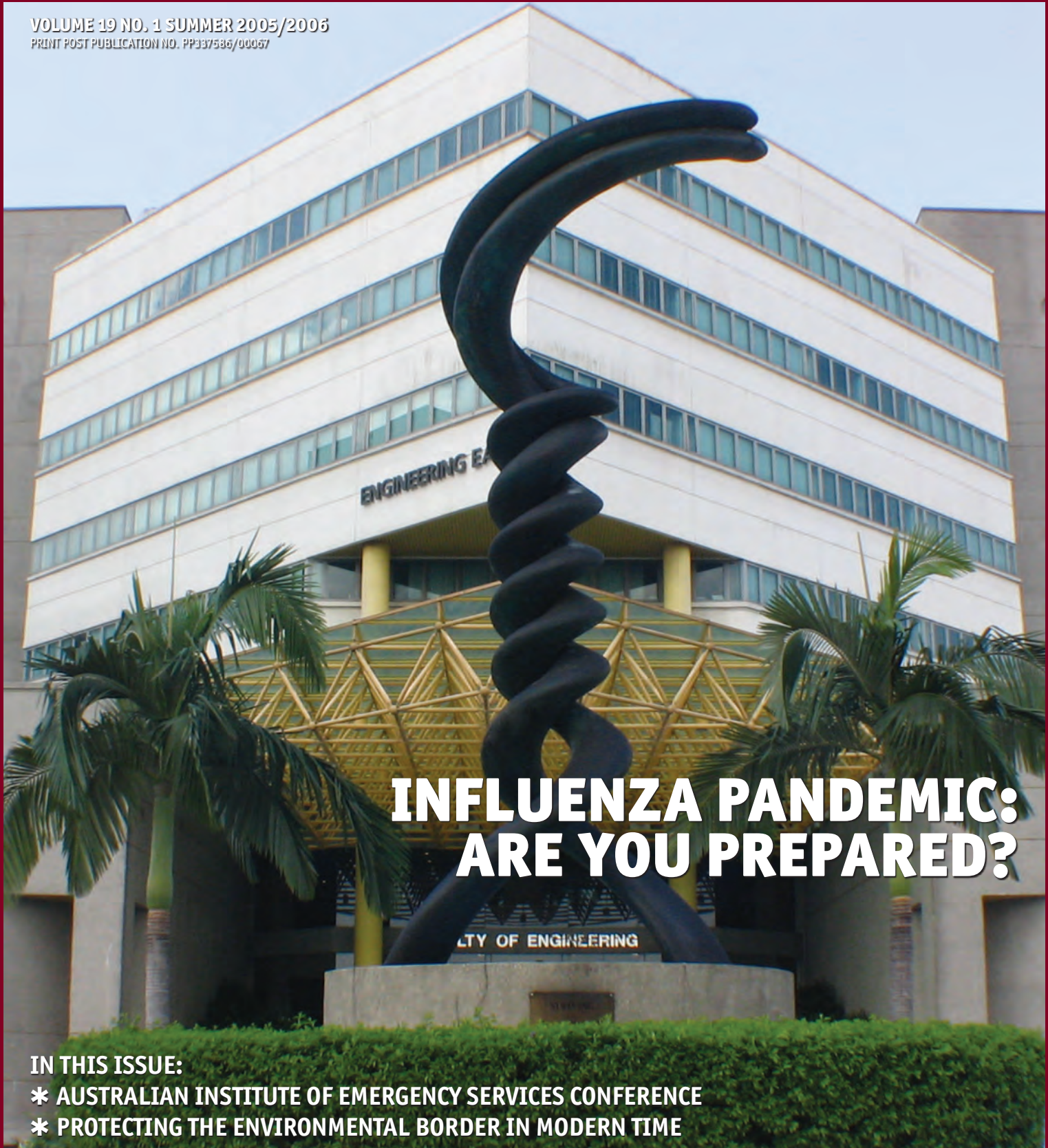


NATIONAL EMERGENCY

R e s p o n s e

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

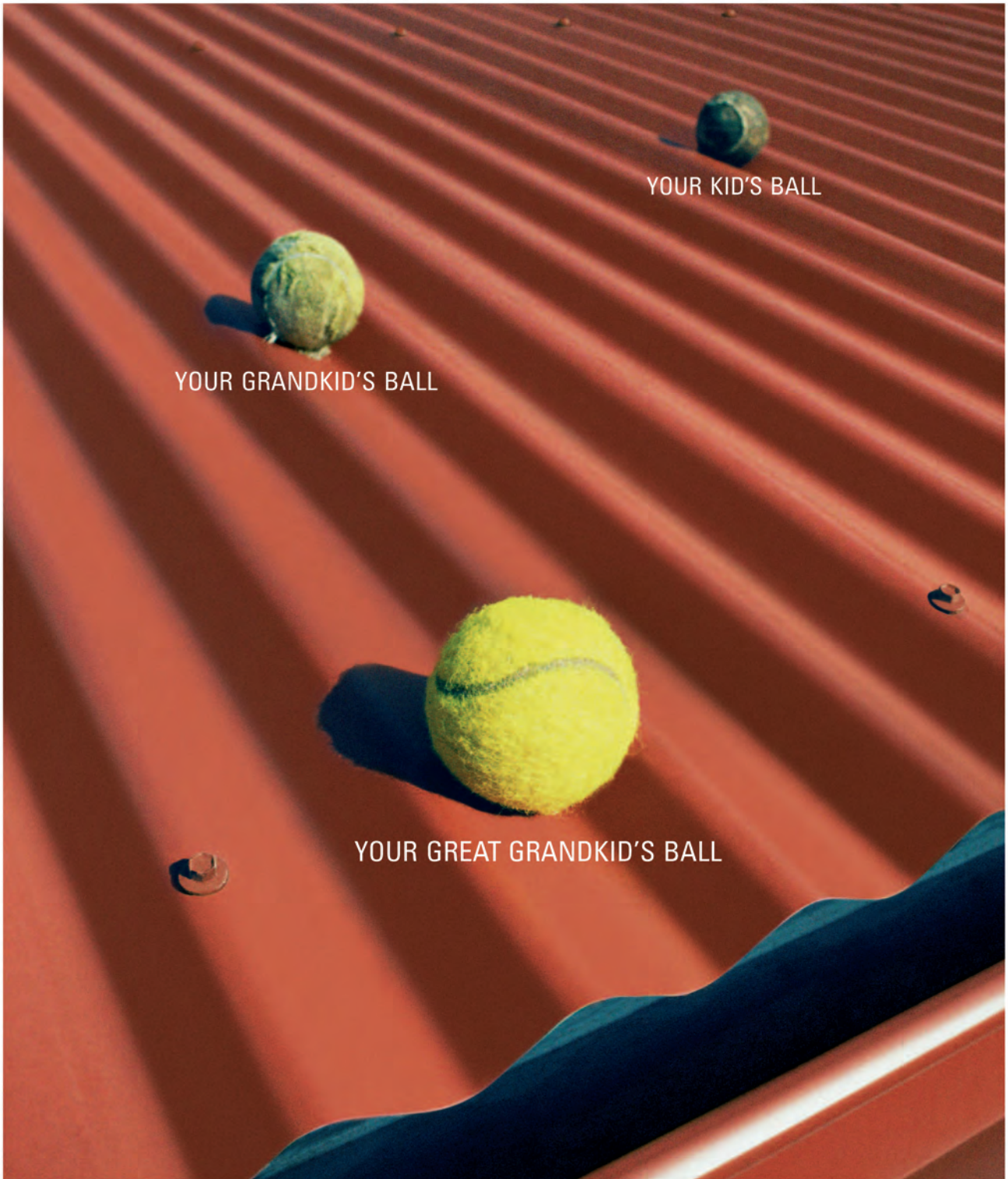
VOLUME 19 NO. 1 SUMMER 2005/2006
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INFLUENZA PANDEMIC: ARE YOU PREPARED?

IN THIS ISSUE:

- * AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES CONFERENCE
- * PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL BORDER IN MODERN TIME



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WEB REGISTRATION

The new Website has been registered and is
<http://www.aies.net.au>

WEBSITE CONTENT

The new Website has sections for each State as well as National Areas. If you have ideas for State Division content, please contact your State registrar, for National content, email web@aies.net.au.

Please be aware that all content must go past the National Registrar prior to web publication to ensure it meets required guidelines.



NATIONAL EMERGENCY R e s p o n s e

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Volume 19 No. 1 Summer 2005/2006

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Maurice E Massie

*QPM, LFAIES,
National President*



QLD DIVISION – NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION – 3-5 NOVEMBER 2005

In accordance with the wish of General Council and following an invitation from the Queensland Division, the National Registrar/Secretary Bob Maul and I attended the Queensland Division's National Conference and Exhibition which was held at the Gold Coast International Hotel, from the 3-5 November 2005.

Titled, Earth, Water, Wind and Fire, Integration of Emergency Services, there is no doubt that the Conference was particularly timely and relevant in the light of recent world events. From my observations, the Conference was very successful. All of the guest speakers were of high quality, knowing their subject well, with the ability to pass on their knowledge to the attendees.

Conducted over the two days, the Conference was very well structured and gave the audience a greater insight into the response and management of large scale incidents, both from a National and State perspective.

The audience was very animated and participated by asking questions at the conclusion of addresses and in the forums that were conducted. The contribution made by the Director General of EMA, David Templeman, in his participation and providing the assistance of his staff members who attended, was particularly outstanding. His final summary of the Conference was very professional and certainly encompassed all that transpired. All the other speakers were very professional

in their delivery and imparted considerable knowledge and wisdom. I am aware that many of these speakers attended at their own and their Department's expense, which was a valuable contribution in saving costs for the overall conduct of the Conference.

Forming part of the Conference were some social events, which Bob and I and later my wife enjoyed. The initial welcoming and reception with a 'meet and greet' in the pool area of the Gold Coast International Hotel was useful and acted as a very good icebreaker and lead in to the Conference. The welcome addresses were done by the Queensland President Reg. Marshall, with a Gold Coast welcome being extended by Councillor Ted Shepherd. Both set the theme for a very successful Conference.

One of the guest speakers at the forum was the Queensland Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Pat Purcell, who had only been in that position for approximately 12 weeks. The Minister gave a very forthright address at the Conference and again at the Conference Dinner which was conducted on the evening of the first day. Dr. Paul Luckin was the other guest speaker at the Dinner. He also addressed the Conference on his experience as a member of the medical team that responded to the Banda Aceh Tsunami. Paul is a particularly capable and enlightening speaker, who I have known for many years, having been associated with him in my role as Officer in Charge, Police Search and Rescue in Tasmania.

In the final wash-up, Mick Davis of the Queensland Division, who was the Conference Chair, indicated quite correctly that the Conference had been very successful. He further reported that the event had broken even as far as overall costs were concerned.

Papers from the various speakers will eventually, through the Queensland Division, find their way into the NER Journal for the information of all members.

There were over 100 persons attending the Conference, and as the result of some canvassing on the part of Bob Maul, a number of application forms for membership of the Institute were distributed and this is likely to lead to an increase in membership.

On behalf of the General Council, I would pass on my congratulations to the Queensland Division for the demonstrated initiative in setting up the Conference and would particularly like to thank Mick Davis and his dedicated and hard working committee, who did all the work in liaison with Carillon Conferencing in setting up the forum. This would have been no small task.

As an aside, I particularly welcomed the opportunity to meet with Queensland members of the Institute as well as

some of the guest speakers, who I have known for many years. It was good to catch up with them again.

WHO'S WHO IN THE INSTITUTE

For sometime now I have thought that it would be worth while for individual members of the Institute, particularly those holding key positions, to pass on to members information as to their individual backgrounds. By way of introduction to this, I would submit the following profile of myself to commence the process. Hopefully, other members will follow suit, starting with members of the General Council. There is no reason that ultimately this cannot be extended to Divisional Board members and carried through to the general membership.

“There were over 100 persons attending the Conference, and as the result of some canvassing on the part of Bob Maul, a number of application forms for membership of the Institute were distributed and this is likely to lead to an increase in membership.”

MAURICE EDMUND MASSIE

I joined the Tasmania Police Force as a Junior Constable on May 28, 1956 and retired as an Inspector of the Tasmania Police on July 9, 1997 having served 41+ years. In my time in the Police Force, I carried out duties in a number of areas such as Traffic Control, Country Police Station Duties, Prosecuting Section and General Uniform Duties. Apart from my aim of being a good general Police Officer, I had a particular leaning to Search & Rescue duties and a desire to pursue this interest.

My involvement in this area commenced as a Police Diver in 1957. The duties of a Police Diver at that time were ancillary to other duties. I subsequently joined the Police Rescue Squad when it was formed in 1958. My involvement in Search and Rescue was on a part time basis and this continued until I became a full time member of the Emergency Rescue Section in 1972. In 1977, I became the Officer in Charge of that Division; and with some later restructuring of the Tasmania Police Force, my position was expanded to take in the area of Marine Fisheries Surveillance. The Tasmania Police Force is in a unique situation compared with the rest of

Australia, in as much as the Police Department have a responsibility for Fisheries Surveillance duties and carry out the duties that would be performed by Fisheries Inspectors in other States.

I was involved in the Plenary Planning Committee that met at Commonwealth level, which produced the National Search and Rescue Manual. This is the document that is used by the States and Commonwealth Authorities in prosecuting Search and Rescue incidents both on land and at sea. I was also a regular attendee at the National Search and Rescue Conference and had some input in establishing that particular forum. I was Chair of the Working Party that produced the Land Search Manual for Emergency Management Australia and was a lecturer at the National Police Search and Rescue Coordinators Course and served as Assistant Director and later Director of Studies at that course.

I joined the Institute of Emergency Services on December 4, 1978, shortly after the Institute came into existence. I served on the Tasmanian Divisional Board for a period not long after that, and went on to be the President of the Tasmanian Division as well as being a member of the General Council of the Institute. I progressed to the status of Fellow of the Institute on May 18, 1987, and was appointed to Life Fellow on May 18, 1998. I currently serve as the Chair of the General Council and President of the Institute. I joined the Institute because I believed in its aims and objectives and felt that my involvement with the Institute as a serving Police Officer assisted me greatly in liaising with other members of the Emergency Services, who I was involved with in various emergency situations and search and rescue operations.

I have been retired from the Police Force for over 8 years, but still remain an active member of the Institute because I still believe in it!

I am married with two adult boys, one of whom is a serving member of the Tasmania Police, and have two grandchildren.

CHRISTMAS GREETING

This being the summer edition of the magazine and the timing of its publication, it will be the first opportunity I have as National President, to wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

My particular thanks to all the National Delegates, our Secretary/Registrar and the State Divisional Boards as well as our Editorial Team and publishers for your contributions over the year. Without your support this Institute would not exist.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Mark Sawszak MAIES

National Editor

AGAIN ANOTHER ISSUE IS OUT!

I would like to thank all contributors again for their efforts in providing articles for the National Emergency Response Journal.

Last year was very busy for all Emergency Services not only in Australia but worldwide. With earthquakes, relief operations, bushfires, terrorist threats and the myriad of other emergencies, we have seen all emergency services, affected communities and the worldwide community as a whole pull together to overcome these incidents and emergencies.

It is great to see new technologies being developed to deal with Emergencies and also the use of standard paper based systems. As all of us are aware systems fail during incidents and emergencies and it is vital to always have a back up!

Here in Australia, the bush fire season is upon us. Throughout Australia, Fire and Emergency Services have been preparing for another bush fire season. There has been extensive media advertising for members of the public to prepare themselves for this bush fire season.

I hope this season is not as busy as previous years (don't want to mention the Q word and jinx everyone).

When you receive this issue it should be the New Year. I would now like to wish all members of the AIES a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

I would also like to thank the Board and all members of the AIES for your continued support of my role as the National Editor of NER. It has been a very steep learning curve and I am sure that the next issue of NER will be bigger and better than before. Thank you all once again.

MEMBERS EMAIL LIST

As an aid to members, and the ongoing task of keeping in touch with our members, we will be creating a National Email List of interested members' email addresses so we can email updates and announcements.

If you are interested in adding your email address to this list (separate from the NER Mailing Database) and receiving these announcements in the future, email your state registrar (listed on the AIES Contacts page) or web@aies.net.au with the subject of the email being email list.

A GENERATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE IN VICTORIA POLICE

Paper presented at the 27th Combined Emergency Services Seminar October 2005

Stephen Jan Gutowski

PhD. Victoria Police Forensic Services Centre

I claim no great place in the changes that have occurred in forensic science, in Australia and in Victoria in particular, over the past nearly thirty years. A few I started, some I encouraged where I could and at other times I was just swept along with the tide. My position as head of R&D at the Victorian Laboratory from 1985 to 1995 did give me a good vantage point though from which I could watch them, and the casework I carried out before, during and since that period has given some understanding of the effects those changes have had and will have on public safety. My thanks to my employer over the years but I should say at this stage, that the views expressed in this paper are my own and do not necessarily represent any official position of Victoria Police.

I first started at the then Norman McCallum Forensic Science Laboratory in 1978. It was an old and dangerous building in the heart of Melbourne, since demolished, where my office had the most delightful views of Parliament Gardens. In 1986, we moved to a new purpose-built laboratory in the northern suburb of Macleod. It's still a good building and has been improved by two major

extensions and numerous minor additions, though my office now has no view at all. In that move, we were at the forefront of a trend towards better organisation and integration of forensic science laboratories which has since occurred in other states and territories.

Whilst the physical reality became more integrated, the administrative picture became, if anything, more complex. Whole new Sections came into being like the Molecular Biology Section in 1988. This section was formed to analyse DNA from blood, semen, hair roots and possibly saliva. That Section ultimately became so successful it became a Branch. Other sections have changed enormously like the Arson Section which became the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section with added responsibilities for the analysis of post-blast explosive residues and the reconstruction of devices.

The advent of cheap and powerful computers has meant that some of the work which used to be done chemically or optically in image enhancement is now done on computer and the possibilities for image enhancement are themselves greatly enhanced. Even areas with

The lab of the past looked like this.



relatively little science in them such as the examination of stolen vehicles have had to adapt to changing practices. Once, the main part of vehicle examination was restoration of obliterated numbers. Now complex re-birthing organisations can mean that numbers are not obliterated, just on the wrong car and complex cases have to be built from secondary material.

In these and all areas of forensic science, it is clear that change is the constant. Change can be driven by:

- Changing environment - more burglars wear gloves
- Change in requirements - increase in terrorism
- Change in capabilities - DNA
- Change in community expectations

Some change is driven by sociological factors especially changes in expectations. I suspect an ageing population will put more emphasis on security, for one thing, and the so-called CSI effect appears to be quite real. People expect results quickly from ever less material.

Most change I contend though, is driven by technology.

BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS BRANCH

Let's take Biology first. Even the Botany Branch has profited from computerised databases of woods and pollens and is looking towards determination of cannabis cultivars by their DNA.

In the Biological Examinations Branch, blood stain pattern interpretation has become a fully-fledged discipline thanks especially to high speed photography of drops in flight. The Branch has added luminol to its repertoire to detect blood after it has been cleaned up - and it gives a beautiful CSI style glow in the dark too! The advent of digital cameras was required before it could easily be recorded though.

But the main change has been in DNA analysis. Back in 1978, it simply did not exist. To differentiate people back then we used ABO grouping and a class of proteins in the blood which did vary from person to person but not much. At the end of your work, you wrote a statement to the effect that the defendant could not be eliminated as a possible source of the bloodstain and that the same typing as the stain was expected in say 1 in 20 persons in the population.

This was solid stuff and added to a circumstantial case but was hardly riveting. Then along came DNA. At first, the technology was relatively simple. It was very similar to what we used with proteins in the 10 years from 1978 to 1988, in fact, and the results weren't that different to look at. Results took forever, needed large stains and were subject to violent court challenges. Then the technology moved on. Large and expensive machines brought standardisation, sensitivity and speed. Many samples could be run together. Each sample contained a mass of information from many parts of the source's DNA which required computers and specialist programs to carry out analysis. After that analysis, the Biological Examinations Branch uses computers to carry out complex calculations to assess the value of the results.

Those of us who grew up with proteins and first generation DNA typing used to like to see results in

the old familiar style even if they were now computer generated. Once happy that things had run well though, we would convert the output to a different format - more like the format used in chemical analyses like gas chromatography for the actual analysis. These days though, the new generation of analysers and analysts start with this format.

“Those of us who grew up with proteins and first generation DNA typing used to like to see results in the old familiar style even if they were now computer generated.”

CHEMISTRY DIVISION

And that leads in to the Chemistry Division who haven't been slouches with technological change either.

Just looking at drug analysis - in 1978 gas chromatographs were the wonder tool. Flame ionisation, a new method of detection, had increased sensitivity many times over though its use often required quite a lot of skill in maintenance. Now gas chromatographs are everywhere. Many new detection systems are now available - even whole new chromatography techniques are available such as liquid chromatography and ion chromatography, all of which have their advantages for different types of compounds. Niftiest of all are dual systems such as the combination gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer which allows detection of drugs at extremely low levels and thus makes possible the Pharmacology Section. Chemical Drugs Intelligence is backed by databases of drug composition and distinguishing features.

In chemical trace evidence, sophisticated spectrometers coupled to microscopes enable the detailed analysis of single fibres or microscopic chips of paint. Again, whole new techniques such as pyrolysis gas chromatography enable scientists to obtain information about polymers that just was not available a few years ago.

Scanning electron microscopy has won the battle to be the premier technique for analysis of gunshot residues due to the ability to obtain information on the chemical composition of single microscopic particles and the amount of work just keeps on rising. It's so far so good in that the presence of the three elements lead, antimony and barium present in most cartridge primers is a dead giveaway for gun shot residue but there are now a number of lead free primers available.

Fortunately, they are not quite stable enough yet for general commercial purposes but if the technology improves or the economics are there or the health and safety risks of inhaling small lead particles start outweighing the advantages of being able to put large lead particles in people we don't like, then these primers may become common and a whole new technology may be required for their detection.

Enhancement of audio tapes has been around for a little over 30 years. It all started in a then little known building



The lab of the present looks like this.

in Washington DC called Watergate. These days, quite sophisticated filters can be applied to enhance audio on analogue tapes. On the other hand though, it is getting quite difficult to get high quality analogue audio tape. Files are increasingly in digital format and a convergence between audio and video enhancement is happening. Even more possibilities arise for enhancement of digital files whether audio or video. Frames can be averaged to bring out a clear number plate; backgrounds can be eliminated to clarify the fingerprint and so on.

“Facial features can not only be enhanced, but with the computers and algorithms now available, faces can be matched against a database and suspects identified before they cause trouble - at least in theory: perhaps in practice we have some way to go.”

In fact, a major recent initiative of mine and many others has been the formulation of procedures to ensure integrity of digital files for the almost inevitable accusation in court that “you fabricated that image to fix my client up”. Victoria Police introduced its protocols in 2003: Australasian Standard Protocols were agreed last

month. Facial features can not only be enhanced but with the computers and algorithms now available, faces can be matched against a database and suspects identified before they cause trouble - at least in theory: perhaps in practice we have some way to go. Of course, some people’s faces will always remain difficult to identify. Others may benefit from the introduction of 3D scanning to compensate for the angle of photography. It’s still early days but a number of promising instruments already exist for real time 3D photography and computers are getting more powerful every day.

CRIME SCENE DIVISION

That leads me into my current Division, the Crime Scene Division. Here, too, exciting developments have taken place over the last generation. Probably the most exciting would have been the automation of fingerprint database searching. Australia first employed this in the mid 1980s with a system based on traced images. By 2000/01, a fast national system became available which was based on scanned images or images on CD and which read palms too. When this was coupled with digital photography, routine real time forensic casework became possible. The finder could email the image; the expert could interrogate the national AFIS database and confirm a match. The name of the offender (or the match at least) could be relayed to the officer in charge of the investigation and the “crook” caught within a few hours.



Maybe the lab of the future will look like this.

Given my current position, I have to say that many more matches are still found by fingerprints rather than DNA analysis - and much more cheaply.

But AFIS is not the only recent advance in Crime Scene Division. Livescan now enables reference fingerprints to be captured and immediately submitted for comparison with scene prints. Truly portable alternative light sources are now available to help find fingerprints, seminal stains, fibres and other evidence at the scene - another CSI moment.

For a long time, shoe impressions have been the Cinderella of the identification sciences but this is now changing with the advent of commercial databases and computerised matching tools for shoe analysis.

With firearms, computers again match marks on bullets or cartridge cases against reference samples of known origin and other open case files. Though not currently in use in Victoria, the IBIS system is used elsewhere in Australia. It is invaluable wherever there is a heavy case load.

Even tool marks are being revolutionised by new microscopes with new lighting systems to highlight marks on flat surfaces and digital capabilities to create composite images of curved surfaces.

Though not strictly crime scene work, disaster victim identification has unfortunately become no longer theoretical. DVI now uses sophisticated recording techniques though most of the work is still plain slog. One notable feature of DVI work is that it is in its essence

multidisciplinary. Crime Scene Examiners work at or close to the scene with Pathologists, Odontologist, Biologists and Fingerprint Experts in a co-ordinated fashion to produce the best results. CFA, MFB, SES and many other organisations can be called on to play a role in these (and other) scenes. Perhaps more of that later too.

We have moved over the past 30 years from labour intensive testing which assisted, occasionally greatly assisted, a number of cases to a more capital intensive discipline which can form the solid basis of many circumstantial cases.

Parallel with these scientific and technological changes though, are two major organisational changes.

The first one of these in Victoria has been a separation of the response to volume crime scenes from the response to major crime scenes. The Regional Crime Scene Officer initiative is perhaps more driven by sociological factors and uses officers with a basic level of forensic science training and very little equipment to deal with the vast majority of scenes. This allows specialist Crime Scene officers to concentrate on serious crime, usually against the person.

The second of these is driven strongly by both changes in requirements - the advent of terrorism as a regular threat - and by changes in our capabilities as technology comes up with more portable instrumentation. The numerous white powder incidents require instant scientific response and this can be provided by personnel trained in the use of the portable infra red spectrophotometer.

This produces a printout via wireless link if required which can be interpreted by a chemist situated out of harm's way. The Ion-scan can be used to screen for possible explosive residue at the scene. Fingerprints can now be made visible at the scene not just by powdering but by a fuming technique which was previously confined to the lab. Again it is appropriate to stress the multidisciplinary nature of CBR response. Crime

Scene and Chemistry are just one aspect of a response. Cooperation between all emergency services will be vital in any major incident.

But returning to forensic science just to finish - there is a definite trend towards miniaturisation of instrumentation and cross skilling and/or multidisciplinary teams to take the lab to the scene, not just bits of the scene to the lab.

As always, forensic science lives in interesting times.

ABOUT DR STEPHEN GUTOWSKI - Victoria Police Forensic Services Centre

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- Awarded Bachelor of Arts with Honours (Natural Sciences) by Cambridge University, England, 1973. Majored in Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Awarded Doctorate of Philosophy by Australian National University, Canberra in 1977 after studies in Biochemistry at the John Curtin School of Medical Research.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

1977-1978	Post-doctoral Fellow, Monash University, Biochemistry Department.
1978-1985	Forensic Biologist, Biology Division of the NMFSL (subsequently SFSL)
1985-1995	Manager Research and Development Branch of the RTIS Division (later DOS Division) of the SFSL
1995- 2000	Premier Caseworker Biology Division, DNA Science Branch VFSC
2000-Now	Quality/R&D Manager Crime Scene Division, VFSC (now VPFSD)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Biology casework undertaken included crime scene examination (biological material), examination of clothing and other submitted items, immunological and enzyme testing of biological material, introduction and use of DNA typing of biological material and statistical analysis of results.

Evidence was presented in the following jurisdictions:

- ACT District/Supreme Court
- ACT Magistrates Court
- New Zealand District Court
- New Zealand Supreme Court
- NSW District Court
- Victorian Children's Court
- Victorian Coroner's Court
- Victorian County Court
- Victorian Magistrates' Court
- Victorian Supreme Court
- West Australian Supreme Court

A number of Victorian County and Supreme Court appearances were part of voir dire proceedings where the validity of the scientific evidence involved was questioned at length.

Served on the NATA Committee on Supplementary Requirements for Paternity testing (1994).

Initiated new areas of proficiency testing in Crime Scene Examination (2000- present).

Participated in the Victoria Police Committee on Protocols for the Use of Digital Imaging (2002-3).

MEMBERSHIP

- Member of La Trobe University Department of Computer Science and Computer Engineering Industry Advisory Group, 2003- present.
- Member of the Deakin University Forensic Science Advisory Group, 2005- present.
- Honorary Fellow, Deakin University, 2005- present.
- Honorary Member of the Australia and New Zealand Forensic Science Society

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

(1999-) *- Denotes peer-reviewed publication

1. DNA Typing in Criminal Investigations. In Expert Evidence in Family Law, Freckleton and Selby Eds, Law Book Company, Sydney, 1999. Chapter 18* and DNA Typing in Criminal Investigations. S Gutowski. In Expert Evidence in Criminal Law, Freckleton and Selby Eds, Law Book Company, Sydney, 1999. Chapter 2*
2. Statistics and evidence in the Field and Identification Sciences. S Gutowski. The Forensic Bulletin November 2001, 16-18.
3. The validation of the use of e-mailed images for the search of developed latent fingerprints using the SAGEM AFIS system. S Gutowski and S Curnow. The Forensic Bulletin, June 2003, 25-26.
4. Error rates in the Identification Sciences. S Gutowski. The Forensic Bulletin, Summer 2005, 23-29.
5. Forensic Analysis of Gunshot Residues. S Lewis, K Agg, S Gutowski and P Ross. - Encyclopaedia of Analytical Science, 2nd Edition, Elsevier London, pp 430 - 436 (2005)*.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES CONFERENCE

“Earth, Water, Wind and Fire” Gold Coast, Surfers Paradise Queensland, 3-5 November

Bob Maul

General Registrar/Secretary AIES



Fred Rainsford, Registrar, Queensland AIES and April Baldey, Committee, Queensland AIES at the AIES Conference Surfers Paradise 3-5 Nov 2005.

Surfers Paradise was the venue for the 2005 Australian Institute of Emergency Services Conference entitled “Earth, Water, Wind and Fire”. This Conference, organised by the Queensland Division of the AIES and supported by the Queensland Government, was held at the Gold Coast International Hotel from the 3-5 November 2005.

In an age when the roles performed by the emergency services, in all its forms, are even more important, the

Institute recognised that there was a need for national emergency services industry representatives to meet and discuss common issues and seek effective solutions for those issues.

With this aim in mind, many senior personnel from emergency services agencies throughout Australia were asked if they would deliver a wide range of relevant emergency management and counter disaster presentations at the Conference, which indeed they did.



Pictured at the opening of the AIES Conference held at Surfers Paradise, entitled Earth, Water, Wind and Fire, Qld 3-5 Nov 2005, are left to right, David Templeman, Director General EMA, The Hon Pat Purcell, Queensland Minister for Emergency Services and the national President of the AIES, Maurice Massie

Topics presented at the Conference covered, inter alia:

- Emergency Services response to large scale events;
- Terrorism – threats, impacts, response, recovery, counter terrorism planning;
- Inter-agency cooperation and coordination;
- Command structures;
- Public health issues arising from major events;
- Risk Management;
- Mitigation for large scale events.

“In an age when the roles performed by the emergency services, in all its forms, are even more important, the Institute recognised that there was a need for national emergency services industry representatives to meet and discuss common issues and seek effective solutions for those issues.”

Some of the speakers at the conference and subjects covered by them were:

- The Hon Pat Purcell, Minister for Queensland Emergency Services- “Potential Impacts for Emergency Services Departmental Strategies”;
- Lt Commander Dr Paul Luckin – “Front Line Experience in Inter Agency Communication with Emphasis on the Initial Medical Response in Aceh”;

- David Templeman, Director-General, EMA - “Large Scale Event- South East Asian Tsunami and other World Disasters, including response to challenges in large-scale events”;
- Queensland State Coroner, Michael Barnes - “Planning to include the Coroners’ Office in Large Scale Events”;
- Funeral Industry Interdependence and coordination and the role of the Industry in Disasters - “Retired Police Supt Mark Edwards - Kenyons International”;
- Queensland Act/Assistant Police Commissioner, Graham Rynders - “The Police’s Role in Countering Terrorism”;
- Kate Berry, AUSTCARE - “Displaced Populations- What Do We Do?”
- Dr Carl Ungerer, University of Queensland - “Terrorist Threats to Australia”;
- Dr Bruce Gunn, - Bureau of Meteorology – Enhanced Services Offered to the Emergency Services by new Doppler Weather Radar”;
- Jim Davis - Bureau of Meteorology – “Development of a New Australian Tsunami System”;

Other interesting sessions delivered at the conference included:

- “Disaster Mitigation through Risk Management” by Michael Davis, AIES Queensland;
- “Planning for Effective Inter-Agency Cooperation” by Ross Hallinan, Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services;
- “Multi-Disciplinary Teams – South East Asia Tsunami – Response” by Stacey Warner, Emergency Management Australia and;
- “Mass Evacuations - Planning for Large Gatherings”- Noel Gillard, Queensland Health



Pictured with our National President of the AIES, Maurice Massie at the Gold Coast AIES Emergency Services Conference is Peter McMurtrie, a member of the Qld AIES Division. Peter was recently made a Knight of St John, and has also become a Fellow of our Institute.

The Conference also included sessions dealing with “Urban Search and Rescue and CRBIE”, chaired by representatives of the Police, Ambulance and Fire/HAZMAT and Health Services, “Command Structures” and “Training and Development an Essential Element in Maintaining an Effective Emergency Response”.

“Over a hundred delegates from all States and Territories attended the Conference, and it was evident from comments made by delegates both during the plenary sessions and tea, lunch and after dinner sessions that they were impressed with the quality of the presentations and speakers.”

The address of welcome was delivered by our National AIES President, Maurice Massie, QPM., and the official opening performed by the Queensland Minister of Emergency Services, The Hon. Pat Purcell.

Over a hundred delegates from all States and Territories attended the Conference, and it was evident from comments made by delegates both during the plenary sessions and tea, lunch and after dinner

sessions that they were impressed with the quality of the presentations and speakers.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the Conference was the attendance and enthusiasm of the Minister of Emergency Services, The Hon. Pat Purcell, who attended three sessions of the Conference - Official Opening Session, Official Dinner on day one and an address he gave on day two of the activity. It was obvious that he was very proud of the Emergency Services in Queensland and impressed with the professionalism of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services which he conveyed during the official dinner on Friday night and at other times. Queensland should be proud to have such a supporting Minister.

The final session “an analysis of major issues arising from the conference” was performed by the Director – General of EMA, David Templeman and the activity closed on Saturday at 4.30 pm.

The Institute is grateful to David and his staff for their valuable input and presentations, particularly having regard to his heavy schedule of national emergency management commitments.

It is intended to print, with the permission of the presenters, the addresses they delivered in future editions of our NER Journal. A separate item relating to the Conference is included in this edition of NER in our “President’s Desk” segment – See article at the beginning of this journal.

All Executive Members of the Queensland AIES Board are to be commended for the organising and conduct of this very interesting, successful, hospitable and thoroughly professional All Agency National Emergency Management Conference. Our congratulations to all who made the event so successful.



Addressing the AIES Emergency Services Conference conducted at Surfers Paradise November 2005, is the Queensland Vice President of the AIES, and one of the Conference’s organisers, Superintendent Michael Davis

“OPERATION CHICKEN LITTLE” (INFLUENZA PANDEMIC)

HELD AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE, DECEMBER 7TH 2005

Gaye Cameron, MAIES

Manager, Emergency Management Unit, University of New South Wales, Australia



The influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 killed more people than World War I (WWI), at somewhere between 20 and 40 million people. It has been cited as the most devastating epidemic in recorded world history. More people died of influenza in a single year than in four years of the Black Death Bubonic Plague from 1347 to 1351. Known as “Spanish Flu” or “La Grippe”, the influenza of 1918-1919 was a global disaster. In the fall of 1918, the Great War in Europe was winding down and peace was on the horizon. The Americans had joined in the fight, bringing the Allies closer to victory against the Germans. Deep within the trenches, these men lived through some of the most brutal conditions of life, which it seemed could not be any worse. Then, in pockets across the globe, something erupted that seemed as benign as the common cold.

The influenza of that season, however, was far more than a cold. In the two years that this scourge ravaged the earth, a fifth of the world’s population was infected. The flu was most deadly for people ages 20 to 40. This pattern of morbidity was unusual for influenza which is usually a killer of the elderly and young children. The influenza pandemic circled the globe. Most of humanity felt the effects of this strain of the influenza virus. It spread following the path of its human carriers, along trade routes and shipping lines. Outbreaks swept

through North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Brazil and the South Pacific.

Annual human influenza epidemics occur because the influenza viruses change their antigenic structure (‘antigenic drift’) to produce new strains that can cause infection in persons who have been previously infected or vaccinated with different strains. The influenza viruses are also capable of major changes to their antigenic structure (‘antigenic shift’) to produce new strains that can potentially infect any person. Pandemics, or world-wide epidemics, occur when antigenic shift causes the sudden and unpredictable emergence of a new human influenza virus to which most of the population is susceptible.

I will not talk about what Australia or New South Wales is doing, but this paper will discuss what our friends in Singapore, in particular the National University of Singapore, have already done in preparedness for influenza pandemic.

On Wednesday 7th December 2005, I was kindly invited to attend the National University of Singapore ‘Exercise Chicken Little’ table top, in influenza pandemic. The objective of the exercise was to provide delegates with the platform to exercise their concepts, techniques and practices in order to respond to the unfolding threat situation. The delegates were asked to follow, where possible and available, the protocols outlined in their emergency/crisis response plans.



The National University of Singapore (NUS) is located at Kent Ridge Crescent, Singapore. It comprises of several faculties and the associated support infrastructure. It has also large residential colleges or halls that house both local and international students, including Australians. Apart from the academic and research activities, NUS has a recreation centre, swimming pools, computer labs, study centres, canteens/food halls and a host of other public forum areas where students, staff and the public congregate – many of these conditions presenting threats and hazards during an emergency situation or when a flu pandemic strikes.

I pose the question here – besides Universities and Schools, how many other public accessible facilities do we manage? Answer, the list can go on, shopping centres, fitness centres or gyms, train stations, court houses etc. All these places pose threats and hazards for managing the outbreak of influenza.

FOR THE NUS EXERCISE, PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED;

- Vice-Dean of Medicine (Faculty representative)
- Estates Management/Facilities Management – 1 x representative who managed contracts such as cleaning, and 1 x representative who managed the organisation's transport infrastructure (shuttle buses)
- Student Affairs, Housing & International Division
- NUS Security Management
- NUS Health Services (similar to a medical practice/general practice)
- NUS Corporate Relations
- NUS Counselling Services
- NUS Registrar's office
- NUS Office of Student Affairs

There were a number of observers, including myself, and they included the Singapore Ministry of Health, Associate Professor Lim Meng Kin (Department of Community, Occupational and Family Medicine and Chairman – Committee for Disaster Preparedness, Singapore Red Cross), Management of Student Housing, NUS Computer Centre, Faculty of Dentistry and others.

The table top ran like many exercises. The scenario was set, and its focus was on the influenza pandemic and attempts to simulate the typical and atypical issues that may arise during a crisis.

“The table top ran like many exercises. The scenario was set, and its focus was on the influenza pandemic and attempts to simulate the typical and atypical issues that may arise during a crisis.”

“It was now 9:30am on a fine and sunny Tuesday morning. The first semester is just coming to a close and the exams are due in about 3 weeks time. All the study rooms and the component libraries of the University are hives of activity.

The Student Union has been lobbying for more study rooms and better ventilation for some for the study rooms in Yusof Isak House. They have also requested better security in the evenings as more students stay back to cram for the exams.

Some staff members are attending a briefing by the Registrars Office on how they may assist during the exams. Another group of staff members who have returned from a Crisis Management meeting the previous week are trying to form a Crisis Management team in your department.

The Office of Corporate Relations has just completed an interview with the Strait Times on a feature article entitled ‘We are Prepared for the Flu’, just 1 week ago. This article appeared in the feature section of the Strait Times today...”

The Exercise facilitator used several types of injects (cue cards), which were suitable for the University and were based on what real life situations can present. There were three types of injects used – ‘team development injects’ which are designed for use when the parties involved in the simulation exercise have not fully completed



their response plans; 'movement chart injects' which are designed to replicate real life situations where the suspect's movements are gradually unveiled either by him/her or by others who have come into contact with them; and lastly 'individual injects' which are targeted at individual departments. These replicate real life scenarios where a parent may call the organisation or the health services directly in the event of a crisis.

The participants were also given an Operational Log Sheet, which they were asked to complete when they received 'inject cards' and also note the actions they would

take or what response they would make. At this point, there was no central operational log, which did come up in the debrief. As the exercise went on, there was some information missed by others as the room became noisy from open discussions. Simple facts, such as a victims' board was not also used for this exercise – this too came up in the debrief by an observer.

The first inject card entered the exercise, 'second year medical student presents himself at the hospital who is feverish, and has not been well for a couple of days...he is admitted to hospital for observation'. Further information





came that the student had attended lectures and tutorials the day before, and resided in one of the university's colleges. The inject cards roll in...another two students now present themselves to medical services with flu like symptoms, and they too came from the same college where the first victim lived. As the Registrar's office tries to obtain particulars of the student, the Student Services Computer is attacked by a virus, thus disabling the use of information for sometime...Does the University have a redundant system or use manual records as well?

Next inject card incites panic. The School of Medicine receives a chain email which has a message stating 'anyone who receives this email, please be warned that a student has been quarantined with the flu, anyone who feels ill should present themselves to the Health Services'. The next inject card goes to the Health Services representative stating that 'It's a bright sunny day, and there is a sudden influx of 20% of cases of persons with fever and flu like symptoms'. The Doctor from the Medical Centre stated that the sudden influx could just be seasonal, it could also be an irrational response from persons sympathising symptoms that they have heard through gossip mongers, or they could be more patients with unconfirmed influenza.

Based on NUS experience with SARS in 2003, the doctor stated that he would isolate the patients in a 'negative' pressured room, and provide them with a surgi mask not only for themselves, but to also prevent patients coughing/sneezing openly and spraying their bodily fluids. The victims will be questioned on issues such as 'travel', what they have eaten in the last 72 hours, who have they been in close contact with in the

last 24 hours, where they are living on or off campus. He also advised that bloods would be taken to determine if the pathogens are viral or bacterial.

As the exercise continued, cleaning contractors fell ill with flu like symptoms, as did air conditioning service technicians until the 'crisis controller' escalated their internal crisis level from orange to yellow, which had triggers which brought in extra-ordinary measures. These included, extra cleaning services and disinfection control by the estates management team e.g. cleaning buildings twice a day in place of once a day, toilets to be cleaned out twice and included wiping down of benches, door handles and plates with disinfectant. The University also operates a fleet of shuttle buses and fleet cars, these too have to be sterilised. At this point, I ask a number of questions. Will our State governments organise extra cleaning services on our public transport (buses/trains/ferries)? How many times do commuters touch common areas such as door handles, seats etc?

"Based on NUS experience with SARS in 2003, the doctor stated that he would isolate the patients in a 'negative' pressured room, and provide them with a surgi mask not only for themselves, but to also prevent patients coughing/sneezing openly and spraying their bodily fluids."

The Security Manager then asked the question – can I now implement my frontline staff to wear protective equipment, such as masks, goggles, gloves and disposable gowns? He was concerned that this appearance may incite more fear, but at the same time, he wanted to ensure his staff were protected to maintain security presence at the University.

As the exercise continued, the Corporate Affairs/media office were starting to roll out media releases and taking calls from the media asking questions about victims' names, conditions etc. It was interesting to find out that during a situation like this, any media releases had to be screened by the Ministry of Health, to ensure the information given out could also be confirmed by the Health Department.

It was interesting to see how NUS manage this scenario, based on their experiences with SARS in 2003. With this exercise escalating, it activated mandatory temperature screening, which required all personnel at the University to take their temperature, log-on to a specially designed website, and record their temperatures. This was monitored centrally, and if a person's temperature spiked, they would be contacted and asked to attend the medical centre for assessment and observation. This includes ALL persons: staff, students, and visitors.

In critical areas, such as libraries and mass gathering areas, thermal scanners would be established, so screening

of persons entering facilities could be monitored. Persons whose temperatures were escalated would be asked to attend the Health Services for screening.

The exercise ran for three hours with a 20 minute break for light refreshments. The inject cards kept coming in every five minutes. At first the table didn't talk between each other, then once they started, cross table conversations continued. The exercise raised a number of issues:

- Does your organisation have a dedicated established emergency operation centre, to facilitate an event like this? Does it have alternate power, air-conditioning, phones other than the organisation's PABX, fax machine, photocopier, whiteboards etc.
- Does the organisation have sufficient trained personnel who can work in the EOC on a 24 hour basis...remember infectious disease does not work 9 to 5, its 24/7.
- Does the organisation have sufficient PPE or surgi masks, gloves, goggles/glasses etc for essential personnel, such as security, cleaners, maintenance

personnel etc, so they can operate and respond to the organisation's needs.

- If there is IT failure, can the EOC operate on a manual system? Can the organisation's records be extracted manually as well? It's no good having all the building plans etc on a computer, you need large hard copies available.

In conclusion, I appreciated the tabletop exercise, as it gave me an awakening of how prepared an organisation needs to be for such a pandemic. I congratulate the National University of Singapore for this opportunity to attend and to see how prepared and well rehearsed the organisation is for an influenza pandemic. SARS in 2003 was the awakening for Singapore...the 'Spanish Flu' in 1918 is too far back for anyone to remember...now is the time for us to get prepared. Let's be in 'control' and not be 'controlled'. As Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) once said "I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me".



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL BORDER IN MODERN TIME

Paper presented at the 27th Combined Emergency Services Seminar October 2005

Allan Kosmer,

Quarantine Officer, Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

1. WHAT IS QUARANTINE?

The word 'Quarantine' is derived from the Latin word 'quarantum', meaning forty. A quarantine period of forty days was originally implemented because it was believed that diseases such as bubonic plague, cholera and yellow fever would manifest themselves in this period. The first record of quarantine control was in Venice around the year 1350. These simple measures of restricting diseased sailors, cargo and sailing vessels were initially related to diseases affecting people. Plant and animal disease control did not commence until the potato famine in Ireland from 1840.

"In Australia, 'quarantine' history commenced in 1804. Incursion of disease did occur in colonial settlement, being fevers, FMD, cattle tick, plant disease that still exist today to mention but a few."

Modern science has detected numerous pests and diseases carriers, and more sophisticated methods of identifying and controlling them. In Australia, 'quarantine' history commenced in 1804. Incursion of disease did occur in colonial settlement, being fevers, FMD, cattle tick, plant disease that still exist today to mention but a few.

Australian quarantine was formalised with the introduction of the 'Quarantine Act 1908'. Today, 'Quarantine provides protection against the entry of unwanted pests and diseases, while permitting international flow of goods and people to continue as freely as possible'. Quarantine is a service designed to provide an adequate level of protection against foreseen risks. This protection is backed up by the capacity to respond quickly and effectively to the unforeseen presence of an exotic pest or disease. We do this to protect our environment, human health, agricultural exports (80% or >\$22billion of total produce).

2. WHAT WE DO

AQIS provides quarantine inspection services for the arrival of international passengers, cargo, mail, animals

and plants or their products into Australia, as well as inspection and certification for a range of animal and plant products exported from Australia. Officers also respond to exotic pest or disease incursions; contribute to national food standard policies; and regulate the entry of biological materials.

Our objective is to protect Australia's animal, plant and human health status and maintain market access through delivery of quarantine and export services. Our ability to demonstrate freedom from exotic pests and diseases assures access to overseas markets for Australian producers.

3. HOW WE ACHIEVE THIS

In 1988, Prof. Lindsay reported that AQIS adopt a formal process for quarantine decision making called a 'Risk Management' approach. In 1996, Prof. Nairn reported to AQIS that we need to increase the 'intervention' levels and adopt a 'shared responsibility' approach. That, is to identify the threat, define the threat, and identify the measures for halting the entry of the threat and assessing the risk of entry. This takes into consideration the economic implications of our decisions.

These recommendations were implemented, and included companies and importers/exporters self-regulating their own quarantine clearance activities; for AQIS to adopt computer programs for manifest interpretation and analysis of risk imposed by its cargo. Following the FMD outbreak in the UK in early 2001, the federal government committed an additional \$596 million into both AQIS and Australian Customs Service border activities.

Intervention and effectiveness targets were set. Later in 2001, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) recommended that AQIS implement a systematic and integrated risk management framework, improve the risk profiles for high-risk pathways, implement strengthened pre-border cargo clearance activities, and develop and implement appropriate and useful effectiveness indicators for each border program.

4. QUARANTINE PESTS AND DISEASES

In the Quarantine Act 1908, pests and disease are identified under the following definitions: "Disease" includes a micro-organism, a disease agent (pathogen), an infectious agent and a parasite. A "Quarantine Disease", means any disease declared by the Governor-General by proclamation, to be a

quarantinable disease. A “Quarantine pest”, means any pest declared by the Governor-General by proclamation, to be a quarantinable pest.

The Act allows any potential damaging import to be classed as quarantinable. Import controls may be placed on an organism that causes a disease, an object that may harbour a disease agent or carrier, or an organism that is damaging in itself.

In plant quarantine, we are particularly concerned about preventing the importation of a new disease, rather than the import of serious disease that is already in widespread in Australia and under official control.

Examples of items that could harbour disease include: anything of plant or animal origin, Soil, Machinery. Examples of pests or organisms are: Weeds (prickly pear, salvation jane, salvinia, etc), animals (rabbit, fox, starling, rat, Argentine ant, European wasp), fish (carp, tilapia, starfish), or microbe (viruses, bacteria, etc).

5. SCOPE OF QUARANTINE

5.1 Border Protection

Aircraft: (commercial and private) - >10 million passengers, and increasing (>82% of passengers and their luggage screened); x-ray machines increased from 1 in 1996 to 6; mobile x-ray units; aircraft are sprayed with insecticide; bioassays are conducted on aircraft; vector monitoring is conducted at all ports; human health is monitored; non-compliance is enforced through QIN's and prosecution; air cargo clearance; waste is quarantined; DDU.

Mail: >160 million letters and parcels are screened and/or x-rayed; DDU.

Cargo: sea and air cargo; 100% containers inspected; documents checked.

Detector Dogs (DDU): trained to detect high-risk products at airports and mail exchange centres.

NAQS: a strategy, established around 1991, designed to address the special quarantine risks posed by Australia's northern borders. NAQS monitors northern Australia for exotic pests and diseases, using traps and sentinel animals stationed at high-risk coastal sites and surveillance by air and land. Early detection vastly increases Australia's chances of eliminating new pests and diseases, or of reducing their impact. NAQS collaborates with neighbouring communities and governments.

The close proximity of islands to Australia and each other provides potential stepping-stones for exotic pests and diseases. NAQS border works includes working with local communities carrying goods between these quarantine zones. NAQS carries out animal and plant health surveys on live animals. In the case of diseases that could affect people, early detection triggers precautions that could save lives. Tools used include sentinel pigs in the Torres Strait and on Cape York Peninsula, mosquito traps, fruit-fly traps, spraying known populations of pests.

5.2 IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

QAP: Defined locations are designated as Quarantine Approved Premises, aids in self regulation for import clearance.

Certification: Approve clearance for imports to Australia. Certify exports to meet quarantine standards of other countries.

Co-regulation: Moves officers away from inspection of goods to importers and exporters conducting their own inspections and regulating themselves. Quarantine still certifies goods. Aids in smooth international flow of goods.

5.3 ANIMAL QUARANTINE

Live animal exports: certify shipments of live animals as meeting other countries' quarantine conditions. Caters for commercial and domestic exports.

Live animal imports: certify animals for clearance into Australia. Some animals are stationed at designated quarantine stations (post-entry quarantine).

Biologicals: includes imports of all substances of animal or microbiological origin that are either foods or products used in agricultural, food manufacturing; laboratory, and therapeutic, environmental or cosmetic uses.

5.4 PUBLIC AWARENESS

Aim: To encourage all Australians to share the responsibility of quarantine. The campaign targets the main sources of quarantine risk, and works to build partnerships with groups whose support is critical in converting awareness of quarantine to genuine behavioural change. These include:

- international travellers, both Australians travelling overseas and international visitors to Australia;
- people from non-English speaking backgrounds, including Australian residents;
- international students and business visitors;
- the import, cargo and freight handling industries;
- the travel and tourism industry, both on-shore and off-shore;
- the Australian community, particularly schools.

Campaign elements include:

- an advertising program, principally directed to travellers and the travel industry;
- a special communications campaign, using culturally appropriate materials and publicity channels;
- a schools program, which includes multi-media resources and an Internet site developed to Australian curriculum standards;
- a travellers' campaign, including holiday and travel exhibition;



- an industry partnerships program to enhance awareness, build support and win loyalty among organisations and associations with a major quarantine stake;
- National Quarantine Awards acknowledging the efforts of individuals and organisations in sharing the responsibility for Australian quarantine; and
- promotional materials including posters, fact sheets, bookmarks, and traveller brochures.

5.5 RESPONSE

AQIS officers from the Compliance and Investigation section respond to perceived breaches of the Quarantine Act 1908, from both private individuals and businesses. Officers also attend to calls received on the AQIS REDLINE (1800 803 006) on potential threats noticed by members of the public.

6. QUARANTINE TREATMENTS

Goods can be monitored under post-entry quarantine. Those that are not prohibited, but still contain a risk, may be able to be treated. Types of treatment include cleaning (removing the risk carried by the item); sterilise the pest or disease by chemicals, heating, incinerating or irradiating; disinfection by using chemicals or heat; and disinfection by using fumigants.

7. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The department of Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health (PIAPH), DAFF, leads the Australian Government in minimising the impact of pests, disease and contaminants of Australian agriculture, fisheries and forestry. These outcomes are achieved through the development of plans, coordination of national activities and by conducting training and exercises. Such training activities and simulation exercises include Rapid Response Team (RRT), exercise Minotaur (2002), exercise Tethys and exercise Eleusis (Nov. 2005).

8. NOTABLE INTERCEPTIONS

8.1

During routine surveillance on a ship in Fremantle in early September 2005, they intercepted a slow but dangerous invader - a giant African snail. These snails have a voracious appetite and could rapidly destroy our natural environment if they became established in Australia. Giant African snails can grow to 30 centimetres in length and can weigh a kilogram — they've also been recorded as attacking at least 500 species of plants, including gum trees. Detections such as this show that our surveillance is effective in managing the risk to Australia.

8.2

Newcastle Quarantine officers have stopped a potential invasion by the world's worst forestry pest during

inspection of a bulk coal vessel that arrived in Newcastle at the end of August 2005, Quarantine officers found a significant number of insect egg masses on various parts of the ship identified as Asian gypsy moth, regarded as the world's most serious pest of plantation timber. Asian gypsy moth is widespread in Europe, north-eastern Asia and North America, and is known to feed on more than 600 plant species — including eucalypts, fruit trees and urban ornamental plants. This detection is precisely why AQIS conducts a thorough inspection of every vessel that arrives in Australian waters.

8.3

An international student and a first-time traveller have both learned an expensive lesson: — trying to break Australia's tough quarantine rules doesn't pay. The two cases, heard in the Brisbane Magistrates Court in early July 2005, resulted in fines totalling more than \$14,000 for Quarantine and Customs breaches at Brisbane International Airport. The travellers also now have criminal records.

In the first case, a university student who has been studying in Australia for three years tried to smuggle 1.5 kilograms of sausages from China after a trip home to visit his family. Quarantine officers discovered the sausages in his suitcase during X-ray inspection. According to AQIS Brisbane Airport manager Andrew Christie, this was the fourth time the student had entered Australia and there's no excuse for not declaring goods to Quarantine.

The second passenger, a 52-year-old woman visiting relatives in Australia, brought in a range of goods, also from China. Quarantine officers found the items including a live bamboo plant, apples and chicken meat, when her bags went through X-ray inspection.

About Allan Kosmer

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services

Allan Kosmer's employment history began in 1994. Following his Bachelor of Forest Science from the University of Melbourne, he joined Treecorp Pty.Ltd, where he held the position of Forest Manager first for 5 years on Kangaroo Island, South Australia, then 4 years at Portland, Victoria, managing forest estate from land assessment and establishment to maintenance and harvesting.

In 2003, Allan joined AQIS, Melbourne Airport Border Control, Victoria, as a Quarantine and Export Inspector.

Allan's other accreditations include: - 5 years as a Qualified Volunteer Fire Fighter with the Country Fire Service of South Australia and 6 years as a Qualified Volunteer Fire Fighter with the Country Fire Authority of Victoria. He has been actively involved in numerous multi-agency fire-fighting and rescue operations in both local/small incidents and interstate campaigns.

AUSTRALIAN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEER FORUM

Summary of Meeting Friday 26 August 2005

MEMBERSHIP

Barry Smith will replace John Gresser as the St Vincent de Paul member. Laurie Russell from the SES Volunteer Associations announced his retirement from the Forum. His replacement will be notified following a meeting of the Associations.

CHALLENGES FACING THE SECTOR

A number of the member agencies of the Forum, particularly the emergency services agencies are not members of the "Third Sector", which is the volunteer sector. They appear to be included in the Government or "First Sector". This means that their contribution, which is very large, is "buried" amongst other government services, provided by paid staff.

The issues of payment for service and other financial rewards are complicated and controversial. The Forum continues to oppose payment for service, but has the position that being a volunteer should not leave the individual out of pocket. The member agencies of the Forum acknowledge that they have a responsibility to teach their volunteers to deal sensibly with their employers, so that disruptions to their workplace are kept to a minimum.

TAX INCENTIVES

There is widespread support for some form of tax incentive for volunteers of the emergency sector, and a search is being conducted overseas to ascertain whether such schemes are operating elsewhere.

COAG REVIEW INTO NATIONAL DISASTERS

Recommendation 58 of the COAG Review into Natural Disasters refers to tangible support for the volunteers of the sector, and members of the Forum were asked to bring suggestions to the next meeting, which can be progressed through EMA to the AEMC and the Ministerial Council.

THE COST OF BEING A VOLUNTEER

The Research project on the cost of being a volunteer has been trialled, and apart from some minor adjustments, is close to being ready. Member agencies were asked to assist with the distribution and collection of the questionnaires. Details of what is required will follow. Members agreed to support this most important project.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE AEMVF

There have been several enquiries from organisations which are not members of the Forum about joining. They have been placed on hold until the new governance arrangements have been finalised. It was noted that member agencies generally need to be national in nature and integral to their home state emergency management arrangements.

AEMVF WEBSITE

Development of the new website is progressing well with the developer, Sportal, and Surf Lifesaving Australia. Doug Philpott from Anglicare has volunteered to become the webmaster.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEER SUPPORT FUND (NEVSF)

The Forum was briefed on the NEVSF. It was noted that all member agencies are eligible to apply, and members were asked to consider suitable research projects for the financial year 2006-07. It was suggested that Recruiting and Retention might be a suitable project. Members agreed to bring proposals to the next meeting.

TRAINING ADVISORY ARRANGEMENTS

It was noted by members that there has been progress in negotiations with DEST about the inclusion of the Public Safety sector in the new structure, and agreement is expected soon which will lead to the revision of the Public Safety ITAB Training Package.

AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (AJEM)

Members were advised that the November edition of the AJEM will be devoted to volunteer issues, and there will be information included on the AEMVF.

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARDS

Members were reminded that they qualify to apply for the Australian Community Safety Awards, which are sponsored by EMA. Details are on the EMA website.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was held at St Vincent de Paul Lewisham on 18 November 2005.



NOTICES

NOTICE OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

All members of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services are hereby notified and reminded that Annual Subscriptions for the various categories of membership of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services for the year 2005/2006 are now due and payable.

Payments are as follows:

Members/Associates	\$30 P.A
Fellows	\$40 P.A
Corporations	\$250 P.A

Annual Subscription rates for the Institute's Journal are \$20 P.A.

Payment should be paid to the State Registrars of the Institute whose addresses are detailed on the AIES Contacts page of this magazine.

NOTICE OF 2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services are hereby notified in accordance with the Articles of Association that the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services will be held at:

Keswick Barracks Officers Mess

Anzac Highway, Keswick
at 7pm on Monday 10 April, 2006
All members are cordially invited to attend the above meeting.

NOTICE OF MOTION

A notice of Motion has been submitted by the South Australian Division of the Institute which reads:-
"That Article 85(2) of the Articles of Association be amended so that voting for Members of the Divisional Sub Committee be every two years".

NEW AIES MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce that the following persons have become members of our Institute since the last edition of *NER* was published. From this edition onwards we intend to include the names of members who join the Institute.

NAME	AFFILIATION	STATE
Andrew Hennell	New South Wales State Emergency Service	NSW
Anthony Byrnes	Peel State Emergency Management District	NSW
Brigadier Philip McNamara	Director General NSW State Emergency Service	NSW
Kenton L Robertson	South Australia State Emergency Service	SA
Matthew James Paine	Queensland State Emergency Service	QLD
Trevor William Doyle	Queensland Fire and Rescue Service	QLD

MEMBERS EMAIL LIST

As an aid to members, and the ongoing task of keeping in touch with our members, we will be creating a National Email List of interested members' email addresses so we can email updates and announcements. If you are interested in adding your email address to this list (separate from the *NER* Mailing Database) and receiving these announcements in the future, email your state registrar (listed on the AIES Contacts page) or web@aies.net.au with the subject of the email being email list.

AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCES

2006

4TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SECURITY AUSTRALIA 2006 CONFERENCE

February 27-28, 2006
 Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney, NSW
 The National Security Australia series of annual forums is Australia's leading national security event.
 For more info go to: www.nationalsecurityaus.com



NZSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2006

"Remembering Napier 1931 – Building on 75 Years of Earthquake Engineering in New Zealand"
 April 10-12, 2006
 New Zealand
 This conference will be in Napier to mark the 75th Anniversary of the 1931 Napier Earthquake that devastated the city. For more info go to: www.nzsee.org.nz/EVENTS/events.shtml



18TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE FORENSIC SCIENCES

"Forensic Sciences: Classroom to Courtroom"
 April 2-7, 2006
 Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA
 The theme of the Symposium, Forensic Science: Classroom to Courtroom emphasises the importance of scientific research and education as the foundation stone of forensic practice.
 For more info go to: www.anzfs2006.org.au



RESCUE EXPO 2006

"Emergency Services Working Together"
 May 19-21, 2006
 Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon, NSW
 It's time for the Rescue Expo again, and in 2006 it's in Hawkesbury again.
 For more info go to: www.rescueexpo.com.au



AUSTRALASIAN BUSHFIRE CONFERENCE 2006

"Life in a Fire - Prone Environment: Translating Science into Practice"
 June 6-9, 2006 Brisbane
 The Bushfire 2006 theme aims to provide a forum to share new ideas on the complex issues of bushfire management, encourages communication between agencies and groups involved in bushfire management, to build upon the lessons learnt from previous bushfire campaigns and to facilitate a new understanding of the role of fire in the landscape. For more info go to: www.bushfire2006.com



JOINT AFAC/IFCAA BUSHFIRE CRC CONFERENCE

"Building our Legacy"
 August 10-13 2006
 Melbourne
 Changes in Climate, Demography and Technology will dictate our direction forward. The conference will present a future landscape based upon the legacy of today's research and development, management processes and all the various influencers of fire and emergency management. For more info go to: www.afac2006.org/



2008

2008 IAWP TRAINING CONFERENCE4

"Policing New Territory"

September 2008

Darwin

Policing New Territory emphasises the important role of law enforcement leadership in creating safer and more secure communities and the need for a law enforcement environment, which envisions the future in its people and their diversity. For more info go to: www.nt.gov.au/pfes/police/community/iawp/index.html



Smart.



This handbook is the official Victorian and New South Wales Blue Light child educational guide designed to offer safety information on issues that our children are subjected to on a daily basis. Topics such as drugs, alcohol, sex, suicide prevention and family issues are covered. The handbook is distributed to grade 6 students, Police stations, Blue Light events and other youth organisations free of charge.

For further information, contact Tony Cornish at Countrywide Media on: (03) 9937 0200 tcornish@cwmedia.com.au

Help the Salvos shield those in need.



RED SHIELD APPEAL

Thank God for the Salvos

www.salvos.org.au

CREDIT CARD DONATIONS 13 32 30



**Application for admission to
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (ABN 75 050 033 764)**



To:- The Divisional Registrar, _____ Division
 I, _____ (Name in Block letters)
 of _____ (Full postal address for entry in Register)
 _____ Postcode _____
 Phone (W) _____ (H) _____ Mobile: _____ Date of Birth _____
 Email: _____

do hereby apply to be admitted to the Institute.

I am (a) employed by or (b) a volunteer member of : (delete as necessary)

Name of Organisation _____
 Address _____
 _____ Postcode _____
 Position/Title _____

Statement of experience and qualifications. (Note: Applicants may supply extra, relevant information and attach it hereto)

Experience (as an Emergency Officer/Worker)

From	TO	Appointment/Position	Duty/Responsibility

Emergency Training Courses

Institution	Course/Year	Results (where applicable)

Qualifications (Degrees, Diplomas, etc) _____

Decorations/Awards etc _____

Referees (Persons who have known me for several years and can give evidence of my character and background)

Name	Address	Phone	Email
(1) _____	_____	_____	_____
(2) _____	_____	_____	_____

I declare the above particulars to be true and hereby agree to be bound by the Constitution, By-Laws and Code of Ethics of the Institution)

Signature: _____ Proposed by: _____ (Use Block Letters)

Witness: _____ Seconded by: _____ (Use Block Letters)

(Proposer and Seconder shall be financial Members of the Institute)

For Office Use Application recommended: Member Associate Student Corporate Affiliate

Fee Received Receipt No: _____ Divisional Registrar _____

Completed Application forms with fees should be forwarded to the Division Registrar in the State where you normally reside. Further information may also be obtained by contacting your Division Registrar or General Registrar of the Institute at the following addresses:

NATIONAL COUNCIL

The General Registrar
Australian Institute of Emergency Services (General Council)
14, No 159 Middle Head Road Mosman, NSW 2088
Fax: (02) 9265 4830 or E-mail: general.registrar@aies.net.au
National Web Site: www.aies.net.au

TASMANIA

The Registrar
TAS Division of Australian Institute of Emergency Services
PO Box 1 Lindisfarne, TAS 7015
E-mail: registrar.tas@aies.net.au

QUEENSLAND

The Registrar
QLD Division of Australian Institute of Emergency Services
P O Box 590 Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006
E-mail: registrar.qld@aies.net.au

WHAT ARE THE INSTITUTE'S AIMS

To provide a professional body for the study of the roles and functions of Emergency Services and Emergency Management Organisations throughout Australia, and the promotion and advancement of professional standards in these and associated services.

THE INSTITUTE'S OBJECTIVES ARE:

- To raise the status and advance the interests of the profession of emergency management and counter disaster services administration.
- To represent generally the views and interests of the profession and to promote a high standard of integrity and efficiency in the skills of emergency and counter disaster administration.
- To provide opportunities for association among members and students to promote and protect their mutual interest.
- To facilitate full interchange of concepts and techniques amongst members.
- To bring to the notice of the public such matters that are deemed to be important for safety and protection of the community and to promote research and development of emergency services generally.
- To establish a national organisation to foster international cooperation in counter disaster services administration.

WHAT THE INSTITUTE OFFERS YOU:

- An opportunity to be part of a progressive Australia wide Institute dedicated to the progression and recognition of the Emergency Service role in the community.
- An independent forum where you can be heard and your opinions shared with other emergency service members.
- A journal with information from institutes and other sources around the world in addition to the interchange of views between Divisions in Australia, as well as access to the Institute web site.
- Reduced fees for members at Institute Seminars and Conferences and an information service supplied by professional experienced officers.
- A Certificate of Membership.
- The opportunity to use the initials of the particular membership status after your name.

ACT, NEW SOUTH WALES AND NEW ZEALAND

The Registrar
NSW Division of Australian Institute of Emergency Services
PO Box 149 Ryde, NSW 1680 E-mail: registrar.act@aies.net.au,
registrar.nsw@aies.net.au, registrar.nz@aies.net.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Registrar
SA Division of Australian Institute of Emergency Services
16 Greenfinch Crescent Wynnvale, SA 5127
E-mail: registrar.nt@aies.net.au, registrar.sa@aies.net.au,
registrar.was@aies.net.au

VICTORIA

The Registrar - VIC Division of Australian Institute of Emergency Services. C/O- 44 Webb Street Warrandyte, VIC 3113
Email: registrar.vic@aies.net.au

- Corporate members receive a bronze plaque free of charge and can advertise on the AIES Web Site, as well as provide articles for inclusion in the Institute's journal.

WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP COST:

Nomination Fee: \$20.00

Annual Subscription: \$30.00

Fellows: \$40.00

Corporate Subscription: \$250.00

Note: Institute Fees may be tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP:

There are four classes of membership:

- Members • Fellows • Life Fellows • Corporate

There are five categories of affiliation with the Institute that may be offered to persons who do not meet the requirements for membership:

- Associate • Student Member • Retired Member • Honorary Member • Honorary Fellow

WHO CAN JOIN:

Applications for membership will be considered from persons who are at least twenty-one years of age and who:

- Are members of a permanent emergency service or associated service with at least two years experience, or
- Are volunteer members of emergency or associated services with a minimum of four years experience as an emergency services member.

Admission as a member may be granted if in the opinion of the General Council the applicant meets all other conditions of membership and passes such examinations and/or other tests as may be required by General Council.

WHERE DO MEMBERS COME FROM:

- Ambulance Service • Community Services • Emergency Equipment Industry • Emergency Management Organisations.
- Fire Services • Health, Medical and Nursing Services • Mines Rescue • Police Service • Safety Officers • SES • Transport Services • Volunteer Marine Rescue • Volunteer Rescue Associations

AIES NATIONAL CONTACTS

NATIONAL (GENERAL) COUNCIL

National President	Phone: (03) 6248 6373	
Maurice Massie, QPM., LFAIES	Email: president.national@aies.net.au	
General Registrar/Company Secretary	Phone: (02) 9969 9216	6 Union Street
Bob Maul, LFAIES., JP	Email: general.secretary@aies.net.au	MOSMAN NSW 2088

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY, NEW SOUTH WALES & NEW ZEALAND DIVISION

President	Phone: 0418 829 080	
Alan Holley, MAIES	Email 1: president.act@aies.net.au	
	Email 2: president.nsw@aies.net.au	
	Email 3: president.nz@aies.net.au	
Registrar	Phone: 0419 219 835	
Ian Cunningham, MAIES	Email 1: registrar.act@aies.net.au	
	Email 2: registrar.nsw@aies.net.au	PO Box 149
	Email 3: registrar.nz@aies.net.au	RYDE NSW 1680

NORTHERN TERRITORY, SOUTH AUSTRALIA & WESTERN AUSTRALIA DIVISION

President	Phone: (08) 8278 8530	
Barry Presgrave, OAM., FAIES	Email 1: president.nt@aies.net.au	
	Email 2: president.sa@aies.net.au	
	Email 3: president.wa@aies.net.au	
Registrar	Phone: (08) 8251 5713	
John Lenton, MAIES	0418 851 103	
	Email 1: registrar.nt@aies.net.au	
	Email 2: registrar.sa@aies.net.au	16 Greenfinch Court
	Email 3: registrar.wa@aies.net.au	WYNN VALE SA 5127

QUEENSLAND DIVISION

President	Phone: (07) 3344 2644	
Reginald Marshall, MAIES	Email: president.qld@aies.net.au	
Registrar	Phone: 0416 467 188	PO Box 590
Fred Rainsford, JP(Qual), MAIES	Email: registrar.qld@aies.net.au	FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006

TASMANIA DIVISION

President	Phone: (03) 6243 6073	
David Paton, APM., FAIES., JP	Email: president.tas@aies.net.au	
Registrar	Phone: (03) 6249 0918	PO Box 1
Jannene Geard, MAIES	(03) 6268 1143	LINDISFARNE TAS 7015
	Email: registrar.tas@aies.net.au	

VICTORIA DIVISION

President		
Alan Marshall, O.St.J	Email: president.vic@aies.net.au	
Registrar	Phone: (03) 9844 3237	44 Webb Street
Alan Alder, OAM., LFAIES	Email: registrar.vic@aies.net.au	WARRANDYTE VIC 3113

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE JOURNAL (NER) & AIES WEBSITE

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bluelight

www.bluelight.com.au

www.bluelight.com.au is the official website of the various Blue Light State Councils. Its purpose is to provide our **youth with information** about **Blue Light events, activities** and other **Police Youth initiatives**. The web site also enables the user the opportunity to **give feedback** for further enhancement of the Blue Light organisation. Within the site are links to other affiliated web sites, which have specialised information concerning **drugs** and **alcohol, sexual abuse, suicide prevention** and **crisis help** from appropriate professional organisations, which they can access in privacy, at school or home.

www.bluelight.com.au



Eligibility to Join APS Benefits*

- Membership is available to members of the public service and public sector including the Defence Force, Qantas, Telstra, SES, A.T.O & Education Department.
- Relatives of existing members of APS Benefits.
- Contractors to members of the public service and public sector.

Funeral Benefits for Life

- A \$5.20 fortnightly membership subscription automatically entitles you to a funeral benefit for life (even if you leave the public sector).
- Payable within 24 hours of notification. Cover that short term debt immediately after a loved one is lost.
- Don't wait weeks for financial security and peace of mind.



Unsecured Personal Loans at 12.4%**

- Members can obtain unsecured personal loans at 12.4%.
- 10 year members receive a 10.4% interest rate on new loans.
- New members can receive up to \$6,000 (repayment over 3 years).
- 10 year members can receive up to \$10,000 (repayment over 5 years).



Special Purpose Loans up to \$30,000

- Members can obtain a SPECIAL PURPOSE LOAN up to \$30,000.
- Need a home extension or a new car? Any SPECIAL PURPOSE.
- Some conditions apply. Contact APS for more details.



Home & Finance Brokering Service

- Members have access to over 35 qualified lenders.
- Need a home loan, re-finance your existing loan, 1st time home buyer?
- Need urgent cash?
- Need finance for almost ANY PURPOSE? Contact APSBS for more details.



www.apsbs.com.au

Toll Free 1300 131 809

Financial Services Statement*

When you become a member of APS, you will automatically be entitled to a funeral benefit issued by APS. There is a Combined Financial Services Guide and Product Disclosure Statement for the funeral benefit, which can be obtained from www.apsbs.com.au. You should consider that document and consider whether the funeral benefit is appropriate for you, before deciding whether to become or remain a member of APSBS.

Comparison Rate WARNING**

Comparison rate and nominal rate are identical. The interest rate is calculated using a \$1000-\$6000 unsecured loan on a 1-3 year term based on fortnightly repayments at 12.4% interest per annum. A \$40 top-up fee is not included in comparison rate. A Comparison rate schedule is available at APSBS or at www.apsbs.com.au