

NATIONAL EMERGENCY

RESPONSE

Official Journal of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services



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Official Publication of
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

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www.aies.net.au

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 EMERGENCY RESPONSE



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FRONT COVER

South Australian Police
Community Constable.

Photo: SAPOL Photographic Section

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Bob Maul LFAIES

General Secretary/Registrar

AIES is pleased to announce the following emergency service people were elevated to Life Fellows, Fellows or joined the AIES June and August 2013.

Name	Organisation	State
LIFE FELLOWS:		
Peter James McMurtrie	STA QLD	QLD
Ronald George Melton	SES/Marine Rescue	QLD
Ian John Rice	AIES/Marine Rescue	ACT
FELLOWS:		
Gordon William Blair	SES/Health Services	NSW
Gregory Francis Eustace	Health Services	QLD
Robert Graf (Honorary)	AIES	TAS
Roger Stephen Halliday	Police/Sea Rescue	SA
MEMBERS:		
Edward Bennet	SLS	QLD
Matthew Cannon	STA NSW	NSW
Costas Chrysopoulos	SES	VIC
Wayne Coutts	EMQ	QLD
Paul Huntington	CFA	VIC
Robert Read	SES	QLD
Peter Ruddick	EMQ	QLD
Stephen Sennett	SES	VIC
Ian Stanley-Eyles	CFA	VIC
Peter Sugg (Corporate)	AST Management Pty Ltd	QLD
Alan Williams	SES	NSW

AIES: Australian Institute of Emergency Services. CFA: Country Fire Service. EMQ: Emergency Management Queensland SES: State Emergency Service. SJA: St John Ambulance. SLS: Surf Life Saving.



<http://au.linkedin.com/groups/Australian-Institute-Emergency-Services-3844281>
or log in at au.linkedin.com and search for 'Australian Institute of Emergency Services' under 'Companies'.



www.facebook.com/aies.online

EDITOR'S REPORT

Kristi High

In this edition of National Emergency Response we put a focus on the 175th anniversary of the South Australian Police (SAPOL). Our cover story adds to the celebrations and events that will continue throughout the year and takes a historical look at SAPOL – the oldest centrally controlled police force in Australia.

Thank you to the members who contributed articles to this issue. Please remember to submit your stories to editor@aies.net.au along with photos by the deadline date. A list of these are available on the AIES website – www.aies.net.au. The AIES Annual General Meeting was held in July. AIES President Alan Marshall shares some of the

outcomes of this meeting in his report on page three. It's an exciting time for the Institute with a new vision to be developed to lead the way to other areas of change, ensuring the AIES is fit for serving its members in the future.

Kristi

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Alan Marshall LFAIES

National President

ALIGNING FOR THE FUTURE – 2013 AND BEYOND

The AIES held its National Board meeting and Annual General Meeting in Adelaide on 17 July, which coincided with the 2013 Resilience Conference - *Building Community and Organisational Resilience*.

A number of matters were dealt with at the National Board meeting as the Institute aligns for the future to meet the evolving needs of its members and stakeholders.

The role of the emergency services has changed significantly in recent years from the traditional Police, Fire, Ambulance and State Emergency Service to a more encompassing model of collaboration between federal, state and local government, industry, non-government organisations such as business and critical infrastructure providers, not-for-profit organisations including volunteers, youth and community and the education and training sector comprising vocational and higher education.

The federal government acknowledges that change is required in the overall responsibility for resilience and has recently published the National Disaster Resilience Strategy (NDRS). This strategy recognises that a resilience-based approach is not solely the domain of emergency management agencies; rather, it is a shared responsibility between governments, communities, businesses and individuals. The purpose of the NDRS is to provide high-level guidance on disaster management to all levels of government, business and community leaders and the not-for-profit sector.

While the strategy focuses on priority areas to build disaster resilient communities across Australia, it is this

recognition of shared responsibility that makes the NDRS the first step in a long-term, evolving journey to deliver sustained behavioural change and enduring partnerships.

This is a significant change in also direction for Emergency Services and Emergency Management at a national level. The Institute has to embrace change due to the expansion of our stakeholders and the advancement of professional standards and associated public safety services.

Subsequently, the challenges for the Institute in 2013 and beyond are to translate the commitment of reforms and undertake transformation within our own Institute to appeal to, engage, and collaborate with our existing stakeholders as well as a diverse range of new stakeholders and professionals who are now involved in public safety.

As reported previously, our constitution is undergoing a review and more details will be shared with members in due course.

A new vision for our Institute also needs to be determined prior to the

The Institute has to embrace change due to the expansion of our stakeholders and the advancement of professional standards and associated public safety services.

adoption of our new constitution, strategic plan and associated governance documents. In determining our vision, we are seeking to align our people, relationships, systems and structure.

The Institute needs to prepare for our future and a sub-committee has been appointed by the National



Executive to develop a business plan, review our base membership, market segment, professional development opportunities, promotion and advancement of professional standards and associated services.

The challenges for the Institute will be achieved by ensuring that together we all keep ahead of the evolving changes. We must have a clear vision for what the Institute will deliver and what we can offer our existing and potential members,

which is the opportunity to be a part of a recognised professional body, dedicated to the progression and ongoing development of Emergency Service and Emergency Management professional standards.

I look forward to sharing our plans with you in the months ahead as they develop. ●

FROM THE BEACH TO DISASTER MANAGEMENT



George Hill

*Chief Operations Officer,
Surf Life Saving Queensland*

It's been over 105 years since Queensland's first rescue occurred on a Gold Coast beach. I'm proud to say it's from those essential, but humble, beginnings that there has been growth and many positive changes in the surf life saving movement in Queensland to bring it to where it is today.

Our path to recognition from being seen as an organisation saving lives on our beaches to also becoming an important community resource of volunteers and professionals in times of disaster has been rapid; born from necessity during recent extreme events in Queensland.

We have over 32,000 members. Over 8,000 of these are proficient surf lifesavers. From Port Douglas in the northern part of Queensland to Rainbow Bay on the border of NSW, 59 surf life saving clubs are thriving across five regions. Each region has its own unique conditions and challenges. Our vision is zero preventable deaths in Queensland waters and our core business is saving lives on our beaches.

Volunteer surf lifesavers are well trained, giving up their own time to patrol our beaches and, at times, put their lives on the line to help people in trouble in our coastal waters. So it wasn't surprising that this selflessness also transferred to assist their local communities during times of natural disasters.



Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter surf rescue. Photo: Andrew McNeilly

After the initial responses to assist with natural disasters, we recognised the need to further formalise the process away from situations on the beach with management procedures for staff and volunteers to follow during a natural disaster response. In 2007, the first Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) 24-hour Emergency Response Group (ERG) was formed on the Sunshine Coast.

The after-hours callout service complemented other emergency services in the area with our skills and equipment. The success of this service saw it evolve and expand through the great work of our volunteers and staff to now include active Emergency Response Groups (ERG) in all SLSQ regions.

I need to emphasise that none of this would have happened without the time and commitment of SLSQ's volunteer surf lifesavers. We are part of Surf Life Saving Australia, and SLSQ volunteer surf lifesavers are the reason we exist.

These are people from all walks of life who come together volunteering their time to be trained to patrol our beaches, perform rescues, crew and drive various motorised rescue craft in the water and on the land as well as our Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter Rescue Service based on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.

Without their willingness to give up their time to commit to further training and expand into disaster management off the

beach, we would not have the ERGs and the disaster response capabilities we have today to assist Queensland communities.

This was first recognised in 2009 when then Queensland Premier Anna Bligh had the foresight to engage with SLSQ to form a Memorandum of Understanding with the Queensland Government and Emergency Services, which now sees volunteer surf lifesavers tasked to assist with natural disasters, emergency situations and various other after-hours callouts.

In 2011, one of the largest floods in Queensland's history saw SLSQ, through its volunteer surf lifesavers and staff, recognised for our disaster management expertise. The extreme flood events in 2011 brought over 100 years of SLSQ's historical emergency care and aquatic rescue training to the flood affected communities of south east Queensland.

SLSQ's Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter Rescue Service crews, our professional lifeguards, office staff and over 230 volunteer surf lifesavers took to the air, and the raging flood waters, and worked in operational and logistical support to assist Emergency Service Queensland.

Thirty SLSQ crewed Inflatable Rescue Boats working 24 hours-a-day for five days to support the rescue effort. Our Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter Rescue Service crews performed rescue and transportation services in many nearby rural towns, including the Lockyer Valley,

winching people from floodwaters and from roofs. The 'red and yellow' was seen everywhere and welcomed by all.

For a second time, this great commitment by our volunteers and staff was recognised by the Queensland Government and led directly to the appointment of SLSQ to the State Disaster Management Group in August 2011. SLSQ now sits at the major disaster table with all of Queensland's Emergency Services as well as one other volunteer group, the Red Cross.

Since this time, SLSQ's volunteer surf lifesavers and staff have been involved in major flood work on the Sunshine Coast and the Roma area in central Queensland in 2012, and more recently January this year when Bundaberg experienced one of its largest flood events in recent history.

Around 1,000 Bundaberg and surrounding residents north of the Burnett River were caught in their homes, unable to leave as the sea of water that once was a river continued to rise and swept away anything in its path.

The decision was made to evacuate by helicopter those still in their homes in the flood zone SLSQ Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter Rescue Service was tasked, along with many other rescue helicopter services, to assist in the mass evacuation.

People were winched from roofs, verandas and from the ground as the waters continued to rise. They were transported to Bundaberg Airport where the 'red and yellow' army of surf lifesavers were on hand to assist them from the aircraft, administer first aid, help with food and drink or just be someone to talk to.



Surf lifesavers patrol Brisbane streets during the 2011 Queensland floods.

Our reputation as Queensland's peak beach safety and rescue authority and its path to becoming an integral part in the State Disaster Management Group is one that can be utilised by other aquatic safety and rescue authorities.

It makes sense that volunteer organisations be utilised for their expertise by federal, state and local governments. In 2007, following an extreme weather event that caused major damage and injuries in the suburbs around The Gap in Brisbane, the call went out for first aid assistance in the area. We answered that call, but because of a lack of understanding on what surf lifesavers are trained for and capable of doing, we were told 'no thank you'.

This is now history thanks to meetings and consultation with Queensland Emergency Services, which saw the potential to utilise the skills

and expertise of SLSQ surf lifesavers in future natural disaster situations.

The skills used by SLSQ's volunteer surf lifesavers, staff and Westpac Helicopter Rescue crews during the floods in 2011, 2012 and 2013 were there before these extreme flood events. This is all part of being on the Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter Rescue Service crew, an Australian Lifeguard Service Lifeguard and a volunteer surf lifesaver in Queensland.

Not long after the 2011 floods, we looked at forming surf life saving volunteers from the greater Brisbane region. Brisbane Lifesaving Service was developed to provide much needed support to surf clubs on the Sunshine and Gold Coasts by equipping Brisbane residents with the key lifesaving skills required to patrol beaches. This has proven very successful and in the future, this same group of dedicated surf lifesaving volunteers could also have the opportunity to use their skills closer to home as part of SLSQ's ongoing agreement to assist the State Emergency Services with after-hour emergencies.

Opportunities abound for SLSQ volunteer surf lifesavers and lifeguards to attain many award qualifications, and levels within those awards, and many do. This is why surf life saving in Australia is one of the greatest humanitarian organisations in the world. The commitment from our volunteer surf lifesavers, both historically and recently, is the reason why we are on the beach saving lives and in our communities when natural disasters strike. ●



Surf lifesavers assist residents during the 2013 Bundaberg floods.

STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE

The race to the top of Melbourne's tallest building is on again this year with the Eureka Climb set to take place on 17 November 2013.



Eureka Climb participant Scott McGraw in full uniform during last year's climb. Photo Supersport Images

The event raises much needed money for disadvantaged youth supported by charity partners Whitelion and Interplast Australian and New Zealand.

The annual climb to the top of the 297.3-metre Eureka Tower is in its fifth year and has become a special event for emergency services personnel. The Emergency Services Challenge allows members to pit themselves against not only the 91-storey building, but against other emergency service teams.

Defending champion Scott McGraw from the Melbourne Fire Bridge (MFB) said, "The Eureka Climb and Emergency Services Challenge has become quite an iconic event, one that really tests people."

Mr McGraw should know, having competed in the climb for the past three years, winning the last two as part of the MFB team Rescue Me. Last year Mr McGraw took on the additional challenge of completing the race a second time in his full fire fighting kit, including breathing apparatus.

"I'm a firefighter and every year I want to compete wearing my firefighting gear," he said.



CFA team members who participated in the 2012 Eureka Climb Emergency Service Challenge, with the towering Eureka Building behind. Photo: Supersport Images

"It's great for the community to see us climbing those stairs in our full kit. I hope it gives them the confidence that the firefighters in Melbourne are fit and healthy.

"I encourage any member of the emergency services to participate.

"It's definitely a physical and mental challenge to climb Eureka, which makes it a great challenge to set yourself.

"Completing the event gives you a great sense of achievement and because it's for charity I definitely look forward to it each year."

There's still time to take on the Emergency Services Challenge and register as an individual or team for this year's climb. Visit www.eurekaclimb.com.au for details or to donate. ●

IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA'S MOST TRUSTED PROFESSIONALS

Readers Digest

Paramedics and firefighters have topped a poll by Reader's

Digest to be named the nation's most trusted professions.

St John Ambulance Chief Executive Officer Tony Ahern said it was the tenth consecutive year paramedics had topped the Australian Reader's Digest annual Trust Survey.

Mr Ahern said paramedics had to remain calm and professional in the most stressful and challenging of situations.

"It's this ability that fosters respect and trust from the community and they deserve every bit of recognition they receive," he said.

"While our paramedics do not seek recognition, the community's faith in them is very much appreciated".

A poll participant from South Australia said, "Paramedics have the most responsible job of all to do, saving lives first hand."

Sharing top billing with paramedics in 2013 were firefighters, the first time they have achieved this public trust rating.

Firefighters, in the words of one poll participant from Queensland, are worthy of trust because, "Anyone running into a burning building when everybody else is running out deserves your full trust."

NEW FIRE TRUCKS ARRIVAL



Brigades in the Tamworth area of NSW are celebrating the official handover of five new state-of-the-art bushfire fighting vehicles

that will help fight fires more efficiently.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons congratulated the volunteers on the newest additions to their brigade.

"The NSW RFS is committed to providing volunteer firefighters with the equipment they need to carry out

their important work—protecting their local communities from fire.

"These new vehicles are replacing older style models and will allow firefighters to continue providing a high level of emergency service to residents in the Tamworth area.

"These valuable new vehicles are worth \$836,000, but they are a priceless asset to our volunteer brigades and the communities they protect.

"These trucks will put these brigades in good stead to fight bush and grass fires, as well as provide the unique equipment required to put out car and house fires," said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

The trucks will be used by the Kootingal/Moonbi, Bendemeer, Moore Creek and Woolbrook brigades, and Tamworth Support which has more than 200 volunteer members.

SAPOL STOPS TRAFFIC IN SWITZERLAND



The Band of the South Australian Police took to the world stage by performing at the acclaimed

Basel Tattoo in Switzerland recently.

Now in its eighth year, the Basel Tattoo event saw the band perform as part of a cast of around 1,000 musicians and dancers who provided live entertainment to 120,000 people over 15 performances.

Basel Tattoo generously provided funding to cover the costs for the band members to travel to this year's event, covering airfares, meals and accommodation.

Event organisers were impressed with the SA Police band's performance in Basel in 2010 and used the band in their promotional material for this year's event, with Drum Major Sergeant Adam Buckley featuring prominently in advertising on Basel's public transport.

BUILDING BEGINS



Construction works are underway for the new Victorian Southern Metropolitan Region Headquarters

and multi-agency Emergency Management Complex, marking the beginning of the much anticipated \$3.5 million project.

Country Fire Authority (CFA) Regional Director Peter Schmidt said the establishment of the Region Headquarters and Emergency Management Complex will amalgamate multiple offices and emergency management facilities into one building, ensuring efficient and adequate amenities into the future.

"I have no doubt this new building will ensure the best level of service for this ever growing and densely populated region," Mr Schmidt said.

"This includes service in the areas of both administration and support as well as multiple tiers in the emergency management structure."

The building is expected to be complete by mid-2014.

Mr Schmidt said this project was made possible by the strong partnership between CFA, developer Cbus Property, and the City of Greater Dandenong.

TRIPLE ZERO (000) IN AN EMERGENCY – NO "APPS" ABOUT IT

A united message has been issued from South Australia's emergency service agencies: *Do not rely on untested smartphone apps to send your location details in case of an emergency – call Triple Zero (000).*

Apps such as *Echo112* are not recommended or endorsed by emergency services because they are not tested and cannot be guaranteed to perform in a time of crisis. Emergency services are urging the public to reject these apps.

Metropolitan Fire Service Acting Deputy Chief Officer Paul Fletcher is reiterating the message that Triple Zero (000) is the most appropriate contact number for emergencies.

"There are probably other applications like this available however we advise they are untested and not accredited within Australia," he said.

"Members of the public should not use or rely on them in the event of an emergency," he said.

STATE DIVISION AGM REPORTS

All state divisions have now held their Annual General Meeting, reporting on events of the 2011/12 year. Reports from each Division follow.

NSW DIVISION

President Harold Wolpert MAIES
Vice President Barry Archer MAIES
Registrar Jan Maguire MAIES
Treasurer Peter Kokkonis MAIES
Committee
 Danny Fraticelli MAIES
 Peter Lalor MAIES
 Jim Pullen MAIES
 Peter Dixon MAIES
 Bill Hoyles MAIES
 Anthony Macvean MAIES

The NSW Division held its Annual General Meeting on 9 April 2013.

The minutes of the 2012 meeting and matters arising were read and confirmed.

The NSW President Harold Wolpert presented his report to members.

Highlights of the report included:

- 2012/2013 in Review, this being another significantly active year for disasters
- A summary of meetings and events held in NSW including information about the dinner meetings, committee meetings, and events attended by various committee members
- National initiatives
- Other developments
- Acknowledgements
- Plans for 2013/14.

The Secretary and Registrar reports were presented and the financial statements were accepted.

Election of the new committee was completed. Peter Sanson and Stephen Anderson stepped down as committee members, with Barry Archer and Anthony Macvean appointed new committee members.

The full NSW President's report and minutes of the AGM were published in the NSW Division newsletter.

Following the AGM, the new committee re-elected Harold Wolpert as NSW President, Barry Archer as Vice-President, and Jan Maguire and Peter Kokkonis will continue in their acting roles of Registrar and Treasurer respectively.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION

President Greg Eustace FAIES
Vice President Steve Jenkins MAIES
Registrar/Treasurer Jenny Crump MAIES
Committee
 Michael Davis LFAIES
 Noel Gillard MAIES
 Aprel Dawes MAIES
 Ron Melton LFAIES
 Peter McMurtrie LFAIES
 Jeff Campbell MAIES

The Queensland Division held its Annual General Meeting on 6 March 2013.

AGM 2013 GUEST SPEAKER

Peter McMurtrie AO, KSt.J, FPA, LFAIES, Commissioner St John Ambulance was the guest speaker who provided an insight into his 50 year involvement in emergency services.

MEMBERSHIP

The Queensland Division membership has been variable in the past year for many reasons. A concerted effort was made to follow up overdue subscriptions.

AIES ACTIVITIES 2013

Queensland Division provided support to the second annual Earth: Fire and Rain Conference held in Brisbane on 28 – 30 May 2013. It was a joint initiative of three not-for-profit organisations - AIES, Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Organisation Inc. and the Association for Sustainability in Business Inc.

CONTRIBUTION BY MICK DAVIS

We acknowledge the contribution of Mick Davis LFAIES, who stood down as Queensland Divisional President. This coincides with his retirement from the Queensland Ambulance Service following 48 years of service.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

A number of AIES Divisional Committee members were recipients of awards over the past year.

Noel Gillard, OAM, CSt.J MAIES was awarded the Order of the Medal of Australia for service to the community through leadership and administrative roles with a range of emergency management and ambulance service organisations.

Peter McMurtrie, AO, KSt.J, FPA, FAIES was appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia, for distinguished service to the community through leadership in the areas of emergency patient care and health service management and contributions to professional organisations.

Mick Davis, AM, ASM, LFAIES in June 2012 was awarded an Ambulance Service Medal for a career spanning 48 years. The Ambulance Service Medal recognises distinguished service by the men and women of Australia's ambulance organisations and his contribution to and leadership in the National Board of Paramedics Australasia.

In December 2012 Mr Davis was awarded the Queensland Ambulance Service Distinguished Service Medal on his retirement. The award was in recognition of exemplary leadership and professional contribution to the development of ambulance paramedic education in Queensland and the development of ambulance service practise standards and systems.

Also in December 2012, Mick was awarded the Australian Defence Force Surgeon-General John White Medal for Service to Health in its Many Forms – That Health and Healing May Flourish. This award was in recognition of long and dedicated service to the sick and injured in the pre-hospital environment.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA/ WA/NT DIVISION

President Barry Presgrave LFAIES

Vice President Peter Schar FAIES

Treasurer Roger Halliday FAIES

Registrar Michelle Tink MAIES

Committee

Gary Coombe FAIES

David Mack MAIES

Brian Mattner MAIES

The SA/WA/NT Division held its Annual General Meeting on 25 March 2013.

New member, Peter Bos, has been appointed as the membership officer and will work with both Michelle Tink and Roger Halliday on the combined areas of retention and new membership.

MEMBERSHIP

Overall membership has increased gradually during this period and as at 30 June 2013 we have recorded 160 paid up active members and 139 non-active members. We are actively attempting to draw some of the non-active members back into the fold.

It is good to see the gradual growth of new members from Western Australia. It will be interesting to see how much more they grow and if in time, Western Australia regains their own state division.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER MEDAL

The South Australian initiative on the design and adoption of the 10-year clasp and rosette for the IYV Medal has proved successful and will raise funds for the national coffers. Enquiries from other emergency service areas are slowly coming in and hopefully all other AIES Divisions have taken up the opportunity to make these available to their members who received the medal back in 2001.

BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE CONFERENCE.

I salute my South Australian committee members lead by Peter Schar, Brian Mattner and David Mack who have successfully put together the *Building community Resilience Conference*. Their skills and devotion as a team attracted funding for this venture from both the federal and state governments, with backing



The AIES supports the men and women working as emergency services professionals or volunteers in Australia and New Zealand.

from the South Australian Police and the Emergency Services Commission to make this a reality.

The presentations at the National Conference of Directors' in Adelaide in regard to the AIES strategic direction papers started as an initiative of this same group and now, in conjunction with both Greg Eustace from Queensland and Harold Wolpert from NSW, we see movement in the Institute as we go forward.

ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

The Royal United Services Institute in South Australia, through Vice-President Dr John Bruni, is in early talks with us about joint involvement in activities. But Brian Mattner and Barry Presgrave have met with Dr Bruni in preliminary discussions on the matter. We will meet more formally in the near future.

I again thank all of the members of the South Australia board for their commitment over the past year to make the SA Division strong and efficient.

TASMANIA DIVISION

President Ron Jones FAIES

Vice President David Paton FAIES

Registrar Neil Wright MAIES

Treasurer Les Batchelor MAIES

Committee

Darrell Johnson FAIES

Peter Geard FAIES

The Tasmania Division held its Annual General Meeting on 2 March 2013.

'Don't wait for the light at the end of the tunnel, stride down there and light the bloody thing yourself.' *Tassie Motto, Sara Henderson.*

Another year over and with my (Ron Jones) first full 12 months at the helm we are slowly seeing some interesting developments within the Tasmanian Division.

First of all I would like to thank all the Board Members for the great effort they have put in over the past 12 months. Thanks David, Les, Neil, Darrell and Peter.

We would like to welcome our newest members, Kim Brundle-Lawrence and Ian (Snowy) Neilson. We are still aiming to build up our membership base and would like to ask all members to look within their emergency service family and start recruiting. At our 2012 AGM, Betty Parssey became our first Honorary Member for the fantastic job she does in presenting the PJ Parssey Award each year, which honours her late husband Peter.

PJ PARSSEY AWARD

We would like to congratulate Kim Brundle-Lawrence for winning the 2012 PJ Parssey Award and the fantastic work she has done with the Tasmanian Fire Service and the Red Cross Emergency Management Team in Tasmania. We would also like to thank the Royal Automotive Club of Tasmania for their \$500 travel voucher which is now part of the prize package for the winner. The Tasmanian Broadcaster Radio Network through their radio stations have become a central part

of the PJ Parssey Award with their own Emergency Service Volunteer Awards winners being nominated for the PJ Parssey Award. The radio stations we must thank are, 7XS West Coast, for the last 18 years support, 7AD/SeaFM and 7BU/SeaFM, five years and 7HO and 7LA/ChilliFM, two years.

Last but not least, a big thank you to Peter Geard for the fantastic time and effort he put into organising the PJ Parssey Award and trophies every year.

GOLDEN PEN AWARD AND 10 YEAR BAR FOR INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER (IYV)

At the Tasmania Division dinner in May, Martin Boyle gave a very interesting talk on his role in the Antarctic Division and how the emergency services operate in the Antarctic. At the end of his talk, a surprised Martin was presented the Golden Pen Award for the fascinating article on the emergency services in Antarctica for our *National Emergency Response Journal*. Well done Martin.

Also at the dinner, a 10 Year bar was presented to members who received the International Year of the Volunteer (IYV) medal in 2001 for their continuous service to the AIES. Those who were presented the 10 Year bar were Maurice Massie, David Paton, Peter Geard, Darrell Johnson, Les Batchelor, Graeme McGee, Roger Brown, Mal Barron, Dallas Baker, Rex McCarthy and myself.

RSL PROMOTION

In a partnership with the Returned and Services League (RSL) Tasmania and the Tasmanian Division of the AIES we are highlighting the fact that all emergency service personnel are entitled to be an affiliated members. The aim is to build up the ranks at local RSL sub branches. Local emergency services can use the facilities for meetings and social events, and hopefully recruit members for their emergency service.

GENERAL NEWS

The Donate Life partnership is still ongoing. More news soon.

Anyone looking to help out on the Board please let us know as we are allowed to increase the numbers on the

Board to help share the load. We are particularly looking at members in the North, North West and West Coast to help organise dinner meetings and bring your point of view to the Broad.

By now most of you would have received information on how to pay your subscriptions via the internet. This will allocate you a membership number. Your email address must be up-to-date. If you haven't, or don't have access to the internet, please contact our registrar Neil Wright on registrar.tas@aies.net.au.

Wishing all our members all the best for the upcoming year and we hope to catch up soon.

Come and support your institute and help it grow and don't forget to check out the Tasmanian page on our website, any feedback is appreciated.

VICTORIAN DIVISION

President Alan Marshall LFAIES

Vice President Grant Coultman-Smith MAIES

Registrar/Treasurer Alan Alder LFAIES
Committee

Bruce Dickie FAIES

Ian Munro MAIES

The Victorian Division held its Annual General Meeting on 10 May 2013.

MEMBERSHIP

There was one Victorian Division member listed in the Australia Day Honours.

We congratulate Anthony (Tony) Scott OXFORD, ASM, CStJ, MAIES.

As National President I posted a letter congratulating Tony on his award of the Ambulance Service Medal on behalf of National Council.

The membership for 2013 is 116 up 10 new members from 2012. I thank all members for their continued support and interest in the Australian Institute of Emergency Services. I encourage you all to contribute articles to your *National Emergency Response Magazine*.

TREASURERS REPORT

Copies were tabled, and signed for our AGM records. An audited original has been sent to the National Council.

There were no other nominations for office bearers up for re-election. Incumbents for President, Vice-President and Registrar were re-elected.

GUEST SPEAKER

Associate Professor Brett Aimers OSTJ, FACS, RN, MAIES, Officer of St John, Fellow of the Australian College on Nursing, Registered Nurse and a Member of the Victorian Division of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services provided the keynote speech for our AGM.

Brett is Chief Professional Officer for St John Ambulance and an Assistant Director with the Australian Emergency Management Institute within the National Security Training Education and Development Branch.

He is a Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing and a Clinical Associate Professor with Australian Catholic University in recognition of his expertise in emergency management and clinical leadership. Brett has a keen interest in disaster health, volunteer leadership and holds a number of visiting and Adjunct appointments including at Flinders University within the Centre for Disaster Health.

Brett talked about the emerging role of health as a traditional component of emergency management today and how St John Ambulance, as a unique health service, responds from a national level in response to a large-scale emergency.

The presentation was very informative, showing how St John Ambulance has restructured Australia-wide to be a national organisation with state autonomy, yet able to be expanded as required from their national body through the team at St John Headquarters in ACT on request.

There are clear lines of communication on training, structure, and radio frequencies that are common across the Australian division of St John Ambulance. A coordinated body able to respond with advanced first aid and medical support and a stand-alone radio communications network.

Also in Victoria, St John Ambulance has just started a new stand alone business in non-urgent patient care transport operating under contract with Ambulance Service Victoria. St John continues to be active in its core business of saving lives through first aid in the community and through its schools program of teaching first aid to save lives.



THE EARTH WINS



The Earth Wins film is shot completely from the air.

Filmed entirely from the air across four continents, including Australia, *The Earth Wins* is a moving and visually beautiful film celebrating Earth's wonders and highlighting its fragility.

The film's acclaimed director Jerry Grayson, previously a search and rescue pilot in the Royal Navy, spent seven years creating this film. The precision he developed to perform rescues from the air has translated seamlessly to the precision required to film from a helicopter and the results are spectacular.

Having flown and filmed all over the world, Mr Grayson has witnessed awe-inspiring scenery, but has also seen many situations of habitat loss, extreme floods and fire and believes the aftermath of these events can be best appreciated from an aerial perspective to appreciate the sense of scale.

To add to this feeling of scale the film has been produced for IMAX theatres, where the viewer is completely immersed in the aerial imagery and carried along by an emotional and powerful soundtrack.

"You really feel like you're in the helicopter watching it all unfold in front of you," said the film's producer Sara Hine.

The film also has a message about the role of emergency service personnel in the aftermath of disasters and draws



Burnt cars from the Black Saturday bushfires - a scene from The Earth Wins.

a parallel between the individual heroic acts of the fire fighters during the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria and each individual's role in protecting the planet.

"We want people to understand what the aftermath of an event like Black Saturday looks like," said Ms Hine.

"But we also want the film to give back to the emergency services, to shine the light on them and for people to understand the work they do."

This is a very personal message for the film maker, whose own home was threatened by the Black Saturday bushfires, and who experienced first-hand the extraordinary heroism of the emergency services personnel.

The film opened at the Melbourne IMAX theatre in August and will run for the next 12 months. It will also play at Sydney's IMAX theatre and planetariums throughout the country in 2014. ●

In recognition of their contribution to the film and to communities, emergency services personnel will receive a 20 per cent discount by showing their ID at IMAX Melbourne Museum box office. For more information visit [|www.imaxmelbourne.com.au](http://www.imaxmelbourne.com.au) or www.theearthwins.com

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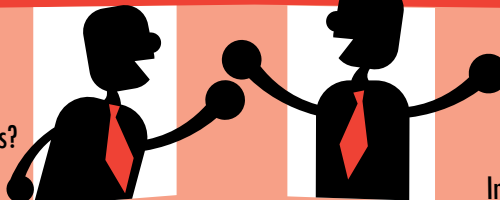


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COMMEMORATING 175 YEARS OF POLICING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



A Cadet graduation at the Academy in 2013. Photo: SAPOL Photographic Section

This year, South Australia Police (SAPOL) is commemorating 175 years of policing in South Australia. With a strong and vibrant heritage dating back to 1838, SAPOL is the oldest centrally controlled police service in Australia, and one of the oldest in the world.

*Road Safety School.
Photo: South
Australian Police
Historical Society*



The colony of South Australia was proclaimed on 28 December 1836 but, for the first 16 months, it did not have a police force as authorities had initially assumed that citizens would be law abiding. However, after concerns about felons entering the new settlement from neighbouring colonies, SAPOL was formed on 28 April 1838 under the command of Inspector Henry Inman. It comprised 10 Mounted Constables and 10 Foot Constables.

In 1840 Major Thomas Shouldham O'Halloran was appointed as the first Commissioner of Police. At this time, SAPOL comprised one Superintendent, two Inspectors, three Sergeants and



Photos: South Australian Police Historical Society

47 Constables, and was divided into Foot and Mounted sections. They wore a uniform styled on the British Police/military uniform of the time.

Today, SAPOL has grown to almost 6,000 employees spread across a diverse range of operational areas reflecting the demands of modern policing.

Commissioner of Police Gary Burns believes that while the nature and tools of crime may have changed since 1838, there are elements that have remained constant over the years.

"There are still people who try to take advantage of the vulnerable; those who are driven by hatred, greed and revenge; those who seek to profit from illicit enterprises; and those who succumb to a momentary lack of judgement," he said.

"Fortunately, there continues to be a pool of people who are driven to tackle these problems, uphold the law and protect the community. The policing principles our first police officers adopted back in 1838 also remain timeless truths."

British parliamentarian Sir Robert Peel, often regarded as the father of modern policing, espoused what are to this day considered to be the pillars of policing – the purpose of police is to prevent crime

and maintain order; we depend on the approval and trust of the public in order to do our jobs; and the true measure of any police force is not the number of arrests, but the absence of violations of the law.

While these founding principles and other traditions have held SAPOL in good stead for 175 years, there is another constant that has influenced our story – change. Keeping abreast of change has been a persistent challenge and a constant driver for all policing jurisdictions.

"Modern policing has evolved to focus on community policing, crime prevention, problem-solving and intelligence-led policing to resolve crime, in partnership with the community, rather than just responding to the incidence of crime on its own," Commissioner Burns said.

"It's no longer just about fighting crime, but building more resilient communities. We have evolved into a 'service' as opposed to a 'force' and are now servicing a more discerning, multicultural community."

Change is nowhere more evident than in the area of technology and its application to policing. The evolution of technology has seen the globalisation of crime, new ways for criminals to flout the law and an ever-

changing media landscape. But technology has also been a positive for policing with new techniques to monitor and investigate crime; new ways to collect, interrogate and disseminate information; new modes of transport; and new platforms to communicate with the public.

SAPOL pioneered the fingerprint system in Australia in 1894 and has embraced DNA technology which has significantly changed investigation methods in recent years. While police may still walk the beat, ride horses and have pushbikes, technology has still taken policing a long way.

Chief Inspector Dennis Lock has seen policing change significantly since he joined SAPOL in 1974 and embarked on an extensive career that has spanned patrols, Special Tasks and Rescue Group, Internal Investigation Section, Special Events and Operations Manager roles at various Local Service Areas.

"New legislation, victims' rights, forensic procedures, electronic crime and social media are just some of the changes that have had an impact on policing over the years," he said.

"But the greatest influence on policing has been the continual changes in technology.

"In my time with SAPOL there has been



Photos: SAPOL Photographic Section



the Olivetti typewriter with multiple carbon paper, electronic typewriter, telex machines, fax machines, desktop computers and now laptops, with this evolution in technology necessary to assist with the increased paperwork needed for new legislation and an intelligence-led system," he said.

The Sturt Local Service Area Operations Inspector is experienced enough to realise that even the current technology, while top of the range, will soon be obsolete as new advancements take over.

"I recently spent three months on exchange in New Zealand, where the police now have a three-year program to issue every officer with an iPad to use for all communication tasks, checks, emails and reports," Chief Inspector Lock said.

"Each officer will soon be a mobile police station and patrol. I can see a time when desktop computers, laptops and Mobile Data Terminals will be phased out from policing, just like so many other forms of technology over the past 40 years.

"Policing is continually evolving – as the community embraces technology, so must SAPOL."

Throughout its history, SAPOL has been a strong advocate for women in policing. In 1915, SAPOL appointed Kate Cocks and Annie Ross as the first women police in the British Commonwealth. In 1974, women were recruited into uniformed areas for the first time and permitted to carry handguns, and in 1979 women from the age of 17 years were able to join SAPOL as cadets. In 1999, SAPOL was the first Australian policing jurisdiction to appoint a female police officer to a tactical response group when Senior Sergeant Jane Kluzek joined the Special Tasks and Reserve group. This was followed by Madeleine Glynn becoming SAPOL's first female Assistant Commissioner in 2002.

SAPOL's rich and diverse history is also marked by the evolution of its policing services. This is highlighted by the formation of the Band of the South Australia Police

in 1884 and the role of SAPOL officers who operated the Civil Ambulance Service from 1880 until it was taken over by the St John Ambulance Brigade in 1954. Police were also responsible for providing a public fire service from 1848 until 1867 when the role of metropolitan fire response was handed over to the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service.

Being a 'jack of all trades' is something Senior Sergeant First Class (SS1C) Paul Evans can empathise with, having spent the past 39 years with SAPOL, including 26 of them in country policing all over the state from Tarcoola in the Far North to Mount Gambier on the Limestone Coast.

"In the country you needed to be resourceful, especially when working on your own," he said.

"At Tarcoola in the early 1980s I was responsible for everything. I'd apprehend the offender, attend to the court books, type up and serve the summons, prosecute the offender, pay the Justices of the Peace, issue the warrant and then arrest them – I did the whole process from first to last step, relying on my own knowledge as there weren't any other resources available.

"In Coober Pedy, the Country Fire Service truck was parked at the police station with the off-duty police officers going out when there was a fire."

SS1C Evans believes policing has become more specialised and professional.

"We have become far more skilled in our service delivery, with policing now more regulated and a greater emphasis placed on recruiting the right people," he said.

"Communications has also improved with senior management now communicating all the way down through the organisation. You used to just do

what you're told but now you want to understand what you're doing and why."

SAPOL has been at the forefront of many significant changes, from the introduction of bicycles for metropolitan and country foot police in 1893 to being the first Australian police service to introduce videotaping of 'suspect person' interviews in 1987.

The past 175 years have also highlighted a strong connection with the community through initiatives such as the Road Safety School, which communicated vital road safety messages to more than 500,000 children from its establishment in 1964 until being replaced by the new Road Safety Centre in 2013. Blue Light has offered positive pathways for South Australian youth for over 30 years while Neighbourhood Watch has been helping to keep local communities safe since 1985.

In the past two decades, SAPOL has broken new ground with the introduction of Operation Nomad in 1993 (as a policing initiative to reduce the threat of bushfires) and Crime Stoppers in 1996. More recently, SAPOL has established Neighbourhood Policing Teams in various metropolitan areas, highlighting its strong commitment to policing at a local level.

In 2011, SAPOL was the first police jurisdiction in Australia to launch its own web platform connecting mobile phone users to the latest police news.

"We now have a strong online and social media presence through the SA Police News website and Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, allowing us to better engage with the community," Commissioner Burns said.

After 175 years of serving the South Australian community, SAPOL has much to commemorate and much to remember. However, this is not just a police story, it's a story for all South Australians.

"As Police Commissioner, I am tremendously proud of our history and the men and women of SAPOL (both sworn and unsworn) who have, and continue to make, a daily contribution to keeping South Australia safe in circumstances that are often challenging and unpredictable," Commissioner Burns said.

"The work police officers do is often taken for granted but I hope the 175th anniversary will provide an opportunity for all South Australians to take some time to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of our police over the years and take some pride in the influential role SAPOL has had in shaping this state." ●

Photo: SAPOL Photographic Section



Police at Thebarton Barracks in 1921. Photos: South Australian Police Historical Society

For historic photos, stories, and to stay up-to-date with 175 Year celebration events being held until April 2014, visit: www.sapolice.sa.gov.au

www.facebook.com/sapolicenews

This article first appeared in issue 2, 2013, of *Blueprint* and has been re-published with permission from SA Police.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AustrainingInternational

Poor people in developing countries bear the brunt of more than 400 natural disasters that occur every year, according to the World Bank Independent Evaluation Group. Australians can lend their skills and experience in emergency management to organisations and governments in developing countries through the Australian Volunteers for International Development program.

An Australian Government, AusAID, initiative this program supports skilled Australians to live and work in developing countries as part of the overseas aid program. Australians with experience in the emergency management sector or a background in health, engineering or program management, can apply for assignments in Asia, the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Australian Jeff Barnard volunteered with the Red Cross Society of Dominica in the Caribbean, a region where the prevalence of natural disasters is expected to increase as a result of climate change. Mr Barnard's role aimed to broaden and strengthen the society's disaster preparedness, mitigation and community resilience strategies.

His achievements included training staff to use a geographic information



Jeff Barnard (back right) with his colleagues.

system (GIS) to create enhancements and efficiencies when undertaking community mapping. He also helped roll-out the Safer Houses program, which teaches local people to equip

houses with fittings such as hurricane straps to increase their chance of withstanding disasters.

Other smaller projects he has been involved with have seen the Red Cross assist residents build escape routes and install shutters on school buildings, which can then act as emergency shelters.

"During this work I have made friends with fascinating community members from diverse walks of life," Mr Barnard says.

To view current Australian Volunteers assignments visit www.volunteering.austraining.com.au/volunteer-with-us/current-assignments. Assignments are advertised online on the first of each month with applications to be submitted by the 21st day of each month.

To learn more about Australian Volunteers for International Development visit www.ausaidvolunteers.gov.au ●



Jeff Barnard meeting a Dominican local.



FROM OPERATIONAL PLANNING TO CONFERENCE PREPARATION

Brian **Mattner** MAIES

Are there similarities between a uniformed emergency service officer who is required on a daily basis to plan, prepare and respond to incidents with that of a conference committee organiser who has put their hand up, as a volunteer, to organise a two day conference?

The simple answer is yes - there are multiple similarities.

The next question to ask is why would you do it? The answer to that question isn't so simple.

However, members of the AIES South Australia Division did just that, delivering the *Building Community and Organisational Resilience Conference* held in Adelaide on 18 - 19 July 2013.

South Australian AIES members Brian Mattner (SA Police), David Mack (Metropolitan Fire Service), Brian Holecek (Country Fire Service) and Peter Schar (SA Police) formed the inaugural conference committee with assistance from Sandra Fawcett from SA Health.

The purpose of the conference was to assist the South Australia Implementation Working Group in their endeavours to imbed the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience into the state's various community layers.

The layers identified were

ORGANISING THE CONFERENCE

- 34 conference meetings totalling 340 hours
- 12 additional meetings with the South Australia Implementation Working Group totalling 48 hours
- 10 hours work each week by conference members totalling 640 hours



Conference delegates working together.

primarily individuals and families, local community, and the business, government and private sectors.

The conference committee was mindful that a wide cross-section of

the community would need to be engaged to ensure the conference met its outcomes. In hindsight, a more defined strategy of engagement with the business sector, which was deemed to be under represented, would have been helpful. Pleasingly however, a total of 57 representatives across the five community layers attended the conference.

With the approximate total of 1,048 hours worked to prepare the conference, it was equivalent to six months full-time work.

With preparations complete, 175 participants representing 57 agencies attended the iconic Adelaide Town Hall to take part in the *Building Community and Organisational Resilience* conference.

Feedback from the participants overwhelming rated the conference a success.

So why would you spend all that time organising a two-day conference as a volunteer?

For the same reason we volunteer for the State Emergency Service, Metropolitan Fire Service, Country Fire Service, St John, Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army, football, netball, basketball clubs and all the other organisations that rely on volunteers to operate.

We do it because it matters and we hope we will make our communities a better place. ●



Inaugural conference committee members (L-R) David Mack, Brian Mattner, Sandra Fawcett, Peter Schar and Brian Holecek.

EARTH: FIRE & RAIN



Australian & New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference

5-7 May 2014

QT Gold Coast Hotel,
Surfers Paradise, Queensland

For the third consecutive year, this international event will run across three days, bringing together key stakeholders involved in the prevention, management and recovery of major disastrous events.

The conference will provide a forum to examine the issues surrounding natural and man-made hazards.

A joint initiative of three not-for-profit organisations - Australian Institute of Emergency Services, Australian & New Zealand Mental Health Association Inc, and the Association for Sustainability in Business Inc - the conference program will examine what we have learned from disasters in the past few years. It will provide an opportunity to examine the expertise, competencies and systems relating to preparedness for future disasters, emergencies and hazards, and the ability to recover from them quickly and efficiently.

Topics

Speakers will provide a dynamic and topical program and discuss a vast range of subject topics including:

- Emergency management
- Public safety
- Security
- Community resilience
- Business continuity
- Data protection



Abstract submissions now being accepted

For more information please visit our Conference website www.anzdm.com.au or contact the Association Secretariat
Email: conference@anzdm.com.au
Ph: 07 5502 2068

Abstract submissions close Monday 25 November 2013.



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TASMANIAN EMERGENCY SERVICE AWARDS

Ron Jones FAIES

President AIES Tasmania

The Tasmanian Broadcasters Emergency Services Volunteer Worker of the Year, and the Australian Institute of Emergency Service's PJ Parssey Memorial Award have been announced.

The two volunteer awards were well represented with all winning nominations working with different services and units.

The 7XS West Coast Radio Station winner, Sandra Campbell, was awarded for her years of outstanding service to the State Emergency Service (SES), Ambulance Tasmania and the Zeehan community. Sandra joins her husband John, a previous winner of the award, as one of many emergency service families on the West Coast committed to helping their community. Radio 7XS has supported the award since 1994.

The 7AD/SeaFM Burnie Radio Station winner was the colourful, mohawk-wearing, Derek Sutton of Waratah. Derek was rewarded for this commitment to Ambulance Tasmania at Waratah. He was also involved with the Tasmanian Fire Service, serving time as Brigade Chief as well as being a member of the local SES.

The 7AD/SeaFM Devonport Radio Station winner was Graeme Brown for his commitment to the Mersey SES Unit and as the Unit Manager of the North West SES Search and Rescue Team. Graeme's family joined in the award celebrations at the Mersey SES Unit at Latrobe. Graeme was the third award winner to come from Latrobe.



From left: Ron Jones, Launceston's LAFM / Chilli Radio Award Winner Craig Groom and Radio Station General Manager Colin Taylor.

Launceston's LAFM/Chilli Radio Award winner, Craig Groom, is a member of the West Tamar and Meander SES Units. Craig is a Road Crash Rescue (RCR) instructor and operator and has led the unit's competition teams at state and national events including the National RCR Competitions held in Hobart last year.

Hobart's 7HO winner, Roger Brown, was rewarded for his ongoing volunteer work with the Tasmanian Fire Service, which spans 30 years. Roger served at the Fern Tree, South Hobart and Mt Nelson Fire Brigades, holding various leadership positions including founding member and first officer of the South Hobart Fire Brigade. Roger has also held

various leadership positions with the SES Southern Regional Support Unit and has made several trips to the mainland to assist in various disasters. All this while running his own plumbing business.

SES North West Regional Officer Anthony Dick was nominated for the AIES PJ Parssey Award for his commitment to his service and for his role as Regional Officer where he has worked hard on many committees to improve the safety, equipment, training and support for all SES Volunteers.

All award winners were nominated for the AIES' PJ Parssey Award. This year's winner was Roger Brown. Roger was presented the award by Betty Parssey, wife of the late Peter Parssey along with a \$500 travel voucher from the Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania, presented by Donna Sward. Roger will automatically be nominated for the AIES National Award.

NEWS Radio Station 7SD Scottsdale will join the award this year, opening nominations up to North East and East Coast volunteers.

Many thanks to all our volunteers state wide for their fantastic work and support to their relevant emergency service and their communities. ●



PJ Parssey Award nominees. From left: Anthony Dick, Graeme Brown, Craig Groom, winner Roger Brown, Sandra Campbell, Derek Sutton.

WARNING CENTRES, EMERGENCY WARNINGS AND EVACUATION, PART III

IanMannix

Churchill Fellow 2012

In 2012, Churchill Fellowship recipient Ian Mannix travelled overseas 'to study US and Canadian emergency warnings, warning centres, warning broadcasts, and evacuation procedures for natural disasters'. This article is Part III and the conclusion of Mr Mannix's report to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust of Australia. Part I was published in the Autumn issue of *National Emergency Response* and Part II in the Winter issue.

JOPLIN TORNADO

The Joplin, Missouri, tornado neatly encapsulates all the problems inherent with multiple, simultaneous, complex emergencies. The US National Weather Service (NWS) was widely praised for its work. The relationship between the warning providers and the disseminators is crucial.

It is fair to say there is much soul searching at the NWS in the US when people die in weather related disasters. It is the same in Australia, and no doubt

everywhere else. Weather forecasters are scientists but they understand their work, at its best, will save lives.

The problems confronting the forecasters at Joplin were the same as those wherever multiple simultaneous complex (MSC) weather events occur. For most of us that's thunderstorms and hail forecasts, but the same problems were experienced by fire fighters during the Black Saturday Bushfires in Victoria in 2009 and to a lesser extent in the flash flooding of Grantham in Queensland in 2011.

In the case of the Joplin tornado the public had to contend with the following bewildering array of events – and many in the disaster community will have an understanding of exactly this type of scenario:

- No big tornado for a generation, even though the town is in tornado alley
- Thunderstorm forecasts consistently for two days
- Thunderstorm and hail forecasts all day
- Tornado watches issued a couple of hours before the main event



Typical Joplin street before the tornado.



Joplin after the tornado. Photo: NWS

PROGRAM

September

- 24 California Emergency Management Agency
California Warnings Centre
- 25-26 Manton, California
Emergency Management Agency Tahoma County (Reading, California)
KQMS Talk Radio (Reading, California)
- 28 National Weather Service (Kansas City)
Joplin

October

- 1 National Weather Service (Washington)
- 2 Federal Emergency Management Agency FEMA
- 3 National Forest Service
- 9 American Broadcasting Corporation (New York)
- 12 Emergency Management Agency (British Columbia)
- 15 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (British Columbia)
- 18 Pierce County, Washington State
National Weather Service, Seattle
- 19 Washington SECC
- 20 Washington EMA

- Multiple tornadoes
- Two blasts on the town tornado warning sirens.

These events create massive uncertainty and warnings, unless very carefully compiled and placed in context and with a sense of priority they will lead to confusion and the public quite naturally will hesitate to act.

This is how the NWS reported on warnings from the Joplin tornado, taken from its review. (Items in brackets are mine.)

A series of complex meteorological events and interactions took place during the afternoon hours of 22 May that eventually resulted in the devastating EF-5 tornado. A Tornado Watch was issued at 1.30 pm for all of southwest Missouri.

A routine Area Forecast Discussion (a type of weather service heads up) was issued at 2.37 pm as well as at 3.47 pm. Forecaster focus remained on very large hail as the main severe weather threat, but isolated tornadoes were also deemed a possibility due to the very unstable air mass in place and sufficient low level wind structure. The first thunderstorms of the day developed between 2 pm and 3 pm over southeast.

As severe storms moved east, forecasters became increasingly concerned about their tornado potential and issued the first Tornado Warnings of the day at 4.25 pm and 4.51 pm for counties west of Joplin. At 4.33 pm forecasters briefed the Jasper County (which encompasses Joplin) Emergency Manager on the severe storms to the west.

A Tornado Warning was issued at 5.09 pm for western Jasper County, including the northeast part of the city of Joplin but was for a different storm than the one that eventually hit the city.

This alert was followed by a new Tornado Warning at 5.17 pm for the next storm to

the south for southwestern Jasper County and portions of neighbouring counties which included all of Joplin. (Another coordination call was made to the Jasper County Emergency Manager at 5.25 pm to update him on the Tornado Warning and latest information concerning the storm.)

At this point, the severe thunderstorm west of Joplin had become the dominant thunderstorm in the region and was poised to produce a violent tornado. Based on storm surveys and radar imagery, it was estimated that initial tornado touchdown occurred just west of Joplin at 5.34 pm, moved into western portions of Joplin around 5.36 pm. The town had 17 minutes of lead time for touchdown and 19 minutes lead time before the tornado entered Joplin.

The first indication of a confirmed tornado was issued via another Severe Weather Statement at 5.39 pm that stated, 'At 5.34 pm CDT (Central Daylight Time)...trained weather spotters reported a tornado near Galena' and that 'This storm is moving into the city of Joplin.' The tornado eventually dissipated around 6.12 pm.

Unfortunately, the tornado developed rapidly on the southwestern outskirts of a densely populated area and had moved through much of the city before the size and violence of the tornado was apparent to warning forecasters. They could not issue a Severe Weather Statement with a Tornado Emergency.

Amongst the general public, the majority of residents had little idea there was a threat of severe weather prior to Sunday 22 May. About half of those interviewed, reported learning of the possibility of severe weather in the hours leading up to the tornado. Just less than half reported their first indication of a severe weather threat was in the moments just prior to the tornado.



Shelter sign at Kansas City International Airport. The toilet is below ground.

According to the Joplin Emergency Manager the first three minute siren activation, at 5.11 pm resulted primarily from funnel cloud reports to the west of Joplin in southeastern Kansas (Elsewhere in the report is stated that this activation was not based on NWS advice.)

Residents heard the initial siren activation and then the warning details were provided by the emergency telephone system and assumed the activation was for the area to the north. In one example, a man was clearly confused by the string of warning information he received and processed from various sources.

1. Heard first sirens at 5.11 pm CDT (estimated 30-35 minutes before tornado hit).
2. Went to the TV and heard NWR warning from TV override that indicated tornado near airport drive seven miles north of his location.
3. Went on the porch with his family and had a cigar. Looked like a regular thunderstorm.
4. Heard second sirens (estimated 27 minutes later).
5. Thought something wasn't right so went inside and turned local TV stations on.
6. Saw on TV several colored counties for tornado warnings, but regular programming was still on and thought the threat was still to the north.
7. Heard his wife yell "basement". Grabbed the cat and told his son to put his shoes on.
8. Tornado hit as they reached the top of the basement stairs, destroying their home.

CONCLUSIONS

Australia is unlikely to ever be subject to an F5 Tornado. It is argued that there are some disasters which are so severe that deaths will always result and F5 tornadoes are in this category. Almost no buildings can withstand the wind and



Remains of a school, 16 months after the tornado.

there is not always enough time between touch down and arrival to allow people to seek shelter. Knowing this, the people of Joplin have not embraced tornado shelters, although some modern buildings are including them in strong areas.

This is a similar quandary faced by people in bushfire-prone areas in Australia.

In Joplin when the tornadoes came, personal observation and sirens were the first warnings many people had. The sirens were not integrated with the NWS warning system, so they were sounded twice, in a way that left communities confused.

Many people reported they called their families and friends, which is a well-known part of the informal warning system.

The NWS bulletins warned of impending tornadoes, but did not advise residents what to do, which is seek shelter in a basement or a hardened part of a building.

The entire incident was over in 30 minutes, so it is hard to argue that emergency agencies and broadcasters can do much more than assist with recovery.

Ultimately the only mitigation emergency authorities could develop would be to create a culture in which many more warnings are issued, and issued earlier, and that public responds every time, but doesn't become complacent. This would require greater community leadership and co-operation than is present in most communities anywhere.

LANDSLIDES

The people of Pierce County, just south of Seattle, who live at the foot of the almost magical Mt Rainier (4393m), are preparing for the day when the magic turns to a nightmare, when their beautiful playground turns nasty.

There are many lessons from the planning and activities at Pierce County for what would be a catastrophic disaster which might usefully inform judgments about warnings, sirens, evacuations and preparations in other areas.

Mt Rainier is classed as an active volcano, in an earthquake zone, subject

Mt Rainier.



Sirens in Orting, seen about 50 km from Mt Rainier.

to throwing off catastrophic mudslides, known as lahars. It is usually referred to as America's most dangerous volcano although it last erupted in 1894, and there's no evidence of present volcanic activity. It is earthquakes generating lahars which are of more concern.

"Eruptions usually have some sort of lead time as they can be forecast," said Tom Sharp of Pierce County, which is planning to support its community if a catastrophic event occurs.

"If our system detects a lahar, the people have to go. They don't have a choice. And they have to be out of the area in 30 minutes," Mr Sharp said, who is responsible for the lahar detection and warning system.

Lahars come from the Indonesian word *berlahar*.

Wikipedia says: *Lahars have the consistency, viscosity and approximate density of concrete: fluid when moving, solid at rest. Lahars can be huge. A lahar of sufficient size and intensity can raze virtually any structure in its path, and is capable of carving its own pathway, making the prediction of its course difficult. Conversely, a lahar quickly loses force when it leaves the channel of its flow: even frail huts may remain standing, while at the same time being buried to the roof line in mud. A lahar's viscosity decreases with time, and can be further thinned by rain, but it nevertheless solidifies quickly when coming to a stop. With the potential to flow at speeds up to 100 kilometers per hour, and distances of more than 300 kilometers, a lahar can cause catastrophic destruction in its path. Lahars from the 1985 Nevado del Ruiz eruption in Colombia caused the Armero tragedy, which killed an estimated 23,000*

people, when the city of Armero was buried under 5 meters of mud and debris. A lahar caused New Zealand's Tangiwai disaster, where 151 people died after a Christmas Eve express train fell into the Whangaehu River.

Geological evidence reveals Mt Rainier has thrown off previous lahars extraordinary in scale. Wikipedia says the Osceola lahar produced by Mount Rainier 5,600 years ago resulted in a wall of mud 140 meters deep in the White River canyon, and which covered an area of over 330 square kilometers. The mountain blew off 500 meters of its top, which flowed down to the sea at Tacoma, 60 kilometres away.

Mr Sharp studied the Columbian del Ruiz event. "An unheralded lahar could be generated by a volcanic eruption, but it doesn't have to be a big one, it could be a minor eruption which loosens the mountain edge. The side of the mountain might give way in a weak area, particularly after heavy rain. They can also be caused by an earthquake," he said.

"They start small and get bigger as they gather up debris," he said.

There are 40,000 people at risk of lahar in Pierce County, about 7,000 of whom live in the town of Orting. The Washington State fair occurs in the region each year, and attracts 50,000-100,000 people.

The warning systems rely on technology, and are based on the premise it will remain intact (say, after an earthquake). The lahar warning system installed in 2000 is simple. Pierce County has five monitors on each of two rivers on the mountain which detect vibration. "I can read an animal walking past them or a human jumping up and down," said Mr Sharp. "They don't have false alarms."





Evacuation signs in Pierce County.

When the detection is made Mr Sharp has 30-40 minutes to clear the region of people. The plan is to have a warning to the public within five minutes. "In practice we can do it in two minutes from time of detection," he says. A series of sirens scattered through the community will sound, triggered at the Pierce County Warning Centre. But they are outdoor sirens, and might not be heard over the car radio or inside.

The sirens are always accompanied by a voiced message. These messages are kept short, with just the most basic information and a warning to leave the area immediately. "The messages can't go for more than a minute. If they go for two minutes, that's one less minute people will have to evacuate," said Mr Sharp.

"We've been practicing these recorded messages for about 10 years and the feedback from the public has given us a good understanding of what the people want," he said.

The Pierce County Warning Centre will alert all emergency agencies and utilities via phone/email/cell/pager. Police will immediately stop all traffic from entering the region, allowing all vehicles to travel on all lanes out. The public will follow well sign posted evacuation routes. An automated warning will be posted on the US emergency alert system (EAS), which will be picked up by people with national weather radios. That will also trigger a series of warnings which go to radio and TV stations, which are expected to broadcast the information immediately, or in some cases, that will occur automatically.

The Country has its own phone alert system and will rely heavily on phone messaging. "Pierce County Alert is an opt-in system for residents, but we also subscribe to the Sheriffs reverse 911 phone subscriber list. We think we can get a phone message to about 85 percent of our community," said Pierce County

Emergency Co-ordinator Ken Parrish.

The County can deliver thousands of simultaneous calls a minute. "We issued 26,000 in five minutes for a winter storm a few years ago," Mr Parrish said.

The County is a big supporter of the private warning and alert developer, Everbridge, which developed their phone system and which is now creating feedback loops. "They are without doubt the world leaders in mass notification.

"No alert system is perfect so we cover as many bases as we can. EAS is a powerful tool, but only for those watching TV or listening to the radio," he said.

By ensuring that the messages are distributed multiple ways, the natural human reticence to avoid acting until the threat has been validated means there are multiple channels for the warnings that will confront people very quickly.

Evacuation routes are permanently signposted. There was some debate about having signage that can be opened when needed, and closed for the rest of the time. "But we won't have time to open them when needed, and anyway, it puts the issue right in the faces of people who live here, so they know constantly they are at risk," said Mr Sharp.

"At first real estate agents were concerned about property values, but we don't hear from them anymore.

"The public have to get to higher ground, so those who live along the edge of the valley don't have to travel very far.

"The school kids, aged seven or eight, practice their evacuation each year, and although they've got small legs, they can get to safer high ground in 30 minutes, but they have to walk fast or run to do that," Mr Sharp said.

The schools use all available means to evacuate – their own buses, staff cars, but many of the kids will have to walk out.

"It's important the kids practice this system, as they take home the messages to their parents. Ideally people should be practicing their evacuation monthly, as roads might change due to maintenance work, or be impassable for any other reason.

"They won't have time to go and retrieve anything. They will get what they have and just go," he said.

Ken Parrish describes the approach as: multi layered defense with back up.

"Our preparations are better than most counties," said Mr Parrish. But he isn't boasting. "We are energetic and

robust and we've won awards for our education and planning," he said.

The warning system is focused on the chance of a lahar caused by an earthquake, which are common in the region. But the system, including the sirens, is designated for all hazards. Floods, fires, all weather-related emergencies, chemical spills, nuclear accidents, snow emergencies, and that most modern and unfortunate human hazard known by emergency managers as the active shooter.

So, what happens if the technology fails? The public must be prepared for that too. They should know from their training, practicing and available literature, that if the ground shakes it is possible a lahar was generated and they should leave the region, without waiting for a warning.

The community earthquake awareness exercise *Big Shakeout* was practiced by 750,000 people in Washington State on 18 October, and millions more in a dozen US states, Canada, Italy and New Zealand, warns that if the vibrations occur for more than about two minutes, then the public should assume the worst, and not wait for a warning about a lahar, or other emergency. They are very real issues in this part of the world.

CONCLUSION

Rapid on-set catastrophic disasters require whole-of-community planning and response. Ideally people shouldn't live in the valley, but it's a hard argument to make with a one in 5,000 year recurrence.

The widespread installation of sirens is an effective measure, and certainly keeps lahars and volcanic activity in the forefront of the minds of drivers, and therefore travelers.

The County practices evacuation regularly and with a high level of motivation. The County has an integrated warning system which alerts broadcasters, emergency agencies and the community simultaneously. The use of sirens, which contain verbal instructions, makes the infrastructure personal and versatile.

Tsunami Warnings in Washington State, USA

"We set off 54 sirens today," said a quietly pleased Robert Purdom from the Washington State Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Camp Murray on the day of the *Great Earthquake Shakeout*, the bi-annual earthquake drill practiced by millions of Californians for the past few years

Chris Utzinger points to the earthquake resistant piles the Washington EOC is built on. The building will move as though it was on water.



The sirens are one of the principle tools designed to alert the community to a tsunami and the threat is very real. The western states lie on a variety of fault lines which are quite active. In written history of the North America region there have been numerous very damaging earthquakes and accompanying tsunamis. But the alert system now is based on an event which occurred at 9 pm, 26 January 1700. There are no written records in the US of this earthquake, but there are in Japan.

"We had a Magnitude 9 rupture of the Cascadia Subduction fault line at 9 pm on 26 January, 1700," said John Schelling, the Earthquake/Tsunami/Volcano Program Manager at Washington State EOC.

"We know the exact time and date from historical records in Japan. The tsunami washed up in Japan the next day, without warning and flooded fields and washed away homes. They called it the *Orphan Tsunami* as they knew it wasn't caused by an earthquake in Japan," Mr Schelling said.

An earthquake of that magnitude almost certainly will cause a tsunami along the American coast. The records from tree rings show the *Orphan Tsunami* submerged great areas of coast and stopped the trees growing. Washington State is preparing its warning system for another event, with the belief they need people to respond within 30 minutes or less.

The warning system is based around getting quality advice about the tsunami, and then using a variety of means to alert residents and emergency agencies. Local familiarisation and training is critical to the success of the system.

"We were pleased that we had 700,000 people register to participate in our

first *Great Earthquake Shakeout*," said Mr Schelling. "But we hope for many more next year," he said

If an earthquake occurs and generates a tsunami the warning system will be activated.

The US Pacific or Alaskan Tsunami monitoring centres operated by the NWS, will generate a report, which is immediately public.

The report will be received at the Washington State EOC which is responsible for alerting all emergency and response agencies and organisations which are likely to be affected. There is one nuclear power plant in the state.

Simultaneously the EOC will activate the siren system.

"We have about 100 phrases pre-programmed onto a voice chip and the sirens can be programmed to announce anything that the voice chip has available, but we've only ever activated it from the EOC for a tsunami siren test," said Telecommunications Field Engineer Robert Purdom.

"Each event consists of voice recording as well as the siren sound. We will generate the alerts every few minutes for about 40 minutes," Mr Purdom said.

But although the sirens are tested regularly, they are not considered effective without explanation, or context.

"Every time the siren sounds there must be a combination of siren and voice material," said John Schelling, Earthquake Program Manager, Mitigation and Recovery. "We know a siren alone won't make people change their behaviour."

The announcement begins with the heart stopping words: "This is not a drill."



Tsunami warning sign on Santa Monica beach, California, USA.

"The sirens are for outdoor use only," said Mr Schelling.

"They are for people on the beach and in the streets. They won't be heard indoors, so people have to be aware they might not hear the sirens when a tsunami alert is generated," he said.

It is expected the police will drive through towns and neighbourhoods using loud hailers attached to their vehicles warning people of the tsunami.

In addition the Emergency Alert System will carry the tsunami warnings to emergency broadcasters, including radio, TV, and digital platforms, and US phone carriers will activate their alerts to mobile devices using the Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS).

If the electricity and land lines are damaged by the earthquake, each siren can be activated locally by a county or city emergency agency professional via VHF or UHF radio.

But the awareness messages stress that people must not wait for an alert. "The ground shaking, that's the warning," says Mr Schelling.

"Our messages are straightforward and each has a call to action. If the ground starts shaking, you run. If you see the sea receding, you run. If you hear a siren, you run," he said.

The population is expected to seek higher ground, with awareness plans in place to try to raise understanding that the public should not expect to be able to use roads. "An earthquake is likely to damage roads. We expect people will walk or run to higher ground," said Mr Schelling.

The Mayor of Long Beach, which is a marine spit in the north east on the Pacific Coast, built at water level and with no nearby hills, said "Goodness knows which way the warning signs will be pointing after an earthquake."

Washington State is trying a Japanese idea, vertical evacuation. This can include towers, buildings and berms. Vulnerable communities are encouraged



to become involved in considering these developments, drawing up plans and seeking federal funding.

"The community is asked if they would like a vertical evacuation plan and where they would like the hill or high ground to be built," says Mr Schelling. Called *Project Safe Haven* it is an attempt to get the community thinking about what kind of structure might help them survive a tsunami.

It might be a berm, reinforced dirt structure, a little like a big river levee, that can be built close to population centres. They could be 10 metres high or more, and will cost \$250,000 to \$1 million each. They are an active feature of Japanese tsunami response.

Engaging the whole community in its design and placement results in

widespread understanding of what the berm is for and results in solid community buy-in. A berm could wrap around a sporting field and create new and useful lines of visibility or it could create an amphitheatre for public events in a community.

Mr Schelling says it's still just a concept, "No vertical evacuation structures exist yet, so we are hoping to build the first one in the US in coming years. Additionally, funding is not yet available, but we hope to use a combination of federal, state, and local funds to implement the results developed by each community. It's ambitious, but the issue calls for an open mind," he said.

The public will have to rely on existing infrastructure in the meantime.



All Hazards Alert Broadcasting siren, used for tsunami and other alerts in Washington State, USA.

"The siren towers cost about \$50,000 each, and the cost is shared between state and local counties," said Mr Schelling.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency in the US has tried to evaluate the cost of natural hazards. In addition to the infrastructure costs, it has estimated each death from natural hazard results in costs of about \$5 million. A few hundred thousand dollars for some sirens, and a million or so for a berm, pales into insignificance if they save hundreds or thousands of people.

CONCLUSION

The earthquake and tsunami threat is very real in this region of North America and an effective warning system is mandatory.

While the tsunami threat in Australia is not considered great enough to warrant tsunami infrastructure, lessons can be learned from the approach to the hazard.

The sirens are activated after the verbal warning, which is not the practice in Australia.

The sirens are considered useful only for people outdoors. They are integrated with the entire warning system, so multiple warnings will be issued simultaneously.

The warning system is integrated with escape routes and other signage. The community practices evacuation, and is actively involved in on-going planning. ●

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ian Mannix is the Manager Emergency Broadcasting and Community Development on ABC Local Radio, Collinswood, South Australia. View his blog at www.forewarned.info

THANKS

I would like to thank The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust for accepting my nomination and assisting me with planning and the itinerary.

The Trust has surely contributed a great deal to the intellectual capacity of Australia over the years through these types of visits.

I would like to thank the ABC for allowing me to undertake this tour. Naomi Brown and Bruce Esplin endorsed the visit.

Arranging meetings like this can be onerous, particularly coming as it did in the middle of the bushfire and tornado season. Nevertheless I was greeted with warmth and open hearts and I would like to thank the following people, in no particular order and assure them that I feel the time we spent together as extremely valuable. I hope to repay any kindness if asked.

American Broadcasting Corporation – Howard Price

Public Safety Canada – Jeff Boyczuk

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Canadian Broadcasting Corporation – Peter Hutchinson

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Federal Emergency Management Agency – Antwane Johnson, Charles McCobb, Wade Wittmer, Manny Centeno, Brittany Trotter, Kimberly Hayward, Jessica Steinbeck

LA County – Ken Kondo

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National Weather Service – Jennifer Lewis, Mike Hudson, Chris Maier, David McKinnie, Michael Angove, Heath Hockenberry, Aaron Sorensen, Suzanne Lenihan, Elliott Jacks, Jen Sprague, Ted Buehner

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Everbridge – Gary Phillips

The people of Manton, Shingletown and Joplin who are not named in every case, but who were open and generous despite their circumstances. It is great to know the good people of our two great countries have much in common – laughter, openness, resilience, loyalty for their country, concern for their neighbours, love for their family and friends.

CANADA BAY EMERGENCY SERVICES PLEDGE FOR DRY JULY

The request for assistance came from Concord Hospital in Sydney's Inner West. Would Canada Bay State Emergency Service (SES) be available to enter an individual or team in the Dry July challenge to support Concord Cancer Centre?

The NSW Police and Fire and Rescue were already on board, and the hospital was hoping to complete the trifecta of local emergency services who would give up alcohol for the month of July for a good cause.

The call came through to NSW AIES committee member Bill Hoyles, Deputy Local Controller of Canada Bay SES, and whose wife Eugene Alvares has worked as a cardiac nurse at Concord Hospital for more than 30 years.

"It is a cause that is close to my heart," said Mr Hoyles, who was diagnosed with cancer at Concord Hospital in 1998.

"Without treatment they gave me a life expectancy of between two and 15 years ... which actually runs out this year.



From left: Captain Greg McIlwaine, Bill Hoyles, Jeanette O'Hara, A/Prof Philip Beale and Senior Constable John Tikisci support Dry July for the Concord Cancer Centre.

"Fortunately, the treatment appears to have been successful so far."

Bill quickly signed up Peter Swientek, another Canada Bay SES volunteer and Caroline Suster who is the Operations Officer at Canada Bay SES.

The other emergency service representatives were Captain Greg

McIlwaine from Rhodes Fire and Rescue, and Senior Constable John Tikisci from Burwood Local Area Command.

Money raised will go towards making the patient experience more comfortable, particularly for those who require extended treatment, and visits to the Concord Cancer Centre. ●

FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTOR CONFERENCE 2013

Barry Archer

AIES NSW, Vice President



In April this year I (Barry Archer) once again attended the Fire Department Instructor Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis for the world's largest fire fighter conference.

Unfortunately in Australia we sometimes only look nationally or inwards to our own agencies when we are seeking the latest trends

or equipment, but I would highly recommend this conference as a 'must attend'.

At this year's FDIC there were over 30,000 visitors and around 1,000 exhibitors from all over the world. It is held over five days with hands-on training, lectures and exhibitions. The exhibitions alone fill three stadiums about the size of our largest football arenas. You would be impressed.

One of the key things that has impressed me on my trips to FDIC is the diversity of the techniques and the range of tools available. The system of managing emergency response is vastly different from Australia, with the fire departments being a singular

name for a multi-faceted organisation. In many counties and towns firefighters are employees of the locality and their resources are subject to tight budgetary constraints depending on the wealth of the community in which they serve.

This conference should not be seen by any of our Australian agencies as strictly 'fire' as in the typical fire department. It covers all emergency services to communities from traditional fire duties through to rescue, heights specialists, search, counter-terrorism and policing duties. Yes, the major cities do have traditional roles and separations, but at this conference they all come together to train and educate their instructors and chiefs. ●



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

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- Are members of a permanent emergency service or associated service, or
- Are volunteer members of emergency or associated services.

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

MEMBERS

Our members come from

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



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POLICE INSPECTION NORTHERN TERRITORY STYLE

Crocodile watching by Northern Territory police officer in Arnhem Land.

Photo: Northern Territory Police





Blue Light brings police and youth together to provide young people with positive lifestyle alternatives and strategies to avoid becoming an offender or victim of crime. Visit www.bluelight.org.au and www.bluelight.co.nz for more info.

The underlying factors governing all Blue Light activities is that they must be:

- Free from alcohol
- Free from drugs
- Free from anti-social behaviour
- and FUN!



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www.bluelight.org.au
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