



NATIONAL EMERGENCY

R e s p o n s e

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

VOLUME 20 NO. 4 SPRING 2007
PRINT POST PUBLICATION NO. PP337586/00067



A TRULY NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

EMERGENCY SERVICES' INVOLVEMENT IN THE NSW STORMS



Australian Public Service Benevolent Society Ltd
Formerly The VIC & TAS - Established 1905



STOP PRESS All Emergency Service volunteers and their families are eligible to all APS Benefits products and services



The APS Benefits Range of Services



<p>APS Mortgage Broking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Over 40 lenders & 800 products ➔ We do the paperwork for you ➔ FREE service 	<p>Travel Insurance via AIG Aust*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Travelling in or out of Australia? ➔ Need travel insurance? NEW ➔ Fast online quotes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Need to borrow up to \$6,000? ➔ Any purpose & unsecured ➔ Approved within 24 hours <p>APS Everyday Loans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Borrow up to \$30,000 ➔ Approved for specific purposes ➔ Equity in property required <p>APS Special Purpose Loans</p>



DO YOU NEED AN ANSWER TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS?

Are your loved ones secure in the knowledge that the financial burden of your funeral is taken care of?

Need an unsecured loan with an interest rate that can be less than your credit card or your personal loan rate?

Do you need a Mortgage Broking service that is FREE to use?

Is there a "Special Purpose" that you need a loan for up to \$30,000 (that isn't debt consolidation)?

Are you about to travel? Protect your next holiday with this great travel insurance offer from AIG Australia. You and your family can save up to 25%* on local or overseas travel insurance, cover includes overseas medical expenses, trip cancellation, loss of luggage and more. To obtain a quote or buy online simply follow the travel insurance links at www.apsbs.com.au

Call APS Benefits on Toll Free 1300 131 809 or go to the APS Benefits web site www.apsbs.com.au

Membership of APS Benefits automatically entitles you to a funeral benefit issued by APS Benefits. You should consider the Combined Product Disclosure Statement & Financial Services Guide (available from APS Benefits or our web site on www.apsbs.com.au) before making a decision to become a member of APS Benefits or buy any products offered by APS Benefits, ABN 64 077 846 809, AFSL 244115. *The savings are calculated by comparing with AIG Australia's full price premiums as detailed at www.aig.com.au current at 26 April 2007. Savings apply to standard insurance premium without optional extras and do not include pre-existing medical assessment fees. AIG Australia and the AIG logo are registered trademarks of American International Group, Inc. Insurance products and services are provided by American Home Assurance Company, ABN 67 007 483 267, AFSL 230903, a member company of American International Group, Inc. American Home Assurance Company is the issuer of travel insurance products. You should read the Product Disclosure Statement and consider the PDS in light of our personal circumstances, prior to making any decision to acquire the product. APS Benefits act as referrer of AIG Australia and may receive a referral fee if you decide to buy this product. 07/00348

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in this magazine, unless specifically acknowledged, are not necessarily those of the Publisher, of the Institute, of its Council or of the Editor.

EDITORIAL RIGHTS

The Editor of National Emergency Response reserves the right to grant permission to reproduce articles from this magazine. Such Approval is hereby granted, unless a specific withdrawal of this permission is included in the article in question. The Author and the magazine must be acknowledged in any such reprint.

MAILING AMENDMENTS OR ENQUIRIES

For any amendments or enquiries regarding mailing, please email: general.secretary@aies.net.au

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

This Publication is the Official magazine of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services. It is published by Countrywide Media for the Australian Institute of Emergency Services and will be distributed to its members.

An illegal practice is presently operating where advertisements from some of our publications are used to produce unauthorised publications and our advertisers are contacted for payment for the unauthorised advertisement.

If you are approached to place an advertisement or with a request for payment for another publication, you should verify that the advertisement has been authorised and establish the bona fides of the company.

The invoice and any correspondence should have the company name, ABN, and an address (not just a PO Box), and you should ask for proof of publication.

If you do receive a request for an unauthorised advertisement, or have concerns about the bona fides of a company, we suggest you refer it to the Office of Fair Trading in your capital city.

PUBLISHER

National Emergency Response is published by
Countrywide Media

countrywidemedia

Level 2, 673 Bourke Street, Melbourne
GPO Box 2466, Melbourne 3001
Ph: (03) 9937 0200
Fax: (03) 9937 0201
Email: admin@cwmedia.com.au
ACN: 30 086 202 093

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Allan Calleja
Associate Editors: Bob Maul LFAIES, Mark Sawszak MAIES,
Mark Preston MAIES, Martin Page MAIES

Send articles for inclusion to:
Email: allancalleja@netspace.net.au

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.



CONTENTS

REGULAR ARTICLES

2	From the President's Desk
3	A Note From the Editor
4	ACT Divisional Report
33	Conferences and Events
34	Membership Application Form
36	AIES National Contacts

FEATURE STORIES

5	A View From the Sidelines <i>Joseph Lewis-Hughes</i>
8	Recent Australian & Overseas Disasters <i>Bob Maul</i>
11	Combined Emergency Services Seminar 2007
12	A Truly National Emergency Response <i>Bob Dobson</i>
18	Photos of Volunteers
20	History Repeats for the Hunter <i>Gaye Cameron</i>
22	Red Cross Shifts Gears in Emergencies
28	The South Australian Northern Floods of 2007 <i>Sindy McCourt</i>
30	Australian Emergency Services Agencies/Organisations <i>Bob Maul</i>

FRONTCOVER

NSW Firefighters - one of the many organisations, local and national, called in to help with the NSW emergency. See our feature story on page 12.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Maurice **Massie**

*QPM, LFAIES,
National President*

INAUGURAL MEETING ACT DIVISION

On April 24, 2007, I travelled to Canberra to attend the inaugural meeting of the ACT Division. Also attending this particular meeting was the President of the NSW Division and General Council member, Allan Holley.

Members will be aware that the business conducted at the Canberra meeting was fully reported by John Rice, the new President of that Division in the winter edition of NER. I do not therefore propose to again detail that information, but I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of General Council to thank Allan Holley for attending. I would also like to thank those Canberra people who attended the meeting for their presence and for so readily volunteering to take up the various positions that now make up the divisional board of the ACT.

I would like to personally thank John and Tricia Rice for their hospitality in accommodating and entertaining me for the time I was in Canberra. It was very much appreciated and I hope I will get the opportunity to reciprocate in the not too distant future.

General Council wishes the ACT division all the best of success in their endeavours and looks forward to their assistance in raising the profile of the Institute on a national basis.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

This has certainly been a busy period for the various members of the Emergency Services in both NSW and Victoria, with the recent floods in the eastern region of NSW with the associated loss of life, as well as the grounding of the Pasha Bulka on Nobby's Beach, Newcastle, following the severe weather conditions that affected that area of NSW.

Victoria had the disastrous train/vehicle accident at Kerang in which 11 people lost their lives. This would have been particularly stressful for the emergency service workers that were required to work on that site and our thoughts go out to them as well as to the families of the victims of the crash.

Victoria also saw severe flooding which occurred in the Gippsland area and with the rains that followed. This operation was wide spread and extended over a long period of time. With the current weather patterns at the time of writing, it looks like this could be a protracted operation.



LONDON TERRORIST INCIDENT

On July 1, 2007, we were once again reminded of what an unsafe world we live in, with the discovering and disarming of two car bombs in the London metropolitan area as well as the incident involving terrorists and a car bomb at the airport in Scotland.

It was pleasing to see how effective the London Metropolitan police, the Government Anti-Terrorist committee, Scotland Yard and the Glasgow authorities were in rapidly activating their response plans which mitigated the loss of life in what was another major terrorism attempt on the British Isles.

I once again take my hat off to the stern resolve of the Brits who in the face of these incidents, continued to carry on with their normal life, even to the extent of proceeding with the conduct of the anniversary of Princess Diana's 46th birthday concert at Wembley Stadium. No doubt the security forces were on high alert during this event, but obviously achieved their objective in that there were no further incidents of terrorism associated with the concert.

As an aside, I must say that I get somewhat sceptical when following these incidents, the media interview persons who are so called 'terrorism experts'. It leads me to ponder just how one becomes an expert in terrorism without having been an actual terrorist, or at least someone having been involved in the close investigation of actual terrorism incidents. I suspect that some of these so called 'experts' have

gained their expertise as a result of what they have read and studied about terrorism, without any actual hands on experience.

NEW NER EDITORIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Countrywide Media, publishers of our *National Emergency Response Magazine*, have in consultation with General Council, appointed a principal editor for NER. The employee, Allan Calleja, will be taking over these responsibilities starting from this edition of the magazine. Mark Sawszak and Martin Page will remain as contributing editors of the journal and will also maintain our website. The arrangements for articles for publication will not change and the generic website (ner@aies.net.au) should continue to be used and as well, a copy of any of the articles should be forwarded to the National Secretary/Registrar, Bob Maul (general.secretary@aies.net.au) and to

"It leads me to ponder just how one becomes an expert in terrorism without having been an actual terrorist, or at least someone having been involved in the close investigation of actual terrorism incidents."

Allan Calleja at allancalleja@netspace.net.au. General Council thanks both Mark and Martin for their ongoing support and for their efforts in raising the professional standard of the NER magazine and the AIES website.

I would once again urge all members, through their divisions, to submit articles for publication. This is your magazine and it is only through the receipt of relevant content that it can continue to be produced. ●

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

AllanCalleja

National Emergency Response Editor

Hello, I thought I'd best introduce myself to you all. I've been a journalist for 28 years having started at the old ATVO days in Melbourne and working for then the Ten Network, SBS and ABC as well as various magazines and many radio stations as an on the road reporter covering Emergency Services (Police, Fire, SES and Ambulance) and other topics. I am editor of another of Countrywide Media's publications, "Frontline", for the South Australian SES Volunteers Association.

At the moment, I'm based in Adelaide having lived here for 26 years. But that's enough about me.

My role with NER is to get it out to you on time with articles of interest to you all. Stories should be submitted to my email allancalleja@netspace.net.au marked National Emergency Response but I'm also looking for expertise. Make contact with me if you have an idea and we'll talk it through. Don't fear about the idea of writing an article, that's the easiest part because I love helping out.

And if you have any feedback feel free to write to me at my above email or call on 0415 446 031.

Happy reading, Allan Calleja, Editor. ●





ACT DIVISION NEWS

John Rice, MAIES

President, ACT Division

Philip Gaden, MAIES

Registrar, ACT Division

The ACT Division was formed on April 24, 2007, at the Australian Maritime Safety Authority Rescue Co-ordination Centre (AusSAR). The National President, Mr Maurice Massie LFAIES, travelled to Canberra and congratulated Mr John Rice MAIES for his efforts in establishing the Division. Mr Allan Holley FAIES, the NSW Divisional President, also attended the meeting, and presented the Canberra Division with a cheque for \$500 to assist in establishing the Division.

The following members were appointed to the board:

President:	John Rice, MAIES
Vice President:	Kevin Anderson, MAIES
Registrar:	Philip Gaden, MAIES
Committee Members:	Glenn Staff, MAIES Jeffrey Bollard, MAIES Stephen Carter, MAIES

The Division was keen to quickly establish in the Canberra region, and provide members from the ACT

and surrounding NSW areas the opportunity to attend meetings locally.

On June 23, the Division was represented at the St John Ambulance Emergency Services Open Day held at Exhibition Park in Canberra. St John and ACT SES hosted a magnificent day with promotional displays and the National St John First Aid Competitions providing a highlight to the day's activities. This was a great opportunity to rub shoulders with various Emergency Service personnel and the public, and increase the awareness in the community of the AIES generally and the formation of the ACT Division.

The following week, the Division was fortunate to tour the facilities of Emergency Management Australia, in particular the National Emergency Co-ordination Centre.

Scott Milne MAIES hosted the meeting, and showed us the fascinating world of national level emergency management, from the issue of grants and funding to the on-the-floor day to day operations.

In short, we have hit the ground running, and hope to strengthen our appeal to the Emergency Services community in the ACT and southern NSW regions as our Division grows and matures. ●

A VIEW FROM THE SIDELINES

Being completely divorced from the pressures of decision making under emergency conditions, the knowledgeable spectator is sometimes better positioned to observe the effectiveness or otherwise of emergency operations than the people actually doing the job.

Joseph Lewis-Hughes, OBE., LFAIES

Past National President of AIES, Pro-Director and Deputy Director of NSW State Emergency Services and Civil Defence Organisation (NSW)

As one who was actively involved in the management of flood, storm and other civil emergencies for over twenty five years, I have watched the recent flood/storm emergency operations in the Hunter, Central Coast and Sydney with great interest and although retired for many years, one still feels the surge of excitement when a real emergency comes along - as observed from the sidelines of course!

It is now verging on thirty years since storms and floods of such size and intensity have hit densely populated areas of the state which have naturally been expanding and developing in the interval, leading to more and more people, houses, industries and infrastructure to be affected by the extreme weather conditions. ie. more things to protect and more room for mistakes! Further, it is thirty years less operational experience for the workers and thirty years lack of experience of emergency conditions for the general public - both of which are significant factors in trying to achieve a successful operational result.

On the plus side of the equation, one would hope that communities would now be better equipped, would have more effective communications and be well organised to meet such threats than they were thirty years ago - but are they? For a moment, let us go back to the huge, widespread and destructive floods of the 1940s and 50s which caused massive loss of life, property and stock but also caused the governments of the day to establish some very important policies and principles for disaster management such as:

1. the formation of an ongoing relief organisation for life saving, warning and relief in natural disasters ie. SES and CDO
2. the establishment and funding of flood mitigation authorities and associated flood mitigation and prevention works.

In the flood scene, these two decisions quickly proved their worth during the wet period of the 1960s and 70s, when, at one time or another, every river system in NSW came down in major flood - usually more than

This article has been contributed by Mr J.H. (Lew) Lewis-Hughes, OBE., LFAIES.

Mr Lewis-Hughes was the former Deputy of the State Emergency Services and Civil Defence Organisation from 1972-1983. Prior to that he held the appointment of Pro Director SES and held the volunteer appointment of Region SES and CD Controller from 1955-1972 for the Northern Rivers Region of NSW. He also held a very Senior Valuer position with the Valuer General's Department after World War II after discharge from the Navy as a Lieutenant until his appointment as Deputy Director SES and CD. He was awarded the OBE by the Queen as a result of his meritorious service as Region Controller for the SES and CD organisation during the numerous floods which occurred along the northern rivers of NSW in the 1950s and 1960s.

once and usually several at the one time. Thus, by the 1980s most communities had developed trained, experienced rescue and relief operators who were well practised in their duties and skills and further, most of the more important engineering works had been completed and tested under emergency conditions.

As another example of the importance of regular testing and practice, we have all seen just how efficient, effective and skillful the Rural Fire Service has become with lots of practice during the last "dry" twenty years or so.

Of course, the more frequently flood/storm emergencies occur, the more the community realises that it pays to protect its assets and essential public utilities such as power, water, sewerage systems, communications, roads etc. By the late 1970s, much had been achieved in the areas of flood mitigation and protection and it was then the general opinion that the next urgent job was to progressively put power lines underground - not overnight but over time, as money and resources became available. It is a tragedy that the governments of the 70s and later did not establish this policy as a firm principle of emergency planning and provide the funds and foresight for its implementation by every available means, rather than treat the income of the public utilities as milch cows for the Treasury.

To illustrate the point. During the recent Hunter River floods, the reports indicate that the mitigation and protection works around the towns of Singleton and Maitland functioned effectively, thereby saving several thousand homes and businesses from damage/destruction. On the other hand, because flood and storm prone power lines were NOT protected, as was once envisaged, the energy authorities estimated that over 200,000 properties lost power - many for one or two days but thousands for up to ten days.

The effects of prolonged power outages is much more than a day or so of cold showers, candlelight meals out of a tin and upmarket "camping" in one's own home. Firstly, there is the huge waste of human and fiscal resources in fixing the system. Then there is the waste of buying gas cylinders, oil lights, candles, kerosene, batteries, camp stoves, barbecues etc. Extra food supplies are required to replace those lost in powerless fridges and freezers which, in the case of wholesale and retail food suppliers, can be substantial losses and, in the case of vital refrigerated medical supplies, can lead to serious health problems or even deaths.

Another very serious problem relating to extended power failures is the effect on modern communications. The community at large and the emergency services in particular have come to rely on "cell phones" for communications - convenient and efficient I hear you say, but when there is no way to recharge the battery, after a day or two they serve no purpose at all, and as a famous general once remarked, "Without communications, I only command my desk."

Modern water and sewerage systems are also highly dependent on electricity to operate pumps to fill water reservoirs, pump sewage through the system and these pump stations are often controlled by telemetering equipment which cannot operate without power; hence water shortages, toilets can't be flushed, sewage overflows on the streets and public health is threatened. More unnecessary expense and resources are required to fix the problem which would not have happened *if the power supply had been protected*.

Today, more and more functions are operated electronically - to quote a few:

Computer systems, traffic control, street lighting, railway signalling, weather reporting stations and in the future, more functions once manually operated will fall into the electronic mode, thus generating more problems in emergencies should mains power be lost for extended periods. The failure of these essential services not only increases the discomfort and misery of the populace, it also leads to unnecessary expenditure, which in turn causes increased taxes and charges to be levied to recoup the losses incurred to repair the damaged facilities. Everyone loses!

I can hear the cries of anguish of those in authority - "It can't be done", "not practical", "far too expensive" and so on and so on. My reply - it can be done and

is done in many other parts of the world and it would not be too expensive if done progressively and if the authorities' finances were not syphoned off for other less important purposes. Had such a policy been implemented twenty years ago, I submit that many of the vital lines in the Hunter and elsewhere would now be safely underground.

"Computer systems, traffic control, street lighting, railway signalling, weather reporting stations and in the future, more functions once manually operated will fall into the electronic mode, thus generating more problems in emergencies should mains power be lost for extended periods."

As for "not practical" - is it practical to have every available line crew in the State, PLUS crews from Queensland and the ACT (and possibly other States and Territories) working 24/7 to achieve restoration which, as I write, six days after the event is still some days away from completion? This huge effort, as worthy as it is, incurs massive expenditure on transport, accommodation, meals and wages which would not have been the case if power line protection had been effected over the years.

Let us now briefly turn to the protection and management of water supplies in emergencies, which, as a "sideliner", I feel needs some comment and debate.

As mentioned above, power failure often leads to water supply problems when pumps can't operate. It has been government policy for many years to actively discourage and even ban the harvesting of roof water by the householder (now reversed thanks to the drought) which effectively removed any back up supply, which was once available to most private homes and businesses not only for consumption, bathing and washing, but also for toilet flushing, thereby maintaining a water supply, public health and cleanliness during the emergency.

Casting our net into deeper water, the question of protecting our bulk water supplies and ensuring their availability during disasters is basic. Virtually nothing was harvested from last week's downpour (other than the rain which fell on storage catchments) - it seems to me that water harvesting/storage and reticulation fall into the same boat (no pun intended!) as power supplies, as both are essential to human life and development.

Without getting into the "global warming" argument, a study of the Australian meteorological records will



show the facts of actual "wets and dries" of our country over the past 150 - 200 years and *it is a fact* that it has suffered prolonged droughts interspersed with prolonged periods of high rainfall ever since weather recording commenced.

It seems that governments have short memories or don't bother to research the records, and consequently there is no long term planning for known long term climatic conditions - droughts and floods - which get the short term answer. Despite the recent downpours, Sydney and much of the State are still under severe water restrictions and nothing has been done for years to alleviate the shortage other than to propose building a de-salination plant. Such negative thinking is understandable up to a point, as the records show that the wet and dry periods usually extend over 20 or 30 years and be this as it may, it is up to all the emergency planning agencies to take every opportunity to think and plan long term and exert as much influence as possible and encourage politicians to do likewise. Mind you, if the dire predictions of the global warming protagonists are anywhere near accurate, this aspect of disaster planning becomes even more pressing and should bring some action!!

Pie in the sky? Flying pigs? Probably, but someone has to try. On another tack, it has also been fascinating listening to newcomers to the flood areas of the Hunter complaining of the inconvenience of being evacuated because the water didn't reach the forecast height so it was all unnecessary - obviously they have never suffered the terror of sitting in pitch darkness with no phone while swirling floodwaters are wrecking your home and possessions and threatening your very life - as once was the case. They would do well to remember the advice of a Sydney University lecturer who used to commence his talk on flood planning with - "When one lives on a flood plain, by definition, sooner or later you will be flooded!"

The recent storm and flood operations have once again brought out the best in so many people and organisations, and from the sidelines may I add my congratulations for an onerous job well done by the SES, Police, RFS, our volunteer agencies and everyone else involved, and may I emphasise that this paper is written constructively in an endeavour to improve and develop our emergency responses at all levels to ever higher standards in the future. ●

**FLINDERS UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF HEALTH SCIENCES
(PRE-HOSPITAL AND EMERGENCY CARE)**

**BREATHE LIFE
INTO YOUR
PARAMEDIC
CAREER.**

Two year equivalent research or course work
Masters in Pre-hospital and Emergency Care.

Available full-time over two years or
part-time up to six years.

Flexible delivery via WebCT.

Minimum on-campus components.

Major sequence of study in pre-hospital care
research.



**Contact Dr Carol Grbich
School of Medicine
Telephone 8201 3271 or 8201 5608
Carol.Grbich@flinders.edu.au**

**Relationships are
the key to life.**



"My partner and I have a pretty good relationship, but you know, sometimes we just can't talk about issues that come up... I rang Mensline Australia and got some really practical advice and help" Bruce.


We are helping men all over Australia, can we help you?
Call us.

The Mensline Australia service
will only cost the phone call.

1300 78 99 78
www.menslineaus.org.au

**Talk it over
Mens
Line
AUSTRALIA**

Specialist, professional counsellors - providing 24 hour, 7 day support.

A service managed by Crisis Support Services Inc.  MLA 003

RECENT AUSTRALIAN AND OVERSEAS DISASTERS

Bob Maul, LFAIES

General Secretary/Registrar

AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES DECEMBER 2006 AND JANUARY 2007

The 2006/2007 summer season in Australia saw some of the worst bushfire conditions in south and south east Australia since the devastating Victorian 1939 "Black Friday" and 1983 "Ash Wednesday" bushfires and the Tasmanian 1967 bushfires, which claimed many lives.

The severe Victorian fires caused by drought conditions, started in north east Victoria in early December 2006. By the second week of that month, 250,000 hectares of bushland had been "burned to a crisp" leading to large property and stock losses. Fortunately, due to the magnificent efforts of the huge numbers of Victorian voluntary and permanent bushfire brigades, including those from New Zealand and interstate, initially only three homes were lost. During the weekend of December 9/10, 2006, 3,000 fire fighters fought blazes at Gaffney's Creek, Burns Bridge, Mt Beaty, Bright, Wandilagong and Towonga. A few days later, 4,000 fire fighters were dealing with 13 separate outbreaks.

Gippsland, in the far eastern area of Victoria, suffered most from the bushfire blazes with eighteen homes being destroyed in the Hayfield/Wallhalla area. These fires were thought to be deliberately lit. One person, a middle aged man, was killed as a result of falling off a trailer whilst fighting a fire.

South Australia also suffered severe bush fire damage during the early 2006 December period with 120,000 hectares of bush burned at Bookmark in the South Australian Riverland district. Very hot weather experienced in normally temperate Tasmania and during the same period resulted in severe fires at St Mar's on the east coast, Zeehan on the west coast and Deep Bay. Eighteen houses were affected in the State's south at Bream Creek. Eighteen houses were destroyed at Scamander and over 17,500 hectares of bush burned. Four other houses were lost at Four Mile Creek.

NSW did not escape the volatile nature of the weather, with a fire near Tumut, in the alpine area of the Great Dividing Range, laying waste to over 13,000 hectares of prime pine forest. The areas worst affected were Bondo, Billalaloola and Buccleath State Forests.

A fire which "flared up" on December 3, 2006, at Whiteman Park, Perth, Western Australia, caused the evacuation of some 4,000 residents for over a day.

Fires which burned across Victoria for 48 days and caused damage to over a million hectares of bush, forest and farmland "flared up" again during the middle of January 2007 in the Gippsland Area and resulted in further widespread damage to stock and property. On January 16, a huge fire near the town of Benalla in the north east of Victoria led to power being cut to the State, when ash, smoke, cinders and heat severed several major transmission lines which connect Victoria to the National power grid.

Excessive heat of 40° Celsius throughout Victoria created an enormous surge in demand for electricity. This surge necessitated the power company imposing "rolling blackouts" across the State and this action led to chaotic traffic conditions throughout the City of Melbourne.

GARUDA AIRLINES CRASH - INDONESIA MARCH 2007

At 11am EST March 7, 2007, a Boeing 737-400, a Garuda airline, crashed and exploded on landing at the Indonesian City of Jogjakarta. Close to this city lies the ancient Buddhist temple of Borobudur. The aircraft carried 140 passengers, among them Australian journalists and diplomats who had accompanied the Australian Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, on his visit to Indonesia. Fortunately, he was not on the aircraft, but 5 Australians and 17 other passengers were killed.

At the time of writing, the cause of the crash was still not known, but it is believed that wind gusts, a faulty brake system and possible collapse of the pilot behind the "wheel" may have contributed to the accident. TV footage showed a gutted and smoking fuselage. The plane was completely burned but fortunately a large number of passengers managed to escape from the wreckage, although many of these suffered extensive burns.

"CYCLONE GEORGE" - WESTERN AUSTRALIA MARCH 2007

North Western Australia was pounded by the relentless fury of "Cyclone George" early on the morning of March 9, 2007. This cyclone was one of the most powerful cyclones to hit this part of the Western Australian coast in more than 30 years.



The storm of force 4 category crossed the coast at Port Hedland at about 10pm the evening before leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. Wind and flood damage was widespread with communities such as Newman, Tom Price, Auski, West Angeles and Paraburdoo either being evacuated or moved to safer shelter.

"George" generated wind gusts of 275kmph (160mph). Gusts tore off roofs, mangled fences, uprooted great swathes of trees and downed power lines, cutting off phone services to many isolated communities. Three persons were killed and 28 injured as a result of ferocious winds which overturned accommodation shelters. 30 persons were transferred to Port Hedland Hospital, and the Royal Flying Doctor Service provided helicopter facilities to transport seriously injured persons to the capital city, Perth. One local resident who was interviewed summed up the situation as follows – "These cyclones are bloody frightening things. It's the worst cyclone I have experienced, they don't get any bigger. The noise was deafening."

A few days later, the same area of coast was struck by another cyclone, "Jacob", which again generated destructive winds and heavy rain.

LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM AND MAJOR FLOODS - NSW CENTRAL COAST, HUNTER AND SYDNEY METROPOLITAN AREAS JUNE 2007

A deep low pressure system which developed along the NSW eastern seaboard brought gale force winds and flooding along the whole of the Hunter and Central Coasts of NSW, including very heavy rain across the Sydney Metropolitan area during Friday and Saturday June 8 and 9, 2007. The severest weather occurred along the Hunter River system and rivers in the Gosford and Wyong Shires. Rainfall over 250mm (10 inches) was recorded over many parts of these catchment areas. Nine persons lost their lives as a result of the deluge. The Town of Cessnock also suffered severe flooding with many homes being flooded and a large number of residents losing all their possessions.

The weather pattern was the worst experienced since the early 1970s, with major flooding recorded along the Hunter, Patterson and Allyn River systems. Towns affected included Maitland, Singleton, Lostock and Greta. The flood recorded along the Hunter was the highest since 1971, with some 6,000 residents needing to be evacuated and sheltered. At Somersby, near Gosford, five persons lost their lives when the old Pacific Highway gave way with flood water washing their vehicle down a ravine and drowning them.

The gales were severe with winds measuring almost 100kmph and seas along the coast measuring in excess of 5 metres. A very large 40,000 tonne coal tanker was washed ashore on Nobby's Beach at Newcastle. Gale force winds and flooding caused severe damage to thousands of homes along the coast,

and major road damage was experienced throughout the Hunter, Central Coast and Sydney Districts. Electricity to many homes was not restored until June 11, 2007. Hundreds of SES volunteers worked tirelessly for many days attending to the needs of persons whose homes were damaged by high winds and flooding. Many thousands of calls for assistance were received by the SES throughout a three day period from June 8 to 11, 2007.

The Hunter River peaked at Singleton on the night of June 10, and at Maitland during the day on June 11, 2007. Major flooding continued along the lower Hunter until June 12, 2007. Many roads throughout the east coast were extensively damaged by floodwater and high seas along the coast caused widespread damage to many homes and dunes along the foreshores. Insurance companies estimated the damage to run into many hundreds of millions of dollars. The Governor-General, Major-General Jeffries, The Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, and the NSW Premier, Maurice Lemma, made visits to the flood affected towns in the Hunter Valley and experienced first hand the huge damage that was occasioned to property and other infrastructure. ●



**'Talk it over 24 hours
a day from anywhere
in Australia.'**

We answer callers with a wide range of concerns regarding families, relationships, being a dad, and the workplace.

We helped over 37,694 callers last year.

Men and women called from all over Australia any hour of the day or night asking for practical management solutions with those concerns most of us face at some time in our lives.

1300 78 99 78
www.menslineaus.org.au

**Talk it over
Mens
Line
AUSTRALIA**

Specialist, professional counsellors - providing 24 hour, 7 day support.

A service managed by Crisis Support Services Inc.  MLA 001



FIRST STATE SUPER

FSS Trustee Corporation
ACN 118 202 672 AFSL 293340



First State Super

has something for everyone

Our options are simple-to-understand, competitively priced and what our members want.

Flexible contribution options

- Member, employer and self employed
- After tax & before tax
- Regular & one off
- Split them with your spouse or make them for your spouse

Insurance cover

- Death, total and permanent disablement, income protection
- Basic and additional cover options

Choice of investments

- 10 investment strategies ranging from 100% shares to 100% cash
- Mix the strategies in any combination for your current account balance, future contributions and rollovers

Take us with you wherever you work (or even if you are not working!)

- Ask your new employer if they offer choice superannuation fund
- Consolidate and keep your super in one place

...And stay with us when you retire

- Flexible income options with a First State Super income stream.

More information

Website: www.firststatesuper.com.au

Phone: 1300 650 873

Email: enquiries@firststatesuper.com.au

“ Join your family, we are open to everyone* ”

* Open to anyone who is eligible to be a member of a superannuation fund (age restrictions apply).

Important note: This communication contains general information only and does not take into account your specific objectives, financial situation or needs. It is therefore important, before deciding whether to become a member of First State Super (or, if you are already a member, to continue your membership) that you consider the *First State Super Product Disclosure Statement (PDS)* having regard to your own situation. The PDS is available by visiting our website or by calling us. The information contained in this document is current as at July 2007. Prepared by FSS Trustee Corporation ACN 118 202 672, AFSL 293340, RSE L0002127, the trustee of First State Superannuation Scheme RSE R1005134.

www.firststatesuper.com.au

ABN 35 488 356 910



“HAVE WE GOT IT RIGHT?”

PREVENTION – PREPAREDNESS – RESPONSE – RECOVERY

Saturday October 27th, 2007

At the Melbourne University Private Hawthorn Campus.
442 Auburn Road, Hawthorn. MELREF 59 E2

This, our 29th Seminar, will again be a one-day presentation. We have selected as the theme *“Have we got it right?”*. We believe that the subject matter will be of great interest to members of the various Emergency Services, Support Agencies, Municipalities and the Corporate Sector. Our Speakers will present aspects of the theme and, as always, we are targeting the “hands on” people and the planners.

The Parliamentary Secretary-Emergency Services, Ms Danielle Green M.P.

Will be opening the Seminar

Emergency Services Commissioner, Bruce Esplin

Will deliver the Keynote Address

Papers will be presented by speakers from the following organisations:-

“The Mansfield Experience” Running a MECC	VICPOL MERC/Municipal MERO
“Community Information and Warning System”	TELSTRA
“AIIMS- A Multi Agency Response to Resource Management”	VICSES/CFA
“Floodsmart –Stormsmart” Community Education Project	VICSES
“Accident Response-The Aftermath” Disaster Victim Identification	VICPOL
“Keeping the Public in the Picture” Community Education	CFA/DSE
“Your Safety Comes First” Rescue Workers Risk Awareness	WORKSAFE
“Major Incident Investigation” Rail, Air, Road	Aust.Transport Safety Bureau

The Committee believes that this selection of interesting, thought provoking subjects will once again ensure that our attendees will receive value for the cost of the seminar. Unfortunately, our seminar venue is limited to the first 150 attendees so book early and avoid disappointment. Further details will be circulated when finalised. At the end of the day’s program we will provide the usual facility for general discussion with conviviais.

Saturday October 27th 2007 - [Mark your diary now.]

REGISTRATION FEE \$60.00 (includes GST)

incl morning & afternoon tea, lunch, speakers’ notes & conviviais

Accommodation:

California Motel
138 Barkers Road, Hawthorn. 9818 0281. Freecall 1800 331 166
A SPECIAL rate is offered for seminar attendees.

For Further information regarding registration for the Seminar please contact our Registrar:

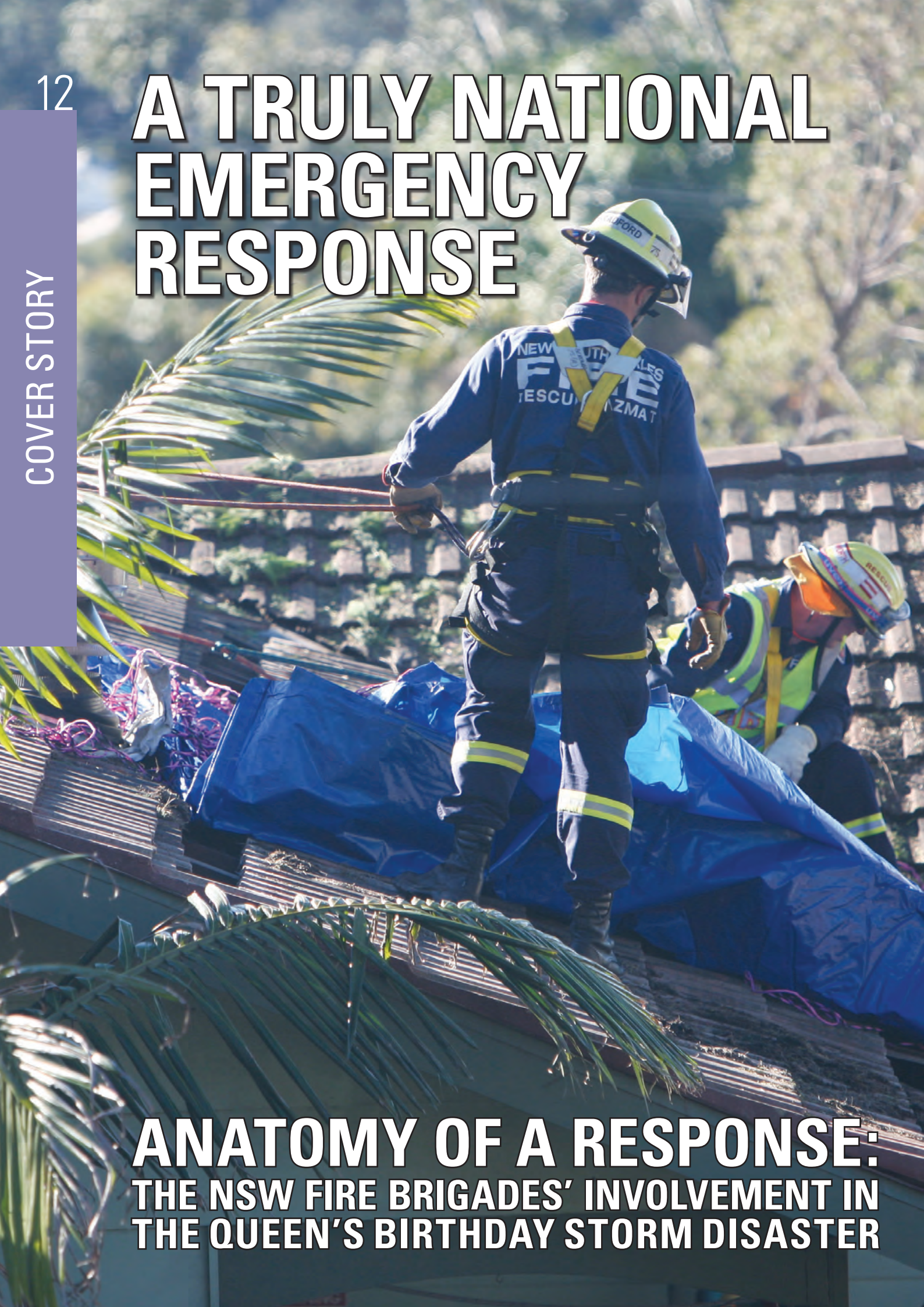
Mr. Bob Wardzynski

The Registrar, P.O. Box 52, Briar Hill, Victoria, 3088 (Enclose S.S.A.E)

Phone: (A/H) (03) 9436 8366 Fax: (03) 9436 8377 E-mail: admin@cessci.com.au

Or you can register on our website: www.cessci.com.au

A TRULY NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE



**ANATOMY OF A RESPONSE:
THE NSW FIRE BRIGADES' INVOLVEMENT IN
THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY STORM DISASTER**

The storms that hit Newcastle, the Central Coast and Lower Hunter area of New South Wales on the Queen's Birthday long weekend in June 2007, resulted in the region's worst natural disaster in 30 years and required a



protracted, multi-agency response. The NSW Fire Brigade (NSWFB) was one of the emergency services involved in the initial response and subsequent recovery operation. The complex logistics of these operations are outlined below. On Friday June 8, the first day of the storm, every NSWFB station in the region responded to incidents ranging from rescues and flooding to trees and wires down. Over the ensuing six days, more than 55 Strike Teams of firefighters from as far north as Coffs Harbour, as far south as Picton and as far west as Tamworth converged on the region.

Assistant Commissioner Bob Dobson

Director of Greater Metropolitan Operations for NSWFB

THE EYE OF THE STORM

On June 8, in the skies over Newcastle, two low pressure systems – one off the coast and one from the west – collided with catastrophic consequences. Torrential rain resulted in severe local flash flooding in Newcastle, the Lower Hunter, Central Coast and Sydney's Northern Beaches, and caused extensive storm damage to thousands of homes. Gale force winds brought down trees and power lines, roofs were swept off houses, buildings damaged, cars were abandoned on streets as the flood waters started to rise and a coal carrier ship, the Pasha Bulker, was driven ashore and grounded on Nobby's Beach, in Newcastle.

Nine people tragically died following the devastating storms. Five people including three children died when their car was swept away after part of the Old Pacific Highway was washed away and collapsed at Somersby, near Gosford. In the Newcastle area, a man was swept into a stormwater drain in Lambton,

Firefighters carrying out emergency tarping to a roof in the Central Coast.



while in Clarence Town a couple died as their car was washed off a flooded bridge and a young man in Lake Macquarie was killed when a tree fell on his utility vehicle.

The storm continued for several days, resulting in record monthly rainfall of 600mm for the Central Coast and over 550mm for Newcastle. By the end of the deluge, the Bureau of Meteorology named Newcastle and the Central Coast the wettest part of Australia for June. The low pressure system responsible for the devastation was described as the worst storm to hit NSW in almost 10 years.

RESPONSE PLAN

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), consisting of the highest level commands of emergency and support authorities, came into operation. The SEMC brought the state's resources into play to support the immense response and recovery operation that was the responsibility of the NSW State Emergency Service (SES). The SEMC met regularly throughout the emergency to oversee the situation, provide reports to the Premier, and ensure that the SES was adequately supported in all aspects of response and recovery.

Following notification from the Bureau of Meteorology of the impending severe storm activity, the NSWFB immediately implemented a well rehearsed and tested response plan. The plan involves the ability to quickly form and deploy Strike Teams to the areas in most need. Each Strike Team consists of four fire appliances and crews, as well as a Strike Team Leader.

The NSWFB has four interconnected Communication Centres throughout the state which take emergency calls from the public and other emergency services agencies. At the peak of the storm, calls for help were being received every two minutes on average.

As part of the response plan, the Major Incident Co-ordination Centre (MICC) in Sydney was activated to provide logistical support and gather strategic intelligence. The Communications Centres in Sydney and Newcastle provided rapid co-ordinated responses to life-threatening emergency calls, while the MICC arranged back up resources to deal with 1,166 requests for assistance from the SES.

As part of the plan, more than 55 Strike Teams were deployed from June 8 -13 from stations across NSW. When the storm cell started to head towards Newcastle, the Strike Teams were sent to the Central Coast on standby in preparation for the response and recovery stages of the operation. Teams were strategically chosen so that normal operations could continue throughout the state. Areas that were affected by the storms had additional resources sent and areas where storm activity was limited, for example in the western suburbs of Sydney, assisted with the formation of the Strike Teams.

During the first two days of the storms, the Sydney and Newcastle Communications Centres received 3,385 calls

for assistance. On Friday, June 8, Newcastle received 1,197 Triple Zero (000) calls, followed by another 798 on the Saturday. In Sydney, 860 calls were received on the Friday and another 530 on the Saturday. The other Communications Centres in Katoomba and Wollongong supported Sydney and Newcastle by taking some overflow calls.

Liaison officers and support staff were deployed to assist the SES centres and co-ordinate the NSWFB response to incidents in Erina, Charmhaven, Toronto, Newcastle, Maitland and Terrey Hills in Sydney's north from June 8-15.

Extreme weather conditions made it near impossible for firefighters and SES crews to get to everyone quickly as access was limited because of localised flooding and debris in many areas. For Strike Teams travelling north from Sydney en route to the worst affected areas, it was a challenge just to get there. Crews encountered blocked roads with broken down cars, long queues of traffic and fallen trees as well as rising floodwaters along the way.

Senior officers stationed in the MICC continually monitored the Bureau of Meteorology's weather radar to keep check on the intensity and spread of the situation that was unfolding.

With the increasing intensity of the storm and urgent need for help on the ground even the NSWFB's State Training College assembled a Strike Team to standby for response to assist with storm relief work in Newcastle and on the Central Coast. New recruits deployed to assist storm ravaged areas were fully supervised throughout the operation by fully qualified instructors and safety officers and were only assigned tasks based on levels of training they had successfully completed.

THE FIRST 48 HOURS

Throughout the first night of the storms and into the next morning, local crews worked tirelessly to respond to incidents ranging from car accidents to power lines and trees down as well as people trapped and property damaged. In 12 hours, firefighters carried out 95 separate rescue operations on the Central Coast, Newcastle and Lower Hunter. More than 194 people were rescued from situations classified as an "imminent threat to life" and a further 534 people were removed from "possible threat to life".

Recruit firefighters from the State Training College were issued with equipment including tarpaulins and ropes at the Gosford SES headquarters and deployed to Bateau Bay to assess and carry out work helping emergency crews with fallen trees and power lines and flooded homes. Recruits attended more than 133 incidents during the course of the long weekend.

Due to the increasing number of requests for assistance, firefighters in the Newcastle CBD, Adamstown and Merewether areas were required to triage calls to ensure the right equipment went to each



response and that the urgent or more threatening situations were responded to first. Once calls were prioritised, crews worked to protect residents and make situations safe by putting tarpaulins on roofs, removing trees, propping up structural components of buildings and assisting with salvage operations.

Each day emergency crews responded to tasks from residents who had called Triple Zero (000) as well as incidents that were directly reported to firefighters and SES crews while they were working.

The sheer pressure and volume of water in the region picked up and carried many cars and debris creating a huge risk to residents, the local community and emergency crews. Fire crews from New Lambton rescued a number of people from cars that were being dragged towards a storm water canal by the sheer force of the water. NSWFB and SES crews rescued people through car windows and took them to safety.

Nothing went untouched with hundreds of homes and businesses damaged or completely destroyed.

Floodwaters in many suburbs rose above one metre, leaving residents stranded and firefighters and SES personnel moving from house to house assisting with emergency rescues and evacuations. Many of the people rescued were elderly, in wheel chairs, people with serious medical conditions, young children and babies.

Fire crews in New Lambton and North Hamilton rescued several people in stokes litters (a tubular metal frame used to transport patients and move equipment) that were carried by firefighters at shoulder height, through chest high flood waters for several blocks until safety was reached.

Activities in outlying areas were notable for the number of domestic and farm animals that needed to be rescued. An unwelcome surprise was the number of snakes that required gentle and cautious handling by crews.

OTHER INCIDENTS OF NOTE INCLUDE:

- Firefighters from Minmi who rescued three people clinging to a light pole while standing on a bus stop seat as torrents of water rose to chest height. Crews rescued the three by reversing a fire engine to the bus shelter and driving them to safety.
- A firefighter from New Lambton noticed a submerged vehicle with the female driver trapped inside. The firefighter swam to the car and tried to free the woman. After a number of unsuccessful attempts to open the door, the firefighter smashed the driver's window and freed the woman from the car.
- A fire engine from Minmi Fire Station which was returning to the station via Wallsend was waved down by distraught people caught in flash flooding along the main street and shopping district with flood waters over the roofs of cars. The firefighters pulled people out of shops that were filled with two metres of water, off building roofs and out of abandoned cars using rescue ropes.

- Firefighters from Branxton used rescue ropes and lines to rescue a person standing on top of a car who was holding on to an overhead tree branch trying to stay clear of the rising flood waters that had covered the vehicle.
- A critically ill man requiring a lung transplant was trapped by rising floodwaters in his home in New Lambton. Firefighters from Waratah, New Lambton and Lambton responded to a Triple Zero (000) call for help. They waded through freezing water and used a canoe, which had been floating by, to carry the man to the fire engine, which was converted to a make-shift ambulance for the trip to hospital.
- Firefighters from West Wallsend saw a man collapse and become submerged under rapidly flowing floodwaters at Edgeworth. The man was rescued and found to be having a heart attack. One of the firefighters, who was also an off-duty Ambulance officer, commenced emergency first aid and stabilised the patient until an Ambulance arrived.
- Houses and garages with structural damage that were threatening to collapse.
- Landslips which placed houses in danger and required residents to be evacuated.
- Houses and basements inundated with water which needed to be pumped dry using portable pumps.

On June 12, four days after the storm hit, areas in Newcastle, Maitland and Lake Macquarie were still under water. Many homes and businesses were still without power. Traffic diversions were still in place leaving many residents without any way to get home. Those who did get home faced a huge clean up. Many lost all their belongings to chest high floodwaters while others had to deal with extreme damage caused by gale force winds.

NORMAL BUSINESS

During the NSWFB's response to the storms and flooding, there were numerous call-outs to day-to-day incidents including fires and motor vehicle accidents.

Of particular note was a factory fire in Wallsend which required a fourth alarm response comprising eight pumpers, a rescue unit, two aerial appliances, two breathing apparatus and hazardous material units, and 50 staff in total.

Due to localised flooding, Strike Teams and stations from the Maitland area had to be diverted from the storm response to the fire in Wallsend as resources from Newcastle were cut off by floodwaters. Crews had an arduous task in the extreme conditions, with firefighters trying to keep the blaze under control at times working in chest deep swift running flood waters.

Responding to automatic fire alarms (AFAs) is a daily occurrence however gale force winds and rain increased the number of AFAs six fold in the

KENWOOD

Listen to the Future



TK-2170/3170

VHF/UHF FM Portable Radios

FleetSync[®]
by KENWOOD

Kenwood's TK-2170/3170 VHF/UHF portable radios provide easy operation plus versatility and reliability in a compact yet rugged package. Advanced features include a 128-channel/128-zone capacity, 5-Tone Signalling, FleetSync[®] and easy-to-see 13-segment/8-character backlit LCD.

COMPACT DESIGN

Compact enough to carry anywhere with ease, this smart new radio has a distinctively ergonomic form that's handy to hold and operate.

ENHANCED KENWOOD AUDIO

The TK-2170/3170 provides loud, clear audio even in noisy environments.

128 CHANNELS/128 ZONES

The convenient 128 channel/128 zone capability accommodates virtually any current or future capacity requirement for single or multiple site radio systems.

8-CHARACTER LCD DISPLAY

The backlit LCD with 8-character, 13 segment aliases and icons provides an easy-to-read channel, function and FleetSync[®] messaging display day or night.

BATTERY STATUS INDICATOR

For extra convenience, a 4-step battery status indicator notifies the user immediately of the amount of charge remaining by visual indication (icons) or tone alert.

ROBUST & RELIABLE

The TK-2170/3170 is built to survive the hard knocks, drops and all weather environments of its users. It meets or exceeds the stringent IP54/55 dust and water intrusion standards and the MIL-STD 810 C, D, E & F environmental standards including the demanding "driven rain" test.

FleetSync[®] DIGITAL SIGNALLING

Kenwood's FleetSync[®] digital signalling system includes PTT ID digital ANI for instant radio call identification and Emergency status for personnel safety. FleetSync[®] also includes status messaging, selective calling and short/long text dispatch messaging features. Emergency Calling notifies a dispatcher of personnel in distress by activation of an orange colored emergency key.

5-TONE SIGNALLING

E, E3 and X2 type only
In addition to FleetSync[®], the TK-2170/3170 includes 5-Tone selective calls in 6-different formats, EIA, EEA, CCIR, ZVEI, ZVEI2 and the Kenwood format.

LONE WORKER

E, E3 and X2 type only

This ingenious feature provides an extra layer of security and safety for individuals who work remotely as well as for those who work in hazardous areas. As long as the buttons are pressed regularly, the radio operates normally; however, if there is a long lapse (programmable), it will sound an alert. In the absence of further response from the user, the TK-2170/3170 will place an emergency call to a pre-determined person or group of people.

VOTING FUNCTION

The TK-2170/3170 supports Voting function, which is to look for and lock on to the best repeater signals automatically in the multi-sites system. This feature offers end-users to make communications without compromise.

WIDE BATTERY SELECTION

The TK-2170/3170 offers a lightweight Li-Ion battery (KNB-35L), ideal for low-temperature environments; a durable Ni-Cd battery (KNB-25A); and a powerful Ni-MH battery (KNB-26N) for extra-long life.

VOICE INVERSION SCRAMBLER

The built-in voice inversion scrambler provides basic protection against casual eavesdropping.

EASY OPTION PORT (20-PIN)

Kenwood's plug-in option port makes the compatible after-market board installation quick and simple.

VOX READY

The TK-2170/3170 offers convenient hands-free operation with a compatible headset. The TK-2170/3170 internal VOX (voice-operated transmission) circuitry provides automatic PTT and a 10-level sensitivity adjustment for different ambient noise levels.

OTHER FEATURES

- PRIORITY SCAN
- BUILT-IN QT/DQT, DTMF SIGNALLING
- SmarTrunk II™ OMNI CAPABILITY (REQUIRES SmarTrunk BOARD*)
- PROGRAMMABLE FUNCTION KEYS
- EMERGENCY KEY
- OPERATOR-SELECTABLE TONE
- ENCRYPTION & ANI MODULE CONTROL
- EMBEDDED MESSAGE WITH PASSWORD
- RADIO LOCK PASSWORD
- POWER-ON LCD MESSAGE
- FLASH MEMORY
- MICROSOFT WINDOWS[®] PC PROGRAMMING & TUNING

*SmarTrunk board is available from SmarTrunk Systems, Inc.



Enter **F401** on FaxForm

For more information please contact:
**KENWOOD ELECTRONICS
AUSTRALIA PTY LTD**
16 Giffnock Avenue, Centrecourt Estate,
North Ryde New South Wales 2113

Ph: (02) 8879 2266 • Fax: (02) 8879 2233

Email: comdept@kenwood.com.au

Website: www.kenwood.com.au

Newcastle area and they doubled in Sydney in the first 24 hours, putting added strain on the already stretched resources.

STRIKE TEAMS

NSWFB rescue crews from Sydney, Tamworth, Coffs Harbour, Picton, Port Macquarie, the Blue Mountains and other locations were pulled together, forming Strike Teams and individual units which responded to life threatening calls and carried out emergency rescue operations that were above and beyond the normal response of firefighters.

Fire stations not involved in the Newcastle or Central Coast response provided coverage for larger areas and worked with reduced resources to cope with business as usual for fires, Hazmat and rescue operations.

Strike Teams consisting of specialised resources from the Maitland area were also sent to Newcastle to support rescue operations, evacuation and to assist the SES in the extensive clean up during and after the storm.

The response and recovery stages of the operation worked simultaneously. As soon as the response phase began, the SES notified other agencies including local Councils, Department of Community Services and the Department of Health, all of which commenced their recovery roles. These organisations utilise their capabilities and implement their recovery plans by co-ordinating food, clothing and shelter requirements for affected residents and members of the local community who were evacuated from their homes and businesses.

For two weeks, the NSWFB assisted the SES with its overall response to widespread destruction, undertaking intensive search and rescue operations, Hazmat evaluation and structure triage.

The NSWFB undertook many major pump outs during the week following the storms, the biggest being a supermarket carpark where cars were trapped in water that was waist deep. Over 24 hours, 8.5 million litres of water was pumped from the carpark – more than three olympic-size swimming pools.

FLOOD PREPARATION

While Newcastle suffered storm damage and localised flooding, the towns of Maitland, Cessnock, Port Stephens and surrounding areas faced another major threat – rising water levels in the Hunter River, requiring them to prepare for potential flooding.

The SES evacuated up to 4,000 people in the Maitland area where the Hunter River peaked at 10.5 metres – the highest level since 1971. Thankfully the town's levee banks were not breached.

Firefighters from the Maitland area were heavily involved in preparation activities and subsequent flood rescue operations.

The NSWFB implemented plans enabling firefighters

to continue delivering services in the areas that would be isolated in the event of flooding at different points along the river.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Fire crews and other emergency service workers were vigilant during flood operations where local businesses, farms, factories and even backyard sheds became inundated with water. In many instances, dangerous chemicals, oils and other pollutants washed away threatening the health and safety of residents and the local community as well as posing a threat to the environment.

Hazmat crews attended 10 incidents of possible asbestos contamination as a result of trees coming down on roofs. Crews also attended to a number of chemical spills because of the flooding across hundreds of properties in the region.

The NSWFB Hazmat boat was used in a number of rescues and firefighters worked closely with the Ambulance Service of NSW providing them with a four wheel drive tanker and other resources to help ambulance crews get to people who were trapped by the floodwaters.

TEAM WORK

In a disaster, the work that agencies have carried out in pre-incident planning, drills and multi-agency exercises to prepare for the worst, all comes together to produce a co-ordinated response.

There is a real sense of camaraderie and community spirit as emergency service agencies work hand-in-hand with the many volunteers and members of the community who give up their time to help those in need.

In the aftermath of a tragedy, all involved have been touched by the events that occurred and the thoughts of all remain with the families who have lost loved ones and to those who lost homes and businesses.

The NSWFB was proud to be able to assist the SES and the affected communities.

COST OF AN EMERGENCY

The NSW Premier, Morris Iemma, has described the damage from the storms and flooding as worse than the Newcastle earthquake in 1989, with damage more widespread than many other recent natural disasters in Australia.

During visits to the affected area, the Prime Minister, John Howard, described Maitland as "unrecognisable" and Premier Iemma described the Hunter Valley as resembling "an island sea".

According to a recent story in The Daily Telegraph, the storms rank up there as one of Australia's top four natural disasters. According to the article, the Insurance Council of Australia estimates the damage bill to be approximately \$490 million as at the end of June. ●





Firefighters utilising a ladder platform to remove storm damaged debris from a structure in Hunter Street, Newcastle.





Emergency crews were bolstered by teams from interstate such as this Response Team from SES SA.



Firefighters using chainsaws to cut up fallen trees.

HISTORY REPEATS FOR THE HUNTER

Gaye Cameron takes a look at today and other times when Mother Nature unexpectedly brought ships to shore. History repeated itself for the Hunter this June. Gale force winds, driving rain and pounding seas on June 8, 2007, beached the 'Pasha Bulker' Ship at Nobby's Beach. For Novocastrians with a memory it was similar to the beaching of the 'Sygna' in 1974 at Stockton Beach after cyclonic winds impacted the area.

Gaye Cameron, MAIES

Registrar, NSW Division

On the morning of June 8, 2007, Newcastle Port's Corporation radioed the 56 ships moored off the coast, to warn them to move out to sea to escape the approaching storm. The "Pasha Bulker" along with ten other ships did not heed the warning, and as a consequence, as the storm struck the coast, the "Pasha Bulker" could not clear the coast and it became beached at Nobby's Beach around 9:15am. It's believed the ship never called for tug boat assistance and ran aground with a fully operational engine room and still had both anchors stored in the hawse pipe.

After the "Pasha Bulker" ran aground, the crew consisting of twenty-two Philipinos and Koreans were successfully rescued by the Westpac Rescue helicopter service from the vessel. The ship was empty of any cargo at the time, waiting to load approximately 58,000 tonnes of coal from Newcastle Port. At the time of its beaching, it did have on board some 700 tonnes of fuel oil, 38 tonnes of diesel and 40 tonnes of lube oil, which if released could have caused a major ecological/environmental disaster.

HISTORY OF THE NOBBY'S BREAKWATER

The breakwater was originally built in the first half of the nineteenth century to protect ships entering Newcastle Harbour. After the breakwater was completed, Nobby's Beach formed against it and over reefs around Nobby's headland.

On May 5, 1940, the 'SS Maianbar', a 500 tonne steamship coastal trader, broke its towline while en route to Sydney and drifted ashore near where the "Pasha Bulker" recently came to be stuck. The 'SS Maianbar' came to grief on a wet night drifting almost sideways onto the shore line, rattling over the rocks and reefs with the tides. The eventual fate of the 'SS Maianbar' was a sad one. It was caught in a sand vice

and buffeted by the waves, the ship was cut up on site. Some jagged remains were visible for years. It was unable to be refloated and was dismantled on-site.

The "Pasha Bulker" beaching has also drawn parallels to the 1974 beaching of the 'Sygna' on Stockton beach just north of Newcastle.

During May 1974, the NSW coast was being battered by large storms which brought heavy swells to both Sydney and Newcastle ports. Newcastle Port reported a swell of over 17 metres at the entrance. Another ship 'The Sygna' came to grief at Newcastle, at Stockton Beach, just north of Nobby's Beach.

The Sygna was a 53,000 tonne Norwegian bulk carrier and now a shipwreck on Stockton Beach. The ship ran aground during a major storm on May 26, 1974, and the wreck has become an icon and landmark for the local area. The 'Sygna' had 2136 tonnes of bunker oil and 163 tonnes of diesel oil on board. A gale warning had been issued and of the ten ships waiting off the port, seven had weighed anchor and moved out to sea. The 'Sygna', then on her maiden voyage, was waiting for a load of 50,000 tonnes of coal destined for Europe. She was anchored four km off Newcastle when the Bureau of Meteorology issued a storm warning and directive for ships to move out to sea. Seven of the ten ships anchored off Newcastle did so. However the 'Sygna' was not one of them.

Below: The "Sygna" beached. Photos courtesy of the ABC.





Early the following morning, with winds gusting at 165kmph, the captain issued orders to set sail. Unfortunately, even with her engines at full-ahead, she was unable to make any headway and the storm turned her parallel to the beach. Within 30 minutes she had run aground on Stockton Beach.

With heavy seas pounding the stricken ship, her captain radioed a 'May Day' and gave the order to abandon ship. An Iroquois helicopter from RAAF Williamstown's Search and Rescue (SAR) Squadron flown by Flt Lt Gary McFarlane, attended the scene and slowly rescued the 31 trapped sailors from the wreckage, in near cyclone conditions.

Fortunately no one was injured or killed in the incident. Gary McFarlane was awarded the Air Force Cross (AFC), with other members of his crew receiving commendations, for their heroic efforts during the rescue.

The Sygna lost approximately 700 tonnes of oil during the accident. This oil was mostly dispersed by the heavy seas so no clean up or recovery operation was undertaken. After the storm subsided, the first attempt at a salvage operation commenced. The ship was swung around, the heavier stern section sunk into deeper water causing the ship to break its back.

On September 4, 1974, a salvage team led by Japanese millionaire Kitoku Yamada refloated the ship after repairing several holes in the hull and then pumping out thousands of tonnes of water. The stern section was refloated first, followed by the bow, which had been resting deep in the sand. The bow remained afloat but unfortunately for the salvagers, the stern again went aground about 80 metres out from the beach and gradually settled in the sand. Salvage crews stripped it of all items of value.

In November 1974, another salvage attempt was made of the stern of the 'Sygna'. This caused a very heavy oil spillage, which spread along a 16km stretch of Stockton Beach. Bulldozers attempted to bury the oil in the sand above the high water mark. After lying in Salamander Bay, Port Stephens, for almost two years the bow section was towed away and broken up in Taiwan. The stern still lies on Stockton beach and since the wrecking, it has slowly been decaying from the harsh elements in its environment, however it remains as an icon and landmark for the local area. ●

REFERENCES:

'Sygna Shipwreck Film 1974' - Australian Broadcasting Corporation
 Major Oil Spills in Australia: Sygna, Newcastle, May 26, 1974 - Australian Maritime Safety Authority
 Fairfax – Newcastle Herald Archives
 'The Sygna' - Newcastle Port Corporation
 Port Stephens Tourism Authority
 Newcastle City Council

*Above and below: The "Pasha Bulker" grounded at Nobby's Beach.
 Photos courtesy of Gaye Cameron.*



RED CROSS SHIFTS GEARS IN EMERGENCIES

Australian Red Cross has been responding to disasters and crises both here and overseas for more than 90 years, with a presence in almost every city and town across the country.

We help families fleeing from bushfires, families separated by war, conflict or disaster, elderly people living alone, teenagers in drug or alcohol-related emergencies, children who miss out on breakfast or someone in need of first aid.

In the immediate aftermath of Queensland's tropical cyclone Larry, Australian Red Cross was a prominent sight – distributing fresh water, tending emergency shelters and accounting for those who remained missing. Weeks later, its distinctive badge was still widely visible as volunteers navigated outlying districts, helping to mend local spirits.

A couple of years ago, this sustained presence would have been unusual. Now, Australian Red Cross is working to become one of the country's leading forces in not only direct emergency response but long-term recovery and prevention.

The shift is a marked one for an organisation that has long been known for blood donations and associated more with public fundraising appeals than providing on-the-ground and longer-term support for vulnerable people affected by disaster, let alone preparing communities for future disasters.

It's a shift that demands a significant rethink of existing strategies. "Two years ago, our disaster response didn't have that high a profile, whereas now it's seen as one of our core roles," says Andrew Coghlan, Australian Red Cross' national manager of emergency services.

Coghlan himself was appointed a year ago to bring about the change in direction – a challenge he's funnelled into several key initiatives. At the heart of this heightened emergency response is a future vision paper that outlines ten key areas of focus for the Emergency Services Division of Australian Red Cross over the coming years.

The list includes honing the existing National Registration and Inquiry System (NRIS), which allows concerned relatives to track family members who find themselves caught up in a disaster, as well as implementing an Australia-wide consistent approach to public appeals, and strengthening our society's capacity to provide personal support through partnerships, for example, with psychologists.

"One of the major roles we played after Cyclone Larry was distributing bottled water to people – something so simple but so essential in an area that had limited access to potable water ... but in other cases, people

who came in to register for NRIS just wanted to sit and talk for half an hour about what they've seen and been through," Coghlan says.

"Our trained emergency services staff and volunteers were able to be that friendly face and patient ear to help people through their difficult time."

In more recent times, Red Cross has tailored its response to disasters as they arise, according to need and in co-ordination with other agencies. Here we provide a snapshot of just some of the emergencies Red Cross has responded to in the past few months.

ON THE GROUND IN KERANG

In the immediate aftermath of the Kerang rail crash in country Victoria, which killed eleven people and stunned the community, Australian Red Cross was involved in a number of key activities at the site. Supporting emergency services personnel as they evacuated victims and cleared the wreckage, Red Cross provided catering and emergency first aid teams for two days and played a key role in the evacuation centre in Kerang.

The single incident emergency assistance program was also activated, to assist the family of a seriously injured passenger. Red Cross found accommodation for his partner and their five children and provided material aid (including clothing) immediately after they arrived in Melbourne to be near him. Volunteers built a relationship with the family and provided assistance for several days. Single incident emergency relief is a service offered around the country, where trained volunteers provide immediate help for those affected by a house fire, flood, explosion or similar small-scale emergencies. This area also provides assistance with clothing needs, accommodation, food and personal items.

At the evacuation centre in Kerang, Red Cross personal support volunteers were on hand to provide information, care and comfort to the families of eight of the victims and many others who were affected by the crash. Personal support volunteers are caring and practical people who are also good team players and are able to work a full shift in a major emergency.

Often, personal support volunteers are drawn from the local community, and sometimes they face considerable personal challenges themselves during a disaster in their home space. This was witnessed recently during the wild weather in NSW that caused widespread flooding across the Newcastle and Hunter regions.



CASE STUDY:

PERSONAL SUPPORT DURING THE NSW FLOODS

Garth Hoy lives in Gilleston Heights near Maitland with his wife and two children. He is also a volunteer personal support team leader for Australian Red Cross.

On the evening of Thursday, June 7, heavy rain driven by strong winds saw Garth and his family sandbagging their property and mopping up minor flooding until 3am on Friday morning.

The Hoy family were not alone in fighting the storm, with much of Newcastle and the surrounding area being buffeted by heavy wind and rain. Friday evening saw many residents in the Hunter region experience power failure, flooding in their homes, loss of water supply, major difficulties getting home from work, and disconnection from family and friends as communication systems struggled in the severe weather conditions.

On Saturday morning, Garth was 'activated' by Australian Red Cross Regional Manager Lyn Wickham to provide personal support to victims of the disaster. After ensuring his family were safe, he travelled to the first evacuation centre opened in the area at East Maitland.

As a personal support team leader, Garth then activated a team of trained volunteers who play their part in the State Disaster Recovery Plan by providing personal support and disaster victim registration.

More than 40 people were registered at the evacuation centre on one day, with a second evacuation centre set up at Maitland High School soon after. Many residents from the area were referred from the Community Centre to Maitland High School with community members pitching in to transport people who didn't have cars. Those attending the centre included a group of international tourists.

"Many people arrived with only the clothes on their backs and were glad to have some hot food and mattresses to sleep on," Garth said.

"Local businesses pitched in too and at one point we had donuts for the evacuees, in addition to the great food provided by the Salvation Army."

Garth had only praise for the staff and volunteers he worked with. Nine Red Cross Personal Support Team members were rotated in and out of service, with many continuing to provide assistance while their own homes had been affected by the storms.

There weren't quite enough mattresses for all the volunteers on Saturday night and Garth mentioned reluctantly that he managed two hours sleep with a four litre ice cream container for a pillow. Thankfully, more mattresses arrived on the Sunday!

Returning home from the evacuation centre on Monday, Garth was able to reconnect with his family, enjoy catching up on some sleep, and change his clothes (he'd worn the same clothes since Thursday).

In the middle of all this, Garth sat a mid-semester exam for his nursing degree and then went back to

helping more people at the recovery centre established by the Department of Community Services in Hunter Street Newcastle. A one-stop-shop for people affected by the storm, recovery centres provide a range of assistance and information from government and non-government agencies.

Personal Support volunteers continued to register victims of the storm at this centre and Australian Red Cross co-ordinated teams of volunteers to conduct outreach into the community to provide information on the services available to assist people in their recovery. This outreach involves visiting the hardest hit areas of the city, educating people about the recovery centre, and reaching elderly or immobile residents in their homes.

AFTER THE CLEAN-UP, THE TRAUMA

As people across the Hunter and Central Coast regions affected by severe weather and flooding slowly returned to their homes in June this year, a small army of Australian Red Cross volunteers provided further assistance to affected homes.

Working with the NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS) and other non-government agencies, Red Cross worked around the clock to provide care and comfort to evacuees across the region.

Red Cross' NSW Manager Emergency Services, Jason Collins, said a team of volunteers offered personal support and assistance to the people in the evacuated areas.

"People think that once the flood waters subside people just get on with their lives when in fact many of these people have no dry clothes, no power, no food and have possibly lost their most valued personal items and documents," he said.

"We had people who came to the evacuation centre with nothing but the wet clothes on their back, and who calmly waited to return home," he said.

"For many of them, this is only the beginning. We will now be offering people some support to get their lives back in order. You can clean up the mud, but the trauma and heartbreak take a lot longer to recover from."

Australian Red Cross played a key role in the support and recovery of communities affected in both Newcastle and surrounds and affected areas of the Central Coast.

KEY ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

REGISTRATION AND ENQUIRIES

The National Registration and Inquiry System was activated Saturday, June 9, and operated 24 hours a day for several days, helping field public enquiries. In addition to the traditional registration role, the centre was also used to provide information on a wide range of recovery activities.

You Save Lives...



We Help Protect Your Health

**Why expose yourself to unnecessary risks every time the alarm goes?
Your job is tough enough as it is.**

Nederman MagnaSystems - Unbeatable Vehicle Exhaust Extraction Solutions

Nederman

IMPROVING YOUR WORKSPACE

ABN 75 002 459 672 13, 17-23 Keppel Drive, Hallam Victoria 3803 Phone: (03) 9702 3233 Fax: (03) 9702 3655
www.nederman.com.au info.australia@nederman.com.au

RECOVERY CENTRES

Australian Red Cross has had a significant presence in all the Recovery Centres - Gosford, Wyong, Newcastle and Cessnock, with approximately ten volunteers on duty in each centre and a larger presence in the main centre in Newcastle. Red Cross maintains a presence at the Centres in Newcastle and Wyong, which are expected to remain open for several months to support longer-term recovery.

As affected people arrive at the centre, Australian Red Cross volunteers provide an initial needs assessment and personal support before referring the person to the most appropriate agencies for further consultation.

The other agencies in the recovery centres include DoCS, Centrelink and other community partners under the key emergency department structure, including insurance agencies.

OUTREACH SERVICES

Red Cross led the establishment of a broad outreach program, to provide support and undertake a simple needs assessment of the worst affected areas. Features of the program were a co-ordinated effort between several agencies with increased levels of communication to the affected populations and referrals to appropriate services when necessary.

INFORMATION PACKS

Red Cross facilitated the development of a range of information packs for those affected. Information provided during outreach and at the recovery centres included a news sheet that was updated daily, information sheets on cleaning, repainting, practical health and safety information, and the resource 'Coping with a Major Personal Crisis.' This information was also available on the Australian Red Cross website.

RECOVERY COMMITTEES

Recovery committees have been established under the leadership of the NSW Premier's Department to facilitate the overall recovery of affected communities. Red Cross has been invited to represent the non-government sector on these committees.

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

Initial tasks were undertaken by volunteers from the affected and surrounding areas. Additional support for co-ordination roles was also provided from two other Divisions and Red Cross' National Office, as part of the Red Cross National Emergency Response Plan. As the scale of the operation expanded, volunteers were also drawn from other areas of NSW, to meet the surge requirements and provide a rest for the local volunteers. In total, more than 100 volunteers worked

at evacuation and recovery centres, as well as providing outreach services to more than 5,000 people.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

At least one ongoing Red Cross community services program was called into action during the NSW floods. Telecross is a free service offered by Australian Red Cross, providing a daily lifeline to thousands of people across NSW every year. Every morning, a trained Red Cross volunteer makes a short, friendly telephone call to a Telecross client to ensure that they are safe and well.

If the call is not answered, a second call is made. If there is still no response, Red Cross initiates an emergency procedure and arranges assistance if necessary. When elderly client Eileen did not respond to her daily Telecross call after the first night of the floods, her son-in-law was notified. When he visited her house to check on her well-being, he discovered that Eileen had taken a fall during the night and was in desperate need of assistance.

Every year, lives are saved by this vital and confidential service. For many lonely or isolated people, this daily contact with Telecross relieves social isolation whilst assisting clients to maintain their independence.

PREPARING COMMUNITIES FOR DISASTER

Australian Red Cross intends to contribute to the key area of community education. By identifying opportunities to complement the work of a range of other agencies already involved in this area, the aim is to develop and foster community capacity and resilience.

In addition, Australian Red Cross is pushing for longer involvement with communities that have experienced large disasters. By working closely with local communities and key agencies, Australian Red Cross may contribute to the management of immediate needs and spearhead longer-term initiatives to help the community achieve sustained recovery.

According to Robert Tickner, CEO, Australian Red Cross, we all have a responsibility to help in a crisis - large or small - and it's what we do before they occur that will truly make the difference.

"We pride ourselves on being able to respond quickly and efficiently to a crisis almost anywhere across the country. In terms of large scale disasters, the needs are changing dramatically. We need to ensure we remain at the forefront of disaster response - and the best way to do that is to help prepare people so that they can cope with a crisis when and wherever it may strike.

"Although Australia's emergency response units are well trained and prepared for any emergency scenario, Australian communities receive limited emergency preparation training. To this end, Australian Red Cross aims to contribute to education campaigns designed to teach individuals how to respond both in the immediate face of disaster and in the days and months afterwards," he says.

GOING BUSH? Got a beacon?

Distress Beacons save lives by sending emergency signals to satellites

There are two types of distress beacons in use:
121.5 MHz and 406 MHz.

121.5 MHz distress beacons will no longer be detected by satellite after 1 February 2009.



Be Safe, Be Sure.
Carry a digital 406 MHz
Personal Locator Beacon
(PLB) if you are venturing
into remote areas.



Australian Government

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

406 MHz beacons should be registered with AMSA to fully utilize the beacons features. Registration is free.

For more information see <http://beacons.amsa.gov.au> or phone 1800 406 406

Give your career a boost...

with a postgraduate degree from UNSW@ADFA, Canberra

Postgraduate coursework programs delivered on campus or by distance education

Graduate Certificates through to Masters Degrees

Coursework Programs in:

Enterprise Architecture | Defence Studies | Equipment and Technology | Project Management | Logistics | Defence Operations Research | Business Program Management | Leadership | Governance | Public Sector Management | and many other areas

Higher Degrees by Research across Business, Engineering and Science, Humanities and Social Sciences. What's your topic?

Interested? Find out more...

Call now for more information or visit our website
Telephone: 02 6268 6000 • Email: sas@adfa.edu.au

The University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy
Cricos Provider Code: 001100G • ETS9503

Professional Development

UNSW@ADFA run a number of professional education courses in systems engineering, project management, communication and defence.

Ask Us...

about gaining credit in UNSW@ADFA postgraduate programs

Full course outlines and registration details can be found online at www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/bdo or contact the Business Services Unit on 02 6268 8135 or by email: business.office@adfa.edu.au

www.unsw.adfa.edu.au



UNSW@ADFA
CANBERRA • AUSTRALIA

"In New Zealand, communities are being educated to look after themselves after an incident for up to three or four days. This acknowledges people's resilience and trains the community to rely on their own ability to cope in case, for whatever reason, teams can't get to them. We'll be aiming to promote similar concepts to develop and foster community capacity and resilience.

"We're seeing a significant change in the way both natural and human-made disasters are evolving, and Australian Red Cross is determined to adapt and respond to the changing face of disaster as effectively and efficiently as possible, drawing on our extensive experience both at home and overseas," says Mr Tickner.

THE VOLUNTEER NETWORK

This heightened focus on emergency management and disaster preparedness, however, also brings with it complications. While Australian Red Cross is able to plan and account for the deployment of its staff, its services also rely heavily on a vast volunteer network whose numbers and skills are less predictable.

"When there's a disaster, I think [communities] expect Red Cross to do lots of things," says Andrew Coghlan.

"They have an expectation of the people we've got out there, whether they're staff or volunteers. We expect the same standard of service from volunteers as we do from our paid staff."

Australian Red Cross is developing capacity and capability through a push towards nationalising its volunteer training. This includes educating all volunteers on the different relationships between Australian Red Cross and other emergency service groups in each state and territory, and enabling them to hit the ground running when disaster strikes. Specialised Australian Red Cross programs, such as providing personal support to people in crisis, have been streamlined into standard protocols across Australia so that all Australian Red Cross operators will speak the same language and work to the same standard regardless of geography.

"This means we have the capacity to send fully-trained staff and volunteers anywhere in Australia to assist at a major event," Coghlan says.

"It's important that people from the local community are at the front end of a disaster, making decisions that are best for their recovery, but we can very quickly organise back-up to help them achieve their goals."

The nationalised approach will also help with the challenge of managing a shift in the volunteer pool from long-term to 'spontaneous' volunteers. Traditionally, Red Cross volunteers signed on for several years. Today, Coghlan says, volunteers may be younger and more committed to helping with disasters as they arise rather than providing ongoing support. To help deal with this new trend, the organisation is adding short, sharp training programs to its mix – programs that will be the same Australia-wide and can be rolled out on the run.

"After Cyclone Larry we had about 800 people volunteer up in Cairns," Coghlan says.

"We used about 450 of them. It worked really well and gave us a good spread of volunteers. For example, a large group of backpackers who were staying in Cairns at the time wanted to help out for a week or two while they were on holiday, so they became Red Cross volunteers and were really valuable to our effort."

WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Australian Red Cross is also aiming to contribute to the change and development of emergency management policy and practice more broadly. This includes tapping the extensive knowledge base of the international Red Cross movement to encourage more cross-border emergency support from a range of Australian agencies.

"For example, the 2004 tsunami and the Bali bombings saw Australians affected outside the country," Andrew Coghlan says.

"They had to be supported in whatever country they were in and then supported again when they got home, hence that crossover. In the past, we used to think of disasters only as floods and bushfires that happened in Australia that were dealt with by Australian agencies and that was the end of it.

"We're seeing a significant change in the way both natural and man-made disasters are evolving, and Australian Red Cross is determined to adapt and respond to the changing face of disaster as effectively and efficiently as possible."

Red Cross is a world-wide resource to be drawn on in times of crisis - staff and volunteers are present in most countries throughout the world, and trained in emergency response and disaster management.

EVERYDAY EMERGENCIES

It's not just the large scale disasters that we need to prepare for, according to Australian Red Cross CEO Robert Tickner. There are everyday emergencies like those confronting the frail and elderly living at home, young people at risk from drugs, children who go without breakfast, people isolated by mental illness, or families torn apart by war and desperately searching for loved ones.

"It seems as though there is a new disaster or conflict occurring somewhere in the world every time we read the newspaper or watch a news bulletin. And whenever possible, we will do our best to help those left vulnerable," he says.

"But every day, there are Australians faced with crises of their own, and Australian Red Cross is there. It's crises like these - the everyday emergencies - that you will never hear about but certainly exist, and they affect thousands of Australians every day," says Mr Tickner.

Red Cross is committed to assisting those facing emergencies; both everyday emergencies and the devastating large scale disasters that shake whole communities. ●

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NORTHERN FLOODS OF 2007

Sindy McCourt, of the South Australian State Emergency Service, gives us an insight into the multi-role facing volunteers. She was in charge of media contact, an on the ground volunteer and also a property owner. Here's her recollection of January's floods.

Sindy McCourt

State Emergency Services, SA

WITH NOAH UNAVAILABLE, THE SES PROVIDES THE ARK

If the rains in the North Region last January came down with the same verocity and time frame in the Adelaide metropolitan area, the result would have been catastrophic.

Over the three day period, up 183mm (more than seven inches in the old money) came down in an area from Coober Pedy drifting to Hawker in the Flinders Ranges, impacting on Whyalla and down to Port Pirie.

That's about 600 square kilometres.

If it was the metropolitan area imagine how houses, roads, bridges and buildings would have been washed away and population devastated.

In the country areas, there's less infrastructure, less population. But don't let that give you an impression that the water just fell on open plains and wide brown land and didn't cause major destruction.

The SES operation for these floods turned out to be one of the biggest I have worked in and comparable to recent events like the market garden area of Virginia and beachside suburb Glenelg where hundreds of houses were inundated with sudden water logging and flooding.

As you can see in the pictures, roads were washed away and trees down. On our own property at Hawker, my husband and I lost 15 kilometres of fencing, banks and dam infrastructure as well as having buildings inundated by torrents of water. Muddy, disgusting water.

From the Thursday to the Saturday, other remote communities from Innamincka, Oodnadatta and William Creek, who became isolated when roads were cut, endured the first flood damage.

I was on the phone the whole time so we could ensure supplies such as medicines, food, resources.

But once again they showed how resilient and well prepared these communities are.

For example, Innamincka turned out to be self sufficient for eight to twelve weeks of no road access before they would run out of essentials of bread to toilet paper and medical supplies.

They are so isolated and so well organised even country towns near the metropolitan area would struggle to be as well prepared.

That early contact gave us an early warning ... an idea of what we were facing. Of course we had the weather reports from the bureau, but the first hand reports gave us what we needed.

Innamincka would supply us with levels in Coopers Creek which gives us an idea what levels were flowing down and by whether it was increasing or decreasing, we'd get a more accurate picture.

24 hours before the large influx of water, those SES in the north region were being proactive in sandbagging and preparing in their local communities for the flood.

As a result, in Hawker, some of the buildings managed to survive with minimal damage due to the efforts of the crews.

They were down there at midnight on Friday night sandbagging the hotel and businesses in the area.





"Over the three day period, up 183mm came down ... If it was the metropolitan area imagine how houses, roads, bridges and buildings would have been washed away and population ... But don't let that give you an impression that the water just fell on open plains and wide brown land and didn't cause major destruction."



It was done within hours and just in time. Rain started to fall about 2am on the Saturday morning.

I went back into work at North Region headquarters at 7am to find there'd been large rainfall. And what rain. At that point, we had issues at Hawker, Port Pirie and Whyalla.

We had five crews working out of Port Pirie, the Hawker crew being assisted by the CFS as well as teams in Whyalla and Port Augusta.

My job was to be media liason officer. That involved getting the information out as often as possible so the public were kept up to date. I also had to do co-ordination so I didn't do any television. I left that for the guys with the cocky shit on their shoulders.

Saturday the work was so immense that we flew a crew from Port Broughton into Hawker to help out.

After three days of biblical proportion rains, we were left with roads such as the Cradock to Yendalue Road which lost up to three metres of soil (note: see in the picture the grate was left standing on it's own) and main arterial roads that left Hawker and even large towns like Whyalla isolated for up to 48 hours.

Luckily there was minimal damage to buildings with most of the damage done to roads. But remember in these isolated communities, these arterial roads bring the life blood to them all.

Millions of dollars damage and many months of repair ahead.

No human lives were lost and the town was affected for weeks to come. What volunteers did over that time was amazing especially when you consider what happened. The landscape was changed by this immense flood so much that I reckon if you passed through some areas even a local going through for first time after the flood would be lost.

Trees, big ones with five metre bases ... just washed away, banks of creeks are now up to fifty metres wider.

For me, the immediate task was like any other victim. I've done the fence repairs. I took a week off and helped with my family to clean up the immediate mess in the sheds and fencing so we could contain stock.

As you could imagine with such a wide area, earth moving equipment is in such wide demand that the completion of the repairs will be many months ahead.

I haven't even really looked at the final bill, but at about \$2,000 a kilometre for fencing and about \$20,000 of hay and stock loss, my husband and I might be up for about \$80,000 in loss. But certainly, others in Cradock certainly would fare worse. Some lost up to 70 kilometres in fences and larger stock losses ... mostly sheep.

I'd personally like to thank all those crews who helped on the operation but also to those who found out I was personally affected. I had volunteers from Adelaide willing to send crews to help on the property, paid staff in headquarters offering to help. I was blown away with the support and I thank you very much. ●

AUSTRALIAN EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCIES/ ORGANISATIONS

Their Roles, Functions and Responsibilities

In this issue of our journal, including future issues, where practicable, and editorial space is available, we will include a series of articles providing a synopsis of the roles, functions, responsibilities and *raison d'être* of various emergency management agencies in Australia.

Bob Maul, LFAIES

General Secretary/Registrar

Our members throughout Australia come from a wide ranging variety of agencies, including inter alia, Police, SES, Rural and Metropolitan Fire Services, Ambulance Services, Land and Marine Rescue Services, Medical, Hospital Nursing, Health and Welfare Services and Emergency Management Organisations. Whilst many members have a detailed understanding of their own organisations, it may be advantageous for them to become au fait with the roles and functions of other bodies, especially as there may be numerous occasions in the future where they may need to support other emergency management agencies in counter disaster or emergency management operations. A knowledge of each other's roles would, therefore, be helpful.

QUEENSLAND STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE

(Reprinted from Queensland SES and VMR website)

The Queensland State Emergency Service and Volunteer Marine Rescue (SES and VMR) is a unit of the Queensland Counter Disaster and Rescue Service, which is a division of the Department of Emergency Services. The SES & VMR provides support to SES volunteer units, groups and members and emergency services cadet groups throughout Queensland. Support is also given to the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, Queensland Volunteer Marine Rescue Association and Queensland Surf Life Saving. The Office provides support through the provision of the following services:

- Resource and Assistance Management;
- Education and Training;
- Public Awareness and Education;
- Youth Development

The Agency's mission is to improve community safety and contribute to the protection of economic

development and the environment by providing support for volunteer SES Units and Volunteer Marine Rescue Associations. The goals of the agency are to ensure Volunteer SES Units are adequately supported and ensure Volunteer Marine Rescue Service levels.

The organisation's customers include Local Government, SES Volunteer Emergency Service Cadets, VMR Associations and their affiliated units and the community. SES and VMR Services are delivered through a team of professional State HQ staff located at the Emergency Service Complex at Kedron, Brisbane. Direct support for SES Units is delivered through twelve permanent District Officers located throughout various Regions in Queensland.

(For more details re Qld SES and VMR visit their website www.emergency.qld.gov.au)

NSW OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

(Reprinted from Office for Emergency Services website)

The Office for Emergency Services was established in July 1995 following a review by the Office of the Council on the Cost to Government of the policy and legislative support arrangements for the Minister for Emergency Services.

ROLE OF THE OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES.

The Office for Emergency Services provides:

- Strategic co-ordination, support and independent policy advice to the Minister for Emergency Services and portfolio agencies, including the New South Wales Fire Brigades, the New South Wales Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service.
- Executive and administrative support to the State Rescue Board and the State Emergency Management Committee.



The Office, which is administratively supported by the NSW Rural Fire Service, comprises three units:

POLICY CO-ORDINATION UNIT

The principal responsibilities of the Policy Co-ordination Unit are to provide high level policy and executive support to the Minister in respect to the emergency services portfolio, with particular emphasis on:

- policy analysis and the development and co-ordination of emergency service policy proposals;
- the review of all submissions/correspondence referred to the Minister for Emergency Services;
- legislative and parliamentary support; and
- advice on financial and capital resource planning and management of all agencies within the emergency services portfolio.

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) is the principal committee established by the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989 as amended, for the purposes of emergency management throughout the State. In particular, this committee is responsible for emergency planning at state level.

As at September 2002, the SEMC's role was broadened to review the security and emergency management arrangements for the State's critical infrastructure.

The SEMC Secretariat provides administrative support to the SEMC to assist it in carrying out its legislative responsibilities. Principal objectives of the State Emergency Management Committee include:

- formulation and promulgation of plans for the provision of significant, controlled and co-ordinated responses to emergencies by all agencies at all levels;
- establishing and maintaining control, co-ordination and communications systems and networks within and between emergency services and functional areas at all levels;
- formulating, reviewing and promulgating emergency management training policies; and
- developing and implementing public awareness programs.

The Secretariat also:

- provides executive and administrative support to the State Emergency Operations Controller; and
- maintains and operates the State Emergency Operations Centre, which is located in the Sydney Police Centre.

STATE RESCUE BOARD SECRETARIAT

The State Rescue Board is established by the State Emergency and Rescue and Management Act 1989 as amended, and effectively comprises the operational heads of the emergency service agencies in the State.

The Board's principal function is to ensure the maintenance of efficient and effective rescue services for the state of New South Wales.

The Secretariat's principal responsibilities are to:

- provide administrative and executive support to the State Rescue Board; and
- to control and administer requests for funding from accredited volunteer organisations.

(For further details on the NSW Office for Emergency Service visit website www.emergency.nsw.gov.au)

VICTORIA STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

(Reprinted from Victoria SES website)

The Victoria State Emergency Service is a volunteer based organisation responding to emergencies and working to ensure the safety of communities in Victoria. It is the lead agency when responding to flood, storm and earthquakes and operates the largest network of road rescue units in Australia. The SES also provides assistance to other services such as Police and Municipal Councils in planning and auditing their emergency management plans.

There are more than 55,000 committed and dedicated volunteers in the State who provide these services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365/6 days in the year. The SES plays a key role in countering the effects of natural and technological emergencies. It also has an important role to support Victoria's emergency management arrangements through planning and preparedness activities. This is done by assisting Municipal Councils and other agencies with the provision of advice, information, education and training in relation to emergency management which includes prevention of, response to, and recovery from emergencies.

Victoria State Emergency Service has recently developed a "Community Emergency Risk Management Model" which it is using to assist Municipal Councils to enhance their emergency management plans so that councils can fulfil the revised funding arrangements under the Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements. The Agency is represented on all major emergency management committees at National, State and Regional levels and contributes significantly to the development of emergency management policy.

(For further details of the Victoria SES visit the website www.ses.vic.gov.au)

VICTORIAN COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY

(Reprinted from the CFA website)

The Victorian Country Fire Authority is one of the largest volunteer based emergency services. There are around 58,000 volunteer members supported by 400 career firefighters and officers and 700 career, administrative and support staff. Situated in Victoria, there are 2.5 million people and 150,182 square kilometres of land in the CFA area. This area includes 980,000 homes and covers all of rural Victoria, and the provincial cities and towns



(Except State Forests and National Parks). The area also includes more than a million residents of outer Melbourne suburbs such as Frankston and Dandenong, and key growth areas such as Cranbourne, Melton and Werribee.

CFA divide the land covered into 9 CFA Areas and 20 Regions. There are 1,300 CFA Brigades across the State and they carry out a range of duties. The brigades respond to a range of different incidents and its broader activities include community education and fire investigation. The ties between CFA and State and Local Government, industry and brigades are essential to the successful operation of the CFA. As a community service organisation, CFA brigades are strongly supported by their local communities in responding to meet Victoria's fire safety and emergency management needs.

(For further details of the CFA visit the website www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEER COAST GUARD

(Reprinted from AVCG website)

The Australian Volunteer Coast Guard (AVCG) is an organisation composed entirely of volunteers formed in 1961 to promote safety in the operation of small craft. It guards the coast in the most effective way - initially by education, example, examination and finally by search and rescue. They have no law enforcement powers and enjoy a reputation for being helpful and courteous to boat owners.

Australia, the world's largest island, has a coastline of 19,650 kilometres (12,210 miles). Ninety percent (90%) of the population of 20 million live within 120km of the coastline, and 70% in the coastal belt from Cairns in Queensland to Adelaide in South Australia.

Flotillas and radio bases are located from the Skardon River in the Gulf of Carpentaria down the eastern seaboard to Ceduna in South Australia, including Tasmania and major inland lakes and weirs. Expansion is continuing in areas of need. The AVCG and affiliation owned resources in these areas include:

- 103 rescue vessels
- 147 radio bases under the control of 71 flotillas
- 30 communications and display vans
- 4 fixed wing aircraft
- Qualified divers

Services provided by the AVCG are:

- Radio monitoring – each flotilla has radio facilities monitoring many of the marine disaster frequencies;
- Safety patrols – association member owned vessels patrol waterways assisting the public with safe boating advice, mechanical problems and responding to distress calls when they occur. All vessels are on 24 hour standby;
- Search and rescue – the coast guard works closely with the State Water Police and other volunteer rescue associations in search and rescue operations.

(For further details of the AVCG visit the website www.coastguard.com.au)

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE

(Reprinted from the SA CFS website)

The South Australia Country Fire Service (CFS) is a community based fire and emergency service dedicated to the protection of life and property, and the environment in rural and semi-urban South Australia.

The Service works with other agencies, industry and the community to reduce risks and combat hazards. CFS is a statutory authority reporting to the Minister for Emergency Services within the Justice Portfolio. The agency consists of over 15,500 volunteers and 85 full-time equivalents providing a range of fire and emergency services to more than 430 communities in South Australia.

The extraordinary contribution of CFS volunteers is vital in ensuring ongoing delivery of fire and emergency services throughout the State. CFS attends around 7,000 incidents each year, among them:

- Bushfires
 - Fire protection at road crashes
 - Rescue of trapped persons from road crashes
 - Hazardous materials spills
 - Structure and motor vehicle fires
 - Support to the SA Metropolitan Fire Service and SES
- In addition, the CFS performs an important role with Local Government, in fuel removal and bush fire prevention, and in community bushfire and fire safety education. With a vision of "a safer community", the CFS' mission is to protect life, property and the environment from fire and other emergencies, whilst protecting and supporting CFS personnel and striving for continual improvement. Apart from the 15,590 volunteers, the CFS infrastructure and personnel assets comprise, inter alia,
- 439 brigades
 - 33 HAZMAT brigades
 - 66 road crash rescue brigades
 - 11,240 firefighters
 - 3,350 members
 - 920 cadet members
 - 412 fire stations
 - 6 regional officers
 - 2 training centres
 - 1,900 government radio network (GRN) mobile receivers
 - 1,450 GRN portable radios
 - 12,000 GRN pagers
 - 2,100 VHF radios
 - 85 urban and 492 rural fire fighting appliances
 - 2 HAZMAT appliances
 - 108 command vehicles
 - 9 rescue vehicles
 - 19 bulk water carriers

The CFS' budget in 2004/5 was \$A48 million.

(For further info on the SA CFA please visit website www.cfs.org.au) ●



CONFERENCES

2008

2008 IAWP TRAINING CONFERENCE

"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 of its people and their diversity. For more info go to: www.nt.gov.au/pfes/police/community/iawp/index.html



Australian Red Cross

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Safetystores

Ph: (08) 8443 9700

*Proudly supporting the emergency
response campaign in 2007*

smf 
wealth management

*Providing effective wealth management and
personal insurance solutions....*

114 - 116 Murray Street (Ground Floor)
HOBART

or

Level 1, 22 Cameron Street
LAUNCESTON

Ph: 1800 008 992

*Proudly supporting our local
Emergency Response Campaign*



**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 Email: general.registrar@aies.net.au
National Web Site: www.aies.net.au

NEW SOUTH WALES AND NEW ZEALAND

The Registrar - NSW Division of Australian Institute of Emergency Services. PO Box 57 Oatley, NSW 2223
Email: 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. Unit 21/17 Fourth Ave Everard Park, SA 5035
Email: registrar.nt@aies.net.au, registrar.sa@aies.net.au,
registrar.was@aies.net.au

TASMANIA

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

QUEENSLAND

The Registrar - QLD Division of Australian Institute of Emergency Services. PO Box 590 Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006
Email: registrar.qld@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

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

The Registrar - ACT Division of Australian Institute of Emergency Services. 59 Majors Close Wamboin, NSW 2620
Email: registrar.act@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 website.
- 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.

- Corporate members receive a bronze plaque free of charge and can advertise on the AIES website, 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



NATIONAL (GENERAL) COUNCIL

National President Maurice Massie, QPM, LFAIES	Phone: (03) 6248 6373 Email: president.national@aies.net.au	
National Vice President Brian Lancaster, ESM, LFAIES	Phone: (08) 8381 2825 Email: vpresident.national@aies.net.au	
General Registrar/Company Secretary Bob Maul, LFAIES, JP	Phone: (02) 9969 9216 Email: general.secretary@aies.net.au	6 Union Street MOSMAN NSW 2088

NEW SOUTH WALES & NEW ZEALAND DIVISION

President Alan Holley, MAIES	Phone: 0414 542 175 Email 1: president.nsw@aies.net.au Email 2: president.nz@aies.net.au	
Registrar Gaye Cameron, MAIES	Phone: 0417 498 671 0407 401 597 Email 1: registrar.nsw@aies.net.au Email 2: registrar.nz@aies.net.au	PO Box 57 OATLEY NSW 2223

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY DIVISION

President John Rice, MAIES	Phone: (02) 6238 3791 Email: president.act@aies.net.au	
Registrar Philip Gaden, MAIES	Phone: (02) 6259 7948 0413 137 761 Email 1: registrar.nt@aies.net.au Email 2: registrar.sa@aies.net.au Email 3: registrar.wa@aies.net.au	59 Majors Close WAMBOIN NSW 2620

NORTHERN TERRITORY, SOUTH AUSTRALIA & WESTERN AUSTRALIA DIVISION

President Barry Presgrave, OAM, FAIES	Phone: (08) 8278 8530 Email 1: president.nt@aies.net.au Email 2: president.sa@aies.net.au Email 3: president.wa@aies.net.au	
Registrar Jan Burgess, MAIES	Phone: 0411 446 656 Email 1: registrar.nt@aies.net.au Email 2: registrar.sa@aies.net.au Email 3: registrar.wa@aies.net.au	Unit 21/17 Fourth Ave EVERARD PARK SA 5035

QUEENSLAND DIVISION

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

TASMANIA DIVISION

President Darrell Johnson, FAIES	Phone: (03) 6250 2902 0408 337 957 Email: president.tas@aies.net.au	
Registrar Jannene Geard, MAIES	Phone: (03) 6249 0918 (03) 6268 1143 Email: registrar.tas@aies.net.au	PO Box 1 LINDISFARNE TAS 7015

VICTORIA DIVISION

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

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE JOURNAL (NER) & AIES WEBSITE

Editor - NER Allan Calleja	Phone: 0415 446 031 Email: allancalleja@netspace.net.au	
Associate Editor - NER & Website Mark Sawszak, MAIES	Phone: (02) 4729 3387 Fax: (02) 4722 6296 Email: ner@aies.net.au	PO Box 525 PENRITH NSW 2751
Associate Editor - NER & Website Martin Page, MAIES	Email: web@aies.net.au	
Sub-Editor - Mailing List Mark Preston, MAIES	Email: mail.ner@aies.net.au	





CONSOLIDATED NICKEL PTY LTD

PO Box 221
Kambalda, WA, 6442
Ph: (08) 9080 2000
Fax: (08) 9080 2016

*Proud to support the National
Emergency Response Teams in 2007
Supporting the volunteers that risk
their lives on a daily basis*



How military thinking can enhance business productivity.



Reservists are smarter thinkers, problem solvers with a team spirit to get on with the job. They are disciplined, motivated, highly focused and develop a range of skills that become second nature to them. It's qualities such as these that will contribute to your company succeeding in today's ever evolving business climate. What's more, the Employer Support Payment Scheme provides financial assistance of more than \$1,000* per week, which may be used for offsetting the costs of releasing Reservists for duty and paying for replacement staff. Discover for yourself how a Reservist can enhance your business. With a range of other support services also available to employers, you'll soon see how a Reservist can make all the difference.

Find out more – call 1800 803 485 or visit www.defence.gov.au/reserves **DEFENCE RESERVES SUPPORT**



*Conditions apply. Visit www.defence.gov.au/reserves for further details.