

NATIONAL EMERGENCY



RESPONSE

Official Journal of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services

A.I.E.S.

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WEBSITE CONTENT

The website has sections for each State as well as National Areas. If you have ideas for State Division content, please contact your State Registrar, for National content, email web@aies.net.au Please be aware that all content must go past the National Registrar prior to web publication to ensure it meets required guidelines.

NATIONAL

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Winter2012 • National Emergency Response

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Rik Head leads a BSAR team.
See story on page 14.

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Bob Maul, LFAIES

General Secretary/Registrar

The AIES National Council is pleased to announce the following emergency services, and related, professionals were elevated to Life Members, Fellows or joined the AIES between March and June 2012.

| Name | Status | State |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Alan Marshall, C.St J | Life Fellow | VIC |
| Michael (Mick) Davis, AM | Life Fellow | QLD |
| Leo McNamara, AM | Fellow | QLD |

MEMBERS

| Name | Service | State |
|------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Stuart Amos | RFS | NSW |
| Tyrone Andrews | SJA | QLD |
| Mark Ballin | Police | QLD |
| Milton Bradley | EM | Lord Howe Island |
| Michael Borg | RFS | NSW |
| Matthew Burgess | SES | NSW |
| Karen Gladwish | AGD | ACT |
| Sze Him Stephen Cheung | SJA | NSW |
| John Hodson | AS | QLD |
| Mark Holden | SES | NSW |
| Greg Howard | AEMI | VIC |
| Peter Howarth | HWE Mining | WA |
| Peter Lalor | SES | NSW |
| Glen Morrison | AS | QLD |
| Thomas Nash | RFS | NSW |
| Craig Pfeiffer | AFP | ACT |
| Jan Rashbrook | RFS | NSW |
| Stephen Rypp | SLSA | SA |
| James Riddock | SES | NSW |
| Mark Schultz | SES | QLD |
| Phillip Taylor | AS | QLD |
| Paul Troake | SES | NSW |
| Thomas Walsh | CFA | SA |
| Prof. Stephen Whittle | SJA | SA |
| Rodney Young | Telstra | VIC |

AGD: Commonwealth Attorney General's Department. AEMI: Australian Emergency Management Institute. AFP: Australian Federal Police. AS: Ambulance Service. CFA: Country Fire Service. EM: Emergency Management. RFS: Rural Fire Service. SES: State Emergency Service. SLSA: Surf Lifesaving Association. SJA: St John Ambulance.

EDITOR'S REPORT

Kristi High

This edition of *National Emergency Response* is a true showcase of the AIES and the tireless work to both the institute and the emergency services they are committed to.

Tasmania has put itself on the AIES map by contributing a number of stories this issue, including an insight into the new President Ron Jones and profiling the PJ Parssey Award winner and its history.

In the past quarter the inaugural

AIES-sponsored Australian and New Zealand Disaster Management Conference was held in Brisbane. Earth: Fire and Rain was a resounding success and another is planned for 2013.

Over the next few editions, we will be publishing edited versions of some of the well-researched, insightful presentations that took place.

In this edition, we welcome Charles Sturt University Lecturer Greg Linsdell and RMIT University Phd candidate Tran Tuan Anh, along with his colleague from Hue University Quoc Thang.

The AIES held its Annual AGM and paid honour to a number of members being elevated to Fellow and Life Fellow status. We also extend our congratulations to Ian Stewart APM, recipient of the AIES National Medal of Excellence and two Queen's Birthday Medal Honours Award winners – Col. Roger Trelease Jones FAIES and Mick Davis LFAIES.

State divisions held their AGMs in the last quarter. Victoria has shared its guest speaker presentation from Rik Head MAIES who retells stories from his involvement with Bush Search and Rescue Victoria.

Finally, photographs are being sought for the 2013 calendar and, as always, we welcome your submission to the journal. ●



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Alan Marshall, LFAIES

National President

The AIES held its National Board meeting and Annual General Meeting in Brisbane on 16 April.

A number of matters were dealt with regarding fees, awards, the constitution and our Journal.

We are pleased to report that, for the fourth consecutive year, the membership fee structure will remain the same for at least the next 12 months.

Members' details in the electronic database will be changed to allow full payment of fees and the issuing of a member's card each year. The National Council has approved funds for an upgrade of the database registration system, with input by each state.

A sub-committee was formed reporting to the National Council to fully review our constitution. The process is ongoing and aims to be finalised by the next AGM.

The AIES Young Volunteer Award will again be offered in 2012/13. The Award, sponsored by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (Emergency Response Division) rewards one person for outstanding and ongoing contribution and commitment to the community through membership of the emergency services as a volunteer. Details are available at www.aies.net.au

Each year the National Council presents an engraved Watermark pen to the author of an article published in this journal. Martin Boyle MAIES received the 2011/12 award for his series of articles on Search and Rescue in the Antarctica. The content was excellent with detail coverage of incidents requiring a multi-national response.

The National Council released an award system structure and recognition of our membership. Further details on each level of criteria will be released soon.

INSTITUTION REVIEW

The South Australian Division of AIES put forth two motions at the AGM, which were both seconded and approved. These included that regulation 84 of the Article of Association of the Institute be amended to contain an additional sentence as follows: After the words 'elected by members in accordance with regulation 85 below', add a further sentence to read, "Where circumstances so permit, and there is a cogent reason to do so, the Divisional Sub Committee may consist of more than six members, but any additional members so elected must be of an even number'. The reason for this proposed change was to allow for more than six members to be elected to carry out the functions of a Divisional sub committee. The second motion altered regulation 86 of the Articles of Association to read, 'at each Annual General Meeting of a Division, half the members of the Divisional sub committee shall retire from office'.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

I was honoured to be elevated to Life Fellow along with Queensland President Mick Davis. AIES member Leo McNamara has been elevated to Fellow. Congratulations Mick and Leo.

AIES YOUNG VOLUNTEERS AWARD

AIES and West Beach Surf Life Saving Club (SA) member Steven



The National Council (has) released an award system structure and recognition of our membership.

Rypp was awarded Young Volunteer 2011/12. Steven joined the surf club as a nipper in 2002. He went on to gain his bronze medallion and became a patrol member in 2004/2005 season. He has now accumulated over 700 hours on the beach in volunteer patrol time. He holds an Advanced Resuscitation Certificate with many other crew certificates and is a qualified award trainer. In 2011 Steven became the youngest elected member to the Board of Directors of the West Beach Club. Steven holds the education and training portfolio with the club and is responsible for over 350 members, all requiring annual proficiency testing – a great example of leadership. ●

MY EMERGENCY JOURNEY

In 1978 I walked off the street and signed up as a volunteer with the State Emergency Service (SES) in Hobart and became a member of the Regional Volunteer Support Group, Rescue Division - originally called the Special Operation Group, or SOG, a great sounding name for the volunteers.

President Tasmania Division
Ron Jones FAIES



Ron Jones at home with chief mouse catcher Milly.

My workplace was the Hydro's Base Workshop and as well as being a motor mechanic/diesel fitter, I was also the First Aid Attendant there for several years.

A year after I signed up to the SES I was awarded the Productivity Council of Australia's Safety Award for safety improvements to Hydro Electric Commission (HEC) Trucks and in 1980 I was promoted to Rescue Team Leader at the Hobart State Headquarters.

After attending the Counter Disaster Rescue Course at Mt Macedon, Victoria, then known as the Australian Counter Disaster College – or ACDC - I came back with lessons learnt and ideas to restructure state and regional headquarters' units, with volunteer coordinators to be appointed to free up time for permanent staff. This structure still stands operational today.

In 1982 I became an active member of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services (AIES). The legendary Peter Parssey and Frank Brown proposed me. These men were my comrades in arms from the Clarence SES Unit and their support was always greatly appreciated.

The following year I was approached by then-SES Volunteer Roger Brown FAIES to be part of the foundation committee that planned and established the South Hobart Volunteer Urban Fire Brigade.

It took another year before Tasmanian Fire Service Field Officer Eric Percival approached me to ask if I would use my South Hobart Fire Brigade experience

and help set up a Lenah Valley Volunteer Urban Fire Brigade. A few beers, a lot of phone calls to friends, and a lot of searching for a suitable site, the brigade was established with training starting at the Moonah Fire Station while the Lenah Valley Station was built.

I was pleased to be involved in co-writing the Emergency Management Plan for the Glenorchy City Council in 1984/85 and was subsequently appointed Deputy Co-ordinator for Glenorchy.

With a job promotion in hand, I said goodbye to my volunteer roots in Hobart and hello to Tassie's west coast and the HEC town of Tullah where I was appointed garage supervisor for the HEC Tullah workshop.

By 1986 I had joined Rosebery SES where volunteers practically ran the show along with the police and one ambulance officer.

I furthered my studies and completed the Road Accident Rescue course at the Tasmanian Police Academy and, in late 1987, was appointed unit manager of Rosebery SES.

The next year I was promoted again, this time to Deputy Emergency Management Co-ordinator for then Zeehan Commission Council and assisted with the development of its Emergency Management Plan.

I also played the role of area supervisor for the HEC Motor Transport Fleet looking after about 15 tradesmen responsible for nearly 400 vehicles and working on various dam construction sites on the west coast.

Due to my mobility and response time, my HEC vehicle was fitted with SES and ambulance radio and some basic rescue equipment. My duties included investigating all HEC vehicles accidents and reports.

While working out of Queenstown for HEC, I was asked to re-establish the Queenstown SES unit ready for Road Accident Rescue with the assistance of then coordinator Dale Rudling. At the time, 1989, fundraising was high on the agenda for motorised Jaws of Life equipment for the west coast units and in true west coast spirit the police, fires, ambos, volunteers and the community rallied behind the idea and supported all projects. Among them was a fake armed blockade by Ned Kelly – all in the name of a good cause. We also strung a dummy holding a sign 'This man refused to pay', which became a tourist attraction and photo opportunity.

In 1990-92 I was involved with the establishment of the Hydro Underground Rescue Team using my emergency service skills and trained with NSW Southern Mine Rescue and local Pasma Mine.

In 1993 Hydro Construction was coming to a close. To prepare for its closure, I founded the Tullah Progress Association to ensure emergency services would continue in the community. My main fight was for the retainment of the ambulance and fire services in the town. After several meetings with official and locals the services were re-established and manned by volunteers from the community. In October of that same year



National Medal Awards night at the Sprent Fire Brigade. (L-R) Regional Chief John Streets with Maurice Hill (35 Year National Medal and 40 year service badge), Ron Jones (25 Year National Medal) and District Officer Paul Hill.

AIES TASMANIA DIVISION'S NEW MOTTO FOR REBUILDING:

"Don't wait for the light to appear at the end of the tunnel. Stride down there and light the bloody thing yourself!"
Sara Henderson

the Tullah Fire Brigade was re-established and I was appointment Brigade Chief.

With so many volunteers working for their community, it was clear an award was needed for the area. In a similar spirit to the PJ Parssey Award*, I approached a local radio station for support in founding the 7XS West Coast Emergency Service Worker of the Year Award to highlight the fantastic work of the west coast volunteers. More than 18 years on, this annual award not only lives on but the winner is automatically nominated for the PJ Parssey Award. As a judge, it is a yearly event I look forward to.

In 1995 I was elected AIES President Tasmania Division and two years later, after a successful nomination by Maurice Massie, became a Fellow of the Institute.

AN UNWELCOMED PAUSE

Tragedy struck in 1998. Heart problems. After a few of scary trips out of the west coast, a few stays in hospitals and many tests, the old ticker was finally given the OK. The prognosis? Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

I had to stand down from all of my volunteer work, but worst of all my full time position as Town Foreman with the West Coast Council. A double whammy.



Off duty with former Weddings, Parties, Anything band members (L-R) Mick Thomas and Mark Wallace.

The recovery is another story, but the stress of the emergencies, the fatalities, the survivors, the local families affect and a lot of victims being known to me. I paid the price.

That journey I may write about later because many emergency service workers will suffer from it during a career at varying degrees.

All the above I have done and achieved is not without the thanks and fantastic support shown to me by the volunteers and emergency service staff that have helped me on my journey.

A STAND-OUT MISSION

One operation that always stands out for me was the loss of three fishermen when their boat, the *Renown*, sank. It was my first major incident organising resources, search parties, and equipment. Back in Hobart when resources were requested common questions were mostly around order numbers and budgets. The west coast community and local industries threw in their support with no questions asked. From the time I got the first phone call, the phone never stopped ringing.



AIES TAS newest member Curtis Salter receives his membership certificate from Ron Jones.

Mine managers called offering men and vehicles, the Salvation Army and Country Women's Association brought food and refreshments. The list went on. After organising the first response search parties, the next day's search parties and back up recourses, I took the phone of the hook. It was midnight. I got the first call at 8.30pm and I had to be at Granville Harbour at 4.30am the next day to setup the search base. At the time a lot of our state's search and rescue resources were tied up at a search at Cradle Mountain for a missing walker. But, by 10.30am the following morning we had 126 registered personnel searching, and more people were still turning up to help. Local residents move out of their homes to help welfare organisations setup. Search parties from the north coast were housed locally to save them travelling back and forth.

One night back at the Zeehan Police Station, while planning for the next day, a local rocked in and put a carton of beer on the counter - thanking them for the effort they were putting in. A few days later we were still searching when the operation was called off. I kept the SES onsite due to the number of locals still searching. Over the next a couple of days, police officers said they were due for time off and would remain and help out in their own time. Three officers stayed and the search continued. After three days the search was reduced to daily patrols for the next couple of weeks. Over the period of the main search, over 500 personnel were involved searching, and had to be fed. There was not one single claim to cover costs, and the three police



Radio Station Awards night 2010. (L-R) Ron Jones, winner 7AD/Seafm Volunteer of the Year Graeme Brown, Chief Officer TFS Mike Brown, Production Manager Mark Robinson.

officers all went on to have great careers as well respected officers, but above all as members of the west coast community.

That is just one of so many stories of the community helping and supporting local emergency services. Something I will miss but not forget.

WHAT NEXT?

I am still heavily involved with the 7XS Radio Emergency Service Awards, which grew to include the north west when two sister radio stations agreed to run the Emergency Service Volunteer Awards in 2008. In the past two years, a further three radio stations have also jumped on board the awards to make it a truly statewide event that continues to grow.

I remain a non-active member of the Sprent Fire Brigade, which I joined in 2004 after being given the all clear by the doctors to become active again, but under strict instructions to not attend road accidents.

In June 2011 I became the elected AIES President Tasmania Division and I am working hard to build the profile of the institute.

Monthly Board meetings bring with them a 700 km, 8 hour journey, which are a great excuse to catch up with mum and my Hobart friends.

Among a list of key priorities in my role as President is to increase awareness of the PJ Parssey Memorial Award (see pages 7 and 8).

I have registered the name Tasmanian Emergency Service Support Association with the idea of developing a self-help web page for emergency service personnel who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I have presented on this subject to volunteers and recognise the problem is not diminishing.

To quote AIES National Registrar Bob Maul (2007) 'Think not what the Institute can do for you, but what you can do for your Institute' (John F Kennedy). So true Bob. ●

* *The PJ Parssey Award is an annual accolade given to a quiet achiever working in Tasmania's emergency services field. The award is the legacy of Peter Parssey, a respected SES volunteer who passed away suddenly in 1989. Turn to page 7 to read about this year's winner of the PJ Parssey award.*

ACCOLADES:

- 1993 PJ Parssey Memorial Prize
- 1993 Australian National Medal
- 2003 AIES Volunteer Commemorative Medal
- 2004 Tasmanian Fire Service Volunteer Medal
- 2005 Certificate of Commendation and mounted Tasmanian Police Shield for strong commitment to the emergency services and support to the West Coast Tasmanian Police Personnel
- 2006 Certificate of Appreciation from the Tasmanian Ambulance Service for involvement with the Tullah Branch.
- 2011 National Service Medal 25 Year Bar



EARTH: FIRE & RAIN

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DISASTER AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Following the success of the inaugural 2012 conference, a second Earth: fire and rain event has been confirmed for 2013 that will focus on Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR).

Date: 29th-31st May 2013

Venue: Mercure Hotel, Brisbane

The program will include more than 50 presentations consisting of keynote addresses, concurrent sessions and workshops.

SPECIAL REGISTRATION RATES

Special registration rates will be available to individual members of the hosting organisations. Group booking rates will also apply.

DELEGATES

Emergency services managers, policy makers, government researchers, academics, planners, risk assessors, insurers and financial institutions.

CALL FOR PAPERS NOW OPEN

Visit the conference website <http://anzdmc.com.au> for details of invited and confirmed speakers, and the list of themes for presentations.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information go to www.anzdmc.com.au, call 07 5502 2068 or email admin@anzdmc.com.au

This conference is a joint initiative of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services (Queensland Division), the Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Association Inc and the Association for Sustainability in Business Inc.

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EMERGENCY MULTI-TASKER WINS PJ PARSSEY AWARD



PJ Parssey Award winner Kay Brundle-Lawrence is flanked by leaders of her emergency service agencies (L-R) TFS Chief Officer Mike Brown and Australian Red Cross (TAS) Emergency Manager Howard Colvin.

A volunteer with two decades service to the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) and Australian Red Cross has been named the 2012 winner of the PJ Parssey Memorial Award.

Kim Brundle-Lawrence received the annual award at a ceremony held in Hobart earlier this year, which was attended by wife of the award's namesake Betty Parssey, AIES Tasmania President Ron Jones, sponsor RACT representative Peter Gillon, all award nominees and their family and friends.

In addition to her fire services work at Carrick Bridge that has spanned 20 years, Ms Brundle-Lawrence was recognised for decades volunteering with the Australian Red Cross. As part of the rapid response team, which has seen her deployed around Australia, Ms Brundle-Lawrence has taken the lead position for the Red Cross at emergency events like the Victorian Black Saturday Bushfires (2009), Queensland's floods and cyclones (2011/2012) and recent Tasmanian floods at Branxholm and Railton.

Multi tasking is not a problem for the veteran volunteer. Comrades recall Ms Brundle-Lawrence attending a fire on the east coast of Tasmania and swapping her TFS overalls for her Red Cross uniform once the flames were under control.

The PJ Parssey Award was established in 1990 in recognition of the work of SES volunteer and AIES member Peter Parssey who passed away suddenly the previous year.

The award is presented annually to a Tasmanian emergency service worker who has excelled in serving their respective service and community.

Mr Jones describes the recipients as volunteers as, "Quiet achievers, there to help their community, not there for the recognition."

In addition to the PJ Parssey trophy, Ms Brundle-Lawrence received a \$500 travel voucher from the RACT.

This year all nominations for the PJ Parssey Award came from the Tasmanian Broadcaster's Radio Network, which coordinates the Emergency Service Volunteer Worker of the Year Award in their respective regions.

The AIES extends its congratulations to Ms Brundle-Lawrence and the other worthy nominees, Lyndy Smith (TFS Rosebery), Veronica Atkins (TFS Wesley Vale), Ian 'Snowy' Neilson (SES Smithton) and Andrew Johns (TFS Mt. Nelson). ●



The wife of one of AIES' favourite sons, the late Peter Parssey, has been given an honorary membership to the institute.

The AIES National Council endorsed the honorary membership of Betty Parssey, put forward by Tasmania Division President Ron Jones.

Mrs Parssey has presented the AIES Tasmania's PJ Parssey Memorial Award, which honours her late husband, since its inception in 1990, with the exception of last year while she attended a mini car event on the main land.

The former kindergarten teacher and avid motor sports competitor and spectator is an active member of the RACT's Road Safety Advisory Committee.

At the presentation of her Honorary Membership earlier this year, Mrs Parssey said she was, "honoured and surprised".

Betty Parssey receives an AIES Honourary Membership from Tasmania Division President Ron Jones.

IN BRIEF



CLICK, CLICK

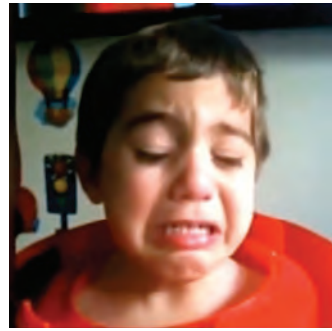
The Editor of *National Emergency Response* is offering a \$100 cash prize for the best photograph submitted for the 2013 AIES calendar. The recipient will also enjoy his/her photograph on the cover of next year's calendar. Submission are now being accepted. Please email your entry to Kristi@puffafish.com.au. Photos must be at least 1MB in size and a high resolution to be blown up to the full size of the calendar. Subject matter must be related to emergency services work in action, taken over the past 12 months. They must also be landscape in shape, or able to be cropped to landscape size. It doesn't always take a professional to take a good photo! Entries close 6 August 2012.

APP FOR COMMENT



More than 10,000 Australians are receiving the latest official disaster information from the Commonwealth funded DisasterWatch smartphone app, developed to reduce unnecessary calls to Triple Zero and keep this important service available for emergencies. The Government is now asking users what other features they want to see included. "We are always looking at new ways to provide Australians with emergency management information," Minister for Emergency Management Robert McClelland MP said. Visit <http://mobileapps.aemi.edu.au> to leave comments or suggestions. DisasterWatch is available for Android and iPhones. For more information visit www.em.gov.au

SEEN IT ALL?



The CFA was called to an unusual incident in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs in May. A three-year-old was playing with his training potty when it got stuck on his head. CFA and Ambulance Victoria attended the scene and took around five minutes to remove the plastic potty by cutting it off. The toddler was uninjured but a little distressed. He was the talk of the town for the afternoon. Metropolitan daily newspapers *The Age* (Melbourne) and Sydney's *The Telegraph* reported the incident and channel 10 interviewed the family, which lives on the station's YouTube channel.

AIES POLO SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE ONLY \$38.50 INCLUDING POSTAGE!

The ACT Division of the AIES is pleased to provide members with the opportunity to purchase Institute Polo Shirts at a discounted rate.

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| CB LENGTH | 60 | 62 | 64 | 66 | 68 | 70 | 72 | |



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AIES MEMBERS AWARDED FOR DUTY



Mick Davis.

MICK DAVIS AM ASM LFAIES AIES Life Fellow

AIES Queensland Division played host to the organisation's National Awards presentation in June, where state President and National Council Director Mick Davis AM was awarded Life Fellow.

National Registrar/General Secretary Bob Maul said Mr Davis was recognised for his significant contribution to emergency services in Queensland and

his lengthy service record in operational and management positions.

Mr Davis was also awarded the Queen's Birthday Honours Award (Ambulance Service Medal). His passion for the ambulance service began 48 years ago as an Honorary Officer. His commitment and contribution to the ambulance profession has seen Mr Davis serve in multiple roles across the service and involvement in peak industry bodies.

Mr Maul said what was most outstanding about Mr Davis was his enthusiasm for the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) history and heritage through the Wynnum Museum and the establishment of the QAS Museum at Charters Towers.

"It is also evident in his constant work to ensure his fallen colleagues are remembered with respect and dignity by managing the QAS Honour Roll and annual memorial services," Mr Maul said.

"Mr Davis is a quiet achiever who gains satisfaction in providing a high standard of service provision to the Queensland community, performing with distinction and outstanding dedication over a career spanning almost half a century."

In 1973, Mr Davis became a member of the Institute of Ambulance Officers (Australia) and was elected to the Queensland Division Executive in 1975.

In 1981 he was elected to the Institute of Ambulance Officers (IAO) Australia National Council and served in most of its executive roles. He served as IAO National President of the Institute from 1992 to 1995. A member of the team that developed and implemented the 'college' concept, Mr Davis played an integral role in re-constituting the IAO to become the Australian College of Ambulance Professionals, which is now called Paramedics Australasia (PA). He is currently a National Director of PA.

Mr Davis also joined the Australian College of Health Service Executives in 1998, now called the Australian College of Health Service Management, and was elected to State Branch Council in 2002. In 2006 he was elected as the Queensland Branch Registrar and is currently the Queensland Branch President.

An active member of a number of boards, Mr Davis is currently Director on the National Board of the Order of Australia Association and Queensland Chairman of the Association.

He is also a Director and Treasurer on the Board of the Health and Community Services Workforce Council, having now served on that Board for 13 years, and is vice-Chairman of the KJM Education and Research Foundation.



Col. Roger Trelease Jones.

COL. ROGER TRELEASE JONES, OAM, BEd, FAIES, MIAEM, psc Medal of the Order of Australia

A Queen's Birthday Honours Award of the Medal of the Order of Australia has been awarded to founding AIES member of the Victorian Division Col Roger Trelease Jones.

In a letter to Col Roger Trelease Jones, AIES National President Alan Marshall said it was very gratifying to see this honour bestowed on such a thoroughly deserving recipient.

"It underscores the contribution being made by dedicated people in fulfilling a usually unsung role in ensuring the wellbeing of the community," Mr Marshall wrote.

"This recognition, when it comes, must engender a great feeling of pride among your fellow workers as well as your family."

Col Roger Trelease Jones was recently a contributor to this Journal and on behalf of the AIES national council, its members and editorial staff of *National Emergency Response*, we extend our congratulations to you on this prestigious accolade.



(L-R) AIES Registrar/General Secretary Robert Maul and Ian Stewart APM.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
QUEENSLAND POLICE
SERVICE IAN STEWART APM**

**Australian Institute of Emergency Services –
National Medal of Excellence**

Congratulations to Ian Stewart APM, the 2012 recipient of the AIES National Medal of Excellence.

AIES National Registrar/General Secretary Robert Maul presented the Queensland Police Service Deputy Commissioner the award for leadership as Queensland’s inaugural State Disaster Coordinator during the response to the 2010/11 flood and cyclone events, including Tropical Cyclone Yasi, at the AGM.

The AIES National Medal for Excellence is the highest award issued by the AIES, which recognises outstanding and significant contributions that individuals make as a member of an emergency service or affiliated organisation.

Mr Stewart is a widely recognised police leader in Australia with over 37 dedicated years of service to the Queensland Police Service serving in Brisbane, Townsville, Blackwater, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast.

Appointed to the critical position of State Disaster Coordinator on 23 December 2010 when Tropical Cyclone Tasha loomed off the Queensland coast before crossing the coast in the vicinity of Cairns on Christmas Day, Mr Stewart remained in this position until 21 January 2011.

Between 28 January and 11 February 2011, Mr Stewart was again appointed the State Disaster Coordinator when the Bureau of Meteorology advised that Tropical Cyclone Yasi was bearing down on the Queensland coast.

His leadership in coordinating the disaster response operations for the State Disaster Management Group, reporting regularly to the State Disaster Management Group about disaster response operations, ensured all strategic decisions of the team were implemented. Mr Stewart also provided strategic advice on disaster response operations to district disaster coordinators and other agencies Queensland.

On receipt of the award, Mr Stewart acknowledged all emergency response agencies that took part in the disaster event of 2010/2011.

The AIES National Award Scheme recognises outstanding and significant contributions that individuals make as members of an emergency service or affiliated organisation in the fields of leadership, management, operations, training, support and innovation. ●



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APS Financial Planning

Timothy Foster provides access to advice and information on the important financial decisions we all face, whether it be superannuation, investments, pre and post retirement planning, life insurance, gearing, managed funds or savings plans.

APS Mortgage Broking

Sam Athans treats every mortgage as if it were his own. He has access to 20 mortgage lenders and over 40 years' experience in banking.

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Danielle Rowe heads up our insurance broking team and is a salaried employee of APS Benefits. With 15 years experience in the industry, you can be assured of receiving advice that meets your insurance needs. We have access to products that include Home and Contents, Motor Vehicle, Boat/Caravan, Landlord, Public Liability, Income Protection, Life, Disability & Trauma insurance. The next time you receive your insurance renewal notice from your current insurer or want insurance for the first time, call Danielle on 1300 131 809.

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PROUDLY NOT FOR PROFIT



The search for former prison boss David Prideaux underway around the Tomahawk Creek region of Victoria's Alpine National Park.

GOING BUSH

Bush Search And Rescue – the specialist emergency service



RikHead MAIES

In 1949 some members of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs offered their services to the Victorian Police for a search at Wilson's Promontory, in the state's Gippsland region. They were utilised, and impressed the authorities with their professionalism. This search was the genesis for what today is Bush Search and Rescue Victoria (BSAR), a part of Bush Walking Victoria Inc (BWV). In 2010 BSAR was formally recognised as part of the emergency services by the Victorian Government.

WHAT WE DO

At the request of Victoria Police, BSAR will respond in any weather to search and rescue operations in bushland areas, and the snowfields of Victoria. At short notice BSAR will mobilise small, self sufficient, rescue groups for overnight searching in rough terrain.

BSAR sees its role as being complementary to main stream emergency services in circumstances where someone or a group is lost in the bush.

There is a pool of about 300 BSAR volunteer members who are experienced and skilled bushwalkers, cross-country skiers, rogainers or mountaineers. These members are part of a call out list and will be called on to form part of an initial 15-25 member search and rescue team.

HOW IT WORKS

BSAR draws its volunteers from within Bush Walking Victoria clubs and specialist associate groups like Alpine Search and Rescue. Individual Bushwalking Victoria members have also joined.

The organisation is a self-managed committee with a convener who reports

to the BWV Board. The committee is made up of club delegates, police liaison officers and field organisers. There is an executive for management of day-to-day matters and sub committees that deal with specific tasks, as required.

The frequency of BSAR callouts by the police varies widely. Sometimes there will be two in a week, then none for months. Many callouts do not turn into searches as the lost person is found by the time BSAR arrives at the search base.

Just like other emergency service professionals, a peer support team equipped with psychological first aid training is available to support BSAR volunteers.

GETTING THE CALL

Typically, in the middle of the night, a call is received from Victoria Police Search & Rescue for BSAR to respond to a search. For example, it could be a missing skier at Lake Mountain near Melbourne, midwinter.

Ski patrol, resort staff and local police have searched overnight. Ski patrol has a responsibility to provide services to the public on the following day so their ongoing availability for the search is limited.





BSAR volunteers search for former Victorian Minister Tim Holding at Mt Feathertop in 2009.

BSAR'S LAWS OF SEARCH AND RESCUE

- Nothing is certain
- Hurry up and wait
- The weather is always foul or deteriorating rapidly
- A search is always conducted in the most rugged part of Victoria
- A search will always be on the corner of four map sheets
- Radio communications are likely to be poor or non-existent
- Low technology keeps going when high technology fails
- BSAR members are able to adapt either themselves or their equipment to achieve the task at hand

The police search and rescue teams would have completed a risk assessment based on weather, location, terrain and details of the person and decide BSAR is required to join their search along with the SES and possibly other resources.

The initial call is answered by a BSAR Police Liaison Officer who finds an available field organiser to put a callout to volunteers via SMS, email or automated voice messaging. Members proceed to BSAR gathering point in Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs and escorted to the search area by police bus.

At search base, the BSAR field organiser works with the police to coordinate deployment of volunteers. Search groups of two or three BSAR members are formed, incident briefings are given and equipment such as GPS and radios are issued. Groups are then ready to move into the field, often using SES/police transport to their search start point. Depending on the time and urgency of the callout, night searching has become more common using recently adopted sound and light techniques.

The best scenario is that the person is quickly found and evacuated. If not, additional callouts are required. When the search comes to an end, whatever the result, BSAR groups return from the field where they participate in a debrief before returning home.

TRAINING

BSAR conducts an annual training weekend that builds on member's existing bushwalking expertise and adds specialist search and rescue techniques. Other training days are organised to hone specific skills.

SNOW AND ICE

Within BSAR there is a Steep Snow and Ice group with specialist mountaineering experience capable to handle extreme conditions. They train with the police and are called out for incidents where steep snow or ice is present.

BSAR EVENTS LOST SNOWBOARDERS

In mid-winter 1999, a group of four snowboarders were reported lost on Mt Kosciuszko during a raging blizzard. Victoria Police and BSAR were called to assist. The BSAR teams searched the western edge of the Snow Mountains on skis/snowshoes in sub-zero conditions. The bodies of the snowboarders were eventually located in late spring.

BSAR members must be:

- Experienced in the bush
- Fit for search in rugged terrain
- Competent navigators
- Able to get time off from work
- Fully self-contained for up to three days in the field

TIM HOLDING SEARCH

One of Victoria's most high profile searches was in August 2009 for then State Minister Tim Holding. A team of 24 BSAR searchers were among around 80 emergency service personnel searching for Mr Holding on Mt Feathertop.

BSAR teams were deployed at Federation Hut. The most experienced BSAR team combined with police search and rescue and headed north of Mt Feathertop. Due to the extreme conditions, the team camped overnight and proceeded over Mt Feathertop the next morning with full ice axe and crampons in time to watch the Minister being winched out by the police helicopter. Police, ski patrol, SES and Australian Army groups were also involved in the search.

TOMAHAWK CREEK

In June 2011, BSAR members spent five days searching for former head of Barwon Prison David Prideaux, who went missing near Tomahawk Creek, north of Mt Stirling during a deer shooting expedition. After a five day search in severe winter conditions with wind, snow, rain and sub-zero temperatures, the search was called off. Mr Prideaux has still not been found. ●

For more information contact Rik Head MAIES at rich@c3plus.com.au.

STATE ROUND-UP

Over the past few months AIES state divisions have held their Annual General Meetings around the country. Here is a snapshot of each state report.

VICTORIA DIVISION

AGM: 24 April 2012

Office bearers

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| President | Alan Marshall |
| Vice President | Grant Coultman-Smith |
| Registrar | Alan Alder |

Highlights

At the Victorian AGM a plaque was presented to Alan Alder OAM, LFAIES in recognition of service to the AIES. Mr Alder was National President of the AIES from 1993 to 1998. In 1996 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to Emergency Services and the Community. He was Vice President of the Combined Emergency Services Committee for almost 20 years and the Manningham senior citizen of the year in 2002. He received the Paul Harris Fellow award for his involvement with Rotary and the community in 2003. Alan is a founding member of the Victorian Division of the AIES and in 1981 was appointed to the registrar's position. Alan's excellent contribution continues with his role as the Registrar/Treasurer of the AIES Victorian Division.

Richard (Rik) Head ESM, MAIES, was guest speaker at the Victorian Division AGM. Many emergency services personnel know Mr Head for his search and rescue roles as leader of Bush Search and Rescue Victoria and his involvement with Ski Patrol and Alpine Search and Rescue groups. He has made a major contribution in areas of technology, organisational improvement and emergency management. His outstanding contribution was recognised with the awarding of the Emergency Services Medal (ESM) in the 2011 Australia Day Honours List. Rik has been a member of the AIES since July 1987. He was also a member of St John Ambulance Australia (Vic) involved with search and rescue in the 1960s and 70s. A summary of Mr Head's presentation on BSAR is on page 14 and 15 of this edition of *National Emergency Response*.



(L-R) President SA Barry Presgrave and David Mack.

SA/WA/NT

AGM: 5 March 2012

Office bearers

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| President | Barry Presgrave |
| Vice President | Peter Schar |
| Registrar | Michelle Tink |

Highlights

South Australia was rewarded last year with both the National winner and the National runner up.

Thomas Walsh, a member of the One Tree Hill CFS was the National winner and has recently completed his trip on the Young Endeavour. Stephen Rypp, a member of the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club was the National runner up and state finalist. Stephen presented a talk late last year to our members of his involvement as a young volunteer in Surf Life Saving.

During the past year AIES SA/WA/NT has conducted bi-monthly dinner meetings at the Public Schools Club in Adelaide, where guest speakers have presented a variety of great talks to our membership on areas pertaining to the Emergency Services community.

Brian Mattner and David Mack, both AIES SA/WA/NT Board members, became Certified Emergency Managers



(L-R) President SA Barry Presgrave and Brian Mattner.

last year. This qualification is the highest professional achievement honour under the International Association of Emergency Managers. Work is continuing on a local high-grade conference under the National Strategy for Community Resilience. The division has received \$25,000 grant assistance for the conference, which is expected to be held in April 2013.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION

AGM: 22 February 2012

Office bearers

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| President | Mick Davis AM |
| Vice President | Robert Hartley |
| Treasurer | Jenny Crump |
| Registrar/Secretary | Greg Eustace |

Highlights

The Queensland Division played host to the AIES General Council and AIES National AGM on 16 April 2012. The AIES was also a key partner at the Australian and New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference, which was also hosted in Queensland on 17 and 18 April 2012. Professional development activities were held at Maleny and Brisbane during 2011 and a divisional newsletter was established.



NSW/NZ**AGM:** 2 April 2012**Office bearers**

President Harold Wolpert
 Vice President Peter Dixon
 Registrar/Treasurer Stephen Sanson

Highlights

David Hull, stepped down from the role of President and resigned from the committee due to personal reasons. Harold Wolpert was elected to the position at a board meeting. We are also delighted to welcome Peter Lalor to our Committee.

With two further changes in our committee the new team has had meetings to look at refreshing the NSW Division approach.

Strategic planning is now under way to address the opportunities and expand our appeal to the many people working for emergency services agencies within our state. We also seek to grow the NZ base of members. Overall our focus is increasing our membership with some

aggressive targets of new members being set.

NSW is also planning a series of dinner meetings and guest speakers in the next few months to reactivate activities following a quiet period due to illnesses and other disruptions for our Committee members.

TASMANIA**AGM:** 25 February 2012**Office bearers**

President Ron Jones
 Vice President David Paton
 Registrar Neil Wright
 Treasurer Les Batchelor

At last year's AGM, Darrell Johnson stepped down as President/Registrar after a long stint at the helm. Iain Watson was elected President, but after a few months, stepped down for personnel reasons. Ron Jones was then elected at a board meeting. After a couple of board meetings our plans for the future are

starting to take shape. In November, Peter Geard organised a dinner at the Hilltop at Granton with a theme about the volunteer effort of Tasmanians in the 2011 floods and cyclone cleanup in both Queensland and New South Wales. The P J Parssey Memorial Award has been promoted through the Tasmanian Broadcasters Radio Network's Emergency Service Volunteer Worker of Year (see page 9) and the division is developing a partnership with Donate Life under the theme: Emergency Service Workers - Saving Lives Even in Passing. Camp Quality is the division's charity for 2012 and money raised at events and dinners will go towards research into this worthy children's cancer foundation. A membership drive is underway. AIES Tasmania is offering members a \$5 discount on their annual subscriptions, or donated to Camp Quality, for every new member they sign (maximum of four members). ●

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CATASTROPHIC WORK/LIFE BALANCE



Emergency Responder Role Conflict and Abandonment – Implications for Managers



No one would seriously question the courage of our emergency responders, or their loyalty and sense of duty. But what happens when, in catastrophic emergencies, their duty as responder's conflicts with their duty as a partner, parent or child; or in the case of volunteers perhaps, their duty to other organisations?

Greg Linsdell

Charles Sturt University, Australian Graduate School of Policing Senior Lecturer

Greg Linsdell presented on the topic of work/life balance at the Australian & New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Earth Fire and Rain Conference held in Brisbane on 16-18 April 2012. *This paper has been edited to fit within the style and space of this journal. Please view the full paper at www.anzdm.com.au*



© CFA. Black Saturday Bushfires, Victoria, Feb 2009.



The concept of work/life balance is something we have become increasingly aware of in recent times. The need to 'have a life' beyond work is seen as not only desirable but also necessary for proper mental and physical health. Organisations have responded with more flexible policies around working hours, location of work and absences. For the most part, this revolution in work practice continues and is enabled by technology pushed by generational change. However, there are times where emergency response agencies must insist that people be at work. Communities rely on emergency responders and while routine operations permit flexibility, sudden emergencies and catastrophic events may require people to put work first.

ROLE CONFLICT AND ABANDONMENT

Role conflict refers to the times when it is difficult for individuals to meet the demands of filling multiple roles (Killian, 1952; Westman, 2001). In the context of this paper we are referring to people who have an occupational role as a as a career, retained or volunteer¹ emergency responder such as a fire-fighter, rescuer, paramedic or police officer. These roles require people to face dangers and take risks that other citizens are not exposed to or expected to confront. Such is the selfless bravery and sense of duty among these groups that during relatively recent mega-events, such as the World Trade Centre attacks in New York, the unsolicited convergence of emergency responders became a problem in itself. (See Tierney, 2003) Of course emergency responders have life roles beyond their profession. They are parents, siblings and children with interdependent relationships with others. They have friends and colleagues who may rely on them and, particularly in the case of volunteers, may have a second primary occupation and perhaps customers and employees to whom they have various levels of responsibility. Simultaneously meeting the expectations of these various responsibilities can be difficult. Emergency responders often work shift work and have unpredictable hours and may be subject to call outs. In addition, the strains of emergency response work can lead to changed social and family behaviours that can impact on relationships.

Australian communities are heavily dependent on their 220,000 volunteer fire fighters (J. McLennan, 2008) but being a volunteer can put pressure on other life roles. In 2007 the average resignation rate for Australian volunteer fire agencies was 7.7% (McLennan, Birch, Cowlshaw, & Hayes, 2009, p. 40). A study of South Australian fire services revealed that of those volunteers who resigned between December 2005 and December 2007, 51 percent left due to work/family needs (McLennan, et al., 2009, p. 45). The negative impact on work and family roles was described

by McLennan, et al. (2009, p. 45) as the most pervasive of the "(notionally) avoidable reasons why volunteers resign". In addition, research has illustrated the impact on relationships of absences from home and the subsequent fatigue after duty (See Greenhaus & Beutell, 1985) as well as other changes in behaviour such as intolerance and emotional withdrawal. (See Schultz, Cowan, Cowan, & Brennan, 2004; Story & Repetti, 2006) To further exacerbate the impact of volunteer work there is also the "stress crossover effect" to the partners of volunteers described by Cowlshaw, Evans and McLennan (2010). Stress crossover effect is the process by which stress or strain from work leads to stress or strain experienced by the partner at home often to detrimental effect. (Westman, 2001)

In addition to the potential for conflict between duty and family there can also be role conflict between duty as an emergency responder and other employment.

Finally, there is the phenomenon of conflict between duty and duty, which occurs where responders are members of more than one emergency response agency and is referred to as two-hat syndrome.

PRECURSORS TO ABANDONMENT

Perception studies generate hypothetical scenarios and question people on their likely responses. The strength of this approach is that it enables wide-ranging what-if events to be explored across large numbers of respondents.

Hurricane Katrina killed over 1,800 people, affected 28,000 square miles and left tens of thousands homeless (United States Congress, 2006). During this mega-event, at a time where a community was in desperate need of police support, 240 of the 1450 strong police force did not go to work. Of the 240, 51 were later dismissed for "abandoning their posts" (Trainor & Barsky, 2011, p. 13). After the storm, another 60 officers resigned and two committed suicide.



Of course emergency responders have life roles beyond their profession. They are parents, siblings and children with interdependent relationships with others.

Illustration by Kathryn Steel

Hurricane Katrina reveals the possibility that there may be circumstances where large numbers of emergency responders may simultaneously put their duty to their family ahead of their duty to the communities they are sworn to serve.

Addressing role conflict will not only result in better performance of those who remain in their emergency response role, but may also defer the tipping point of mass abandonment.

(On Black Saturday, 7 February 2009, Victorian fire) ... and other emergency services prepared for the worst and the public were warned of the extreme fire danger. (As) 316 fires broke out across the state, 173 people were killed,

7562 people were displaced, over 2,000 homes were destroyed and 450,00 hectares of land were burned. (Teague, McLeod, & Pascoe, 2010a), Many fire-fighters were injured physically and psychologically by the fires. Two officers lost their lives but

many emergency responders also lost family, friends, colleagues and their homes. The Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission did not voice any concerns about the incidence of abandonment. To the contrary, the Commission

declared that it agreed with the comments of Mr David McGahy, Captain of the Arthurs Creek CFA brigade and believed they were equally true of the entire state. McGahy had said:

I never cease to be amazed to this day at the absolute bravery and professionalism of the men and women of my brigade. There were people in charge of trucks that had no idea—they were from Strathewen—whether their houses were there, they had no idea if their families were alive, and they continued to do what was requested of them. They stayed on the line and helped other people. My admiration for the bravery, as I said, of the members of my brigade knows no bounds. (Teague, McLeod, & Pascoe, 2010c, p. 139)

PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

Addressing role conflict will not only result in better performance of those who remain in their emergency response role, but may also defer the tipping point of mass abandonment. As discussed, the literature reveals many factors that contribute to the incidence of role conflict. In summary these are:

1. Impact on responders families
2. Type of disaster
3. Health of the organization
4. Absence of support mechanisms for the families of responders
5. Inability to communicate with family
6. Prevalence of responders who have a role with another public safety organization

To reduce role conflict the primary area of development should be the facilitation of improved communication with, and support of, responders' families during the deployment of officers.

Family preparedness may be facilitated through information packages and support. Family readiness may be incorporated into an agency's pre-season preparations with requirements for officers to report back when arrangements are in place. Support and assistance may be provided officially or through family volunteers.

Regular and accurate communication on the status of loved ones will also mitigate against role conflict.

Enabling support for families in the aftermath of an event is another measure that will reduce role conflict.

The proximity of responders' area of work responsibility to their families' location is another factor that could be examined. What percentage of officers families live and work in the same geographic area that the responder is likely to be required to serve? What are the roles of these officers in a catastrophic event? Is it possible to avoid this risk by ensuring key personnel will respond from outside the affected area?

CONCLUSION

Role conflict is a part of life for emergency responders and can lead to reduced performance levels during disasters, damaged personal relationships, a transfer of stress to partners and lower retention rates by agencies.

While emergency response agencies are keeping pace with modern, flexible work practices there is a limit to which these can be adopted and there will be times, particularly in crises, where role conflict reaches intense levels. Mass role abandonment is a risk that is not fully understood but there is evidence of a number of factors that contribute to its likelihood and role conflict is at the top of this list. There is clearly a need for more research in Australia relating to role conflict and this will occur as awareness of the issue grows.

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Only references that appear in this edited version have been listed. See a full list of references at www.anzdm.com.au

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End note

1 Career officers are those for whom the emergency response role is the primary occupation, usually full-time. Volunteer and retained emergency responders are those who make themselves available for training and call-out to incidents. The difference is that retained officers receive an allowance for being on-call and may be paid while on duty at a call-out. Volunteers are not paid in this way but the term "volunteer" is used in this paper to describe all "non-career" emergency responders because remuneration is not a key factor. ●

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Greg Linsdell is a senior lecturer at Charles Sturt University, Australian Graduate School of Policing and Security where he coordinates the postgraduate Management and Leadership Program and International Programs. Greg's professional background is primarily in policing with Victoria Police, Australia.



LIKELIHOOD OF INNOVATIVE CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES TO STRENGTHEN HOUSING FOR DISASTER MITIGATION IN CENTRAL VIETNAM

This paper was presented by Tran Tuan Anh at the Australian and New Zealand Disaster Management Conference, Earth, Fire and Rain, held in Brisbane in April 2012. It investigates the existing unsafe conditions of traditional houses of a local community in the central highland of Vietnam, exposed to natural disasters, together with an identification of several traditional features of this housing that would be needed to preserve in future construction.

Please note this paper has been edited to fit with the style of National Emergency Response Journal. View the full paper at www.anzdm.com.au

PhD candidate, RMIT University Tran Tuan Anh and Lecturer Faculty of Architecture, College of Sciences, Hue University Nguyen Quoc Thang

Housing and natural disasters have a close linkage in developing countries where housing is considered as one of the most valuable assets of residents (Ahmed, 2011). Natural disasters intensified by climate change with their unfavourable impacts on housings have put high pressure of meeting shelter demands for disaster-affected regions (UNEP and SKAT, 2007). Housing reconstruction after disasters therefore becomes one of the key interventions of disaster recovery, ranging from provision of short-term or temporary shelter to long-term or permanent housing. Funds for disaster management all over the world have not increased while the proportion spent on post-disaster housing reconstruction has risen significantly (Gilbert, 2001). In Asia's developing countries, despite national governments and humanitarian agencies carrying out plenty of recovery responses, most affected households still receive little or even no assistance (Suarez et al., 2008). In Vietnam, the government considers housing as one of the four most vulnerable sectors to climate hazards (MONRE, 2008).

Housing reconstruction often reproduces vulnerability to future disasters (Wisner et al., 2004). The complex relationship between human interactions and climate crisis require aid agencies to re-consider their methods

or approaches to disaster mitigation in the future (Suarez et al., 2008). Inappropriate design solutions and badly constructed houses have been known as one of the root causes of increased disaster risks (Davis, 1978). It is said that addressing local patterns and responsive characteristics in housing reconsolidation or rebuilding is importantly necessary to provide a so-called normal house for a given community (Davis, 1978). Housing solutions, both technical and non-technical, are seen as responsive or appropriate once they not only meet

shelter needs but also bring about non-housing outcomes for inhabitants (such as family stability, better homework and educational performances, healthy living practices etc.) (Fien et al., 2008).

However, one of the most common failures in recent post-disaster housing reconstruction is the exclusive concentration on physical and visual aspects of buildings with little or no attention to people's normal activities such as farming, crafting and fishing, and community's meanings, symbols, or traditions (Audefroy, 2010).

Many traditional timber houses on tilts were seriously damaged by typhoon Ketsana in 2009.





Based on an in-depth understanding of local context, together with community consultation, Tran Tuan Anh and Nguyen Quoc Thang came up with the final design with the utilisation of reinforced concrete for skeleton and timber for covering in the traditional typology of housing on stilts.

These defects may create conflicts or rejections from inhabitants towards proposed mitigation measures (Audefroy, 2010) and subsequently lead to unsuccessfulness of housing programs. In most housing reconstruction projects in central Vietnam, their excessive focuses on technical issues to provide robust buildings has led to inadequate responses to local contexts and potentially created unacceptance of people. One of main causes originates from the evaluation of successfulness of housing reconstruction projects mostly based on physical outcomes (visible buildings or facilities), whereas the key criteria of this assessment absolutely comes from people's acceptance and adoption towards their proposed measures (Gharaati, 2009). In addition, the common approach to post-disaster reconstruction by applying one-size-fits-all solutions for geographically and culturally different locations may create greater severity of post-disaster built environment (Esther, 2011).

Sustainable housing reconstruction comes into existence as a result of the central focus on achieving the best long-term results of post-disaster reconstruction (UNEP and SKAT, 2007). It will not only ensure technical stability of buildings and better construction quality, but also offers plenty of social, economic, and environmental benefits for disaster prone regions in the future (UNEP and SKAT, 2007). Climate change and complicated occurrences of climate events in recent years have significantly supported the promotion of sustainable design solutions for vulnerable regions all over the world (Suarez et al., 2008).



Site visits, field surveys and consultation with people in need where undertaken before a new design was finalised.

Vietnam has been known as one of the most vulnerable countries to global climate change with different types of climate hazards. Floods and typhoons expose the most frequent and awful occurrences, affecting approximately 80-90 percent of Vietnam's population (Vietnamese

disasters. Housing assistance for such communities is highlighted not only to improve their living conditions but also to maintain these in-progress traditional ways of living. By 2010, a reconstruction project funded by International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent to

Housing reconstruction after disasters therefore becomes one of the key interventions of disaster recovery, ranging from provision of short-term or temporary shelter to long-term or permanent housing.

Government, 2007) and causing enormous losses of human life, livelihood, and property (Nhu et al., 2011). In central Vietnam, the most disaster prone region of the country (Tinh et al., 2010), the provision of appropriate housing is more important and urgent, especially when most past and current shelter programs face similar problems regarding cultural appropriateness and local adaptation.

Housing of an ethnic minority group, located in Ia-Broai district of Gia Lai province in the highland of central Vietnam, currently contain strong vernacular characteristics in building form, structure, and materials used. These are the timber structures sitting on stilts to accommodate various functional spaces under and above the timber floor. However, strong occurrences of climate events in recent years have damaged these houses partially or totally and make their inhabitants vulnerable to

provide 650 houses for affected populations in central Vietnam after the typhoon Ketsana (2009) was initiated with the participation of Development Workshop France (DWF) organisation as the professional consultant. The author was employed by DWF as an architect to propose housing designs for two provinces in the highland of central Vietnam including this ethnic minority group. The central focus on the humanitarian-design approach with high respects to local culture and context of this community has come up with certain achievements in practice.

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

Sustainability in post-disaster housing reconstruction is the key aspect of this research. It is a long-term strategy dealing with many different but interrelated factors. It will not only include technical



The new houses on stilts effectively resist next disasters and highly respond to local contexts.

aspects of housing but also address unseen important factors in terms of social, economic and institutional issues. The consultation with target groups in community at certain stages is critically important in line with an adequate understanding of local contexts to effectively apply new construction methods or techniques for disaster mitigation.

skeletons provides safer houses for people in future disasters. It also partly contributes to the reduction of deforestation for the need of construction materials as previously in the region. The employment of local craftsmen in installing wooden surrounding walls (usually from available reserved resources of families) onto RC structures offer local people plenty of



The participatory design method (above) is highly agreed and supported by local people. It fully makes use of local experiences and architectural expertises of involved architects to produce appropriate housing options for beneficiary communities. In addition, the careful supervision of construction activities in practice is also important to ensure the construction quality conforms to disaster-resistant standards. As a result, the final housing products in reality are greatly accepted and adopted by locals who continuously implement these measures for next disasters.

CONCLUSION

The re-utilisation of traditional forms of houses on stilts did familiarise local people with their new houses. The replacement of timber structures by reinforced concrete

jobs and help them better understand the importance of applying new construction technology to promote valuable local characteristics in disaster risk reduction. This significantly improves current construction practices and perceptions on housing construction in terms of disaster mitigation in the region.

These outcomes may be used as a useful case study to develop housing solutions for other vulnerable minority groups who are currently living in wooden houses on stilts in central Vietnam or in some other countries. However, participatory-design approach together with community consultation with target groups including home owners, builders, local representatives, before initiating design solutions is required to develop appropriate and sustainable housing for local communities. ●

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GENERAL SECRETARY/NATIONAL REGISTRAR'S 2011 REPORT TO AIES AGM – adopted in Brisbane on 16 April 2012



Robert Maul, LFAIES

General Secretary/Registrar

As can be gleaned from the accounts tabled for your consideration (at the AGM, 16 April 2012), from a national perspective, General Council's accounts for the year ending December 2011 show a profit of \$4,029. These accounts are exclusive of the accounts and assets of the State Divisions. Owing to our commitments, for an entity which does not receive substantial income from subscriptions, expenditure on items was kept to a bare minimum, consistent with the Institute's legal obligations under the provisions of the Corporation Act. Only the most necessitous purchases were made to enable General Council to carry out its functions per se the requirements of the AIES' Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association and to support the State Sub Division Committees throughout Australia. Income from levies (capitation fees) on Sub Divisions decreased in comparison to previous years but this was offset by income from other sources, including a donation from the publisher of the *National Emergency Response* journal (NER), Countrywide Austral.

General Council expenditure on meeting the costs of Directors attending the 2011 AGM in Adelaide was lower than in previous years. The South Australian State Sub Division not providing invoices to General Council for activities undertaken at the 2011

AGM and pre-paid by the South Australia Sub Division caused this. Obviously, this oversight will be corrected in next year's national accounts when the South Australia Sub Division will bill General Council for expenditure incurred by that Division on behalf of General Council in 2011.

The total retained assets of the national body of the AIES as at the end of the financial year totalled \$35,731. General Council paid for three insurances, which included public liability insurance (\$20,000,000), directors' liability insurance (\$1,000,000) and personal accident insurance for all members.

All State Sub Divisions and General Council provided funding to enable a South Australian nominee to undertake a voyage on the sailing vessel *Young Endeavour*. A NSW nominee undertook a similar voyage the year before and from all accounts both nominees acquitted themselves honourably during both voyages representing the AIES. Further funding will be provided by all Sub Divisions to enable another Young AIES volunteer to undertake a similar voyage in 2012 aboard the *Young Endeavour*. General Council offers special thanks to our ACT Sub Division Treasurer/Registrar, Mr Philip Gaden, for his efforts in co-ordinating arrangements for enabling the two young volunteers to undertake the journeys.

Additional thanks must be extended to our National Vice President, John Rice, for his fantastic efforts, all done voluntarily, in maintaining the additional national database of members and NER journal distribution list on the AIES national web site, as well as updating the AIES national website on a regular basis.

During the year, two new State Division Presidents were elected. Ron Jones FAIES from Tasmania and David Hull MAIES from NSW, and three new State Division Registrar's were elected - Jenny Crump MAIES (QLD), David Sanson MAIES (NSW) and Neil Wright MAIES (TAS).

Our congratulations are extended to these volunteer office holders.

One of the pleasing features to occur during the year was the large number of emergency management operatives throughout Australia and overseas

who applied for membership of the AIES online. Over 60 persons sought membership via our website in 2011 and additional applications have been received in the early part of 2012.

In May 2011, representatives from the NSW, ACT and South Australia State Sub Divisions and the General Secretary/Registrar attended a two-day Australian Volunteer Emergency Management Summit in Canberra. This summit was organised by the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum, of which the General Secretary/Registrar represents the AIES. The summit was financed by the Australian Attorney General's Department and officially opened by the Governor General Australia with an opening address by the Australian Attorney General. Over 400 representatives from voluntary agencies in Australia and overseas attended the Summit, which was considered to be a success. Additionally, the General Secretary/Registrar attended a two-day working party at the Australian Emergency Management Institute in Mt Macedon, Victoria in June 2011. The working party comprised all members of the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum with the main topic of discussion and resolution being to revise the draft of the National Action Plan for the Attraction, Support and Retention of Emergency Management Volunteers and its referral to the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management through the NEMC for consideration and implementation as appropriate. Details of these activities are on the Attorney General's website.

In conclusion, the AIES has no liabilities, apart from work undertaken by the National Auditor in preparing the 2011 Accounts, and therefore is a viable going concern in terms of the Corporations Act. Accordingly, my report and the national accounts are submitted for the adoption and approval of the AGM. ●

Robert A Maul

Company Secretary
General Secretary/Registrar
AIES General Council
16 April 2012

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES LIMITED
A.C.N. 050 033 764
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 DECEMBER, 2011

| | 2011 | 2010 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash at bank – Westpac operating account | 9,807.30 | 3,434.54 |
| Cash at bank - Police Credit Union operating account | 689.52 | - |
| Cash at bank - Police Credit Union term deposit | 24,011.30 | 27,010.99 |
| Stock on hand | - | 350.00 |
| Prepayment – General Insurances - 2010 AGM | 1,958.89 | 1,937.64 |
| Debtor – Royalties | 295.34 | - |
| | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 36,762.35 | 32,733.17 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Web Site | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Office Equipment | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| Software Development | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL FIXED ASSETS | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$36,766.35 | \$32,737.17 |
| | ===== | ===== |
| CURRENT LIABILITY | | |
| Accrued charges - Audit of Financial Report | 550.00 | 550.00 |
| - Other Services | 485.00 | 485.00 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 1,035.00 | 1,035.00 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$35,731.35 | \$31,702.17 |
| | ===== | ===== |
| Represented by: | | |
| RETAINED EARNINGS | \$35,731.35 | \$31,702.17 |
| | ===== | ===== |

“The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements”



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of _____ (Full postal address for entry in Register)
Postcode _____

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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 _____
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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) _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
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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.

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| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
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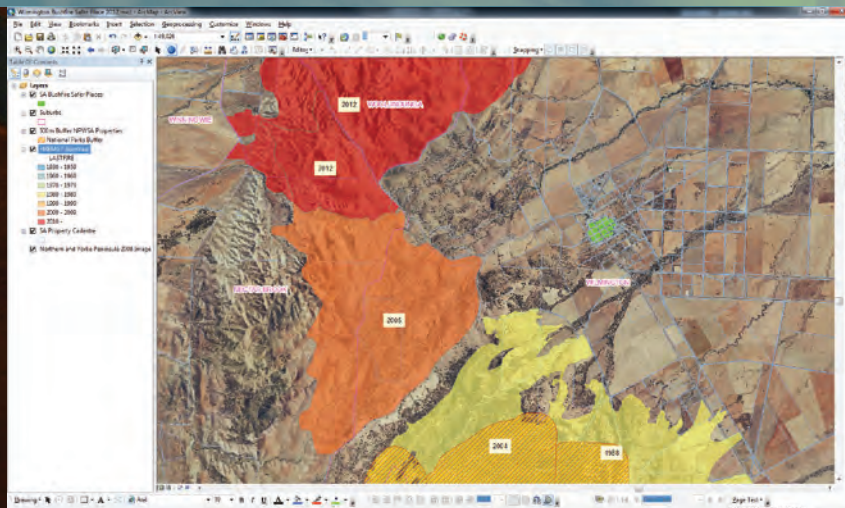
CFS (SA) ADOPTS QLD FLOOD TECHNOLOGY

Cutting-edge mapping technology used in last year's Queensland flood disasters is being used to help South Australia's 13,500 Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteers.

The CFS is working with location intelligence specialists Esri Australia to develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) solution that uses multi-layered digital maps to provide front-line crews with detailed information as emergency incidents unfold.

CFS Operations Planning Officer Nick Cundell said GIS technology offers valuable environmental and historical data during emergencies.

"GIS technology enables us to access previously collated fire, asset, environmental and other data through an easy-to-understand visual context of maps," he said. ●





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