



NATIONAL EMERGENCY

R e s p o n s e

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

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NATIONAL EMERGENCY R e s p o n s e

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Winter2010 • National Emergency Response

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FRONTCOVER

Hail stones the size of tennis balls damaged property across Melbourne in the State's worst storm in history.
Photo: courtesy of VIC SES.



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AIES NEWS

AIES is pleased to announce the following emergency service people became members of the Institute between March and May 2010.

| NAME | ORGANISATION | STATE |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Robert Butterfield | Mines Rescue | TAS |
| Jarred Gilbert | Ambulance Service | SA |
| Raymond Calliope | Police Service | QLD |
| David Gossage | Serpentine/Jarrahdale | WA |
| Jenny Crump | SES | QLD |
| Jennine Kingston | Carathool Shire | NSW |
| Alexander Rees | Police Service | QLD |
| Brent Webber | Rural Fire Service | NSW |
| Mark Tregellas | Police Service | VIC |
| Andrew Luke | Rural Fire Service | NSW |
| Shaun Merrigan | Police Service | VIC |
| Paul Centofanti | Ambulance Service | VIC |
| Travis Bell | SES | QLD |
| Peter Kelly | AMSA | ACT |

The National Annual General Meetings for 2010 took place in Melbourne on 19 April. The National Executive Report, along with the 2009 Financial Statement can be found on pages 14 and 15 of this issue of the *National Emergency Response Journal*. The Divisions also held Annual General Meetings recently. A summary of Divisional reports can be read on page 16. ●

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Alan Marshall, FAIES

National President

The Australian Institute of Emergency Services National Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting were held in Melbourne on 19 April 2010.

AIES President for the last 12 months John Rice did not re-nominate for the position due to work commitments. I take this opportunity on behalf of the Board to thank John for his direction, guidance and resolve over the past year on a number of issues, which required many hours of work for the Institute.

As the newly elected President of the Institute, I welcome Mr Rice as the Vice President and look forward to his expertise. We are all appreciative of his continuity on the Board. We are also pleased that the services of Michael Davis AM, FAIES (Queensland) have been retained.

This year saw the resignation of two long serving members of the Board. On behalf of the Board and all members of the Institute I would like to offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to Maurice Massie QPM, LFAIES and to Brian Lancaster ESM, JP, LFAIES for their tireless service to members over many years; in particular, Brian Lancaster, who was an inaugural member of the Institute and served over 30 years. Maurice retains a position on the committee in Tasmania and Brian has been appointed as a special advisor to the South Australia Division.

I would like to formally welcome to the AIES Board Barry Presgrave OAM, LFAIES, JP (South Australia), Stephen Anderson MAIES (New South Wales) and Darrel Johnson, FAIES (Tasmania).

Following the AGM formalities we enjoyed an address by Col. Roger Jones, MAIAM, FAIES, psc. Roger's topic, Just One More Challenge for

the Future, was a thought-provoking and interesting address. Roger suggested in closing that the Institute takes on one more challenge – looking for ways in which, in pursuit of the Institute's aims and objectives, we can actively promote development of coherent, national, comprehensive and integrated emergency management policies and arrangements. My thanks go to Roger for taking the time from his busy schedule to address the meeting.

Following the National Board meeting, we agreed to make a number of changes to the Institute's Constitution and Articles of Association to bring our governing documentations into line with a modern contemporary structure.

Administrative arrangements are also underway to reduce the eligibility age for full membership of the Institute from 21 years to 18 years and to remove the qualification period for full time and volunteer members.

As the changes proposed by the Board are constitutional in nature, they will not take effect until passed by members at the next Annual General Meeting, or until the Board can arrange a special meeting of members. In the meantime, all applications for Ordinary Membership from people less than 21 years or age, or less than the current qualification period of two years for full time members and four years for volunteer members, will be granted Associate membership on approval that will automatically revert to full membership when the changes come into effect.

The Board also approved the implementation of the National Awards and AIES National Medal program that is aimed at recognising excellence of our members and members of the



emergency services generally. Once the award scheme has been finalised, each division of the Institute will be responsible for submitting nominations for consideration and approval by the Board. Details of the scheme, together with nomination forms and criteria, will be outlined in future editions of the *National Emergency Response*.

I am pleased to announce that the Board has agreed to support the AIES Young Volunteer Award again for 2010/11. Our thanks must go to the Emergency Response division of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority for its support as sponsor for the 2009/2010 Award. Award details and nomination criteria will soon be available on the Institute's web site.

Each year the General Council awards a contribution of a published article in *National Emergency Response*. Congratulations to our 2009-10 recipient of the award, valued at \$300, Chas Keys MAIES for his article on the Four Challenges for Emergency Management in Australia, published in the Autumn 2010 edition of our journal. ●



UK SAFETY NETWORKS SET BENCHMARK FOR AUSTRALASIA



Paul Isaacs

The primary remits of public safety communications are to protect people from harm and to provide a safe and secure environment to allow them to go about their daily business. This goal is not something that necessarily changes with the country, although the approaches taken and solutions required will differ as the geographical area and population density varies from one market to another. Lessons have been learned from the United Kingdom's complete overhaul of its public safety communications infrastructure, and could be applied to the Australasian market.

UK-based company Airwave Solutions launched the Airwave network in the UK in 2005, which provided a much-needed modernisation to public safety communications infrastructure and is the most extensive and advanced TETRA network in the world today. There are obvious differences between the communications needs for the Australasian markets compared with the UK requirements—such as the vast rural areas of scant population interspersed with very dense urban populations in Australia. There are, however, many similarities where the UK experience can be shared.

The condition of Asia Pacific's public safety communications networks today is strikingly similar to the condition of the UK's emergency radio infrastructure before Airwave's solution was implemented. In the UK prior to 2005, every agency had an individual radio network which only covered its own operational area. There were over 50 independent police networks alone. Communication between counties and between agencies was rarely possible except by the relaying of messages between control rooms.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Furthermore, the equipment being used in the UK was often old and outdated, and there was limited money available for renewals and replacements. Unencrypted transmissions also presented a serious security issue. With little or no network security in place, most communications were easily overheard by anybody with a simple scanning receiver and an inclination to listen in, allowing details about emergency services operations to be leaked into the public domain.

Stories are rife about police officers arriving at the scene of a break-in to find the only thing left behind is a radio scanner tuned to the police frequencies. Simply put, unsecured radio networks allow emergency services communications to be exploited by anybody who stands to gain from such information.

This was the situation encountered in the UK, but it is also fairly representative of where Australia and New Zealand public safety communication networks stood until recent times. Wide area digital networks are yet to be fully deployed; therefore public safety professionals

in these countries cannot rely on communications with their colleagues or supervisors. There are huge black spots in the network's coverage, and Murphy's Law dictates that operations always occur where the communications infrastructure is weakest.

The effect of this is that decisions taken at the scene of an incident—often with life or death implications—frequently have to be made without the benefit of the breadth of information that is available to the control room staff.

A SINGLE SECURE STATE-WIDE NETWORK

The public safety communications network in the Australasian market would benefit from a similar business model as the one developed by Airwave for the UK. The first stage would be the establishment of a single government agency to address the specific communications requirements of all public safety agencies within a state. The second stage would be the development of a single state or nationwide radio network for use by all these agencies.

Such a move would have many benefits. The construction of a single network would be more successful in attracting funding, and would provide greater scope for private-sector investment. Furthermore, it would streamline the project management requirement, leading to faster program delivery, and would also facilitate the adoption of up-to-the-minute technologies to adequately address security, reliability and coverage issues.

Excellent coverage and full redundancy are key requisites for a successful single network encompassing the full breadth of a state's public safety communications needs. Crucially, it also needs to be operated professionally. A modern state-wide P25 or TETRA network—providing fully encrypted voice and data services—requires, and deserves, a proficient organisation to operate it to accepted standards. International standards such as the Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) or ISO20000 set the benchmark for a good, reliable network. An independent organisation would have the flexibility to provide this dedication of purpose away from the pressures of individual agencies.

RISK AND OPPORTUNITIES

One crucial lesson learnt early-on in the building of the UK Airwave network is that modern networks cannot be built using old strategies if the benefits of modern technologies are to be enjoyed. A P25 or TETRA network is actually closer to a GSM network than to a conventional private mobile radio (PMR) network, and it has to be designed and operated accordingly.

The creation of a single government agency to establish a single network run by one dedicated operator will create both risks and opportunities. The risks—financial, commercial and operational—can be mitigated by a careful choice of operator and financier with the correct focus and motivation, risk transfer to operator, and maintained through stringent service level agreements.

The most common risk pointed out for this strategy is the 'all-the-eggs-in-one-basket' scenario. However, there is arguably less risk in having one well-designed and professionally maintained network, than there is in relying on a hotchpotch of capacity constrained, low-availability legacy networks utilising obsolete technology and equipment.

The opportunities on the other hand, are immense. Safe, secure, reliable communications can be established with unprecedented levels of availability, operated by a body whose sole purpose is to deliver and maintain radio communications. This will enable emergency services personnel to be in constant communication with their chain of command, allowing them to both feel safer, and be safer.

The experience gained and lessons learned in the UK could facilitate the timely and efficient development of quality public safety communication networks that are both responsive and adaptive enough to match the challenging environments found in Australia and New Zealand. ●

Paul Isaacs is Head of Engineering at Airwave Solutions Limited. Prior to his role as Head of Technical Design and Innovation, he led the team of 50 engineers that delivered the UK's cutting-edge TETRA trunked radio network, which now serves more than 250 organisations across the whole of the UK, including police, fire and ambulance.





JUST ONE MORE CHALLENGE FOR THE FUTURE

AIES Annual General Meeting, Key Note Address,
Melbourne, 19 April 2010

Col. Roger **Jones**, FAIES, MIAEM psc



"... while there has been nationwide acceptance of the widespread advice to residents in bushfire-prone areas to prepare well and defend or leave early, there appears to have been little recognition of the clear internal inconsistencies in this advice for both residents and responders and consequently a lack of necessary planning for shelters and evacuation."



Photo: Kathryn Marchetti

I have to admit that I was a bit put out last month when I opened my Autumn 2010 copy of *National Emergency Response*. This issue has five whole pages devoted to an opinion piece by my old friend and occasional sparring partner Chas Keys, the former Deputy DG of the New South Wales SES, entitled *Four Challenges for Emergency Management in Australia*. Really, he didn't have the courtesy to acknowledge that barely 18 months previously I had given a keynote address to the October 2008 Combined Emergency Services Seminar in Melbourne entitled

30 Years of Challenge - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. It's not as though our emergency services haven't enough challenges already! But on mature reflection, I have decided not to call Chas out at dawn for a duel with pistols (no danger, really - I suspect that neither of us at our age would be a particularly good shot) because I agree with a lot of what Chas writes.

THE KEYS' CHALLENGES

If you haven't already done so, I strongly recommend that you read Chas' article in the most recent edition of *NER* (Autumn 2010). In the course of an informed discussion of many of the problems facing us today, he identifies what he considers as our four most significant future challenges. The first two are:

- The need to be more effective in engaging with communities, in that we don't put enough informed effort into our activities designed to educate the public in relation to hazards, and that there have been too many failures in our warning processes; and
- The need to address our huge land management problem in Australia, particularly by dealing with the many conflicts of interest our governments and courts have to deal with in land management issues, with increasing population pressures and demands for development in hazardous locations having the capacity to increase community vulnerability.

I agree strongly with Chas' arguments on both these issues. And I note that both of these issues, of the necessity for improved community engagement with particular regard to public education and warning and of the need for better land management with particular regard to risk reduction, have featured largely in the work of the present Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission (VBRC) and are likely to get special mention in the Commission's final report in July. But I would like to have a bit more to say about the other two issues Chas raises – what he calls 'dealing with the fragmentation of our emergency response effort' and 'addressing deficiencies in our emergency planning processes'.

A DIGRESSION

First, a brief digression, which I hope might explain something of where I'm coming from.

I spent almost the whole of the month of January this year, at the request of a Victorian Government department, working up a background briefing paper intended for consultants proposed to be employed to address an issue which had been raised in the current Royal Commission. One element of that paper required a fairly detailed review of State level arrangements for disaster management policy, response control and coordination and executive government involvement Australia wide.

Another element required a brief survey of some relevant overseas examples, and for this purpose we surveyed what we believed to be roughly-comparable administrative units to the state of Victoria - such as California in the United States, British Columbia in Canada (which recently staged the Winter Olympics), Gauteng Province in South Africa (which includes Pretoria, the republic's administrative capital and the major city of Johannesburg, and which is to host the World Soccer Cup shortly) and London in the United Kingdom - but in the first three also focussing on the influence of federal type administrations.

I emphasise that my role in this project was essentially that of a collator and editor – most of the material was contributed by other researchers, but clearly my job consisted of verifying information sources and drawing together some relevant observations. So the observations that follow are my own and, while drawn from the material we surveyed in the course of that project, could not be attributed to any other of the many contributors.

SOME OBSERVATIONS

First, based on the Australian information we gathered in that project, let me comment on where I see where we've got to at State and Territory level in our arrangements for emergency management policy, response control and coordination, and executive government involvement in emergency management issues.

- Over the years I've written a number of articles and given many lectures in which I've tried to trace the evolution of emergency management policy and arrangements in Australia from the days of the old Civil Defence organisations.

"Post 9/11, it was inevitable that some ... (national leadership and direction in emergency management) effort would have to be redirected to deal with the threat of terrorism, but I have the real feeling that in the process much of the momentum towards a real national approach to emergency management in its entirety appears to have been lost."



- Initially, my outlook was inevitably influenced by my experience at Federal level, with the original NDO and subsequently ACDC, but after Ash Wednesday and my Victorian experience I saw things more from the State viewpoint.
- In general, I'd been heartened by what I saw as progressive development towards the adoption of more integrated and comprehensive emergency management policies and arrangements. The Commonwealth seemed to be offering something of

a leadership role in the development of appropriate concepts and principles on which those policies and arrangements could be based and in providing relevant resource and training support. In their turn, the States and Territories, through new legislation and management arrangements, seemed to be increasingly reflecting a convergence of views on the way ahead nationally for emergency management. Indeed, over the late 1990s and in the first years of this decade, in international

conferences and in my work in the South Pacific in particular, I was proud to point to these developments as providing something of a model.

- Now, though, when I come to look at how Australian Federal and State arrangements appear to have evolved in more recent years, I have to admit that I am more than a little dismayed. In trying to explain my reasons for this, let me first go to Chas Keys' third challenge for the future, which he described as: dealing with the fragmentation of our emergency response effort.

OUR FRAGMENTED RESPONSE EFFORT

Chas' argument is that for a relatively small country, Australia has a huge variety of agencies with responsibilities for managing our various sources of risk to community safety, and that there are great differences in the managerial approaches our various jurisdictions - national, state and local - take to deal with them. (In passing, Chas suggests that there is perhaps one field, that of bushfire management, where between states similarities are greater than their differences. I suspect, however, that our present Royal Commissioners might find cause to argue even with that, on the basis of recent experience.

Chas concludes that our national emergency response effort could be strengthened by ensuring that jurisdictional arrangements reflect what he calls good practice.

Certainly, our recent review of current jurisdictional arrangements Australia wide supports Chas' criticism, but when it comes to who determines the good practice it is quite apparent that every State and Territory has its own take on that. At last count, for example, there are more than 40 manuals in the Australian Emergency Manuals Series, each of them contributed to by working parties and review teams from all Federal and State/Territory jurisdictions and relevant technical agencies, but I can safely predict that any audit of the extent to which our various jurisdictions actually implement those hundreds of pages of so-called good practice would find us sadly wanting.

In looking at overseas practice, our recent Victorian survey noted that in similar Federal type jurisdictions (Canada and South Africa with their provinces, for example, and to some extent in America with its states) there seemed to be a considerable degree of national leadership and direction in emergency management policy, response coordination and executive government involvement, based usually in quite recent research, national legislation and collaborative disaster management frameworks. Even in the United States, still trying to work through the 9/11 syndrome, the megalithic Department of Human Services, and having to deal with recent changes to its National Response Plan, there seems to be a degree

of standardisation in jurisdictional arrangements and quite effective inter-jurisdictional communication.

Here in Australia, I think that we saw in the 1970s and 1980s in particular, a real effort at Commonwealth level to provide some national leadership and direction in emergency management. Post 9/11, it was inevitable that some of that effort would have to be redirected to deal with the threat of terrorism, but I have the real feeling that in the process much of the momentum towards a real national approach to emergency management in its entirety appears to have been lost.

...only an organisation such as AIES, as one of the few emergency service associations which claims national membership drawn without distinction from all emergency service organisations and is clearly a key stakeholder in the whole community safety process, is sufficiently representative of all professional emergency management groups to be able to start to address the issues I've raised.

DEFICIENCIES IN EMERGENCY PLANNING PROCESSES

But now to Chas' fourth and final challenge, which he describes as: addressing deficiencies in our emergency planning processes.

Chas' contention here is that, in the main, emergency services tend to attract those who are action- and field-oriented rather than what he calls the managerially-attuned, and this sometimes leads to planning deficiencies such as failure to fully apply lessons from past experience to future plans, difficulties in understanding exactly what the plans prescribe, and plans themselves which are too prescriptive and inflexible.

As an example with particular relevance to Victoria post Black-Saturday, he notes that while there has been nationwide acceptance of the widespread advice to residents in bushfire-prone areas to prepare well and defend or leave early, there appears to have been little recognition of the clear internal inconsistencies in this advice

for both residents and responders and consequently a lack of necessary planning for shelters and evacuation.

A case in point - as recently as a couple of weeks ago here in Melbourne, Neil Comrie (a former Victorian Chief Commissioner commissioned by the State Government to monitor progressively the Government's implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations), commented that the old stay or go policy had not yet been formally replaced and that there was clearly confusion in both the public and emergency services' minds about

what's the best approach. But while I agree with Chas' views in relation to emergency management planning, I think that planning problems are just reflections of a much more fundamental issue - far from our States and Territories increasingly reflecting a convergence of views on the way ahead nationally for emergency management policy and response management, as I believed was happening in the 1990s, there is instead a clear and worrying tendency towards increasing divergence in institutional and organisational emergency management arrangements.

I base this view on our recent detailed comparative review of those arrangements, and I believe that the Council of Australian Government's (COAG's) inability to give more than lip-service to the reforms recommended by its High Level Group's report in 2002 on emergency management provides concrete evidence of this. Of course this again may in part be a further consequence of a failure at national level

to provide leadership and direction in emergency management, but I suspect it also reflects unfortunate divisions within the emergency management community itself.

SOME CONCLUSIONS

So, as I said at the outset, while I agree with Chas' first two challenges - the needs to be more effectiveness in engaging with communities and to address a huge land use management problem in Australia, I feel that his last two challenges - the needs to deal with the fragmentation of our emergency response effort and to address deficiencies in our emergency planning processes simply don't go far enough. These last two problems are quite fundamental to the further development of coherent, national, comprehensive and integrated emergency management policies and arrangements in Australia and, in my view, stem from some basic weakness in our inter-governmental and inter-agency relationships.

Without doubt, one of the underlying causes of this weakness is in the very nature of our national constitutional arrangements, which more than 100 years ago allocated our national arrangements for defence against military aggression to the Commonwealth while reserving the responsibility for the protection and preservation of civil life and property to

the States (now including the Territories). Sounded reasonable at the time, no doubt - but nobody at the time could have foreseen some of the unintended consequences of this decision.

We saw one of those consequences during World War 2 when, although the Commonwealth on the part of the whole nation declared war on the side of Great Britain and it was clear that protection of the civil population would be vital to the national war effort, it was left to the individual States to determine what action they might propose to take to protect their civil populations from possible attack. As a result, as an 10-year-old ARP messenger and armed with no more than a bicycle and a pretty rudimentary gas-mask, I now realise that I was one of the Western Australian community's defences against enemy attack at that time!

But seriously, I used to take pride in claiming that our emergency management arrangements in Australia were naturally much more coherent and manageable than those of, for example, the United States, which at last count had something like 30,000 fire departments against Australia's roughly 18. More recently I have come to realise that, in terms of the national interest, it is possibly much easier to draw a large number of inevitably needy emergency service organisations into an

effective collaborative and co-operative partnership than it is to get the same response from a smaller number of politically and industrially powerful agencies which will tend to see any reform proposal as an assault on their status - and perhaps more importantly, on their claim to their proper slice of the State or Territory budget.

Harsh and cynical words, perhaps, but they're based on more than 35 years experience on the emergency management scene. In advancing them, however, I feel I have a clear responsibility for offering some way out of this situation. And I suggest that only an organisation such as AIES, as one of the few emergency service associations which claims national membership drawn without distinction from all emergency service organisations and is clearly a key stakeholder in the whole community safety process, is sufficiently representative of all professional emergency management groups to be able to start to address the issues I've raised.

So in concluding I will offer the Institute itself just one more challenge - seek for ways in which, in pursuit of the Institute's aims and objectives, it can actively promote development of coherent, national, comprehensive and integrated emergency management policies and arrangements. ●

ABOUT COL. ROGER JONES

Roger Jones has been a major participant in, and contributor to, the development of emergency management concepts, principles, organisation, education and training in Australia and, in particular, Victoria for over three decades.

After completing his degree and teacher training in Western Australia, Roger gained teaching and Army Reserve experience before joining the Australian Regular Army.

He served in all commissioned ranks in command, staff and educational appointments, retiring in the rank of Colonel.

His last Army appointment was Director Operations and Plans in the Natural Disasters Organisation (now Emergency Management Australia). During this time he was involved in the

response to Cyclone Tracey (1974) and other major Australian disaster events.

In 1975 Roger was appointed Deputy Director and Chief Instructor of the Australian Counter Disaster College (now the Emergency Management Australia Institute) at Mount Macedon in Victoria. After the Ash Wednesday fires (1983), he worked with the Victorian Government to establish the State's Emergency Management Act 1986 and new emergency management arrangements before returning to the College as Director.

He retired from that post in 1994 to undertake a variety of national and international consultancies in the field of emergency management and specialise in public safety risk management concepts and applications.

Since 2000 Roger has worked as a consultant in community risk

management in the Pacific and as a member of the Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission's Regional High Level Advocacy Team.

Between 2002 and 2008 he served as Chair Emergency Services Planning Group (restructured as Emergency Services Advisory Committee), Australian Red Cross Victoria. In 2007, he was appointed to the National Emergency Services Advisory Committee of the Australian Red Cross Society as an emergency management adviser.

In 2006 he was appointed Director of the Victorian State Government's State Emergency Service Authority, where he currently serves as Deputy.

Roger and his wife Lesley have lived at Mount Macedon since 1977. He is a founding member, and Fellow, of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services.



EMERGENCY ALERT OPERATIONAL IN FOUR STATES



On 30 April 2009, COAG agreed to take immediate steps to enhance Australia's emergency management arrangements through the development of a telephone based emergency warning system that will enable States and Territories to deliver voice warnings to landline phones based on the location of the phone and to text messages to mobile phones based on the subscriber's address.

Emergency Alert was launched on 1 December 2009 and since that time has been used 33 times and issued over 166,000 messages in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland for flood, tsunami, bushfire and chemical incident emergencies.

The system is operated and activated by authorised personnel from emergency services organisations. It allows for localised, community based warnings to be issued per area or geographic region. It can also be broadened to send alerts on a large scale depending on need.

A national advertising campaign is currently being undertaken in a number of regions, and a new website has been launched, which contains information about the system's capability, includes frequently asked questions and has

links to emergency services websites in each jurisdiction.

Victoria, supported by the participating states, led the procurement process and the technical development of the system, which was built in October and tested in November prior to its December launch.

The second phase of the project considers the delivery of warning messages to mobile phones based on the location of the handset at the time of an emergency.

A Request for Information investigating this capability has now closed with the assessment of submissions currently underway and a consolidated feasibility report is due for release by COAG soon.

For further information on Emergency Alert, or to view the educational DVD online, visit www.emergencyalert.gov.au. ●

IN BRIEF

VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNER



Congratulations Michael Gieules from St John Ambulance (NSW), the 2009-10 recipient of the AIES Young Volunteer Award. This annual

award recognises a young person's outstanding community contribution through his or her work as a volunteer emergency services member. Jarred receives a sponsored voyage on sail training ship Young Endeavour to develop skills in teamwork, leadership and communication. Michael will also receive a 12 month honorary membership of the Institute. Nominations for the 2010-11 award will open soon and applications will be available on the Institute's website www.aies.net.au

BEST NER ARTICLE

Chas Keys MAIE will now be able to continue writing with a new AIES logo inscribed fountain pen, after winning the best NER article for 2009-10. While all contributions to NER are of a high standard, Mr Keys' article, entitled Four Challenges for Emergency Management in Australia, was judged by the National Executive as the most thought-provoking piece of the past 12 months. Mr Keys' article, which appeared in the Autumn 2010 edition of NER, received widespread response and was the basis of Col. Roger Jones' address at the recent Annual General Meeting. Col. Jones' thoughts on the article, as well as his opinion on the challenges ahead for emergency services in Australia, can be read on page 14 of this edition of NER.



**NATIONAL
EMERGENCY
R e s p o n s e**
OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

NSW 'SUPER DEPARTMENT' ABOLISHED



The NSW Government has abolished the overarching Department of Police and Emergency Services. Police and Emergency Services agencies will continue to report directly to their respective Ministers; however the recently established 'super department' will be dissolved. This decision recognises the variety of reforms and differences in service delivery requirements between those needed in the NSW Police Force and those in the emergency services. The agencies will continue to work closely and co-operatively together as a cluster to achieve back office reforms allowing the savings to be invested and benefit frontline services. The Rural Fire Service Association, which represents NSW's 70,000 volunteer firefighters and staff, said the decision ensured the integrity and autonomy of the Rural Fire Service was maintained.



AIES HONOURS AND AWARDS POLICY

At the Annual Meeting of General Council on 19 April 2010, the Board of Directors voted to unanimously to adopt the following AIES Honours and Awards Policy, subject to an additional clause to be included that deals with the Young Endeavour Award.

Honours and Awards processes are a complex blend of national, state, local and organisational policies and procedures that are almost specific to each award. This Policy clarifies these processes and provides appropriate guidance in relation to honours and awards. The General Council has emphasised the importance of honours and awards to AIES members throughout the nation as a key component of the recognising and acknowledging members of the Institute.

AUTHORITIES

The AIES Honours and Awards Policy is issued under the authority of the General Council. Other authorities include:

- Government House Canberra – Letters Patent and Regulations
- AIES Code of Conduct
- Risk Management Standard – AS/NZS 4360
- Compliance Programs – AS 3806
- Complaints Handling – AS 4269
- Governance Series – AS 8000 – AS 8004
- AS 8000-2003 Good Governance Principles
- AS 8001-2003 Fraud and Corruption Control
- AS 8003-2003 Corporate Social Responsibility

AIM

The AIES Honours & Awards Policy is the means of bringing order and decorum to specific award nomination and processing formalities and providing guidance to eligibility and suitability of nominees.

POLICY MANAGEMENT

AIES Honours and Awards are managed by the General Secretary/Registrar. Honours and Awards Management in AIES identifies strategies that are designed to guide and prescribe standards for the nomination for and processing of honours and awards and providing guidance to eligibility and suitability of nominees.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND REPORTING

The General Secretary/Registrar is responsible for processing of AIES honours and awards to ensure the professionalism, integrity and confidentiality of the process and that the process is appropriate to its standing as a professional institute for emergency services personnel in attracting public confidence. The General Secretary/Registrar is also responsible for reporting on the progressive status and periodic number of award processing activities, past and forthcoming, to the General Council.

Divisional Committees are responsible for ensuring the observance of AIES Policy in regards to official honours and awards. They are also responsible to ensure that the General Secretary/Registrar is advised in a timely manner of forthcoming award eligibility and/or suitability of members within their Division.

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS

AIES respects official national Honours and Awards, awards of allied and member services, sister agencies and any other stakeholder in the application of these AIES Honours and Awards Policy

POLICY SCOPE

AIES Honours and Awards Policy applies to the following:

- The Australian System of Honours and Awards
- State Government Honours and Awards
- United Nations Honours and Awards
- Local Government Honours and Awards
- Processing of Honours and Awards nominations
- Presentation of Honours or Awards
- Wearing of Honours and Awards

PROCESSING OF HONOURS AND AWARDS

The following general procedures apply to the processing of Honours and Awards within AIES,

National Register Procedures

- As applicable, the General Secretary/Registrar will call nominations and indicate the process, correct form and closing date of specific honours and awards.
- All correspondence in and out from the General Secretary/Registrar will be entered into the Awards correspondence-tracking file.
- Award nomination forms received by General Secretary/Registrar will be acknowledged by email to the sender as received
- All nomination forms received by General Secretary/Registrar will be checked for accuracy and eligibility, including
 - Spelling of name
 - AIES Membership status (eg financial)
 - Start Date
 - Other awards received through AIES or its sponsorship (where already recorded)
- Endorsement by the Divisional President
- Legibility
- Other file checks can be used to validate and/or resolve disputations regarding starting dates for members and/or eligibility for an award.
- Once this information has been obtained, the General Secretary/Registrar needs to consult with the Divisional executive to comment on the suitability or otherwise of the nominee for the award.
- The AIES nomination form and confirmation of both eligibility and suitability are the basis for the recommendation to General Council and the subsequent production and presentation of AIES certificates, medallions or other grants or awards or for progressing the AIES nomination of the individual for an external honour or award.



- AIES may offer Long Service Awards or years of service to the Institute as follows:
 - 10 Years Diligent
 - 20 Years Meritorious
 - 30 Years Dedicated
 - 40 Years Distinctive
 - 50 Years Outstanding
- Once prepared, certificates are forwarded to the AIES National President for signing.
- Upon the return of the certificate, the General Secretary/Registrar prepares a letter to the receiving AIES Division and this letter includes a tear off portion as a receipt. This letter is sent with the dispatch of the award and accompanying certificates as appropriate.
- Receipts for awards that have been dispatched to the AIES Divisions are signed and dated by the recipient of the Award at the presentation and are returned to General Secretary/Registrar for filing.
- An annual list of recipients is produced and submitted as a report to General Council.

Divisional Procedures

The Divisional Secretary/Registrar is responsible for:

- Monitoring, and being pro-active with, forthcoming entitlements for AIES and other Awards.
- Ensuring that the nomination form is correctly filled in prior to submission and the correct signatures are obtained:
- Ensuring that all Honours and Awards are presented to the recipient formally and within one month of receipt of the award in the Division.
- Ensuring that the medals/certificates received are in good condition:
- Ensuring that the medals/certificates have the correct details listed (which includes spelling mistakes):
- Ensuring that all relevant medals/certificates are received:
- Obtaining appropriate signatures and returning the receipt attached to the letter addressed to the General Secretary/Registrar
- Maintaining a register of Awards presented in the Division.
- Ensuring the Australian Honours form and accompanying testimonial are completed where AIES assistance is sought for submitting the nomination.

COMMUNICATION PATHWAYS

All Divisional inquiries relating to AIES Honours and Awards will be directed to

the Secretary/Registrar who will liaise with the Division through its Secretary/Registrar. The observance of these pathways of inquiry is essential to maintain confidentiality and avoid confusion, potential errors and misinformation.

COST SHARING FOR HONOURS AND AWARDS

Each year, the AIES General Council will budget or seek sponsorship for an estimated level of activity in relation to Honours and Awards in AIES. In consultation with the Divisional Secretary/Registrar, the General Secretary/Registrar may negotiate a cost sharing arrangement with the AIES Divisional Committees, where honours and awards activity level exceeds the budget capacity of the General Council.

ENSURING QUALITY PROCESSING

The AIES General Secretary/Registrar will provide Quality Assurance on all releases of honours and awards. If any item that is damaged deficient or incorrect in any way is not to leave the General Secretary for issue to awardees.

SPONSORED AIES AWARDS

The General Council will consider opportunities for sponsorship of AIES awards where this is deemed to be appropriate. The manner of acknowledgement of the sponsorship in the process of preparing and presenting the award will be recommended to General Council on a case by case basis by the General Secretary following negotiation with the intending sponsor.

CEREMONIAL ADVICE RELATING TO AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Adherence to standards of dignity, decorum and due protocol is necessary prior to proceeding with formal presentation

of honours and awards to ensure that due value of, and credibility in, the AIES awards system are maintained.

WEARING OF DECORATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

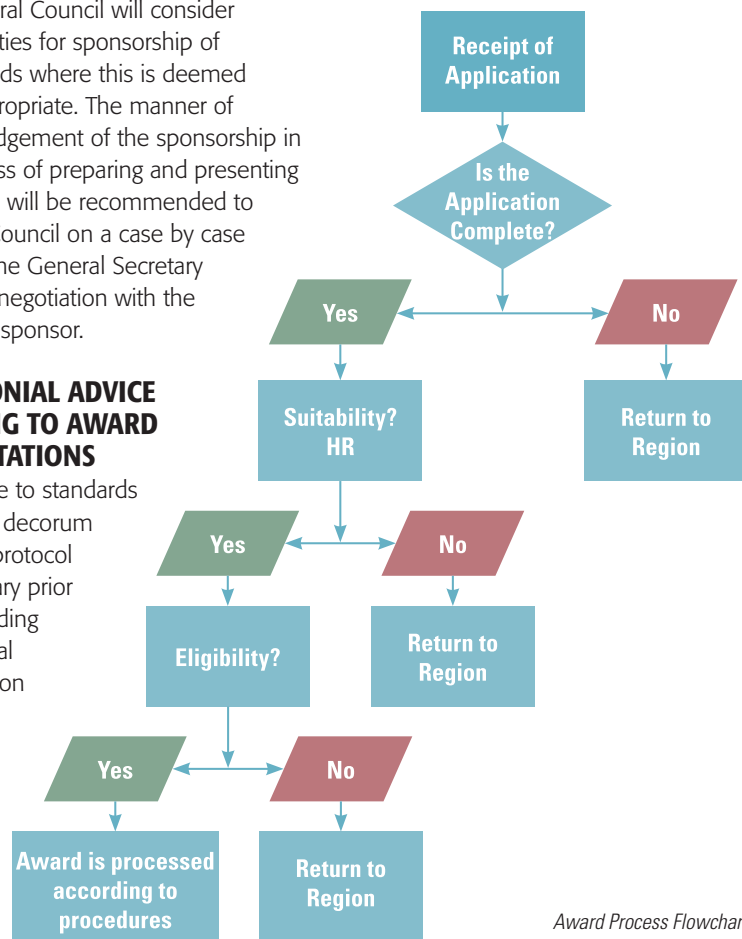
Guidance for wearing of national decorations can be obtained at www.itsanhonour.gov.au A full list of national honours, including Bravery Awards, can also be obtained from that website.

AUDIT AND MONITORING

From time to time, but at least on a biennial basis, the National President will task an appropriately experienced person, who may be independent of AIES, to audit the AIES Honours and Awards in respect of adherence to the principles and timeliness set down in this Policy and submit a report to the General Council.

NOMINATION FORMS

AIES Nomination Forms can be downloaded from the website www.aies.net.au or obtained from the Division Registrar/Secretary. ●



Award Process Flowchart





AGM 2010 REPORTS

Melbourne, 19 April 2010

Financial Report

General Secretary/Registrar
ROBERT MAUL, LFAIES

**This reproduction of Mr Maul's report has been edited slightly to fit within the style and space of NER. The original report can be found at www.aies.net.au*

The Audited accounts for 2009 of the AIES National body show a slight profit of \$786.21. The loss last year amounted to \$3,470.34. Revenue totalled \$14,526.53 and expenditure amounted to \$13,845.32. As at 31 December 2009 the retained earnings of the company stood at \$32,199.03 and investments with the Police Credit Unions in Adelaide and Sydney, including interest, was \$25,654.04.

These accounts do not disclose the financial positions of the Divisions, which are audited separately by State and National Auditors.

The increase in revenue was attributable to the increase in subscriptions fees, but correspondingly a numbers of members did not renew their subscriptions during the fiscal year and this trend was notable in all states. This is indeed a worrying trend and needs to be urgently addressed by the National Board and the Division Committees during this year, as decreasing membership may impact upon the future viability of the AIES. The initiative to place applications for membership of the Institute on our website attracted 20 new applicants via this means of communication.

A number of Directors retired during the year, including Maurice Massie from Tasmania, Alan Alder from Victoria, Alan Holley and Graham Pretty from NSW and founding member Brian Lancaster from South Australia. Having worked with many of these officers for lengthy terms, I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation for their dedicated service to the Institute over so many years.

During the year Countrywide Media, publisher of *National Emergency Response Journal*, engaged an experienced journalist, Kristi High, from Victoria as Editor. It is quite noticeable that the magazine has considerably improved in quality and I wish to offer my appreciation to Kristi for her dedication in producing a quality magazine for our members. We are always looking for editorial contributions to the journal, and I seek assistance of our members in contributing articles. At the end of each year, a prize for the best article, is awarded to the author. The Institute also produced a high quality members' calendar and many requests were received for additional copies.

Countywide Media also contributed \$2000 to the Institute to help defray our President's travel costs. The support of this company is appreciated by the Board. The AIES at this time continues to be a viable financial entity at National and Division levels, and hopefully with anticipated new applications for membership the outlook at this stage is positive.

I now move adoption of my report and the financial accounts and statements for 2009.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES LIMITED

(A.C.N. 75 050 033 764 - Incorporated in N.S.W.)

AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2009

I certify that this is a true copy of all accounts required to be laid before the company at the Annual General Meeting, together with a copy of every other document a copy of which is required by Section 316 to be laid before the Annual General Meeting.

ROBERT ARMAND MAUL

Secretary/General Registrar
19 April, 2010.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES LIMITED

(A.B.N. 75 050 033 764 - Incorporated in N.S.W.)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your directors submit the financial accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2009.

The names of the directors in office at the date of this report are:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Mr. John Rice | Principal Executive Officer - National President |
| Mr. Alan Marshall | Non Executive |
| Mr. Brian F Lancaster | Non Executive |
| Mr. Michael Davis | Non Executive |
| Mr. Robert A. Maul | Secretary / General Registrar |

Directors in office since the start of the financial year who have resigned during the year are:

Mr Alan B. Alder
Mr Maurice E. Massie
Mr Allan Holley
Mr Graham Petty

The principal activities of the company during the financial year were to provide a professional body for the study of the roles and functions of emergency services throughout Australia, and to promote and advance professional standards in emergency services.

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

The net profit for the year amounted to \$786.21.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company (with exception to the matters referred to in the company's Auditor's Report) the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

Likely developments in the operations of the company and the expected results of those operations in future financial years have not been included in this report as the inclusion of such information is likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the company.

No director has received or become entitled to receive, during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the economic entity, or a related body corporate with the director, a firm of which the director is a member or an entity in which the director has a substantial interest. This statement excludes a benefit included in the aggregate amount of emoluments received or due and receivable by directors shown in the company's accounts, prepared in accordance with Schedule 5 of the Corporations Regulations, or the fixed

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES LIMITED

A.C.N. 75 050 033 764

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001 TO THE DIRECTORS' OF AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES LIMITED.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31st December, 2009 there have been

- no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

ROSS ANTHONY JAMES GATWOOD CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Level 1, 7 Jannali Avenue, Jannali N.S.W. 2226.
Dated this 19th day of April, 2010



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES LIMITED

A.C.N. 75 050 033 764

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 DECEMBER, 2009

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash at bank – Westpac operating account | 4,473.04 | 4,006.69 |
| Cash at bank - Police Credit Union | 25,654.04 | 25,543.93 |
| Stock onhand | 240.00 | 765.00 |
| Prepayment – General Insurances - 2010 AGM | 1,719.64 | 1,612.34 |
| Debtor – Interest Receivable – Police Credit Union - TFN Withholding Tax | 1,075.00 | - |
| | 55.82 | 130.46 |
| | 345.05 | 386.40 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 33,562.59 | 32,444.82 |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Web Site | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Office Equipment | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| TOTAL FIXED ASSETS | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$33,565.59 | \$32,447.82 |
| CURRENT LIABILITY | | |
| Accrued charges - Audit of Financial Report | 550.00 | 550.00 |
| - Other Services | 485.00 | 485.00 |
| Sundry creditors | 331.46 | - |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 1,366.46 | 1,035.00 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$32,199.13 | \$31,412.82 |
| Represented by: | | |
| RETAINED EARNINGS | \$32,199.13 | \$31,412.82 |

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES LIMITED

A.C.N. 75 050 033 764

STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2009

| | Retained Earnings | Total |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Balance at 1st January, 2008 | 34,883.16 | 34,883.16 |
| Profit (loss) attributable to the entity | (3,470.34) | (3,470.34) |
| Balance at 31st December, 2008 | 31,412.82 | 31,412.82 |
| Profit (loss) attributable to the entity | 786.21 | 786.21 |
| Balance at 31st December, 2009 | <u>32,199.03</u> | <u>32,199.03</u> |

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES LIMITED

A.C.N. 75 050 033 764

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2009

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|--|------------------|---------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| INCOME | | |
| Levy on Divisions - Current | 11,470.00 | 8,140.23 |
| Interest received/receivable | 886.53 | 1,433.02 |
| Journal subscriptions | 120.00 | 90.00 |
| NER Copyright | - | 53.43 |
| Donations | 2,050.00 | - |
| Total Income | 14,526.53 | 9,716.68 |
| LESS: EXPENSES | | |
| Audit fees | 550.00 | 550.00 |
| Audit - other services - financial statements preparation, typing, ASIC matters and provision of registered office | 595.00 | 595.00 |
| Audit fee Subsidy – Queensland Division | - | 220.00 |
| Annual award – best article | 260.00 | - |
| Bank charge | - | 3.00 |
| Certificates | 224.99 | - |
| Computer software acquired | 506.12 | - |
| Filing fees – ASIC & penalty | 40.00 | 105.00 |
| General Council meeting expenses | 5,853.14 | 7943.64 |
| Honorariums | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Internet Costs | 609.13 | 271.10 |
| Insurances | 1,957.44 | 1,660.89 |
| Post Office box rental | 120.00 | 120.00 |
| Post Office box redirection | 116.00 | - |
| Printing | 837.19 | 689.01 |
| Postage and stationery | 583.60 | 214.99 |
| Replacement office equipment | 495.88 | 79.98 |
| Subsidy – corporate member plaque | 38.52 | - |
| Telephone expenses | 187.31 | 109.41 |
| Loss on sale/write down of ties to realisable value | 141.00 | - |
| Web Site – Domain fee | 125.00 | 125.00 |
| Total Expenses | 13,740.32 | 13,187.02 |
| OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS) for the year | \$ 786.21 | (\$3,470.34) |



Divisional Reports Presented at the AIES AGM

*These Divisional reports are a summary only. Full state Divisional reports can be found at www.aies.net.au

VICTORIA

President: Alan Marshall FAIES, CSTJ

MEMBERSHIP

- Long serving members Brian Rickard PSM and Darryl Wells AFSM retired

OTHER

- Victorian divisional secretary John Howe ESM passed away after a short illness on 23 April 2010. John was a staff member and volunteer of the Victorian SES. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam War and was a member of both the AIES and the Combined Emergency Services Committee. John will be sadly missed

NEW SOUTH WALES/NEW ZEALAND

President: Steve Anderson

MEMBERSHIP

- AIES NSW thanks all of those who served on the Committee in the past twelve months.
- Members who accepted nomination to the NSW Committee of AIES were duly elected on 23 March 2010. This includes President Steve Anderson, Vice President Peter Dixon, DEMO Daniel Fraticelli, Registrar David Hull and Treasurer Steve Sanson.

OTHER

- NSW has a large number of members living in regional and remote locations throughout the state for whom AIES membership must deliver services and who have a right to be involved. Planning for this greater involvement and servicing needs input from those members – consultation with members regarding regional forums remains a high priority.
- Giving members opportunities to broaden their horizons by visiting significant emergency service sites has been a welcome feature in the past. The new committee will be seeking suggestions from members who are currently serving in an emergency service as to what facilities might be worthy of a visit.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA/WESTERN AUSTRALIA/ NORTHERN TERRITORY

President: Barry Presgrave FAIES

MEMBERSHIP

- Efforts are being made to secure further Corporate membership

OTHER

- Six successful dinner meetings, with an average of 30 attending members, were held in the last 12 months. The most successful was at Naracoorte, where 110 members and emergency services guests attended to hear SA Police Crime Gang Task Force Det. Superintendent Des Bray talk about Outlaw Motor Cycle Gangs and their effect on rural communities
- Brian Lancaster retired from the National Executive and South Australian Division after 35 years membership



Brian Lancaster and Jan Burgess presented with AIES plaques at the SA Division Annual General Meeting.

- of the Institute. Brian is a foundation member, Life Fellow, past National President and has been a major contributor to the Institute. He will remain as an advisor to the SA Division
- Registrar Jan Burgess stood down and was replaced by Deputy Registrar Michelle Tink. A new position of Treasurer will be appointed soon

TASMANIA

President: Darrell Johnson FAIES

MEMBERSHIP

- Efforts are being made to encourage past members to rejoin, and to seek membership from other officers in the various arms of the Tasmanian emergency management services and organisations

OTHER

- Darrell Johnson was reappointed me as Tasmanian Division and representative on the National Executive
- Past National AIES President and long standing Committee Member Maurice Massie, stood down
- Peter Gerard and Martin Boyle were reappointed to the Tasmanian Division Committee

QUEENSLAND

President: Mick Davis AM

MEMBERSHIP

- Financial capacity improved with the uptake of an increase in subscriptions in 2009

OTHER

- April Dawes volunteered to be Events Coordinator and produced a Calendar of six events to take place between February and December 2010 (see page 11)
- The Division is committed to continuing its professional development activities and an emergency management conference will be held in Brisbane in November 2010 ●

HAIL STORM

WORSE IN STATE'S HISTORY



VICSES received over 7000 Requests for Assistance over six days, after the largest hail storm event in Melbourne's recorded history lashed the metropolitan area, and subsequent severe thunderstorms swept through the state.



Damage to windows from the hail storm was among the long list of damages.



VIC SES secures a suburban house after Melbourne's storm in March.

As thousands of Victorians hit the road to celebrate the Labour Day long weekend, Mother Nature had other ideas.

A hail storm, which started in Bendigo on Friday 5 March 2010 caused havoc throughout north-east and eastern Victoria, and ripped through Melbourne. In the week that followed, VIC SES experienced one of its busiest operational periods.

The severe thunderstorms resulted in 7,600 VIC SES Requests for Assistance.

The majority of these Requests for Assistance were from residents located in the Central Region, in and around the eastern suburb of Knox, with 6,300 calls recorded from this area alone.

The VIC SES Knox Unit recorded the highest number of Requests for Assistance, in excess of 2800 calls. Other Central Region Units to record high volumes of Requests for Assistance during this event were Essendon (650-plus), Malvern (620-plus), Footscray (330-plus), Waverley (360-plus), Emerald (340-plus) and in North East Region Tatura (500-plus).

The majority of tasks related to building damage (69 percent), flash flooding (18 percent) and trees down (9 percent). Damage resulting from severe thunderstorm activity, in particular hail stones and associated heavy rainfall, saw building damage ranging from minor to significant with broken windows, ceiling collapse, damaged roofs and skylights.

Central Region established an Incident Control Centre in their Mulgrave headquarters. Additional crews from VICSES' North West, Mid West and South West Regions were mobilised to support Central Region Units within the worst affected areas. As Requests For Assistance continued to rise, interstate SES crews from NSW, SA, WA and Tasmania were brought in to assist their Victorian counterparts.

The Bureau of Meteorology has advised that the storm event was the largest hailstorm event in Melbourne's recorded history with up to 10cm hail having fallen in some areas.



A series of thunderstorms developed in the north on Sunday 7 March and moved across the North East and then southerly in and across the Melbourne Metropolitan area resulting in further damage. Winds of 156km/h were recorded in Shepparton during the peak of the Super Cell that hit the area, with rainfall at a rate of 3mm per minute.



Melbourne trams in the CBD came to a stand-still as water levels rose.

As a result, the SES North East region received over 520 requests for urgent assistance within several hours, 80 percent of those in the Shepparton area.

A combined 21 crews from CFA/MFB assisted SES crews, carried out Rapid Impact Assessments in some of the more severely affected areas of Knox and surrounding suburbs.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment also assisted VIC SES to return phone calls to members of the community who were seeking assistance.

VIC SES acknowledges the assistance it received, including those from other agencies and SES crews who were flown in from across Australia.

This mammoth clean up was achieved with help from SES organisations from NSW, WA, SA and Tasmania, the MFB, the CFA, DSE, Victoria Police, State and local governments and the Department of Human Services. ●

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COMBINED EMERGENCY SERVICES SEMINAR COMMITTEE 31ST ANNUAL SEMINAR



Book now and be one of only 150 people to secure a place at the 32nd Annual Combined Emergency Services Seminar.

This year, the popular one-day annual presentation to emergency services professionals, support agencies, municipalities and the corporate sector will be themed around Advances in Emergency Communications.

Speakers will talk about communication systems that are already in place.

They will also address planned modifications, advances and applications of the many communications systems utilised by the emergency services to facilitate dispersal of information internally, inter-agency and to the public.

The speakers list will include presentations from representatives of:

- Victoria Police Media.
- Victoria State Emergency Service
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner
- Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network
- Metropolitan Fire Brigade
- Royal Flying Doctor Service

A full list of speakers will be released soon. Keep an eye on the website www.cessci.com.au

DETAILS:

- Date:** Saturday 23 October 2010
- Venue:** Melbourne University Private Hawthorn Campus
- Address:** 442 Auburn Rd, Hawthorn, Melbourne, Victoria (MEL REF 59 E2)
- Cost:** \$60 (includes morning and afternoon tea, lunch, speaker notes)
- Registration:** Online at www.cessci.com.au or
- Contact** Registrar Bob Wardzynski
- Ph:** 03 9436 8366
- Fax:** 03 9436 8377
- Address:** P.O. Box 416, South Morang, Victoria, 3752
- Email:** admin@cessci.com.au

- Accommodation:** Pathfinder Motel
380 Cotham Road
Kew, Melbourne, 3101
Ph: 03 9817 4551

Seminar sponsored by:

Australian Institute of Emergency Services
Victorian Department of Justice
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BUDGET WRAP-UP

The Rudd Government will invest over \$500 million to further strengthen Australia's national security capacity; ensuring national security is the highest responsibility of any government by supporting security, intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

This \$500 million investment is a key part of the first ever coordinated national security budget which invests a total of \$4.3 billion in national security, border protection, aviation security and the Australian Defence Force.

IDENTITY SECURITY

- \$100.8 million over six years for a new passport issuing system
- \$23.6 million in ongoing funding to prevent identity theft
- \$5.9 million in ongoing funding to detect identity fraud

INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND INFORMATION INTEGRITY

- \$101.6 million in ongoing funding for telecommunications interception work by national security and law enforcement agencies
- \$24 million in additional funding for new analytical technologies to improve the real time ability of the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC)
- \$14.5 million in additional funding to establish a Criminal Intelligence Fusion Centre within the Australian Crime Commission
- \$1.8m in additional funding to enhance the Australian Secret Intelligence Service's intelligence gathering capability

COUNTERING TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

- \$9.1 million to establish a Counter Terrorism Control Centre
- \$9.7 million in additional funding to counter violent extremism and the threat of home grown terrorism in Australia

NATIONAL SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- \$23.5 million in additional funding to provide 500 new Australian Federal Police officers



VIC SES was granted \$11.6 million in the 2010-11 Victorian State Budget to purchase rescue vehicles, road-accident rescue kits and additional pagers.

- up to \$17.3 million for the establishment of the National Security College at the Australian National University in Canberra
- \$35.5 million to upgrade the Cocos (Keeling) Islands runway
- \$21.3 million additional funding for security upgrades at Parliament House
- \$1.7 million in 2010-11 to continue the National Emergency Call Centre Surge Capacity

The Government will also invest an additional \$38.5 million to combat organised crime in Australia, which is estimated at costing the community more than \$15 billion each year.

In November 2009 the Government launched the Commonwealth Organised Crime Strategic Framework to ensure a more effective approach to tackling organised crime.

Consistent with this framework, \$24 million has been made available in 2010-11 for new analytical technologies to improve the ability of the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) to target serious and organised crime, revenue evasion and financial fraud.

"Funding for AUSTRAC, Australia's Financial Intelligence Unit, will make use of new analytical technology and provide a greater real-time capacity to follow illicit money trails, one of the most

effective ways of investigating organised crime," Mr O'Connor said.

The Government will also provide \$14.5 million to establish a Criminal Intelligence Fusion Centre within the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) to better detect and prevent organised crime, including operations set up to facilitate people smuggling in the region.

"By co-locating officers with specialist knowledge from key agencies such as the Australian Taxation Office, the Australian Federal Police and Centrelink within the ACC, the Criminal Intelligence Fusion Centre will allow faster, more accurate and more effective exchange of intelligence between agencies," Mr McClelland said. ●

Emergency Services in Victoria received a \$136.6 million boost in additional funding when the State Budget was handed down in early May. This included funding for bushfire prevention and \$11.6 million for VIC SES to purchase rescue vehicles, road-accident rescue kits and additional pagers. A \$2 billion police budget was announced, including \$561 million for 1700 new police officers over five years.

**At the time of print, Victoria was the only state to hand down its 2010-11 Budget.*

HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM WIN PJ PARSEY AWARD

Congratulations to John and Avis White on winning the coveted AIES (Tasmanian Division) P J Parsey Award 2010.

John has been a volunteer member of the Tas Fire Service since joining the Ridgley Fire Brigade on 1 September 1977. He progressed through the ranks at Ridgley to Training Officer, where he was responsible for organising training sites.

His wife, Avis started as a volunteer firefighter at her husband's Brigade in August 1982. She was instrumental in forming the Ladies Committee, which looked after the health and wellbeing of Brigade members by supporting staff. She also took on the job of organising fundraising events.

In August 1988, John and Avis left Ridgley and relocated to Heybridge. John joined Sulphur Creek as Brigade Chief and immediately set about increasing and improving equipment and facilities for training.

Avis became a member of the Sulphur Creek Brigade in the elected role of Records Officer and Secretary/Treasurer.

A major project John embarked on started in 1989 where he wanted to find a site for a new fire station. After months of research, discussion and negotiation with various stakeholders, John played a major part in securing a site. With limited funding to build the station, Avis played a major role in assisting John to raise money through fundraising functions and donations.



Avis and John White receive the 2010 PJ Parsey Award for their tireless contribution to the Tasmanian emergency services.

John and Avis rallied other members to lend a hand in building the station. The fruits of their labour were on show at the official opening of the new Heybridge Fire Station in April 1994. This celebration of six years work was a proud moment for John, Avis, members of the Brigade and the Heybridge community.

Another successful project John undertook was the acquisition of Crown land, south of Heybridge, to establish a training ground. This facility is now utilised by many Brigades in the region.

John has produced training resources to teach and develop members of Heybridge, and nearby brigades, to ensure members remain abreast of changes in procedures and rules as well as using new equipment.

After 22 years, John remains Brigade Chief at Sulphur Creek where he also holds the position of Training Officer, OHS Officer and Fire Permit Officer. Avis is still the elected Records Officer and Secretary/Treasurer.

John and Avis have both been awarded with: Tas Fire Service National 10, 15 and 20 year service medals; volunteer achievement recognition from former Prime Minister John Howard; volunteer achievement recognition from Tasmanian Federal Labor MP Sid Sidebottom; and Certificates at the Year of the Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

In addition, John is the recipient of the Tasmanian Volunteer Brigades Medal awarded after 10 years for Diligent Service with Integrity and has received a Medallion and Certificate for administering First Aid to the Injured from St John's of Jerusalem.

Avis hold a Life Membership from Ridgley and Heybridge Fire Brigades and an Appreciation Board of Honour from Heybridge Fire Brigade. ●

The PJ Parsey Award is an annual accolade given to a quiet achiever working as a member of the Tasmanian emergency services. Peter Parsey was a well respected member of the Tasmanian SES. He passed away suddenly and it was decided an award would be a fitting legacy of the work he put in to emergency services in Tasmania. Peter was an avid wood maker and the perpetual trophy, as seen in the photograph, is made of a piece of timber he was working on when he died.



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Scott Milne MAIES, ESM*ACT President*

Scott Milne joined the AIES in 1986. His 20 year public service career includes working in a range of fields from social work to emergency operations and

consequence management.

Scott is currently employed with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority in the role of Response Manager Emergency Management and Response Coordination.

Born in Adelaide, Scott is a graduate of the Australian National University, Charles Sturt University and the Emergency Management Australia Institute.

As a long term emergency volunteer, Scott served as Commander of the Headquarters of the ACT SES for 10 years, having first joining the organisation as a volunteer in the early 1980s.

As an expert recovery manager who is experienced working in a broad cross-section of emergency services, agencies and organisations, Scott has facilitated recovery efforts including a siege, residential and industrial fires, bushfires and floods.

Qualified in the area of social worker, Scott has regularly lectured on a range of disaster recovery issues at conferences and provided supervision to post graduate students at a number of universities and further education institutions.

Scott has held senior roles in a number of emergencies including the Montara Well oil leak in 2009, the ACT support to the Australian response to the Tsunami Crisis in 2004/05, ACT Bushfires (2003), ACT Christmas Bushfires (2001), MIR Space Station re-entry (2001), Y2K National Operations Centre (2000), Olympic Volunteers in Policing and Torch Relay (2000), Thredbo Landslide (1997), NSW Bushfires (1994), and numerous floods in NSW throughout the 1980s.

He has had a long and varied career in a wide range of emergency management positions moved to AMSA from Emergency Management Australia (EMA) where he held a number of management positions.

Scott has also been employed by the ACT Emergency Services Authority, Department of Justice and Community Safety, Disaster Recovery Coordination, Emergency Services Bureau in Emergency Management, Child Protection and Child Substitute Care, Disability Services, Youth Work and Private Industry.

Scott has represented the ACT on the Australian Emergency Management Committee, the Trusted Information Sharing Network, and in various national and local forums on emergency management and critical infrastructure protection

His work in emergency services has been recognised with the Disaster Services Administration Certificate (1995), the Emergency Service Medal (2002), the Australia Day Honours list for leadership in Emergency and Bushfire Service, and he is an honorary Life Member of the ACT SES.

Dallas Baker MAIES*Tasmanian Division*

Dallas Baker has been a member of the AIES since 1988. His membership started at the Queensland Division, and when he

relocated to the Apple Isle in 2005, he joined the Tasmanian Division.

Dallas is currently a 2nd Officer at Tasmania's Lachlan Brigade, a position he has held since 2006 after spending a year as Midlands District Volunteer Employee's Safety Representative and the previous year as a firefighter at Lachlan Brigade.

Dallas' work and passion for emergency services dates back as far as 1974 when he joined the QLD SES, volunteering firstly during the Australia Day floods of that same year. He became Deputy Rescue Leader in 1980, Rescue Leader in 1982, Group Leader in 1984 and Rescue Training Officer at the SES Brisbane headquarters in 1989.

A year in that position led to Dallas' appointed to Deputy Controller Brisbane and in 1990 he created and edited the Brisbane SES magazine titled Callout.

Between 1991 and 1994 Dallas held the job of Executive Disaster Management Auxiliary at the State Disaster Coordination Centre. The following five years was spent as Coordinator State Counter Disaster Support Unit while also performing as Executive Officer SES Volunteer Executive Committee. Between 1999 and 2001, Dallas was Ipswich City SES Cadet Group training coordinator.

During this 27 year period servicing QLD SES, Dallas worked in a variety of roles at the University of Queensland's School of Veterinary Science, a career he forged from 1962.

Dallas has completed three courses at the Australian Counter Disaster College including: Planning for Counter Disaster Executives; Disaster Response Management; and Evacuation Management.

Among his many Tasmanian volunteer programs, Dallas has acted as caretaker on three occasions at Deal Island, located in central Bass Strait. Together with his wife, Shirley, Dallas provides management of all aspects of the island including wildlife evaluation, equipment maintenance, infrastructure protection, daily radio schedules to yachts and coastal patrols, fire management practices, weed suppression and visitor management. Dallas and Shirley leave for their fourth, three month, venture to Deal Island in June this year.

Over the past 39 years, Dallas has received a number of awards in recognition of his commitment to the community and to emergency services. These include the Golden Plough Award for services to Rural Youth (1971), the SES Meritorious Certificate Award (1985), Australia Day Citizen of the Year for Community Service and Brisbane City SES (1989), Australia Day Medallion for services to the SES (1996). In 1998, he received one of the country's top honours; an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for Community Service and the State Emergency Service and in 2004 received the United Nations AIES International Year of the Volunteer Medal. Dallas has received his 15 Years of Service National Medal with subsequent clasps to this medal for 25 and 35 years of service to emergency services.



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A-G'S TRIP TO US ACHIEVES MOU SIGNING

Commonwealth Attorney General Robert McClelland travelled to Washington for the Quintet meeting of Attorneys General from the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia in April.

The Quintet of common law countries seek to share ideas and deal with issues of mutual concern including national security, counter-terrorism, countering violent extremism, organised crime and legal cooperation.

The shared legal tradition and common values of the Quintet means it is uniquely placed to deal with issues from a joint and cooperative perspective.

As part of the Quintet meeting agenda, each representative leads a discussion on a range of key national security and legal policy issues.

Mr McClelland lead discussions aimed at improving the way Quintet member nations work together to combat organised crime including:

- Increasing coordination and cooperation through a greater sharing of intelligence and information on organised crime threats
- Improving coordination to shape international policy with respect to organised crime and jointly engaging in capacity building initiatives including specialised training and technical assistance
- Enhancing mutual assistance in organised crime prosecutions
- Strengthening arrangements for international legal assistance
- Committing to a regular international forum to facilitate the exchange of information and experience in relation to combating organised crime

While in Washington, the Attorney General also conducted meetings with senior officials from the Obama Administration and the United States Congress, including Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano. At this meeting, Australia and the United States agreed to strengthen emergency management cooperation during bushfires, major storms and other severe natural disasters, under a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Under the MOU, Emergency Management Australia (EMA) and the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will create a framework to facilitate greater cooperation and coordination during significant disasters and emergencies.

The Australia-United States Emergency Management Cooperation MOU Commonwealth was signed by Mr McClelland and Ms Napolitano in the presence of the Deputy Administrator of FEMA Richard Serino and Secretary of the Attorney-General's Department Roger Wilkins at the end of April.

"The MOU establishes an important disaster preparedness link between our two countries and will enable us to work cooperatively together to prevent, respond and to recover from significant natural disaster events," Mr McClelland said.



(L-R) US Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and Commonwealth Attorney General Robert McClelland at the signing of the Australia-United States Emergency Management Cooperation MOU in Washington, April 2010. Photo: courtesy of Annual General's Department.

Agreed arrangements between the United States and Australia under the MOU include:

- exchanging technical experts and specialists in emergency management between countries
- sharing information on emergency management frameworks and public awareness programs relating to preparedness for natural disasters
- undertaking professional development for emergency management personnel
- exchanging 'lessons learned' experiences from natural disaster events

Australia and the United States share a long history of helping each other during significant natural disasters or emergency events, including most recently, the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria and the Californian wildfires.

This MOU will build on these experiences by strengthening the existing ties between emergency management personnel and between individual States, Territories and emergency management agencies in order to increase the capacity of both countries to deal with emergencies and protect our communities.

During his stay in Washington, Mr McClelland also met with Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Robert S Mueller, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Senator Joseph Lieberman, Special Assistant to the President for Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security John Brennan, and Administrator FEMA Craig Fugate.

The Attorney was also be briefed on intelligence and cyber security issues by key figures from United States agencies. ●





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

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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:

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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

- 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.
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EXTRA PROTECTION FOR GREAT BARRIER REEF GETS THE THUMBS UP

The Australian and Queensland governments are determined to reduce potential damage to the Great Barrier Reef by deterring shipping companies and their crews from engaging in unsafe and irresponsible actions at sea, particularly near environmentally sensitive marine ecosystems.

As a start, the mandatory Ship Reporting System that requires all ships to provide a regular account of location and route to authorities, which is backed up by real-time radio and satellite tracking of their progress, will be extended to the southern portion of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park by July 2011.

The Commonwealth is preparing a proposal to extend the mandatory Ship Reporting System to the International Maritime Organisation while AMSA is working with Maritime Safety Queensland on the roll-out of required infrastructure such as sensors, communications equipment and modified navigational software.

A Commonwealth review of the offences under the *Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act 1983* and the *Navigation Act 1912* is currently underway with a view to toughening the penalties for breaches. ●



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