

NATIONAL EMERGENCY

RESPONSE

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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.

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Summer 2015/2016 • National Emergency Response

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FRONT COVER

Lancefield-Cobaw (VIC) fires,
October 2015. Photo by: Keith
Pakenham-CFA.

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NEW MEMBERS

The Australian Institute of Emergency Services is pleased to announce the following emergency services people joined the AIES between July and December 2015.

NAME	ORGANISATION	DIVISION	LEGEND:
Marcus Collignon	MR/RFS	NSW	ACIM: Australian Centre for Investigation and Management Solutions
Luke Freeman	SES	NSW	ADF: Australian Defence Force
Brett Henderson	Police	NSW	CFA: Country Fire Authority
Scott Loechel	LGA	SA/WA/NT	DOHA: Department of Health and Ageing
Beau McLean	CFA	VIC	FES: Fire and Emergency Services
Cameron Nolan	SES	SA/WA/NT	LGA: Local Government Association
John Pappas	FES	QLD	MR: Marine Rescue
Lyndon Place	SES	NSW	NTES: Northern Territory Emergency Services
Dwight Robinson	SES	NSW	RFS: Rural Fire Service
Bill Shiel	DOHA	SA/WA/NT	SES: State Emergency Service
Robert Stefanovic	ADF	QLD	
John Townsend	SES	NSW	
Andrew Warton	NTES	SA/WA/NT	
Phillippa Woolf	ACIM	NSW	



<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

BE A CONTRIBUTOR to *National Emergency Response*

Submissions now open for the Autumn edition of *National Emergency Response*.

We are looking for:

- Stories or articles
- Peer reviewed papers
- Photographs

Send your submission to editor@aies.net.au by Friday 12 February.

The best submission, as voted by the AIES National Council, receives a gold pen award at each year's Annual General Meeting.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Steve Jenkins MAIES

National President

At the time of writing, 2015 was rapidly drawing to a close. It is therefore timely to reflect on what has arguable been a sad year not only for the emergency services, but the community generally.

Local and international events have seen community safety and security, and people's freedoms in many respects changed significantly.

Emergency services personnel, be they paid or volunteer, need to be cognisant of their surrounds, particularly when in uniform.

I have no doubt though that the resilience of the men, women and youth who collectively comprise the emergency services throughout Australia will see them prevail even in the face of any adversity.

Since the last edition of this Journal, the Board has continued its efforts to develop the various committees and policies now required as a result of the adoption of the new Constitution. The new Constitution can be viewed on the Institute's website. I encourage all members to peruse the document. Company Secretary Peter Schar and Board Member David Mack in particular, both from South Australia, have been busy developing policy and financial processes that will streamline the Institute's annual reporting processes in the future.

In the previous edition of the *National Emergency Response Journal*, I advised that as a consequence of being elected to the position of National President of the AIES, I was invited to become a member of the Comms Connect Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB). Comms Connect is a radio communications and related technologies forum and is very closely aligned by the Australian Radio Communications Industry Association

(ARCI). I was delighted to be an Award Presenter at ARCI's Gala Dinner held in conjunction with the Comms Connect Conference in Melbourne on 2 and 3 December 2015. Numerous Industry Excellence Awards are presented at the dinner. I was honoured to receive such an invitation on behalf of the AIES, which was extended also to President of the AIES Victorian Division Alan Marshall. You can find out more about ARCI at www.arcia.org.au

The AIES is a member agency of the Australian Emergency Managers Forum (AEMVF), which is facilitated by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department (AGD). Accordingly, the AIES was recently offered a placement on the Volunteers Leadership Program (VLP) held in Melbourne from 2 to 4 December 2015. After canvassing all Divisions, a nomination was received from South Australia for Lisette Reinke, a member of the AIES SA/NT/WA Division. Ms Reinke has volunteered with the SA State Emergency Service for six years and is now a Crew Member and Team Leader. She has also volunteered for four years with the SA Country Fire Service where she is a firefighter and Level 3 Incident Controller Assistant. The Commonwealth Attorney General's Department sponsored Ms Reinke's travel and accommodation to attend the VLP. This is an excellent example of the benefits and opportunities available to AIES members from time to time.

In October, I represented the AIES at the 2015 Conference on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, which was one of the special tracks within the World Congress on Engineering and Technology (CET 2015) held at Suzhou in the People's Republic of China (this activity was self-funded). I prepared a paper for the



conference which I also presented at the conference. As a consequence of attending this forum, I have now been invited to attend the National University of Public Service at Budapest in Hungary as a Guest Lecturer. The AIES will also become a partner institution of the university.

A reminder to all that the Call for Abstracts for the Australia and New Zealand Disaster Management Conference to be held at Jupiters on the Gold Coast on 30 and 31 May 2016.

The Annual General Meeting for 2016 has been set for Friday 22 April in Canberra. More details to follow. ●

On behalf of the National Council, we wish all AIES members, and members of the emergency response and support services a happy and safe Christmas and New Year, and look forward to bringing you all more news of the AIES' progress throughout 2016.

PLEASE NOTE:

The AIES Resilience Conference will not be held in 2016, as reported in the Winter edition of *National Emergency Response*. The AIES apologises for any confusion.



THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES: THE BUMPY ROAD TO NATIONAL CONSISTENCY

By: Principal Project Officer RAMMS,
South Australian Fire and Emergency Services
Commission, Edward Pikusa

This paper was presented at the Australian and New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference, Broadbeach, Gold Coast, 3-5 May 2015. It has been edited slightly to fit the space limitations, and editorial style, of *National Emergency Response*. To view the entire paper, and for a list of references, please go to www.anzdmc.com.au

This paper describes the development of an Australian national guideline for the assessment of disaster risk.

The intent is for the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG) to be used for risk assessment, to inform treatment choices and reduce natural disaster risk. The guidelines were developed in the national emergency management context, which is briefly described, and has unique challenges and opportunities due to the division of responsibilities and resources in the Australian federation.

TABLE 1: SIGNIFICANT EVENTS RELATING TO NATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Relevant National Resolutions by SCPEM and LCCSC	NERAG Versions	Other Activities
2007	Publication of National Risk Assessment Framework, describing the need for a national risk guideline	
2008		
2009		Release of ISO 31000:2009
2010	Publication of NERAG	
2011	States and Territories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agreed on the importance of being able to compare risk assessment and hazard mapping across jurisdictions adopting the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines 	
2012	States/territories publish a state-wide risk assessment prior to June 2013	NSW, Qld and Tas published risk assessments
2013	States and territories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce public versions of state-wide risk assessments (if not currently available) by the end of 2013; A number of states and territories work to ensure their state-wide risk assessments will be consistent with the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines by the end of June 2015 By the end of June 2017, all states and territories will publish a new, revised or updated state-wide risk assessment 	WA published risk assessment
2014	LCCSC endorsement of revised NERAG	ACT, NT, Vic and SA publishes risk assessments
2014	Completion of NERAG Review	Productivity Commission (PC) Inquiry into Natural Disaster Funding
Future 2015	Publication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed NERAG Online Training Course Practice Guide Data Guidelines 	PC Inquiry report published
2016	Publication of further NERAG tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Software Treatment Guidelines Local Govt guidelines 	
2017		States and territories to publish updated risk assessments

The guidelines are broadly described, along with their application by the states and territories, and their recent review. Finally, directions for the future of the NERAG are discussed, and possible future directions for its use are discussed in the context of the recent Productivity Commission Inquiry and also the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

THE CASE FOR RISK ASSESSMENT IN AUSTRALIA

THE PROBLEM: LOSSES FROM DISASTERS

The losses to Australia from natural disasters carry a regular, and high, unbudgeted cost in life and property, punctuated by occasional very large events, such as the 2010-11 Queensland

floods. It is well documented in Australia as a liability needing to be reduced.

The most recent report documenting these losses was by the Productivity Commission (PC) in the report of its Inquiry into Natural Disaster Funding (PC 2014), which includes headline figures such as:

- Australian Government unbudgeted expenditure for the last 10 years (2004-2014) of \$8 billion on post

- disaster reconstruction and recovery
- State and territory expenditure of \$5.6 billion over the past decade on post-disaster reconstruction and recovery
- A further \$5.7 billion estimated to be spent completing existing reconstruction programs during 2014-2016
- National insured asset losses of around \$29 billion (2011 dollars) during 1970-2013.

These financial costs do not include loss of life, and the indirect and intangible losses they cause. Loss of life from natural disasters during 1900-2011 is estimated to be around 8,255 fatalities, with over half of those from heatwaves (van den Honert et al 2014).

A similar headline statistic from Deloitte Access Economics (2013) is an estimate that current losses from disasters in Australia is over \$6.3 billion per year, forecast to grow at 3.5 per cent per annum due to increased population, infrastructure and population movements to vulnerable areas, such as low-lying coastal areas, floodplains and vegetated peri-urban areas.

THE SOLUTION: INVESTMENT IN RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION

These forecasts of natural disaster losses have focussed the attention of policy-makers to target investments in pre-disaster mitigation. It recognises the view that preventative mitigation is more cost-effective than continuing to fund response, relief and recovery programs.

Risk management planning is seen as the means of assessing and prioritising risks to determine where to mitigate first for the greatest benefit. This view has driven risk management activities at the national level for several years, and is the main subject of this paper.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE IN AUSTRALIA

Management of emergencies and safety of citizens in Australia is predominantly the responsibility of the states and territories. National structures recognise this state and territory sovereignty. 'National', when used in this paper, collectively describes nine jurisdictions – six states, two territories and the Commonwealth.

States and territories are therefore responsible for undertaking risk assessments, and each state and territory is free to choose their methods, governance and processes. National agreement across the nine jurisdictions on these matters occurs by consensus.

The national governance structure on emergency management is shown in Figure 1. It reports to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) through a council of relevant Ministers,

with much of the business managed by a national senior officials group, the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC). There are also four topic-based subcommittees, each chaired by an ANZEMC member and each with national representation.

The national application of risk management has been led by the Risk Assessment, Measurement and Mitigation Subcommittee (RAMMS) of ANZEMC.

RISK MANAGEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

The risk management process has been part of the portfolio of Australian standards for 20 years, following publication in 1995 of Australian Standard (AS) 4360, which was updated in 1999 and 2004.

The process came of age in 2009 when it was elevated by the International Organization of Standardization (ISO), and became known as ISO 31000. The 2009 update added extra components, with the intent of risk management becoming not just a 'back room' technical exercise, but part of organisational planning processes. This is reflected in:

- The inclusion of 11 Principles of Risk Management (Figure 2), including 'be an integral part of organisational processes' and 'be part of decision making', encouraging risk

management processes be woven into strategic business processes; and

- The addition of the Risk Management Framework (Figure 2) overseeing risk management planning, formalising the need to institutionalise risk management into organisational governance.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Figure 2 (from NEMC 2010) illustrates the full Risk Management process of ISO 31000:2009. Within the seven phases of Risk Management (the centre of Figure 2 inside the dotted line), Risk Assessment consists of the three phases of Identify Risks, Analyse Risks and Evaluate Risks.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

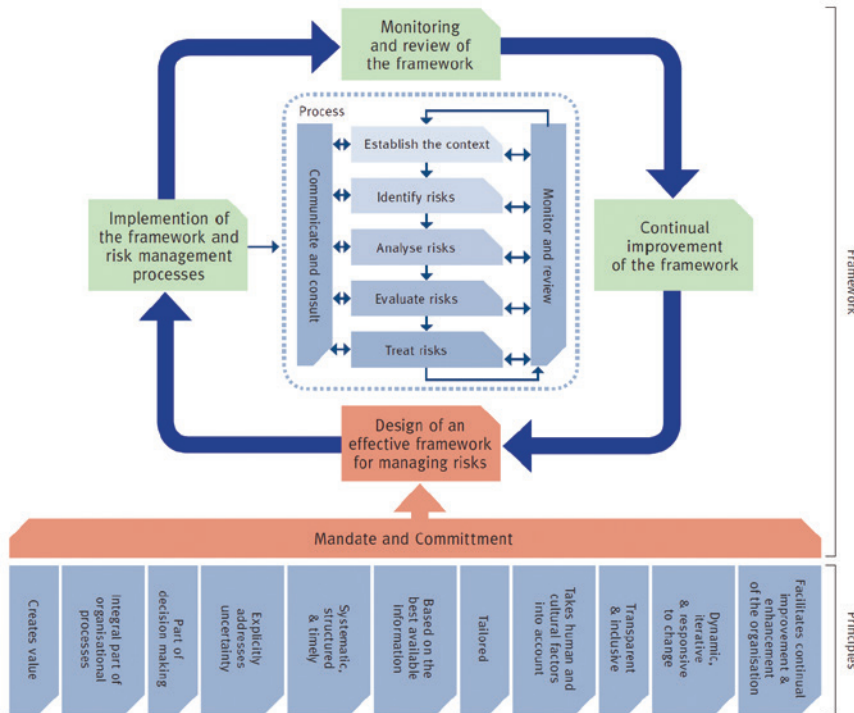
In recent years, the national effort applying risk management to disasters commenced in 2007 with publication of two documents by Geoscience Australia:

- The background document Natural Hazards in Australia: Identifying Risk Analysis Requirements (Middelmann 2007) presenting national information on the likelihood and consequence of a range of natural hazards (tropical cyclone, flood, severe storm, bushfire, landslide, earthquake and tsunami).
- The strategy document for the Australian Emergency Management Committee (now ANZEMC) A national

FIGURE 1: NATIONAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



FIGURE 2: ISO 31000 RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS



- A risk level
- A determination of whether each risk is 'Intolerable' 'Tolerable Subject to As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP)' or 'Broadly Acceptable'
- A determination of whether each risk requires treatment planning, further analysis or monitoring and review.

One feature of the NERAG is the 'scalable' nature of some of its consequence criteria. For People and Economy consequences, losses are not measured in absolute terms, but relative to the community in question:

- Deaths relative to the population of interest (eg 'catastrophic losses' are considered greater than 1 death per 10,000 people)
- Economic loss relative to the government income for the community of interest (eg 'catastrophic losses' are considered equal to 3 per cent or more of that jurisdiction's Government income).

The intent of scalability is that consequence levels are meaningful to the community undertaking the risk assessment.

This feature allows NERAG to be applied to a risk assessment of Australia, each individual state, or regions and communities within those states. A good example of this application at state, regional and local levels is in Western Australia's State Risk Project.

The other four categories of consequence are:

- Public Administration
- Environment
- Social Setting
- Infrastructure

These categories do not readily lend themselves to the universal scalability of people and economy, where population and government revenue data are readily available from public sources. Practitioners can apply relevant criteria to make these categories relevant to their contexts.

It is not a requirement to use every criterion from the 2010 NERAG in risk assessments, and there is some flexibility to choose criteria to suit local circumstances and context.

STATE AND TERRITORY PUBLISHED RISK ASSESSMENTS

In response to the 2010 NERAG publication and national resolutions,

risk assessment framework for sudden onset natural hazards (NRAAG 2007).

The national risk assessment framework described a number of actions, including the preparation of a set of national risk guidelines, described as follows:

- 'Risk assessment guidelines will assist practitioners at all levels of government to undertake risk assessments that support the National Risk Assessment Framework. The guidelines will be focussed on production of consistent and improved information on risk (ie outcomes).
- The guidelines extend the relevant risk assessment components of the processes outlined in AS/NZS 4360:2004 and Emergency Management Australia's Emergency Risk Management Applications Guide. These guidelines, known as the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines (NERAG), were developed in this 2007-2010 period (NEMC 2010).

Following completion of the NERAG, Emergency Services Ministers 'agreed on the importance of being able to compare risk assessment and hazard mapping across jurisdictions by adopting the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines.'

THE 2010 NERAG PROCESS

The NERAG (NEMC 2010) applies the risk management standard (ISO 31000:2009) to assessing the risk of Australian natural disasters. The value of the NERAG is this standardised risk assessment process, allowing examination of different natural hazards using the same risk criteria.

NERAG's process is intended to assist planning and prioritising mitigation investment. This is distinct from other risk assessments, such as deployment of resources during an emergency response, or health and safety assessments.

The 2010 NERAG states a clear preference for an inclusive stakeholder workshop process supported by technical evidence for assessing risks.

Each stage (of the risk assessment process) is accompanied by tables, flowcharts and diagrams to assist the assessor.

At the end of the process, it is intended that practitioners have a register of risks, each risk having:

- A described link between hazard, emergency and consequence
- A list of the controls relevant to that risk, and an assessment of the effectiveness of those controls
- Likelihood, consequence and confidence levels of the risk

states and territories across Australia published risk assessments and risk information for their jurisdictions. Some had established processes while others, particularly the smaller jurisdictions, had very limited resources, which made the process more difficult.

With the benefit of hindsight, there was little guidance on what a state-wide risk assessment actually was, how it should be formatted, and what risks it should include. There was also limited guidance on what these documents were intended to achieve by their publication, or what use they were to be put to.

All documents were whole-of-government publications, requiring high-level approval for publication by their jurisdiction. State and territory governments have different appetites for what information on natural hazards and risks are published, leading to variety on the published results.

By the end of 2013, all states had produced or were well advanced towards some form of a public statewide risk assessment, and these were all published by 2014. However, they varied widely in their presentation, and did not all explicitly address all requirements of the NERAG.

Information was presented as either:

- A likelihood-consequence risk matrix
- A text description of priority risk outcomes
- A presentation of historical information, either summary statistics of previous losses from hazards or notable historic emergency events.

The published risk assessment documents are principally intended to be a community education tool; informing the community about the natural hazard risks they are exposed to at a state level.

Some jurisdictions are very open with their risk information, the best example being from Tasmania. The full risk assessment documents, including risk registers of 'Intolerable' risks, are all publicly available (TDPEM 2012). Others, like Victoria, illustrate and compare risks for small, large and worst cast scenarios (VDJ 2014), which adds extra detail to an averaged risk.

There is also significant variance in the underlying analysis undertaken by the states and territories that led to the

presented risk information. Some opted for a data-centred solution developed through a consultancy (eg QDCS 2012). Others undertook high-level risk assessments for their jurisdiction as a whole (eg ACT Govt 2014, NT DCM 2014, TDPEM 2014, VDJ 2014). Others undertook a workshop-based approach including a number of regional and hazard-specific assessments, which were then aggregated (eg SA Govt 2014, WASEMC 2013).

Summarising risk information to present the overall risk also differs. Some generated a single risk description for the state, and others aggregated and averaged dozens of risk from the risk register to a statistical average.

The result of all of this valuable work presents both challenges and opportunities for future developments in risk assessment.

- The challenge is that the current publications are not consistent or comparable. With the process described above and sovereignty of the states in this matter, this was always going to be difficult to achieve.
- The opportunity is that there is the variety of techniques that have been applied. As described below, there is a planned update of state risk assessments by 2017, and the best elements of the existing processes could be assessed and combined into improved risk assessments in future.

THE REVISED NERAG

WHY REVISE?

As part of the NERAG endorsement of 2011, there was also a commitment also made to review and update the guidelines after three years. A national working group was created to consider revisions to the document and provide a revised NERAG to RAMMS.

It became clear as states used the 2010 NERAG that some improvements in the process could be made. What seemed straightforward when writing the document proved difficult to implement in practice. The intent of the review was to benefit from the experience of the NERAG's use to make it a better product.

The working group had membership from the Commonwealth Government, including the Australian Emergency

Management Institute and Geoscience Australia, states and territories, three local government associations (WA, SA and Qld), and three risk management academics.

The review commenced in mid-2012. The reviewed manuscript was finalised and endorsed nationally in mid-2014. The spectrum of views towards the NERAG across states and territories and local governments was highly varied, and agreeing on a single reviewed document took time as a result.

REVISIONS OF THE NERAG

The process of consultation, debate and amendment of the NERAG document resulted in many changes in the process.

ASSOCIATED NERAG PRODUCTS

In addition to the NERAG document, a number of other products are being developed to assist practitioners in implementing emergency risk assessments.

These include a free online training course that any practitioner can experience a brief course (four hours total across eight modules) introducing them to the NERAG, its use and application.

Practitioners often cannot get to formal training courses, and this is intended to provide an introduction and overview. The Australian Emergency Management Institute will continue to offer courses for practitioners to facilitate emergency management.

A Practice Guide to assist practitioners is also being prepared as a how to document. The online version is intended to allow practitioners to upload and share information on their own risk assessments that can be used by others, such as documentation, templates and reports.

Other products are also in development, their need identified during the NERAG Review

- Data guidelines to assist practitioners seeking evidence to support context and risk analysis;
- A software product to assist in the recording of risk registers and producing reports;
- Guidelines for the assessment of risk treatments; and
- Guidelines for local councils using the NERAG



TOWARDS NATIONALLY CONSISTENT RISK ASSESSMENTS

NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS FOR RISK ASSESSMENT, 2013, 2015 AND 2017

Given that the states and territories have primacy in emergency management, it is debatable as to whether risk information needs to become more consistent, and what the costs and benefits of achieving consistency would be.

The Ministerial Council, now LCCSC, made resolutions for states and territories to identify and publish statewide risk assessments based on the NERAG.

- November 2011: that NERAG be the consistent methodology for future use by Australian governments to assess risk for priority hazards (SCPEM 2011)
- June 2012: states/territories publish a state-wide risk assessment prior to June 2013 (SCPEM 2012)
- July 2013: States and territories (SCPEM 2013)
 - Produce public versions of state-wide risk assessments (if not currently available) by the end of 2013
 - A number of states and territories work to ensure their statewide risk assessments will be consistent with the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines by the end of June 2015
 - By the end of June 2017, all states and territories will publish a new, revised or updated state-wide risk assessment
- July 2014: Endorsement of the revised NERAG to *'support effective and nationally consistent emergency risk assessment approaches, helping to build more resilient communities and businesses by enabling access to consistent disaster risk information across jurisdictional borders'* (LCCSC 2014)

THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY AND NERAG

The NERAG is mentioned in the report of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Natural Disaster Funding (PC 2014) relating to the draft recommendation on mitigation (Figure 7).

The report recommends (Recommendation 3.5) that the Australian Government increases mitigation funding around four-fold, from \$50m per annum to \$200m p.a. It also recommends that mitigation proposals funded by this increase meet accountability requirements, and be consistent with priorities of published risk assessments in accordance with the NERAG.

The ramifications of these recommendations, if implemented, would need to be fleshed out. However, it has the potential to advance the direction of risk assessments towards being true decision making tools for allocating mitigation resources.

SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

The World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015 resulted in an international framework for action (WCDRR 2015) for countries, including Australia, to contribute to international efforts in reducing disaster risk. This succeeded the Hyogo Framework for Action, which operated from 2005 to 2015.

Within the Sendai Framework (WCDRR 2015), Article 18 describes seven global targets to demonstrate progress in achieving disaster risk reduction. Four of these seven targets have strongly supported by the NERAG processes and criteria:

- Reducing mortality, described as *'average mortality per 100,000 population'*
This is identical to the people consequence of NERAG
- Reduce economic loss, described as *'direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product'*
This is identical to the economy consequence of the revised NERAG
- Reduce *'disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities'*
This has close similarity to the public administration consequence of NERAG
- *'Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies'*

This is supported by Ministerial Council resolutions and state/territory risk assessment activities described above.

CONCLUSIONS

The NERAG has come a long way in the eight years since it was first proposed in 2007. It has been written, applied and reviewed, used in a variety of ways by states and territories, and been the subject of national resolutions, workshops and inquiries.

Current LCCSC resolutions indicate that there will continue to be development and publication of state-level risk assessments by states and territories for the next few years. There is the opportunity for jurisdictions to collectively benefit from their varied approaches to date and improve the overall quality of risk assessments.

Implementation of the Productivity Commission Inquiry recommendation has the potential to formalise and finance the linking of risk assessment to mitigation, bridging the gap between risk assessment and strategic risk reduction.

The Sendai Framework also has the potential to link Australian risk assessment criteria to reporting on our international commitments in disaster risk reduction.

The revised NERAG will soon be published with a range of products to help practitioners undertake risk assessments across the nation at all levels. However, this is still just the beginning of the risk journey in Australia and there are many options for how this work could develop further.

There will be future national decisions by Ministers, but the longevity of the NERAG will rely on state, regional and local level risk assessments to be undertaken, and the results supported by state, territory and local governments. ●

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please email
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TASSIE'S FIRE CHIEF WINS AIES AWARD

Congratulations to retiring Chief Officer of the Tasmanian Fire Service, Michael Wayne Brown (Mike), for winning this year's AIES National Award of Excellence.

Mike was rewarded for the fantastic work he has done in developing the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) to a nationally respected fire service, and for the respected work he has developed nationally and internationally.

Nominated by the Tasmanian division of the AIES, he received his award in front of 300 delegates at the Tasmanian Fire Service Conference held in July.

Mike's fire service career began in 1977 and over his career he has

worked in operations and training before moving through to District and Regional management.

He was promoted to Deputy Chief Officer in 2006 and then the Chief Officer incorporating the role of CEO and Chairman of the State Fire Commission in 2009.

In this role he oversees the command and development of TFS's 450 career and support staff and 5,000 plus volunteer members.

Mike's roles on a National level



(L-R) Mike Brown and Ron Jones.
The presentation of the AIES National Award
for Excellence was held at the Tasmanian Fire
Services Conference in July.



Mike Brown receives his AIES National Award for excellence from Tasmania Division President Ron Jones.

CAREER HISTORY

- Deputy Chief Officer: 2006-09
- Regional Chief–North: 2005-2006
- Brigade Chief–Launceston and Deputy Regional Officer–Northern Region: 1995-2005
- Brigade Chief–Devonport and District Officer–Mersey: 1991-1995
- Senior District Officer–Mersey District: 1985-1991
- Senior District Officer–Mersey District: 1985-1991
- Hobart Fire Brigade: 1989
- Training Officer attached to the Australian Maritime College–Launceston: 1983-1985
- Training Officer–Cambridge: 1981-1983
- Country Fire Officer–Tasmania Fire Service-East Coast District: 1979-1981
- Cadet Fire Control Officer–Rural Fires Board: 1977-1981

AWARDS

- Australasian Fire Authorities Council scholarship to the Executive Fire Officer programme at the United States Fire Administration, National Fire Academy in Maryland, USA: 2000-2001
- National Medal with 1st and 2nd clasps
- Australian Fire Service Medal: 2005

NATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- National Society of Executive Fire Officers (USA)
- Institution of Fire Engineers (Australian Branch)

include Director on the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council Board and Chairman of the National Aerial Firefighting Centre.

Mike successfully completed the United States Fire Administration - Executive Fire Officer Program in 2002; a Bachelor Degree specialising in Emergency Management; and membership qualifications with the Institute of Fire Engineers. He was also awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in 2005. ●

NEW PARTNERSHIP FORMED

The Tasmanian Broadcasters, Radio Network and My State Financial have formed a partnership to highlight the fantastic work of Tasmania's Emergency Service Volunteers through the presentation of state-based awards.

My State Financial is sponsoring a prize worth up to \$5,700 for each winning nomination from the supporting radio stations - 7BU/SeaFM Burnie, 7AD/SeaFM Devonport, LAFM/Chilli Launceston and 7HOFM Hobart.

The nominations for next year have been forwarded to the AIES Tasmanian Division for consideration for the PJ Parssey Memorial Award.

The RACT is sponsoring the 2016 winner of the PJ Parssey Memorial Award, with the winning receiving a one-night accommodation package for two people at Cradle Mountain Chateau.



*Merry
Christmas*

≡ *and* ≡
*a Happy
NEW YEAR*



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financial cooperatives in APS Savings Ltd
wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a
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State
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Danielle Rowe heads our insurance broking team and is a salaried employee of APS Benefits. With over 15 years experience in the industry, Danielle has access to insurance products that include home and contents, motor vehicle, boat/caravan, landlord and public liability. The next time you receive your insurance renewal notice or want insurance for the first time, call Danielle on **1300 131 809**.

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APS Benefits Membership Coordinator Jesse Clarke can assist members to gain immediate funeral cover up to \$20,000 for adults and \$7,000 for dependent children (aged 2 to 15 next birthday). Do you have cover in the greatest time of need? Call us on **1300 131 809**.

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Phil Lambourne from APS Wills & Estates has over 25 years experience as a lawyer. Phil can help you with wills, powers of attorney, probate and estate administration. Is your will up-to-date? Have you reviewed your will recently? It affects more than just you!

APS BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION

Recently launched, the Foundation is a registered charity and a deductible gift recipient. Donations above \$2 are tax deductible. The Foundation will enable the Society to expand our level of benevolence. Need to know more? Call us on **1300 131 809**.

Further to this, APS is owned by its members, so any profits are channelled back to members. Help spread the word by introducing new members and APS will send you, your nominated charity or your staff social club \$50 for each new member you nominate.

**For more information call us on 1300 131 809
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Emergency services teams get ready for the Eureka Challenge.

FIRIES A HARD TEAM TO BEAT

There really is no stopping Melbourne Fire Brigades 'Rescue Me' team, who once again fought off fellow emergency services to make it to the top of the Eureka Tower.

The annual race to the top of Melbourne's tallest building was held on Sunday 15 November with participants from all over Australia and overseas raising over \$264,000 for charity partners Whitelion and Interplast.

One of the highest vertical races in the world, the annual Eureka Climb, presented by OsteoEze, challenges participants with 88 levels and 300m of vertical elevation.

The Emergency Services Challenge is a crowd favourite, and even with some competitive challengers this year from paramedics, SES volunteers and police officers, the firies had them all covered for the third year in a row.

The team won fastest climbers and the fastest in full kit, while members Scott McGraw and Kim Hamilton won the individual male and female challenges. ●



MFB team Rescue Me takes out the top of the Eureka honours once again.



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ROAD CRASH MARKERS

Coming up is the Christmas holiday period, so what do the crash markers mean to you?

Ron Jones LFAIES

Tasmanian President, AIES

To the family and friends, it's a tragic reminder of how a life can be taken from them so quickly and tragically and the injuries that can change a life, a family, a future.

What about the emergency service workers? It's a constant reminder for them too.

For those who travel our roads state-wide, when you pass the crash markers, in particular on the roads out of our major cities, pause and remember that the majority of first emergency service responders, 95% in fact, will be volunteers. At times they will arrive before the police. They are the volunteers from the ambulance, fire and SES emergency services; they give up their time freely to train to help others in their community in their time of need and when the call comes they stop and



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drop what they are doing, leave work, home, family and other commitments to help others.

On call 24 hours a day 7 days a week. At times they are often confronted with something that can only be described as something nightmares are made of.

After dealing with the accident, the survivors are sent to hospital, in the case of a fatal, the scene is secured, awaiting the accident investigators to turn up and do their job. After that the body(s) are



recovered, vehicle(s) recovered and the accident scene cleaned up and made safe for other road users.

The volunteers return to their stations, making sure the emergency vehicles are restocked ready for the next job. They may have a coffee, a quick debrief about the incident and then try to return to what they were doing before the callout. This scene is repeated too many times a year not only for our volunteers but also our career emergency service workers,

accident and emergency staff and so on, the effects are felt by everyone. These images will haunt our emergency service workers for life.

So next time you drive past a crash marker, remember the victim(s), but spare a thought for our emergency service workers, in particular our volunteers, and let them enjoy the holiday period with their families. Better still, let them have a quiet year. So be safe, everyone. One is too many. ●



VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO PLANNED BURN DISASTER

The Victorian Government has responded to the independent investigation of the Lancefield-Cobaw fire, which resulted from a planned burn that broke containment lines in early October.

The Inspector-General for Emergency Management issued a report into the review of performance targets for the future bushfire fuel management program on public land.

The review recommended improvements to the systems and processes of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) that are crucial to delivering planned burning throughout Victoria.

The investigation made 22 recommendations, including:

- Community engagement – DELWP will ensure the right people are actively and meaningfully communicated with in a way that suits their needs
- Structure – better integrate operational burn planning and operational implementation
- Systems and processes – DELWP should focus on improving systems and processes, to ensure risk assessment reflects the broader landscape and resourcing is appropriate to that risk
- Risk management – DELWP should thoroughly review its risk management and approvals processes, with risk assessments and outputs clear, current and useful
- Branding – the department should build a better identity for fire management and planned burning on public land so it can build stronger and more sustainable relationships with the community

“What occurred in Lancefield was unacceptable and the Department will now work hard to ensure it has better systems and processes in place to help rebuild community trust in planned burning,” Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Lisa Neville said.

DELWP has asked the Inspector-General for Emergency Management to provide independent oversight to ensure all recommendations are implemented and progress is reported publicly.

“The Inspector-General for Emergency Management will oversee the Department’s progress on implementing the recommendations and will provide regular updates to Lancefield and other local areas,” Minister Neville said.



67 fire trucks were deployed during the Lancefield fires. Photo by: Keith Pakenham - CFA.

It is rare that planned burns break containment lines but DELWP has committed to ensuring it has the right systems in place to reduce bushfire risk and the community has confidence in the work carried out by the department's local forest firefighters across Victoria.

The government also responded to the Inspector-General for Emergency Management's report into Victoria's fuel management targets, accepting all the report's recommendations – including a new focus on the greatest areas of risk for fuel management on public land.

Previously, planned burns were driven by a hectare target. Going forward, Victoria will become more sophisticated in the way it manages planned burning and put local communities first.

This response addresses key recommendations in the independent report and builds on the Inspector-General's recommendations by setting a new direction for integrated bushfire management across Victoria.

Key changes include:

- Introducing a risk reduction target to fuel management on public land from July 1 2016, to lower the impact of a major bushfire on lives and properties of Victorians by nearly a third
- Fire and land management agencies partnering with locals to find the most effective mix of actions to



Photo by: Keith Pakenham - CFA.



One of 23 sheds destroyed by the Lancefield-Cobaw fires. Photo by: Keith Pakenham - CFA.

Victoria will become more sophisticated in the way it manages planned burning and put local communities first.

reduce bushfire risks and impacts for communities

- Greater partnerships between CFA experts and residents in planned burns across private land
- Fire agencies partnering with other agencies and communities to manage bushfire risk across public and private land in the highest risk areas – where it makes sense

“Our forest firefighters are members of local communities right across Victoria who work hard to reduce bushfire risk. They are committed to working together to be smarter and more collaborative to help protect people, communities, and our local environments from fire,” Minister Neville said.

“In the past, the approach to planned burning has been driven by a target, not by focussing on the areas of high risk. We will now work to reduce the risk of bushfire by focusing on high risk areas and listening to locals.”

The new direction, to be implemented over the next five years, seeks to



Photo by: Keith Pakenham - CFA.

ensure that fire and land managers and community work as one to reduce bushfire risk.

“Now is the time for new thinking when it comes to bushfire preparations and management as we do all we can to reduce the risks to ensure a safer state,” Minister for Emergency Services Jane Garrett said.

“The CFA and EMV will work closely with forest firefighters and local communities to ensure locals are part of the decision making when it comes to planned burning.”

This will lead to safer communities, thriving rural economies and healthy environments for current and future generations.

WHAT HAPPENED AT LANCEFIELD?

The fires at Lancefield-Cobaw, located in Victoria’s north-west, started as a Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning controlled burn that twice jumped containment lines between 30 September and 6 October.

The fire was contained on 12 October, in an effort that saw 400 personnel deployed and required 67 trucks, eight helicopters and several bulldozes and excavators.

The fire destroyed more than 3,100 hectares of land, four houses and 23 sheds.

On 8 October, Minister for Environment and Climate Change Lisa Neville requested an independent investigation into the fire. ●



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES YOUNG VOLUNTEER AWARD

THE AWARD

The AIES Young Volunteer's Award, proudly supported by the Emergency Response Division of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, aims to reward one young person for their outstanding and ongoing contributions and commitment to their chosen emergency service.

The award winner will receive a fully sponsored voyage in the sail training ship Young Endeavour where he or she can develop their skills in teamwork, leadership and communication.

Runners up will receive a certificate of commendation from the AIES.

NOMINATIONS

A member of the public, the young volunteer's supervisor, manager or another emergency service member, can make nominations. At least two referees who have known the nominee for a minimum of 12 months and who can attest to the nominee's volunteer service must second all nominations.

NOMINATION CRITERIA

The nominee will be assessed on his or her:

- commitment to the emergency services including continuity and length of service
- demonstrated willingness to learn and progress within the emergency service
- current or future leadership potential

The nominee must:

- a. be a volunteer member of an emergency service organisation for a period of at least two years
- b. be aged between 18 and 33 years of age
- c. be available to undertake the voyage on the date nominated in the award

Proudly supported by



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Australian Maritime Safety Authority



www.youngendeavour.gov.au

In addition, nominees must meet all of Young Endeavour's mandatory selection criteria including:

- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- be able to swim 50 metres and be in good health
- weigh less than 120kg
- complete a medical examination to the required standard
- not having completed a voyage in Young Endeavour previously

SELECTION

The award committee will select the winner by assessing each nomination against the selection criteria. The authenticity of all claims in the winning submission will be verified.

The award committee's decision of the winner of the AIES Young Volunteer's Award is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

PRESENTATION

Within three months of completion of the voyage, the awardee will be required to provide a written report on their voyage and make a presentation at an AIES Division meeting. The written report will be published in the Institute's journal *National Emergency Response* and by the award sponsor the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations should be marked CONFIDENTIAL and sent to the Registrar of the Division of the AIES in which the nominees resides. Details can be found on our website at www.aies.net.au

Nominations must be received by 4pm 1st February each year.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This award is subject to the terms and conditions as detailed on the AIES website.

MORE INFORMATION

More information on the award can be found on our website, www.aies.net.au



POSTCARDS FROM CANADA AND USA: STORMS, SNOW AND REVISITING GROUND ZERO

Bill Hoyles, MAIES

Postcard from North York, Toronto



I was visiting Toronto to celebrate my wife's uncle's 100th birthday recently, and took time out to learn more about some of the weather patterns that have impacted on the area that I was staying in.

Our 16th-floor North York apartment overlooked both the area around North York General Hospital and the distant Toronto city skyline.

On the second day of our visit I was able to witness, from our balcony,

the clouds rolling in over North York for a forecast thunderstorm which had the potential to replicate a previous event that occurred in August 2005, when Toronto received an estimated 1,400 lightning strikes per minute and North York received 103mm of rain in just one hour.

On this occasion we were spared, but the threat was very real. Coincidentally, the following day, outside of our North York apartment complex, I chanced upon a public

speech being given by a woman who I subsequently learned was Toronto Councillor Shelley Carroll.

As Councillor for Ward 33 of Don Valley East, Shelley was Chair of the Public Works Committee when that rainstorm flooded homes, parks and streets in North York.

Following this event, Shelley led the establishment of a \$4 million city flood grant program and a \$50 million Flood Mitigation Program in Ward 33 to increase the capacity of the sewer system.



The Pickering Lands of Southern Ontario



Horseshoe Falls.

The ice storm that struck Southern Ontario, Canada, just before Christmas 2013 caused massive infrastructure problems throughout the province with 500,000 people left without power. Even Toronto's iconic streetcar system was not spared when ice build-up on the cables forced the Toronto Transport Commission to suspend all operations on the Sunday after the storm, while subways and bus routes were disrupted on the Monday and hundreds of flights in and out of Pearson International Airport were affected, being either delayed or cancelled.

I gained an understanding of the impact on one unique area of Southern Ontario from my wife's cousin's husband Ludovic D'Souza. Since April 2015 Ludovic has been Acting Senior Economist (Coordination and Policy Advice) for Transport Canada. However when the ice storm struck in 2013, Ludovic had overall responsibility for the management and use of the Pickering Lands.

The Pickering Lands are located 56km north-east of Toronto Central and occupy an area of 7,530 hectares covering Pickering, Markham and Uxbridge. They hold a very special status having been purchased by the Canadian Government in 1972 for the eventual construction of Toronto's second international airport. Pending the development of the new airport, the Government leased out the area in 1975 to a mixture of residential, commercial and farming tenants. Most were badly affected by the devastating ice storm. Ludovic arranged for me to receive further information from the current Regional Manager of Pickering Site Operations, Perry Papadotos, who kindly agreed to help out with additional facts, figures and events.

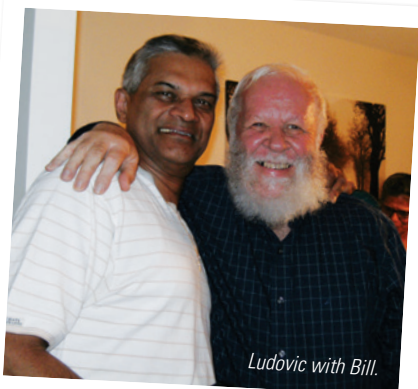
In an email to me, Perry wrote: "Following the December 2013 ice storm, our role as landlord was to ensure that to the greatest extent possible, health, safety and access risks were mitigated in order to minimize hindrances to tenants and emergency first responders from entering/exiting properties. Given our realty portfolio is situated in a rural setting, with no municipal water and sewage service, the landlord operates the properties via wells and septic systems. The ensuing power outage directly impacted wells and pressure tanks...they simply would not operate, therefore no water was available.

"Compounding the issue was the power outage resulting in no heat (furnace cannot operate) and temperatures of minus 20 degrees celcius. As such, our operational objectives focused on:

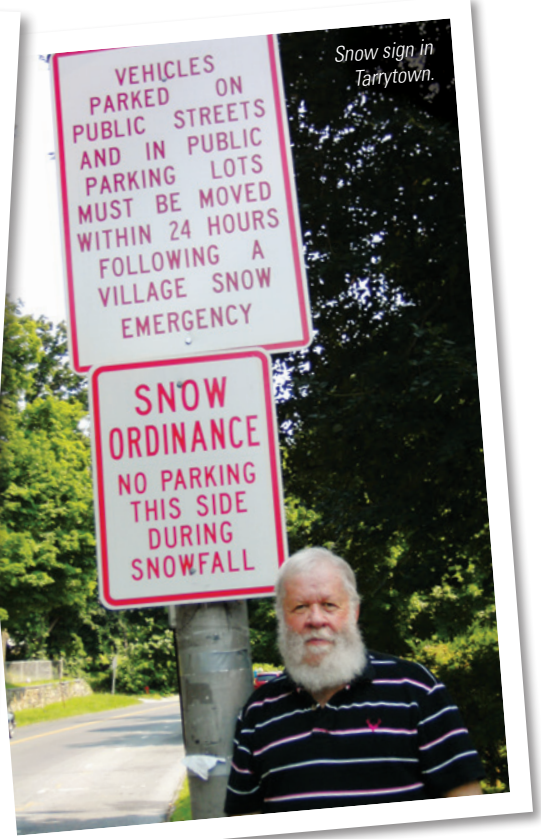
- Supply of potable water to tenants (bottled)
- Checking in on tenants routinely (in person or by telephone)
- Notifying the National Service Call Centre [NSCC] (as the landlord's mass communication contact centre for tenants) of 'warming centers' in the area so they could advise tenants.
- Setting up a water notification program with the NSCC so that we documented tenants requiring water and delivered bottles twice daily
- Organizing patrols to clear trees from hydro lines
- Ensuring the property service provider maintained contact with landlord and that daily updates were provided
- Draining water lines at site office to prevent freezing (as the site office was also without electricity/heat)
- Attending site office daily to check security of building and for possibility of flooding
- Having contractors on stand-by to relay service requests and dispatch calls (to clear fallen trees blocking access points to properties)
- Setting up an escalation list for staff [including designated duties and responsibilities of stand-by staff] for instantaneous decision/approval means to undertake work
- Annual tenant mass communications products to include the following link:
www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/yprprdnssgd/index-en.aspx"

Summing up his experience, Ludovic said, "I enjoyed the approximately two years I spent directing Ontario's Pickering Land's team. We successfully managed through ice storms, vandalism and the implementation of the Government of Canada's initiatives: a smaller airport site, the transfer of a significant amount of land to Parks Canada for the Rouge Nation Urban Park and extensive engagement with government officials, green groups, industry and business representatives and residents."

Ludovic continues to be engaged on the Pickering file albeit on policy-related issues such as future airport studies and dealing with aviation stakeholders on their future plans.



Ludovic with Bill.



Taking a break on the Canada side of Niagara Falls, I was told about the recent exploits of ice climbers who took time out to climb the American Falls when they froze over. Returning from an aerial view of the American and Horseshoe Falls I encountered a road sign that used

visuals to convey its icy message...albeit with a short word explanation below.

Moving on, we visited friends in Scarsdale, New York where I found a somewhat unusual pair of signs on the snow emergency evacuation route along the Mamaroneck Road. Guess there is even more 'No Parking' when

there is a snow emergency. Nearby was one of many fire hydrants – equipped with an additional red and white striped pole. I later confirmed that this was to enable snow ploughs to avoid hitting the hydrants when they were snow covered. Later while visiting the ancestral home of the Rockefellers in Sleepy Hollow, I found a similar snow sign at nearby Tarrytown adjacent to a plaque and memorial celebrating the capture of an Englishman in 1780 during the American War of Independence.



Revisiting Ground Zero: The Museum



Ground Zero.

When I last visited Ground Zero in downtown Manhattan, the Museum was nearing completion and so this time it was a must see...and it did not disappoint! It is difficult to say what had the most impact. Maybe it was twisted remains of some of the structural beams, the mangled remnants of the aerial that stood proudly on top of one tower, the burned out ambulance and fire ladders, or the smaller items like the helmet, boots and charred fire axe of some of the first responders. The recordings of many voices of witnesses on that day were touching, as were the photographs and newscasts of the planes' impact and the aftermath, the subsequent messages seeking lost relatives, and the images of the first responders – those that survived and those that perished. Finally the hunt for the perpetrators: including footage of the hijackers passing through airport security and, on display, a camouflage shirt worn by a member of the special-forces SEAL Team Six during the raid that killed Osama Bin Laden. ●

JOIN THE AIES IN 2016

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Membership is open to all members of the Australia and New Zealand emergency services, and affiliated organisations.

Membership cost: \$60 yearly subscription plus \$30 initial joining fee*.

Student, Associate and Retired Memberships are also available.

Chapters of the Institute are established in most States in Australia, and membership of the Institute carries a professional post nominal.

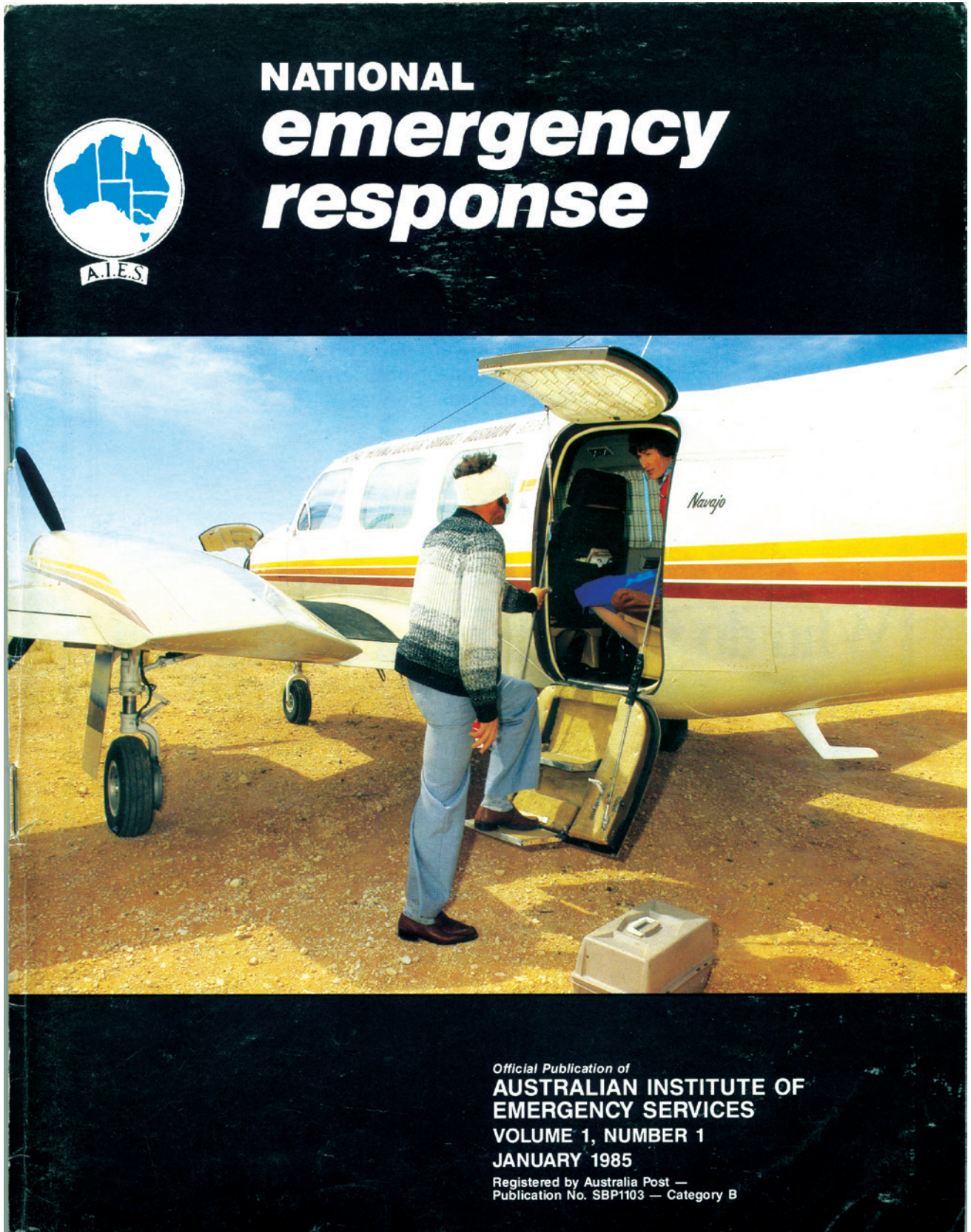
*Both of these fees are tax deductible for people employed in an emergency management or counter disaster capacity.



Find out more about AIES
membership on page 31.

Visit www.aies.net.au to join, or to find out more.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE: SUMMERTIME FLASHBACK



Official Publication of
**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
EMERGENCY SERVICES**
VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1
JANUARY 1985
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In January 1985, the first national edition of the Australian Institute of Emergency Service's journal, *National Emergency Response*, was published.

Volume 1, Number 1 of *National Emergency Response* had all the hallmarks of a magazine that would stand the test of time, largely due to its committed General Council and members.

Filled with news and views from emergency management professionals around the country, the 40-page black and white publication was the nationwide version of *Response*, a journal published by the South Australian division of the AIES between 1982 and 1985.

The AIES President at the time was J.H. Lewis-Hughes, the Editor F.K. Lane, and Adelaide outfit Keough & Associates published the quarterly journal.

In his inaugural President's Piece, Mr Lewis-Hughes thanked the SA division for changing its publication into a national one. Mr Lane told members it was up to them to contribute to the success of the magazine by contributing articles and without their active support, "we shall be wasting our time". While the message is the same, I'm not sure our language is so bold these days!

The first edition was published at a time when three digit STD codes for each state were printed in brackets and phone numbers had just six digits. Peter Brock (1945-2006) was advertising Bridgestone tyres, and alcohol advertising laws were lax!

Interestingly, the articles have remained consistent in content over the past 30 years – covering emergency planning and operations, Australia's role in emergency management

overseas, new technologies and innovations, and contributions from various fire and SES organisations.

A standout article in the January 1985 edition of *National Emergency Response* was by Alan Alder MAIES (Victoria) who wrote about the Combined Emergency Services Seminar held on 24-25 November 1984, titled 'Exotic Disease Emergencies'. At the time, Mr Alder was the Divisional Correspondent for Victoria and he remains an active member of the AIES today.

We hope you enjoy this summer flashback to 1985.

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MOBILE GRAPHICS — STATE-OF-THE-ART IN PHOENIX

Phoenix Fire and Public Safety uses triple redundant DEC PDP-11/44's, mobile CRT's with graphics and digital communications in \$5 million super system

A sudden and violent sandstorm hits the desert southwest. Phoenix is bombarded with high winds and zero visibility. The dispatch room on the third floor of the Police and Public Safety building is in a state of emergency. Phone calls report fire in various areas of the city.

local map to determine the best way to approach the building, then a building drawing to determine the best way to enter and move through the building. The system is getting better all the time.

the reported big problem in the first of time at have been computers. y the data files, management file er or not

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Training Bush Fire Personnel The N.S.W. Experience

By Eric Hughes
Training Co-ordinator
Bush Fire Council of N.S.W.

Bushfires were one of the first natural disasters confronting the early settlers in N.S.W., and, the people met this threat by banding together on a co-operative basis: this neighbour helping neighbour. The prevention, suppression and control of bushfires remains to this day a de-centralised activity with local government councils and the land managers, such as the Forestry Commission and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, developing appropriate resources and employing such resources on a co-operative basis. The Bush Fire Council is primarily an advisory and facilitatory organisation being composed of representatives from all authorities with an interest in the prevention, suppression and control of bush fires.

The present structure is effective and provides protection at minimum cost, but, it must be acknowledged that de-centralisation can result in variations in standards. Training is one area in particular where lack of standards is one area and, with this in mind, the Bush Fire

distributed from the central point contain a core of essential information whilst those responsible for implementing the programme are given the skills to help them develop from this core to meet their perceived needs.

A systems approach

The training programme is developed on a systems basis and the simplest way of explaining our approach is to include a schematic of the system employed.



OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Combined Emergency Services Seminar 24th-25th November, 1984

“EXOTIC DISEASE EMERGENCIES”

By MR. ALAN ALDER,
Member A.I.E.S. (Victoria)

A major event which involved the Victorian Division of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services was the 6th Annual Combined Emergency Services Seminar (C.E.S. Seminar). This was held at Latrobe University, Melbourne over the weekend of Nov. 24-25, 1984. A little background information on the C.E.S. Seminar Committee may be in order here. The idea of a get together of emergency service personnel for mutual information exchange arose, as is traditional, over a couple of beers. From that seed came the first meeting (seminar) of a number of emergency service personnel in 1977, the expense was underwritten by the Institute of Fire Engineers (Vic. branch). The concept of the seminar was so well accepted that in 1980 a full seminar was planned, this one was even more successful than the first one and thus has become an annual fixture on the calendar, held in the latter part of the year, the last four being at Latrobe University with top line catering and live-in facilities for Interstate Visitors. The Committee consists of representatives from:

Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade
Country Fire Authority
Victorian Police
Melbourne Ambulance Service
Peninsular Ambulance Service
State Emergency Service
Aust. Institute of Emergency Services (Vic.)
and lately, members of the Nursing Profession.

AIM

As effectively stated by Mr. N. Lord, M.B.E., C.P.M., Q.F.S.M., F.I.F.E., in the opening of the 1980 Seminar: *“The Aim of the seminar (committee) is to achieve precisely that inter-communications at all levels so vital for the success of our individual or collective operations when faced with the Emergency or Disaster.”*

The title of the 6th Annual C.E.S. Seminar was “EXOTIC DISEASE EMERGENCIES — Planning — Response — Control.” This subject was selected by the Committee as the result of a questionnaire circulated to all participants at the last Seminar. The subject title, whilst sounding somewhat academic, provided scope for speakers to cover both Animal and Human Exotic Diseases, one day was allocated to each for the presentation of papers and discussions of the ramifications of the introduction and spread of such diseases, and, most importantly to the members of the various emergency services who attended, what would our role be in the containment and eradication of the disease and the handling of affected victims — both human and animal. The two day seminar brought together, as is its aim, members of the Fire Brigades, Ambulance Services — both Metropolitan and Rural, Nurs-

ing Profession, Doctors, Police, S.E.S., Red Cross and other support groups who would all be involved in the potential disaster of an Exotic Disease Outbreak.

The speakers were all extremely well qualified to present the various facets of the subject being in most cases Senior Staff members of the departments involved. In this and next issue of the Magazine a generalised summary of the subjects with a condensation (not precis) of the papers presented at the seminar will be printed.

Alan Alder (Vic. Dvn.)

The Seminar was opened by the Chief Fire Officer of the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Mr. L. A. Newell, who summarized the aim of the Seminar.

A rather horrifying graphic film was then shown, made in New Zealand about a simulated outbreak of *FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE*, showing the possible personal and economic effects which individuals may incur, as well as, the National Economic ramifications that such a disaster could present, this was shown to the audience to set the scene in their minds.

Dr. R. Salisbury, M.Vsc., Principal Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture, Victoria then presented the first paper.

“Planning to counter the Threat” of Exotic Animal Diseases. In listing the many diseases which, if introduced into Australia, could create serious threats to our livestock industries, Dr. Salisbury referred to Rabies which could effect our domestic dogs and Rift Valley Fever, a mosquito spread disease which attacks sheep and goats, both of which are transmitted to humans, causing severe illness and sometimes death.

Swine Fever and African Swine Fever affect only pigs. Newcastle Disease and Avian Influenza, both highly infectious diseases which attack not only poultry — with disastrous economic effects on our rural economy, but domestic birds, such as pigeons, the same virus could threaten our native birds.

Dr. Salisbury then discussed Foot and Mouth Disease which probably presents the greatest economic threat, it is a HIGHLY INFECTIOUS Disease affecting cloven-hooved animals and therefore threatens Wool, Sheepmeat, Beef, Dairy and Pigmear industries, it is not a killing disease, but has long term effects. Eradication of the disease is complicated by the fact that all tissues, secretions and excretions of affect animals carry large amounts of virus so it is necessary to destroy affected and in-contact animals and dispose of the carcasses by burial or burning. All contaminated areas, including vehicles must be disinfected. Animal products must be traced and



destroyed, and the movements of potentially infected animals must be traced as further preventative measure. An outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease would necessitate an immediate, massive and complex logistic response involving many organisations.

Dr. Salisbury went on to outline the general role of the Commonwealth Quarantine Service which is responsible for minimizing the risk of entry of exotic diseases and the roles of State Departments of Agriculture, who are responsible for the eradication or control of diseases. Among the resources available to the relevant departments is the new Australian National Animal Health Laboratory (ANAHL) at Geelong, Victoria. One of its roles is training Dept. of Agriculture Veterinarians in recognising the signs which could lead to the recognition of suspected Exotic Diseases.

Planning to combat a disease outbreak is essential and in Victoria the Victorian Animal Disease Emergency Plan (VADEP) has been formulated, it outlines the roles of various departments and agencies and covers Communications, Engineering, Administration and Public Relations and is keyed into the Victorian State Disaster Plan (DISPLAN).

Mr. W. A. Snowden, Officer in Charge of the C.S.I.R.O., Australian National Animal Health Laboratory then presented his paper on the role of the A.N.A.H.L.

The broad objectives of the ANAHL are to complement the existing State and Commonwealth resources for the diagnosis, control and eradication of exotic diseases and to provide laboratory support and advice on matters of quarantine. The various functions that ANAHL will undertake, i.e. disease diagnosis, training, reasearch and vaccine development and testing, all require the use of live viruses, it is therefore necessary for ANAHL to be able to operate in a manner that will ensure that these viruses do not escape to the outside environment.

Mr. Snowdens presentation was followed by Dr. P. J. Penson B.V.Sc., Regional Veterinary Officer, Victorian Dept.

of Agriculture, Melbourne. Dr. Penson presented 'Combating an Outbreak of an Exotic Animal Disease'. He referred as have previous speakers, to the importance of the rapid detection and reporting of a suspected disease and the prompt and accurate diagnosis of the cause, the accurate determination of the extent of the spread of the disease and effective disease control and eradication measures on known infected and at risk properties. Dr. Penson referred to the three major exercises designed to test aspects of VADEP which have been held in Victoria in the last 15 months. The first exercise, a two day one, was held at Pakeham in August 1983, involved 3 farmers with whom (unknown to the Dept. of Agric. staff) arrangements had been made to simulate an outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease on their properties. One of the farmers concerned contacted the Dept. District Veterinary Officer early in the morning, the D.V.O.'s visit resulted in a diagnostic team being sent to the farmers property and the stanby phase of VADEP being implemented. This was followed by "confirmation" of the disease, the implementation of the "Operational Phase" and the establishment, in consultation with the State Emergency Service, of a Regional Emergency Centre (REC) at the Pakeham Racecourse.

In the exercise, staff were called upon to simulate or perform all the functions which are listed as R.E.C. responsibilities. The remaining two farmers were brought into the exercise when surveillance or tracing teams discovered "infected" animals on their farms. The two day exercise allowed plenty of scope for communication, technical and administrative problems to surface and be recognised.

Major problems arose in the first 2-3 hours of the exercise with a severe overloading of communications within the R.E.C. being apparent, (this situation is well recognised by emergency services personnel, particularly in a genuine large scale incident. Ed.). After some major tuning these problems were dealt with and on the second day of the exercise, the Dept. of Agric. staff and personnel from other organisations were in a position to deal with a major, expanding exotic disease situation.

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Dr. Penson said that a number of areas for improvement were observed during the Pakeham exercise, and in subsequent exercises held at Yarram and Cohuna improved performance was noted indicating that the earlier deficiencies had been remedied and after summarizing the main benefits gained from the Pakeham Exercise Dr. Penson joined a forum of previous speakers chaired by Mr. Roger Jones from the Australian Counter Disaster College at Mt. Macedon. The intense interest displayed in the subjects being covered by this seminar was reflected in the questions directed at the panel which with Rogers capable chairman, provided interesting succinct replies.

After lunch, Station Officer G. Fountain, Country Fire Authority Training Wing, Fiskville, Victoria presented his paper 'Practical Firefighting considerations and the role of the Country Fire Authority at A.N.A.H.L. at Geelong. (This paper will be printed in a later issue, Ed.).

Following S.O. Fountain, Victoria Police Inspector T. Jenkins presented his paper titled "Exotic Disease Outbreak — The Police Role".

Inspector Jenkins gave the Police Aim in the instance of an outbreak of Exotic Animal Disease in Victoria, this is to support the combatting authority (the Dept. of Agric.) to the full extent of available resources, Inspector Jenkins

then referred to the Cohuna exercise which took place on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of July, 1984. This was the third exercise, similar to the Pakeham one mentioned earlier by Dr. Penson and one held later at Yarram. The lessons learnt at the previous exercises were put to good effect, the Cohuna Exercise was a large scale one, Inspector Jenkins commented upon the Police resources which he considered would be required, allowing for manning road blocks, property security, the destruction of Infected Animals which in the Cohuna area would be by incineration, the shallow water table negates burial, if this outbreak occurred at the height of the fire season there would be a very large Country Fire Authority involvement, adding another complication. The location — Interception of vehicles, particularly stock carriers, would be a police role also, but would probably not involve police personnel, directly involved with the operation. Police Communications would almost certainly be controlled from one of the Victorian Police Mobile Communications Caravans which are set up as a complete unit ready to operate. General field communications would be provided and maintained by the State Emergency Service, who would also provide personnel to operate within the Regional Emergency Centre. Inspector Jenkins comments that training (or lack of training) in the correct operation of radios by the person-



nel would be required to use them in the real situation may well create some problems. (here again "she'll be right on the day" is not a sound approach to take with Comms. training, A.A.).

The Cohuna Exercise was not designed to test Police response and resources, but Inspector Jenkins made the following points.

1. A close liaison must be maintained with the Media to ensure that the public are kept informed of any restrictions which may apply.
2. Personnel Identification, particularly for the Dept. of Agric., who are usually not uniformed, would be necessary.
3. Persons who would be required to operate and to rely on radio communications should be given regular basic training in the use of the equipment.
4. As there is no specific authority provided to any person (Police included) to place road blocks on Highways or to divert traffic in the event of a disease outbreak, it is suggested that an authority be incorporated in the Stock Disease Act 1968.

Following Inspector Jenkins first summary point about close liaison with the Media, the next speaker was Mr. M. Boland, Director of Media Services, Dept. of Agric., Victoria presented his paper "Exotic Animal Diseases — Media and Public Relations". Mr. Boland's paper opened with the statement from the State Displan "The Dept. of Agric. is responsible for the provision of clear, accurate information about disease emergency and its implication and the progress of eradication procedures. It is essential, because other countries will be following events with

close interest, that other agencies or persons involved should restrict comments to matters under their immediate command. All public statements should be cleared by the Officer-in-Charge of the Regional Emergency Centre of the Chief Veterinary Officer".

In covering the many aspects of the Combatting Authorities vs Media Relationships, a paper written by Mr. A. Brown, former Chief Veterinary Officer, U.K. was quoted, "The Media must be seen as a valuable asset, they alone have the established medium to convey accurate, factual details of any disaster during which it is essential to release to the media as much information on the situation and the action being taken as is possible. The Officer in charge at a Headquarters, together with press officers, can do much to meet the needs of the media in a controlled manner. A degree of self discipline must be expected of those seeking information, and sensationalism and scoop journalism must be guarded against as it is invariably critical". Mr. Boland referred to the media and public relations plan which has been developed as an integral part of the overall animal disease emergency plan, he stated in part, that if a disease outbreak occurs, the philosophy behind the Dept. of Agric. planning is to provide clear and accurate information to the public and the specific sections of the community who will be directly affected in a disease eradication campaign. This will be achieved by ensuring that the media has maximum access to information through news conferences, news release at the Regional Emergency Centres and the Exotic Disease Operations Centres.

The final paper of the Animal Exotic Disease Sector of the Seminar was presented by Inspector Bruce Bingham, DISPLAN Officer, Victoria Police.

The aim of Insp. Bingham's paper was to comment upon the other emergency and support services that would become involved should we ever have to combat an exotic animal disease, and in particular, an outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease. The following are summaries of his comments.

Victorian State Emergency Service (VICSES)

It is obvious that the VICSES will take an acute role in dealing with the initial outbreak. The VICSES Regional Officer will maintain close liaison with the appropriate Police Co-ordinator in the region. Under the new Community Support Plan, VICSES has the responsibility of co-ordinating the emergency support to the combat and support organisations.

Public Works Department (PWD)

The PWD has the responsibility for provision of many items that will be required to combat any emergency.

Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network (WICEN)

WICEN will play a major role in supplying communications to the many organisations that do not have an effective state wide radio coverage.

Road Construction Authority (RCA)

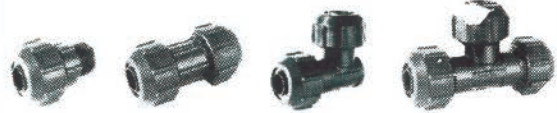
The Animal Disease Emergency Plan expects the RCA to co-ordinate the supply of heavy equipment and expert personnel to assist in the disposal of dead stock.

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Local Authority

The Municipal Disaster Plan will have identified exotic animal disease as a potential hazard in their rural areas and steps should have been taken at the local level to develop the plan to involve local resources.

Health Commission of Victoria

A close liaison will be developed between the Chief Veterinary Officer and the Health Commission to ensure that both depts. are fully conversant with the combat of that particular disease. Both depts. will of course, have the responsibility to combat the problem.

Dept. of Conservation, Forest and Lands

This department has a number of roles and responsibilities to cope with an outbreak of exotic diseases:

(A) LANDS DIVISION

Where the particular disease is known to have infected vermin or feral animals, this division may be called by the Chief Vet. Officer to provide specialist assistance through the Vermin and Noxious Weed Destruction Board. The division may also be called to provide maps.

(B) FOREST DIVISION

This division is a valuable resource, it has a number of 4x4 wheel drive vehicles, tankers and an excellent communications system.

(C) CONSERVATION DIVISION

1. The Fisheries and Wildlife Division must be contacted for permission to destroy protected species if this is necessary. Personnel have special expertise in the humane trapping or destruction of wild animals.

2. The National Parks Service will no doubt be involved if disease eradication is within their area of responsibility.

(D) DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

The Water Resources Commission will be able to supply information on water tables and flows which will be essential in determining location to bury carcasses.

(E) FIRE AUTHORITIES

The Country Fire Authority of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade will be contacted by the appropriate Police Co-ordinator when permits to burn are required for the destruction of carcasses during proclaimed periods.

Department of Community Welfare Services (DCWS)

DCWS have the responsibility of co-ordinating many of the services, particularly under the Community Support and Recovery Sub-Plan they are: Accommodation, Community Redevelopment, Material Aid, Personal Services and Financial Assistance.

Natural Disasters Organisation (NDO)

NDO co-ordinate the supply of Commonwealth Resources.

Bureau of Meteorology

The Bureau can provide specific meteorological information, staff or equipment to assist the Dept. of Agriculture.

Victorian Dairy Authority (VDIA)

When there is a suspected outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease or any other disease that may affect the industry, the VDIA will ensure that there is minimal disruption to milk distribution throughout Victoria and ensure the efficient disposal of milk within the affected area.

Australian Bureau of Animal Health (ABAH)

The ABAH will be concerned with the national and internal implications of the eradication campaign.

Red Cross Society of Australia (Vic. Div.)

Red Cross, due to their commitment to "Welfare" in the community, will be involved, their expertise in co-ordinating the catering for personnel involved in the combat will prove invaluable.

Inspect Bingham concluded, "Although I have mentioned a number of organisations by name, it is obvious, that there are still a number that would be involved in the combat of exotic animal diseases. In concluding however, the point I want to stress is that the control and eradication of an exotic animal disease will involve a total commitment if we are to be successful. We cannot afford to lower our quarantine standards and if by chance an outbreak *does* occur, we must ensure that it is eradicated as quickly as possible to enable us to regain our markets overseas. I pose the question, "ARE WE PREPARED?" I believe we are prepared, but can we cope with an outbreak of an exotic animal disease? — I am not quite so sure."

The speakers' papers from this seminar have been greatly condensed because of space limitations. If you are interested in a full set of papers from this, the 6th Annual Combined Emergency Services Seminar, they are available from, The Secretary, Combined Emergency Services Committees, Box 112, Wandin North, Victoria, 3139, at \$5.00 a copy inc. postage.

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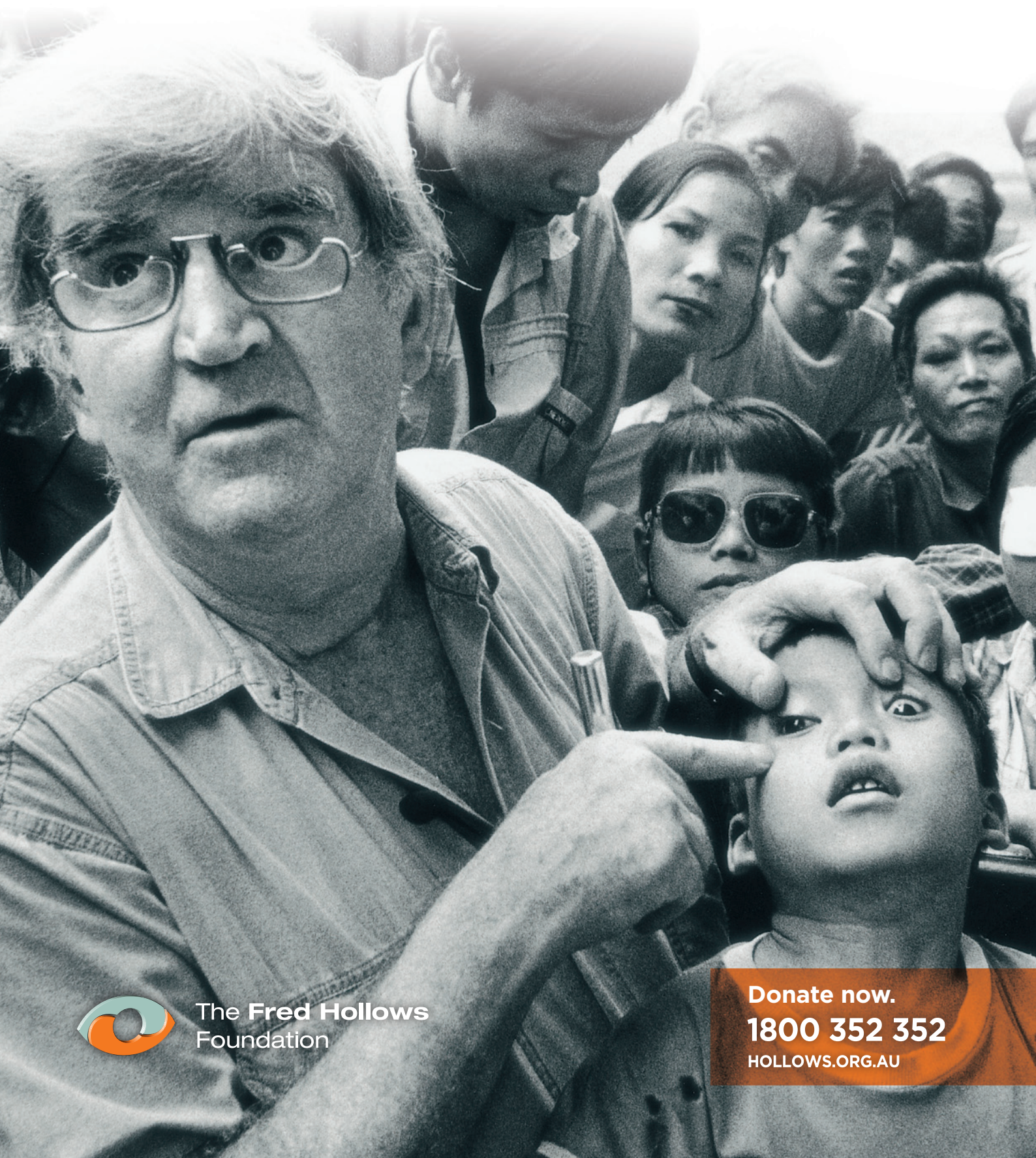
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