

NATIONAL EMERGENCY

RESPONSE

Official Journal of the Australasian Institute of Emergency Services



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EASTERN GURUMA

engaging ethnicity, delivering diversity

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Eastern Guruma has been in operation for 20 years and is a 100% owned Indigenous company providing services in rehabilitation, landscaping, facilities management, traffic management, road works, drilling and more. Eastern Guruma is owned by members of the language group Muntulgura Guruma, the lands of which surround Tom Price in the Pilbara Region of WA the team has delivered services to Australia's largest mining companies, Rio Tinto, BHP and Fortescue Metals Group.

Future Expansion into the Building Industry

Eastern Guruma is exploring the expansion into the building services industry. Leveraging its strong and reliable reputation; the aim is to extend our expertise into residential & construction maintenance including the refurbishment of houses and related projects in the Pilbara and Kimberly regions. Recognised as the 'one stop shop' for all maintenance and building services, Eastern Guruma will provide electrical, HVAC, plumbing, instrumentation and building services as it expands its platform into construction.

Celebrating 20 Years of Success

Eastern Guruma recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. Held at Frasers, Kings Park - it was the perfect venue for such a milestone occasion. Staff and VIP guests honoured the co-owners' and directors', Tania Stevens and Samantha Connors and all their accomplishments. All were incredibly proud of the journey and achievements over the past two decades. The milestone marked two decades of growth and achievements since its inception in 2004. The celebration highlighted significant milestones, including the rapid expansion from 2009 through to 2023 which saw Eastern Guruma receive prestigious awards such as the Business News 2023 RISE Business Award and the Rio Tinto 2023 Local Engagement Award. The 20-year celebration was a chance for all to celebrate and a testament to Eastern Guruma's vision, dedication and hard work.



Fleet Acquisitions

The company has recently invested in significant capital expenditures to its fleet, including the purchase of a CAPEX D9 100T float Liebherr Dozer, Excavator, Digger, and over 40 light vehicles. The acquisition of the Cat D9 Dozer comes with customizable blade options, efficient boosters, integrated components, advanced technology and cost-effective performance this empowers the team to deliver results that exceed client expectations. With this powerful tool at their disposal, the team is ready to achieve new heights in the industry. The dedication and expertise of the Eastern Guruma team have played a pivotal role in facilitating the purchase of new equipment on Site for our team.



Kangi Camp Landscaping & Maintenance Contract Renewal

Additionally, Eastern Guruma's landscaping and maintenance contract with Fortescue Solomon's Kangi Camp has been renewed for another five years. The contract ensures continued collaboration and service excellence whilst working towards a carbon neutral supply of plant & equipment by transitioning from diesel to electric. Eastern Guruma's ongoing growth and success is a testament to its commitment to community development, industry excellence, and the empowerment of Indigenous people.



New Business Premises

Eastern Guruma has been fortunate enough to acquire its own business premises in Perth. Located on the corner of Bulwer Street and Fitzgerald Street, Perth settlement was in July. The new premises has undergone a recent extensive refurbishment upgrade and includes open plan seating, 15 offices, five meeting rooms and one boardroom.

Commitment to Indigenous Employment

Eastern Guruma is proud to announce we have more than 30% of our 300 staff employed as First Nations People working full time in the mining industry. This is an outstanding result of focus and dedication from our HR and Indigenous Employment, Engagement and Development teams. Great efforts from the road shows, screening of candidates and assisting those who need a hand to get through the process. The milestone reflects the company's dedication to providing employment opportunities for First Nations People.



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WEBSITE CONTENT

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

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE



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CONTENTS

REGULAR COLUMNS

2	New Members
4	President's Message
42	Merchandise
43	Membership Information
44	AIES Contacts

FEATURES

7	Meet our corporate members
10	AIES takes the stage
12	Band of brothers
15	New CESM recipients
18	Tasmania Division News
20	Churchill Fellowship Success
22	From the world stage to local shores
26	A new immersive cinema is helping firefighters to better prepare for megafires
28	Strengthening communities through enhanced Bushfire Risk Management
30	A force for prevention
32	2024 Awards for Excellence in Policing – Australasian Council of Women and Policing
36	AV's bicycle response paramedics riding high
38	Release of the Covid-19 Inquiry Report
40	State of the Climate 2024: Increased fire weather, marine heatwaves and sea levels

FRONT COVER

Photo source: Read about the World Lifesaving Championships and SLISA Australian IRB Championships on page 22.



NEW MEMBERS

The Australasian Institute of Emergency Services is pleased to announce the following emergency services people joined the AIES between July 2024 and October 2024.

NAME	ORGANISATION	NAME	ORGANISATION
NSW/ACT/INTERNATIONAL		QLD/NT	
Michael Biber	NSW SES	Mark Armstrong	QLD SES
Vanessa Cheng	St John Ambulance	Clare Barker	Queensland Police Service
Edward Cook	Maritime New Zealand	Keren Bun	Australian Red Cross
David Czerkies	St John Ambulance	Jess Carey	Stantec
Russell Fox	NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change	Laura Cooper	National Emergency Management Agency
Jason Gallacher	Rail Fire & Emergency	Michael French	QLD SES
Michelle Gillman	Planit Safe	William Gretton	Queensland Police Service
Jamie Horsfield	Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water	Bob Khalsa	Queensland Health
Peter Keegan	NSW SE	Jenny Luke	Queensland Health
Ryan Lagois	St John Ambulance	Tamie Moore	Australian Red Cross
Greg McMahon	ACIM Solutions	Jason O'Brien	Bluewater Rural Fire Brigade
Jason McNamee	Australian Red Cross	Anthony Schomacker	Queensland Ambulance Service
William Memory	St John Ambulance	Kameron Turney	QLD Rural Fire Service
Todd Miller	National Emergency Management Agency	Anthony Waldron	University of Queensland
Joseph O'Connor	St John Ambulance		
Steve Quinlan	ACT Rural Fire Service		
Mark Sawszak	St John Ambulance		
Andrew Sweeney	NSW RFS		
Astrid Vachette	Charles Sturt University		
SA/WA		Tasmania	
Matt Campbell	Rio Tinto	Jason Clarke	Tasmania Fire Service
Jason Gough	WA Police	Lachlan Hindrum	Ambulance Tasmania
Bryant Hamilton	BHP		
Sharon Jager	Rio Tinto		
Brenden James	Rio Tinto		
Julian Martin	WA Bushfire Service		
Murray Smith	City of Greater Geraldton		
Nik Stewart	Rio Tinto		
Matthew Stoltenbarg	South 32 Worsley Alumina		
Deb Tuxworth	Rio Tinto		
Christopher Webb	Baseline Onsite		
		Victoria	
		Neil Akers	VIC Emergency Management
		Samuel Berkery	VIC CFA
		David Connell	Latrobe City Council
		Alex Gillam	VIC CFA
		Glenn Hellyer	Australian Defence Force
		Wayne Makin	Australian Volunteer Coast Guard
		Robert O'Gorman	Emergency Response Services
		Karina Osgood	VIC SES
		Paul Tandberg	VIC CFA/SES



www.facebook.com/aies.online



www.linkedin.com/groups/3844281

Articles, photographs and short stories are sought for the *National Emergency Response Journal*. Please submit items for the next edition to editor@aies.net.au by **10 March 2025**. There is an annual award for the best article submitted by an AIES member.

NEW ZEALAND STUDY TOUR

3-7 March 2025 - Massey University in Wellington New Zealand

Register your interest to join an AIES contingent at the Joint Centre for Disaster Research during Emergency Management Institute Week.

The university will run a short course in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a disaster. The course will begin with an introduction and review of Aotearoa New Zealand and

international research and practice. The topics will then be explored through a series of relevant case studies. The final session of each module will provide practical tools and guidance for turning the theory to practice.

Please register your interest by emailing David Parsons at president.nsw@aies.net.au



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TE KUNENGA KI PŪREHUROA

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND

For more information about this course visit www.massey.ac.nz/study/find-a-subject-course-or-qualification/short-courses-and-professional-development/emergency-management-institute/



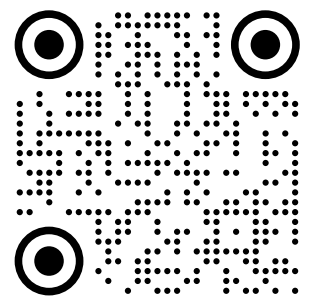
Keeping Australia's emergency service workers mentally fit and strong.

National Emergency Worker Support Service

Australia's emergency service workers and volunteers keep our communities safe, but stress and anxiety are often part of the job. Experiencing mental health challenges after a traumatic event is normal and very common — and it's treatable, too.

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Visit our website nationalemergencyworkersupport.org.au



**Black Dog
Institute**

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Christine (Chris) Miller FAIES FISRM AMBCI

National President

We look forward to SA/WA Division hosting the next annual hybrid meetings on 5 April 2025 at Mawson Lakes.

From 1 October 2024, Division Committees and soon the Board will be assessing applications for up to \$500 available from the AIES' Professional Development Fund (PDF). Please give some thought to possible development activities that you might have been considering but need funding to turn these into a reality for you to further develop your career in emergency services. More details about applying for the PDF can be found under membership on our website.

In addition to the NER, *National Emergency Response* magazine, AIES keeps member informed through:

- Victoria, Queensland/NT and NSW/ACT/International Divisional newsletters
- AIES Facebook group, which is currently at 2,400 followers
- LinkedIn group posts, which has 1,888 members.

The AIES is most active on LinkedIn with webinars, reports, job opportunities and other items of interest, sometimes with short timelines, posted there.

Congratulations to new Certified Emergency Services Managers (CESMs), which are listed on our website. If you want to join their ranks, the AIES member portal accepts CESM submissions. There is a video to assist you make your CESM applications on our website also.

EVENTS INVOLVING AIES MEMBERS AND FELLOWS

In July 2024, I concluded my final health emergency preparedness and response (HEPR) assignments for the World Bank. In late June 2024, I flew to Colombo, Sri Lanka to be co-lead exercise facilitator for the World Bank, a 7-country tabletop simulation covering most countries in the South Asia Region – Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh,



AIES President Chris Miller at the 7-country tabletop exercise, Sri Lanka, June 2024

India, Myanmar, Thailand and Sri Lanka, the host country.

Most participants were new to exercises; however, the dengue fever scenario was a familiar challenge in these countries. Dengue cases have been increasingly identified in northern tropical areas of Australia too. So far, the numbers are small; may they stay so. On the plus side, James Cook University has been undertaking world leading research and field trials into Aedes mosquito eradication. Visit www.jcu.edu.au/news/releases/2023/october/scientists-have-nearly-eradicated-dengue to find out more.

On 22-23 July 2024, the AIES co-hosted the **Australian and New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference** (ANZDEMC) on the Gold Coast with the Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Association and Natural Hazards Research Australia with over 600 delegates in person and more than 60 virtual attendees. AIES members and fellows were well represented alongside presenters and session chairs as well as joining the exhibition to network and encourage new members to join. Many thanks to Doug Caulfield OAM FAIES, Jenny Crump FAIES, John Moy MAIES, Steve Jenkins FAIES and Kate Goldsmith CESM MAIES. The ANZDEMC will be again held on the Gold Coast, 14-15 July 2025. The 2025 theme is: "Adapting

to a Changing World: Preparing for Tomorrow's Disasters Today". Submissions for presentations close on 28 February 2025.

On 16-17 July 2024, the AIES exhibited at the Emergency Services Foundation (ESF) Conference, which provided opportunities to recruit new members and network with current members and fellows. The 2025 event will celebrate 25 years of the ESF and is scheduled for 29-30 July 2025 at the Pullman Melbourne Albert Park, Melbourne.

The National Council for Fire and Emergency Services, AFAC 2024 was held in Sydney on 3-5 September 2024. This provided more opportunities for AIES members and fellows to network and learn from each other. After a 7-year hiatus, AFAC 2025 will be hosted in Perth on 26-29 August. Visit www.afaconference.com.au/ for more.

I presented 2-day master classes on risk and exercising as well as a keynote address on supply chain challenges to the Agile Risk Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 21-25 October 2024. As a result, we might have some Malaysian members joining the AIES. Like our Hong Kong member, and a Fellow there, Malaysian colleagues would always be welcome to join the AIES, if they meet the requirements to do so.

David Parsons ESM FAIES, National Director and NSW/ACT and International Division President continues to progress facilitating a group attending the annual week



of training with The Joint Centre for Disaster Research at Massey University in Wellington, New Zealand from 3-7 March 2025. If you would be interested in knowing more, email **president.nsw@aies.net.au**. For more details about the course visit **www.massey.ac.nz/study/find-a-subject-course-or-qualification/short-courses-and-professional-development/emergency-management-institute/**

The SA/WA and NSW/ACT/International Divisions have been hosting several webinars for a national and international AIES audience and have plans to host more in the coming months into 2025. You don't want to miss out on these excellent networking and continuous learning opportunities.

I recently attended the AIES Space Weather webinar. It was very relevant since I was planning to and did talk about space weather in Kuala Lumpur soon after.

Stay safe, well, and careful in another long and challenging disaster season. May the Festive Season and New Year be a happy one for you and yours.

Best wishes, Chris ●



Conference participants with Chris Miller (third from right)



(L-R) Chris Miller and Atif Aimaduddin



(L-R) Carol Chang and Chris Miller



(L-R) Chris Miller and Arrifudin

(L-R) Rahmah Tahir and Chris Miller

Agile Risk Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 2024



Chris Miller (second left) with participants from the 7-country tabletop exercise, Sri Lanka, June 2024



Kate Goldsmith presenting at the ANZ Disaster and Emergency Management Conference, Gold Coast, July 2024



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Our highly skilled road crew's, with extensive experience on major projects throughout Western Australia, are equipped to handle all types of surfacing work. Whether you require, asphalt, spray seal or profiling, we have the capability to meet your needs with precision and quality.



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Discover SGA Group's top-tier transportation solutions, designed to handle all your bulk material needs and machine moves with ease and efficiency.

We have a modern fleet of trailers which include end and side tippers single to triple combinations, live bottom tippers, aggregate chip spreaders, 6 and 8 wheeled tippers truck and dog tippers and water carts, we also boast a fleet of low loaders ranging from tri and quad tagalong's , tri axel spread deck to quad spread decks with load share dolly's



RUNWAY GROOVING

Our grooving machines are custom built with optimum performance in mind. They are all fitted with 1m wide cutting heads specifically designed for runway grooving. Each machine is fitted with a state-of-the-art water cooling and vacuum system to ensure the cleanest, most FOD free runway at the end of every shift. What is runway grooving? The process of airfield grooving entails the precise saw cutting of horizontal grooves into the runway's surface. This intricate procedure aids in the rapid dissipation of water, thereby increasing surface friction and substantially reducing the risk of aquaplaning.



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MEET OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS



ACIM SOLUTIONS

As the AIES' longest running corporate member, ACIM Solutions (ACIMS) offers a suite of high-quality services to support organisations and individuals who work in both operational and strategic management roles in the regulatory, emergency management and community services sectors.

In addition to learning and development programs, we provide policy and procedure reviews, conducts independent debriefs and post incident processes following significant events.

Our nationally accredited scope focuses on investigation, compliance and emergency management programs at the Certificate IV, Diploma level and Advanced Diploma level. Our short course workshops complement these qualifications with a range of staff development options for those working in regulatory environments.

Our training group specialises in developing bespoke learning programs for organisational groups using best practice adult education principles on diverse content including dealing with aggression, managing conflict and developing teams for front line supervisory staff.

The strength of our courses is that we are very flexible and can develop a completely customised program specifically for your team where we discuss the specific legislation, policies and procedures that are relevant to the cohort.

This genuine tailoring of programs for our client agencies is a key feature of our learning and development programs and why ACIMS has become increasingly preferred by clients who are seeking greater return on investment as part of developing tangible workplace skills.

Our programs are available across Australia in face to face on site at your organisation, virtual learning, self-paced e-learning and blended options, which can include all the above! Our trainers are experienced in providing programs via virtual learning platform including Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

We pride ourselves on being able to provide all our services anywhere and our team are located across Australia to support a timely response.

ACIMS is accredited under ISO 9001:2016 (Quality Management System).

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY REVIEWS

We offer governance, grievance and disciplinary advice and policy and process reviews for both public and private sector organisations. We also provide comprehensive review services for regulatory agencies on investigation process mapping and compliance with best practice risk-based regulation approaches.

PUBLIC SECTOR AUDITS

We provide services for government sector agencies in response to internal and external complaints and grievances or matters reported under Protected Disclosure provisions.

INCIDENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING

ACIMS conducts both the Diploma and Advanced Diploma of Public Safety and a full range of AIIIMS programs. •

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ACIM Solutions at
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RIO TINTO EMERGENCY SERVICES

Rio Tinto's Emergency Services is a global network of over 2,500 responders, dedicated to ensuring safety and rapid response across its extensive operations.

With a name synonymous with mining excellence, Rio Tinto has a rich history dating back 150 years in Spain.

The name 'Rio Tinto' translates to 'red river', reflecting the company's origins. Today, Rio Tinto's Pilbara operations are a testament to its growth and commitment to safety, encompassing 16 mine sites, four iron ore port terminals (including three for Dampier Salt Limited), four power stations and renewable energy sources, and a 2,000 km rail network, with most of the equipment operated autonomously from the state-of-the-art Operations Centre located in Perth.

In the Pilbara, Rio Tinto's Emergency Services team is a formidable force, comprising

700 emergency response team members and 180 full-time emergency services professionals. These teams are integral to the safety and operational efficiency of Rio Tinto's extensive infrastructure. The Pilbara workforce includes over 15,000 employees and more than 20,000 contractors, highlighting the scale and complexity of operations in this region.

The foundation of Rio Tinto's emergency response capabilities can be traced back to the 1970s, with the establishment of three private fire and rescue brigades in the towns of Tom Price, Paraburdoo, and Pannawonica. These brigades, funded by Rio Tinto, have thrived for over 50 years through collaboration with the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES).

Rio Tinto's Emergency Services in Iron Ore respond to over 360 emergency incidents annually on mine sites and

around 70 off-site emergencies, supporting DFES. Additionally, the team conducts over 22,000 medical treatments per year, showcasing their critical role in maintaining health and safety standards.

Embracing technology and forward-thinking practices is a hallmark of Rio Tinto's Emergency Services. Notable innovations include:

- **BARRIO:** A post-firefighting decontamination process designed to protect responders from secondary exposure risks.
- **RORI:** An Australian-made long-range emergency response robot. Currently, there are four operational RORI platforms across Rio Tinto's sites, with another unit in development.
- **FLAIM:** FLAIM is a next generation Virtual Reality firefighting simulator with haptic feedback. The teams were early adopters of this technology and now have 15 units across the sites.



(L-R) AIES SA/WA Branch Secretary Warren Erasmus CESM MAIES presents Rio Tinto Emergency Services Principal Matthew Campbell CESM MAIES a Corporate Member plaque that will be mounted at a Rio Tinto training facility in Jandakot where the Emergency Response Team are trained in Mines Rescue

• Comprehensive Training

Program: Recently announced a winner at the WHS Foundation Awards, this initiative comprises of 10 elements designed to improve Emergency Services Capacity and Capability. Rio Tinto Emergency Services is proud to be a corporate member of the Australasian Institute of Emergency Services. This membership reflects their aligned values and mission, emphasising a commitment to excellence in emergency response and community safety.

Rio Tinto's Emergency Services exemplify a commitment to safety, innovation, and community collaboration. With a robust team and cutting-edge practices, they continue to set benchmarks in emergency response within the mining industry. •

Learn more about Rio Tinto at riotinto.com/en/operations/australia



OPSTAR

OPSTAR is an Australian owned and operated enterprise based in NSW.

We take pride in providing exceptional operational support services nationwide, specialising in complex and high-risk environments.

From search and rescue to embarked aviation support and medical response services – OPSTAR is a force multiplier that serves the Australian Defence Force and other government agencies.

OPSTAR provides day, night and all-weather search and rescue services across Australia and in some of the most remote parts of Australia when operating with the Australian Defence Force.

GOVERNANCE

OPSTAR has a comprehensive Integrated Management System (IMS) certified to:

- ISO 9001:2015 – International Standard for Quality Management
- ISO 14001:2015 – International Standard for Environmental Management
- ISO 45001:2018 – International Standard for Occupational Health and Safety Management

Our Integrated Management System facilitates systematic and efficient expansion across all essential components of OPSTAR's capabilities to fulfill our client's needs.

LICENCES

OPSTAR believes that the primary aim of an emergency response contractor is to provide the safest and highest quality pre-hospital care and supporting emergency rescue services to our clients. This a core pillar of how we provide our services.

Our team operates to a Clinical Governance Strategy. It has been created with safety in the clinical work environment at its core; and demonstrates a strong commitment to risk reduction by both clinical and managerial staff, sharing accountability for care delivered.

OPSTAR's clinical staff are Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registered in accordance with their approved scope of duties. AHPRA registration enables our staff to practice within their scope of practice throughout all states and territories. All clinicians fulfill mandatory Continuous Professional Development (CPD) requirements to maintain their professional registrations. Our SAR Technicians and Fire Fighters are qualified, current and continuously training and exercising in complex mission scenarios to be ready 24/7. •

Learn more about OPSTAR at opstar.com.au

AIES TAKES THE STAGE

ANZ Disaster and Emergency Management Conference 2024

By **Kate Goldsmith** CESM MAIES MIAEM

The ANZ Disaster and Emergency Management Conference 2024, held in July 2024 at the RACV Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast, was a gathering of innovative minds dedicated to resilience and disaster preparedness. The event's scenic venue fostered collaboration and inspiration, enhanced by excellent catering and structured breaks that allowed delegates to connect with a wide range of emergency service providers and suppliers. With the theme of 'Leading in times of crisis' this event showcased some of the latest developments in empowering change and recovery through learning, innovation and adaptation.

As a Certified Emergency Services Manager (CESM) with the Australasian Institute of Emergency Services (AIES), I appreciated the conference's layout, which offered invaluable opportunities to share insights with professionals across our sector. With numerous AIES members amongst the amazing list of presenters, including other CESMs, attendees gained perspectives from a vast pool of experience in disaster response and preparedness. This setting fostered rich dialogue around strategies that are both innovative and grounded in real-world application, underscoring the collective expertise within the Disaster and Emergency service community.



Karen van Huizen MAIES

Karen van Huizen and I were fortunate to be selected to present our 'First 72 Hours' program, now adopted by several Victorian local governments, to a receptive audience. The First 72 Hours project was designed to increase community resilience and mental wellbeing while achieving the seven targets in the Sendai Framework Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The First 72 Hours program gives people a simple and practical four step model for understanding the importance of preparation for all emergencies.

The conference also showcased prominent speakers addressing the evolving challenges in emergency management. John Price from New Zealand's National Emergency Management Agency discussed the cumulative impact of recent high-profile disasters, such as earthquakes and fires, on New Zealand communities and the importance of a system-wide response to support resilience. Wayne Snell, representing the Australian Civil Military

Centre, examined leadership development in complex environments, underscoring the growing role of military-civilian partnerships in disaster preparedness. These talks, alongside many others, added depth to the program with fresh insights relevant to our industry.



Adjunct Professor Brett Aimers CSTJ
FAIES FACN

AIES Victorian Committee member Associate Professor **Brett Aimers**, an Adjunct Professor from James Cook University was also a keynote speaker on the first day. His presentation emphasised the need for owners and operators of critical infrastructure to adopt integrated planning to address risks from complex, concurrent disruptive events. Brett explored both the challenges and opportunities in resilience planning, offering strategies to enhance organisational resilience, reduce service interruptions, and limit community exposure to significant disruptions.

This year's Australian and New Zealand Disaster Emergency Management Conference was further

strengthened by a distinguished group of Certified Emergency Services Managers (CESMs) from the Australasian Institute of Emergency Services (AIES), who each brought unique insights to the event.



Russell Dippy CStJ LEM CESM FAIES

Russell Dippy, whose research introduced a formal definition for "Emergency Manager" along with distinct roles for "Response Manager" and "Recovery Manager," addressing gaps in emergency management professionalisation in Australia. Through the proposed "Emergency Management T-Shaped Transdisciplinary Model," it aims to create a pathway for recognising, developing, and operationalising emergency management roles to support effective lessons management. This framework promotes a shift toward a more professionalised and recognised field, with implementation strategies for agencies, communities, and academic stakeholders to adopt and champion the model.



Dr Steven Schwartz B.Bus, M.M.S(hons) CESM MAIES

Dr. Steven Schwartz provided a compelling talk on his four-year doctoral research project exploring trauma reduction for lost wilderness tourists. Offering empirically based insights and assessment tools for defining and managing lost events. By examining these events through disaster management models, the study provides new strategies for

individuals, stakeholders, and policy-makers to reduce both the frequency and trauma of lost wilderness incidents.



Reverend Dr. Mark Layson PhD CESM MAIES

Reverend Dr. Mark Layson offered a powerful perspective on the long-term recovery challenges faced by Australian communities experiencing repeated disasters and the implementation of pastoral care programs in New South Wales. Highlighting successful initiatives launched after the 2017 Lismore floods and their replication following the 2022 floods, the presentation emphasised the importance of sustained pastoral care services to foster hope and resilience, especially in rural and remote areas. Recommendations for enhancing social infrastructure through targeted training and support for chaplaincy agents will also be provided.

Together, these CESMs exemplified the knowledge, dedication, and collaborative spirit of the AIES community, creating a platform for meaningful learning and engagement across diverse areas of disaster management. The insights shared by these experts further enriched the conference experience, equipping attendees with strategies that are both innovative and practical for application in their own communities.

The environment at this year's conference fostered new friendships and networking opportunities, with collaboration prospects extending beyond the event. From engaging discussions during the structured breaks to the chance to explore exhibitor, supplier and agency booths, the event provided an ideal setting to learn from colleagues and forge collaborative relationships. Many attendees left inspired, with new friendships and networking ties that promise future collaboration on resilience initiatives across the sector. The strong sense of

shared purpose and commitment to public safety created an ideal setting for professionals across sectors to learn and inspire one another.

A special thank you goes to the sponsors and organisers whose efforts made this event such a success. The outstanding venue, seamless organisation, and rich program content contributed to a memorable experience, and look forward to attending next year to continue this invaluable exchange of ideas and best practices.

In its capacity as a host organisation, AIES is pleased to continue supporting the ANZ Disaster and Emergency Management Conference, the premier annual conference for the sector. ●



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kate Goldsmith is a member of the AIES Victoria Division. She is the Emergency Management Project Officer Campaspe Shire Council. As a Bachelor qualified Emergency Management professional working in the Victorian Local Government sector, she has led the planning, coordination and evaluation of emergency management activities at a local level. Kate is also a member of the Cobram VIC SES branch, where she is the Section Leader of Resilience and Community Engagement for the Unit. Kate is passionate about enhancing the resilience and safety of communities in the face of disasters and emergencies. She was awarded the AIES 2024 National Award for Excellence in July, for exceptional innovation in Emergency Management. Kate was the first Certified Emergency Services Manager with the AIES.



BAND OF BROTHERS

Ambulance Tasmania paramedics on the frontlines in Ukraine

*Where you're going
is well within small
arms range of the
Russians, hundreds
of metres at points.'*

Source: Australasian College of Paramedicine

This article first appeared in *Paramedicine Response* and has been republished with permission.

On the frontlines in the war-torn Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, the first target of Russian attacks are tanks and the second are medics.

"If you can destroy their chain of evacuation, it means that more soldiers die in the battle," said Ambulance Tasmania paramedic Matt Pickering, who alongside fellow AT paramedics David Brown and Daniel Tree each spent between four and six weeks less than two kilometres from the Russian front.

The three operated in an unmarked ex-Amsterdam ambulance, one of many donated to the war effort by countries throughout Europe. It was rudimentary vehicle, equipped with just a spare tyre, a backpack and a stretcher. Pockmarked with bullet holes in its windows and chassis, the vehicle bore witness to the ever-present danger facing medical personnel operating in an unrelenting war zone.

When not being used, the ambulance was fully camouflaged and hidden under trees. With the exception of a small red cross in the vehicle, when being driven it was devoid of the large, universally recognisable red crosses and flags that typically offer medics a degree of protection against attack.

It was a world away from their lives in Tasmania, and a baptism of fire in what

has become a protracted and brutal two-year military campaign since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, thus far claiming an estimated 100,000 Ukrainian soldiers' lives and more than 20,000 civilian deaths and casualties.

Each had a similar motivation for heading to Ukraine – a burning desire to help the war effort and to use their professional skills and capacities in a different and more challenging environment. All three had initially begun their journey individually, but word of mouth among paramedics soon brought them together.

"It just so happened that all three of us were going to be there around the same time. We found out about each other's plans through the grapevine at work. Dan had already headed over. Dave and I had been in touch for a while and worked out our plans, so we decided to dial in the dates and go there together," Matt said. "Right up until literally the week of leaving, as far as I was concerned I was going on my own."

The trio all went via the Road to Relief NGO, a Ukrainian-registered humanitarian NGO established in March 2022 with the purpose of helping civilian populations most affected by the Russian invasion. Its work has since expanded to include casualty and medical evacuations and emergency treatment of injured

soldiers in coordination with the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

David said the first 24 hours in the capital, Kyiv, were "discombobulating" amid the sounds of sirens signalling incoming missiles.

"I remember feeling that sort of tightness in the belly," he said. "It was the first and only time I went to a bomb shelter. I looked in a few, but I didn't actually go and seek any kind of refuge. There were only a couple of people in there; the rest were still going about their business. It was really strange - this is a country at war and I was expecting bombs to fall all the time. It was quite discombobulating, not stressful, just really uncertain what the rules were in this place. It's amazing how quickly you get used to it within 24 hours. It was almost like I'd been there a month."

"And then we're sitting in a cafe while the alarms go off and we just continue with our lunch and there'd be artillery landing nearby. In the first few days you'd be like, 'oh'; a week in, you hear them and you're like, 'oh yeah, that's a bit close! You lose any fear. It just becomes completely normal."

As they moved closer to the frontlines, the same pattern of initial uneasiness followed by rapid adaptability became the norm. It's a psychological behaviour known as "risk creep" in which people progressively push their boundaries.



"This concept was relayed to us about war zones where you move a bit closer and it feels fine," Matt said. "So we're apprehensive about crossing the border into Ukraine. We get to Kyiv, there's an alert, nothing happens, and you're like, 'ok, this is fine.' So within a day you're switching your alerts app off and going with the flow. And then you move to Donbas and you're like, 'oh, this is a starting to feel a bit real,' and then nothing happens and you and go, 'ok.'"

"So you move up towards the frontline and you hear artillery and things blowing up next to you but you don't get hurt. And you're like, 'this is fine.' It's the creep - you move closer and closer until, which is what unfortunately happened with our NGO guys, the creep caught up with them in the end because they found that point at which reality occurs and you've crept a little bit too far."

Road to Relief Director Emma Igual and her colleague Anthony "Tonko" Ihnat were killed last September when the vehicle they were driving towards Bakhmut came under artillery fire. Two others travelling with them suffered serious shrapnel injuries.

Daniel said that prior to arriving in the Donbas, he expected to operate in much the same manner as in Australia in terms of emergency response, but with limited equipment, a landscape littered with land mines, horrific injuries,



and constant close proximity to Russian troops, the situation on the ground proved vastly different.

"The expectation of working in a functioning ambulance was very naive of us," he said. "We rolled up and the vehicle that we were going to work in was damaged and so we were relegated to basically a postal van with a stretcher and a backpack in it. It put us into a different mindset."

And while Ukrainian soldiers had rudimentary knowledge of Tactical Casualty Combat Care that enabled them to administer basic first aid, many had to endure long waits for retrieval.

"A lot of these patients are heavily shocked because they've been sitting at the zero line waiting for extraction for

sometimes eight or nine hours," Daniel said. "We'd get a radio call saying we've got five casualties coming in. By the time they organised a vehicle so that we can get our hands on them, there might be 20 casualties, and they've been lying there losing blood for many hours. Some have had tourniquets on for hours."

"Dave did a lot of the clinic work, which by and large was much more dangerous than the medivac work that we were doing although they all come with risks. When you're doing the medical clinics, you're going in blind, and there were times where we had to sit down and have conversations and say, where you're going is well within small arms range of the Russians, hundreds of metres at points."

Time was always of the essence. When retrieving patients, they had at most 15 minutes to we pick up wounded soldiers and take them a stabilisation point. Higher-level interventions weren't possible, so the focus was on pain relief, bandaging and applying tourniquets. Once they reached the safer "green zone" away from the fighting, they were able to administer more advanced treatment.

It was a sobering experience for all three, but each left Ukraine feeling frustrated that they hadn't done enough.

"Until Russia withdraws and this war's over, enough is never enough," Daniel said. ●



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NEW CESM RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to AIES members who have recently achieved their Certified Emergency Services Manager (CESM) credentials. We continue to evolve the points and rules around the CESM. Please visit our website and keep an eye out for updates if you are considering applying.

By NSW/ACT/International Division President **David Parson** ESM FAIES CESM



BEN PEARCE CESM MAIES

NSW/ACT/International Division

With over a decade of committed service in the field of emergency response and management, Ben brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the AIES. Ben's journey began with seven years as a volunteer firefighter with the Lock and Districts CFS brigade, after being involved in a fire and watching the community come together to control it. This experience honed Ben's skills in frontline firefighting, teamwork, and crisis management under intense conditions. Ben has also dedicated three years to the NSW SES, where they further developed their abilities in disaster response, community support, and rescue operations.

Ben holds a Bachelor of Emergency Management, providing them with a comprehensive understanding of emergency preparedness, mitigation strategies, and the coordination of complex response efforts. This academic foundation, combined with practical experience, has shaped them into a versatile and knowledgeable professional in the field.

Ben previously worked in the SA SES as a Covid Support Officer, providing critical assistance to SAPOL during COVID-19 operations. They also served as a Training

Officer and Planning Officer - NCM at the National Emergency Management Agency. Currently, Ben is the Safety Support Manager at the Cadets Branch - Air Force. In this role, they oversee safety protocols, risk management strategies, and ensure the well-being of staff, cadets, and defence helpers within the Australian Air Force Cadets.

Their passion for emergency management is constantly in motion as they contribute to the development of safety procedures and emergency response plans that are vital to the smooth functioning of the organisation. Ben's commitment to emergency management goes beyond professional obligations—it's a passion that drives them to continually improve and apply their skills for the benefit of the community. Whether it's firefighting, rescue operations, or ensuring safety protocols in their current role, Ben remains dedicated to making a difference.

Ben lives in Canberra and identifies as an open non-binary person.



TIFFANI KING CESM MAIES

NSW/ACT/International

Tiffani's interests in disaster events began after witnessing the effects of Black Saturday during her childhood in Victoria. She commenced her career in emergency services in 2017,

gaining experience in various Incident Management Teams and firegrounds throughout New South Wales, especially during the Black Summer. Tiffani is currently employed with ACT Ambulance and is pursuing a degree in emergency management at Charles Sturt University. She has been recognised for her academic performance with three Dean's certificates from two different universities, as well as the RFSA President's Scholarship. Her career aspiration is to one day contribute to the Australian Antarctic Expedition.



MARIE-ANNICK KYLE CESM MAIES

NSW/ACT/International Division

Marie-Annick is a dedicated business continuity and crisis management professional and dedicated volunteer with the NSW SES.

In both her professional and volunteer roles she is passionate about developing the knowledge and capability of herself and others in incident and emergency management through the development and delivery of training courses, programs and exercises.

Marie-Annick currently holds the position of Unit Commander at the NSW SES Ku-ring-gai Unit leading approximately 140 volunteers across all aspects of emergency management.



NICOLE VIANI CESM MAIES

SA/WA Division

Senior Constable 1st Class Nicole Viant is an Emergency Management Planner for the South Australia Police, Emergency and Major Events Section.

Nicole started her policing career after graduating from the Academy in 2001, and won the Community Service award in her graduating course. Nicole commenced her policing career at Sturt Local Service Area working on Response, before being posted to the Communications Branch in 2016, where she worked tirelessly for 17 years. Nicole progressed to become a Team Supervisor for a Triple Zero Call Receipt and Dispatch team and held the position of Training and Planning Senior Sergeant for the Communications Group.

During COVID, Nicole was seconded to the Emergency and Major Event Section and worked within the Emergency Management team, who ran the SAPOL Logistics function. Nicole saw the need for and created an asset management register and managed stock control for 27 border points, airport/rail operations and associated Medi-hotels across SA.

At this time, Nicole was also responsible for project managing the implementation of what3words, a geographical location tool, across the SA emergency service call centres and SAPOL-wide.

In December 2023, Nicole won a permanent position within the Emergency Management Team and has since been responsible for reviewing SAPOL's Emergency Response Plans, participating in exercise management and operations of the State Emergency Centre.

Nicole is also a long-term SA Country Fire Service volunteer, both as a firefighter with the Morphett Vale CFS Brigade and current Lieutenant of the Mawson Operations Brigade, specialising in Incident Management and Staging roles.

Through these roles, Nicole was deployed to assist the Strike Team Leader with the CFS team deployed to Victoria (2003), Kangaroo Island (2018), NSW/QLD (2019) and Cudlee Creek (2019), which saw her awarded with Citations from the Victorian and NSW Governments for service, Emergency Services Medal (Bushfire 2019-2020), Emergency Response Active Service Medal and a South Australian State Government Commendation for meritorious actions.



CHENNELL ALLAN CESM MAIES

Victoria Division

Chennell worked in the clinical setting of nuclear medicine for more than years before joining the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) in 2020. She is the Acting Assistant Director of Emergency Preparedness & Response.

Chennell represents ARPANSA on multiple national committees and contributes to Australia's response to radiological incidents in the preparedness phase as well as operationally responding to incidents for Australia when required. Chennell has significant emergency and disaster management knowledge within the Australian emergency management context responding to floods, bushfires, and multiple other events throughout her years of voluntary service with St John Ambulance. Internationally, Chennell represents Australia on the World Health Organisations Radiation Emergency Medical Preparedness and Assistance Network (REMPAN). She has also held two terms representing Australia at the International Atomic Energy Agencies Emergency Preparedness & Response Safety Standards Committee

(EPReSC). Chennell holds degrees in both Biotechnology, Medical Radiations - Nuclear medicine and a postgraduate in Emergency and Disaster Management.



SVEN NILSSON FAIES CESM MAIES

NSW/ACT Division

Sven is the Manager of Sydney Local Health District's Disaster Resilience and Response Unit.

He has received numerous awards for his service including the NSW Premier's Award (2021), Public Service Medallion 40 years' service with NSW Public Service (2023) and Service Medal in Gold – Order of St John for 50 years' service (2023).

Sven holds a Grad Dip in Health Law (University of Sydney), Master's in Nursing (University of Sydney) and Advanced Diploma in Public Safety (Emergency Management).

Sven is currently studying Family History through the University of Tasmania. •

*Congratulations
to AIES members
who have recently
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TASMANIA DIVISION NEWS

AIES Tasmania Division has celebrated its members over the year. Here's a look at who has been formally recognised for their service and contribution to emergency services and communities.

By Tasmania Division President **Greg Webster** MAIES AIES



Members service awards for 40 years' service. (L-R) Greg Webster Tas President, Les Batchelor, PJ Parssey Award Patron Betty Parssey, Malcom Barron, Tasmania Immediate Past President Ron Jones

The AIES Tasmania Division held its annual awards night and annual dinner at the Claremont RSL in July.

The dinner was attended by 35 people with the Master of Ceremonies for the evening being Scott Clarke.

A number of AIES members were present along with representatives from emergency services across the state including St John Ambulance, SES and Tasmania Fire Service, Volunteer Ambulance Officers' Association and Ambulance Service.

In a departure from previous years, the awards night and annual dinner were held separately from our division's Annual General Meeting.

The AGM included presentations of the AIES awards, Emergency Service Awards and PJ Parssey Memorial Award.

The Peter Parssey Memorial Award is awarded annually having commenced in 1990 and is a reminder to all of the valued work done by emergency service workers in Tasmania and is presented, 'to an emergency service worker who has excelled above and beyond their normal duties to help their service and their community.'

Peter Parssey became a member of the Tasmania Division in 1982 and quickly became a Board Member (see AIES website for full details). His drive and enthusiasm for the Institute was infectious to all who knew him. Immediate Past President Tasmania Division Ron Jones LFAIES described Peter as a "straight shooter in particular looking after the member's interest, which the Tasmanian board greatly benefitted from".

We were pleased to welcome Peter's wife, Betty Parssey, who attended the event.

The AIES Long Service certificates and clasps were the first awards to be presented. Of great significance in this presentation was that Peter would have joined the 40 year club.

Betty graciously chose to present two 40 year certificates to members who served their early years with Peter. Those two major awards were for 40 years' service, and as a 40 year member, Ron Jones was given the job of pinning the clasps on Les Batchelor OAM LFAIES and Malcom Barron MAIES.

Within the Tasmania Division, Les and Malcom also join Maurice Massie QPM, LFAIES who has a 45 years' service and Ron Jones who has 40 years' service.

CERTIFICATE AND CLASP RECIPIENTS

LES BATCHELOR OAM MAIES

Les has served as a Chaplain for many years including the Royal Hobart Hospital and City Mission. He has worked in the fields of administration and welfare including work with emergency managers. Among his many citations and commendations is a High Commendation for service at Port Arthur. He has served many years as a Tasmania Division Committee Member, mainly in the role of Treasurer.

MALCOLM BARRON MAIES

Malcom was involved in the fields of SES, Marine Rescue and Maritime Safety over his time as a volunteer. He finished his career in Coastal Patrol. As a member of the SES, he held several jobs including Manager in the Communications section in the south of Tasmania. He was a well-respected emergency manager.

PJ PARSSEY AND VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICE AWARDS

PJ Parssey Award winner Ian Kingston with family members



The Volunteer Emergency Services Award (VESA) is an annual award that starts with people in the volunteer emergency services within Tasmania being nominated by members of the community in four areas of the state. From those nominations, one is selected by the AIES committee to be the winner of the PJ Parssey Memorial Award. There were four nominees, and our Award Patron, Betty Parssey announced Ian Kingston as the 2024 Parssey Award Winner.

2024 PJ PARSSEY AWARD NOMINEES:



(L-R) Brian Knowles, Betty Parssey, Lorraine Gardiner, Ian Kingston and Maurice Richards



SES members (L-R) Mick Lowe, Ian Kingston, Maurice Richards and Leon Smith

SOUTH NOMINEE (WINNER)

IAN KINGSTON ESM

Ian has been an active volunteer in the Tasman Peninsular area for more than 45 years.

He commenced as a member of the Koonya Fire Brigade in the 1970s. In the 1980s, having identified a need with other volunteers for a Road Crash Rescue capability due to time and other factors with help arriving, he and others established the Tasman Road Crash Rescue SES Unit with Ian appointed Unit Manager.

He continued in the TFS as a Fire Chief until late 1990. He has a Commendations from the Commissioner of Police in relation to the 1996 Port Arthur Massacre as well as the 2013 Dunalley Fires.

He is a recipient of the Emergency Services Medal for his service and dedication as well as other awards.

NORTHERN NOMINEE

LORRAINE GARDINER ASM

Lorraine commenced volunteer work in emergency management as a voluntary ambulance officer.

Lorraine has worked in the Beaconsfield area since commencing in 1988, however the nature of the work means she spends a lot of time travelling the state.

Lorraine has been awarded the Ambulance Service Medal and was a founder of the Volunteer Ambulance Officer Association of Tasmania.

In the last 12 months alone, she has spent 250 hours volunteering, and 930 hours over the past three years. Lorraine has a National Service Medal and clasps, and other relevant acknowledgements of her service.

WEST COAST NOMINEE

BRIAN KNOWLES ASM

Brian has had more than 30 years in the emergency management field working as a volunteer ambulance officer, starting in Tarraleah and Wayatinah. He provided emergency services for a total of 17 years before moving to Strahan where he continued in that role. In 2010 he was recognised by the Australian Government with the Australian Ambulance Medal Award, which in part was for his work within local business, council and government to ensure strong support from them towards his volunteer group. He also received the National Medal in 2012, and the Long Service and Recognition Medal in 2021. In 2021, he received an award from the RSL as the Worker of the Year.

NORTH WESTERN NOMINEE

MAURICE RICHARDS

Maurice joined the SES as a volunteer in the Mersey Unit more than 35 years ago, with a keen interest in search and rescue. He has become a key member of both units because of his key technical skills and knowledge. He has been recognised with the National Medal and the Tasmanian Government SES Medal.

As a member of the SES Search and Rescue Unit, he has shown great skills in both a operational and training environment. His high-level skills in navigation exercises have been recognised with major wins. As an SES member of the Mersey Unit he has been involved in many operations earning respect from all. Major events including the 2016 and 2022 Latrobe floods.

CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP SUCCESS

It is great to be able to announce that our webinar on Churchill Fellowships has helped an AIES member to gain a scholarship in 2025.

By NSW/ACT/International Division President **David Parsons** MAIES

Mike Hammond MAIES is a Superintendent with Marine Rescue NSW. A former school teacher who has turned his love of boating into a 22-year career, Mike works in commercial vessel operations, maritime regulation and policy, and emergency services.

Leading a large and dedicated group of Marine Rescue NSW volunteer first responders on the South Coast of NSW, Mike is dedicated to ensuring they are trained and equipped for safe and effective operations.

He is particularly interested in the ways new boating trends such as battery-electric vessels will challenge marine rescue organisations in coming years.

Mike holds a Master of Maritime Policy from the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security at the University of Wollongong

Mike applied, and was granted, a Churchill Fellowship to study rescue and regulatory responses to emerging vessel technologies.

and five Bachelor's degrees in geography, education and the arts. Mike also holds a Certificate of Competency as a Master of Vessels (up to 24 metres) and Certificate IV in Government Investigations.

Mike will travel to Europe, the UK, USA and Japan to meet with marine industry representatives, marine rescue organisations and maritime regulators to study how other jurisdictions have begun to respond to the changes occurring in the marine industry,

and to formulate advice for marine rescue organisations and maritime regulators in Australia.

Congratulations Mike we look forward to hearing what you find. ●

To find out more about Mike's project visit:
churchilltrust.com.au/fellow/mike-hammond-nsw-2024/





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FROM THE WORLD STAGE TO LOCAL SHORES

Our lifesavers shine bright

By Tea-Rose Passon, Port Melbourne Life Saving Club

Once again, our lifesavers have demonstrated their prowess, determination, and dedication on the world stage, proving they are among the finest in the lifesaving community. Recently, teams from the 13th Beach Barwon Heads Surf Life Saving Club and Wonthaggi Life Saving Club showcased their exceptional skills and unwavering commitment at the Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) Championships during the World Lifesaving Championships and the SLSA Australian IRB Championships. Their remarkable achievements are a testament to their hard work, training, and the passion they bring to every competition. Let's celebrate their successes and the inspiring spirit they embody in every race.

WORLD LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS: A SHOWCASE OF EXCELLENCE

The World Lifesaving Championships are a prestigious event, gathering the top lifesaving clubs from around the globe to compete in a series of highly challenging events. This year, our lifesaving clubs made a significant impact, competing fiercely against 48 international teams and delivering extraordinary performances that captured the attention and respect of the global community. Here's a detailed look at how our clubs performed:

- 13th Beach Barwon Heads finished 7th overall in the world, a remarkable achievement that underscores their dedication and high level of performance.
 - Men's Rescue team earned a 3rd overall position, showcasing their exceptional coordination and strength.
 - Women's Mass Rescue placed 6th, highlighting their ability to work under pressure and execute complex manoeuvres.
 - Women's Rescue finished 14th overall, demonstrating resilience and skill in a highly competitive field.
 - Men's Mass (Team A) achieved 6th place in the second round of heats, reflecting their strategic approach and tenacity.
 - Men's Mass (Bad Boys) followed closely with a 7th place finish in the second round of heats.
 - Men's Teams advanced to the quarterfinals, finishing 8th overall after an intense battle.
 - Women's Teams claimed 3rd place in the B Final, underscoring their consistency and teamwork.
- These results reflect not only the physical prowess of our athletes but also their mental strength and ability to remain focused under the most demanding conditions.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT THE SLSA AUSTRALIAN IRB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2024 SLSA Australian IRB Championships brought together the finest lifesaving talent from across Australia, and our teams from Wonthaggi Life Saving Club and 13th Beach Barwon Heads Surf Life Saving Club rose to the occasion with determination and skill. Their results in the finals are a source of immense pride for us all:

- 2nd Place in Open Women Tube – a result that reflects the team's technical skills and quick decision-making.
- 3rd Place in Open Women's Surf Rescue – showing resilience and competitive spirit.
- 7th Place in Open Teams Relay – demonstrating the power of teamwork and seamless coordination.
- 6th Place in Masters Teams – a fantastic achievement for our seasoned competitors.



**2024 LIFESAVING
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

20 AUGUST - 8 SEPTEMBER

The heats were fierce, and the competition was tough, but our teams were ready. The "Boob Tubers" topped their Tube heat, while the "Bad Boys" secured a close second, both teams advancing to the next day's races. Team A and the "Bad Boys" showed tremendous effort in the Open Men's Rescue, progressing to the quarterfinals from a field of 242 entries, an achievement that speaks volumes about their skill and tenacity.

In the Men's Mass, Team A was among the 32 teams advancing to the quarterfinals. The Women's Rescue saw the "Itty Bitties" clinch a win, while "Hope This Floats" secured third place, both earning spots in the quarterfinals. Our Masters racers—Jake, Denis, Burkie, and Nathan—also delivered stellar performances, advancing to the final of the Men's Teams. Meanwhile, the Women's Mass heats saw the "Itty Bitties" secure their spot in the quarterfinals with a commanding win.

The Lifesaver Relay semifinal was highly competitive, but our "Precision Propellers" team delivered a stunning performance, earning a second-place finish and advancing to the final. Our Masters team, "Hawk Tuah," also excelled, finishing 6th in the Men's Teams in the finals—a testament to their hard work and resilience.

VICTORIAN STATE TEAM SHINES AT THE AUSTRALIAN TITLES

The Victorian State Team, featuring members from both the 13th Beach Barwon Heads Surf Life Saving Club and Wonthaggi Life Saving Club, put on a spectacular display at the Australian Titles, achieving an incredible 2nd place in the Overall Point Score. Their achievements were nothing short of extraordinary:

- Female Tube - 3rd Place.
- Female Mass - 1st Place.
- Female Teams - 2nd Place.
- Female Rescue - 7th Place.
- Male Teams - 4th Place.

The Victorian Team also delivered a standout performance in the Lifesaver Relay, showcasing the unity and talent of its members. We are proud to celebrate the exceptional contributions of Amy Veenendaal and Tara Scott from Wonthaggi Life Saving Club, and Tom Lenehan and Kieran Spanner from 13th Beach Barwon Heads Surf Life Saving Club. Additionally, we honour Sam Pownall, who was named Victorian State Team Captain, and Jake Pownall, who served as the Victorian State Team Coach—both esteemed members of 13th Beach Barwon Heads Surf Life Saving Club. Their leadership, skill, and sportsmanship were truly inspiring!



LOOKING AHEAD: PREPARING FOR MOROCCO 2026!

As this season comes to a close, our clubs are already setting their sights on the future. The next challenge on the horizon is the 2026 World Lifesaving Championships in Morocco! Our athletes will take this time to recharge, regroup, and train rigorously for what promises to be another thrilling year of competition at the Victorian and Australian titles. ●

We are immensely proud of all our lifesavers for their unwavering dedication, hard work, and the exemplary way they represent our clubs on the world stage. Here's to celebrating our successes, cherishing the unforgettable moments, and gearing up for the excitement that lies ahead!



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A conversation could change a life.

First responders aren't immune to life's ups and downs

How to support those from our community who care for our community

Phil is the Deputy Controller - Community Engagement at VICSES Chelsea Unit and has been a volunteer for over 20 years. After experiencing a life changing health scare, his orange family rallied around him. He shares his story in the hope to encourage everyone to look out for their peers and make R U OK? conversations a part of their everyday.

For 20 years I have worn the orange uniform and put my heart and soul into helping others on their worst day.

In 2021, on a regular Sunday morning, my worst day came.

I got out of the shower and felt a little light-headed. Looking in the mirror I noticed my mouth was slightly lower on the right side.

My training with SES made me well aware of F.A.S.T – a quick test to recognise common signs of a stroke (F-ace weakness, A-rm weakness, S-peech problems and T-ime to call 000). I attempted to lift my arms, but the right one was struggling. Not wanting to take any risks, but also attempting to remain calm, I called my wife and through slurred speech asked her to call our lovely neighbour who happened to be a nurse.

Within a flash she was there, and immediately called an ambulance. After nearly 24 hours in hospital and numerous tests, it was finally confirmed, I had had an Ischemic Stroke on the left-hand side of my brain stem.

It felt absolutely bizarre to me that normally I am the one rushing to help and be by someone's side and now it was me that couldn't move, and I was the one needing help.

The recovery road was rough, especially because it was during COVID-19 restrictions, so no visitors were allowed.

After a month of intense speech therapy, physio, and occupational therapy, I was able to go home!

What kept me going?

The unwavering support and frequent check ins from family, friends, my orange family, and my extended orange family (the hundreds



of people on our Facebook page who sent comments of support) kept me motivated. They weren't just checking in on physical progress – but my headspace too. Being able to talk about what had happened helped me process my emotions and stay positive.

Something as significant as a stroke affects more than the person involved. It affects everyone around them. The wonderful orange family checked in on my family daily which gave me permission to concentrate on my recovery, without feeling guilty about not being home.

That's what makes the SES so special. We are from so many different backgrounds and cultures, but as soon as we put on the orange, we are one – one family, one team, a single unit, and as such, we all care about one another.

Family can mean different things to different people, but for me it's about care, support, and trust, and knowing that through them, someone will always have your back.

Even though I couldn't put the orange uniform on, they continued to care.

Why am I sharing this story?

Because my health scare is a stark reminder that emergency services workers aren't immune to life's ups and downs, and there will be times when we need support too.

Now that I'm back working, with a new lease in life, I am more determined than ever to remind people just how important those small (but mighty) conversations are.

At any time, emergency services workers and volunteers can be called on to attend some horrible scenes. We meet people that are going through incredibly stressful times and see things that most people will never see in their lifetime. These jobs can have an accumulative effect on a crew member's mental health, and in some cases lead to burn out and major health concerns.

Having a connection with fellow members means that you can more easily pick up on subtle changes, small alarm bells and even asks for help, that you wouldn't see if you didn't have that connection with them. Which is why conversations matter – it's what builds those connections!

But this doesn't just apply to SES, it applies to everyone.

Life can be tough, and we all have our ups and downs. We don't have to wait until R U OK? Day to check in on someone. It can be done any day, and every day.

Before you ask, you must be ready and willing to listen. To really hear what they have to say without judgement.

Be supportive and never dismissive.

'You'll be fine mate' doesn't allow someone the time and space to talk. Sometimes the issues are deeper.

My top tip is to be present in the conversation because the opportunities you give someone to speak while really listening, the more chance you have of unearthing the problem and getting them the help they need.

So, here's your reminder to check in on:

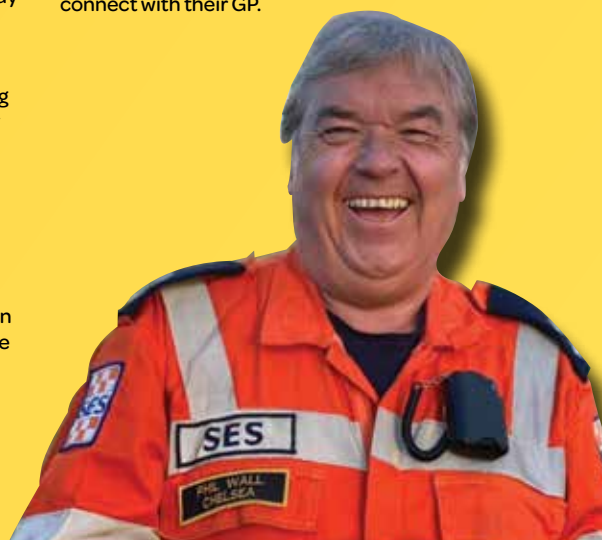
- Your colleague who is off sick
- Your emergency service friend who's responded to back-to-back jobs
- Your neighbour who lives alone
- Your sibling who started a new job
- Your mate who just became a parent

And so on...

If conversations helped me bounce back from a stroke, imagine what it could do for others.

Phil's story can be found at ruok.org.au along with the free 'Are They Triple OK?' resources for police and emergency services workers and volunteers, as well as their family and friends. These include a conversation guide, a podcast and other personal stories.

If you're worried about someone, encourage them to contact their Employee Assistance Program (EAP), agency support service or connect with their GP.





A NEW IMMERSIVE CINEMA IS HELPING FIREFIGHTERS TO BETTER PREPARE FOR MEGAFIRES

By **Dennis Del Favero, Michael J. Ostwald, Yang Song**

Source: theconversation.com

As summer approaches, the threat of bushfires looms. Earlier this month, an out-of-control blaze in Sydney's northern beaches burnt more than 100 hectares of bushland, threatening nearby homes.

Climate change is making bushfires larger, hotter and faster. Previously unthinkable catastrophes, such as the "Black Summer" megafires in Australia in 2019/2020 and the ones that ravaged Maui, Hawaii, in August 2023, are becoming more common.

Firefighters put their lives on the line to battle these fires. Yet many are not meaningfully and comprehensively prepared to respond to erratic and extreme conflagrations. This increases their chances of being injured, or worse. It may also hinder their ability to make the best decisions.

To help address this, the University of New South Wales' iCinema Research Centre has created iFire. This cutting-edge training system allows firefighters and emergency responders to virtually

teleport into a burning landscape and train for the real thing. It could revolutionise the way we prepare for other natural disasters as well.

MEGAFIRES ARE BECOMING MORE COMMON

The rate of extreme fire events has doubled over the past decade. These fires can combine with the atmosphere to produce their own weather systems, generating multiple fire fronts. As the planet continues to warm, this situation will only get worse.

Much current research is focused on understanding these worsening fire threats. This is vital. But data and charts don't meaningfully prepare firefighters for how to respond to such extreme, unanticipated fires.

"Experiential preparedness" is the missing element.

It helps firefighters prepare by virtually experiencing and rehearsing how to respond to real and future extreme fires through immersive

scenarios. This can be done in a large-scale, three-dimensional cinema or on a smart tablet or phone.

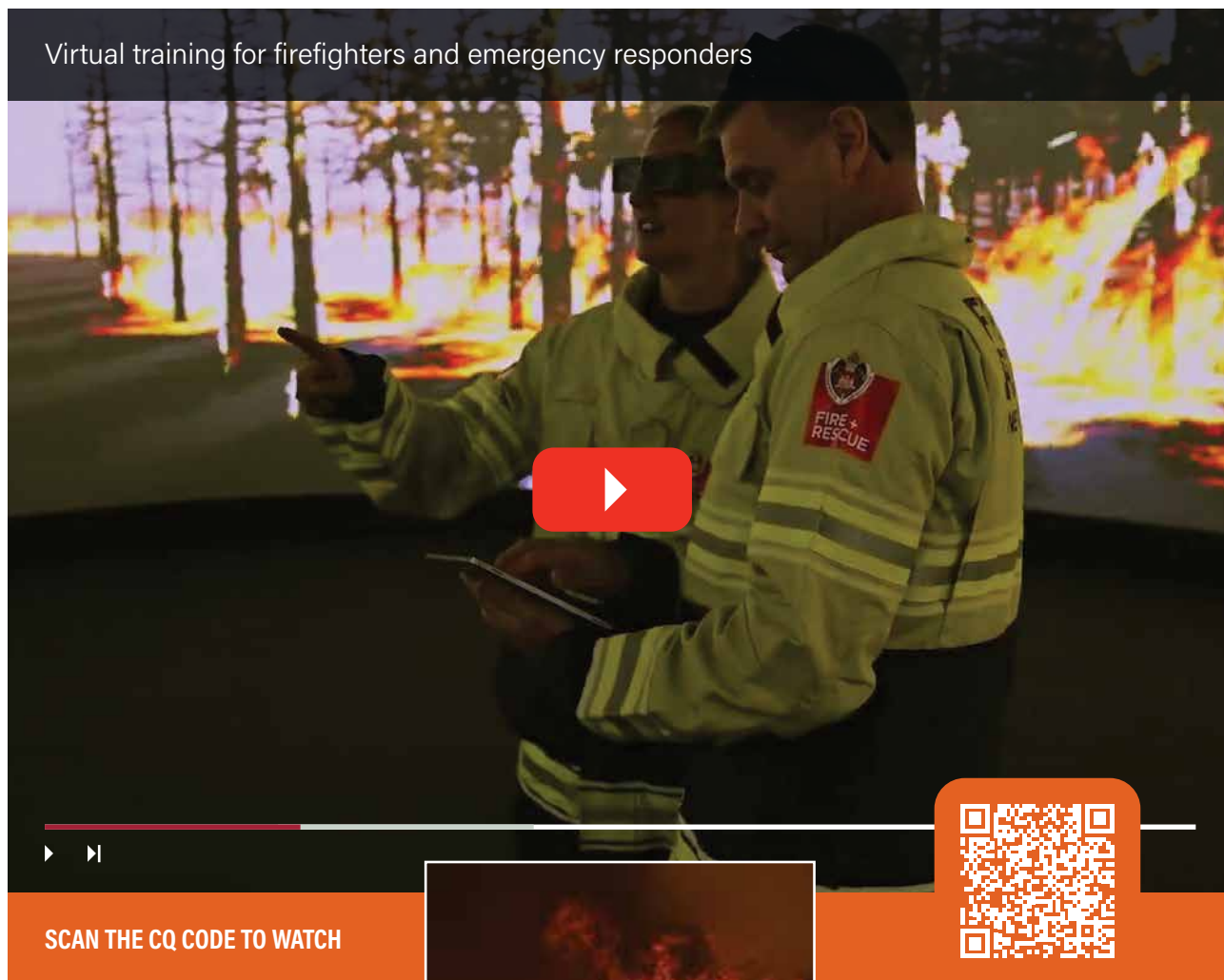
SIMULATING THE FIREGROUND

The iFire collaboration builds on iCinema's award-winning iCasts immersive training system for mine workers.

Since it was developed in 2008, iCasts has exposed and trained thousands of miners and planners in simulations of known threats before they go underground. This has resulted in a dramatic reduction in serious injuries at Australian mine sites and many lives saved.

iFire takes a similar approach. It uses a combination of mathematical modelling of actual fires provided by CSIRO's Data61 research institute, advanced visualisation and artificial intelligence (AI) tools to recreate immersive simulations of three real case studies: a pine plantation fire, a grass fire and the 2020 Bridger-Foothills fire in the United States.

Virtual training for firefighters and emergency responders



SCAN THE CQ CODE TO WATCH



The system puts fire crews in the centre of these simulated firegrounds using immersive cinematic scenarios. The crews feel as though they are physically present. They can experience the fire from any point of view – aerial or on the ground – at any point in time, and interactively engage with it.

Importantly, the scenarios are not static reproductions of past events. Fire crews and incident commanders can adjust variables to experience the influence of changes in conditions. For example, they can change the air temperature or wind direction and see how this affects the dynamic behaviour of the fire in real time.

This allows them to better perceive risks and practise making key decisions in preparation for when they are on the actual firegrounds and under enormous pressure to act fast.

A MORE ADVANCED SYSTEM

iFire is already in the hands of those who need it. It has recently been installed at the Fire and Rescue NSW

Emergency Services Academy in Sydney using a 130-degree, three-dimensional, cinematic theatre.

The UNSW iCinema Centre and Fire and Rescue NSW will use iFire to develop training modules for frontline response. These modules will provide simulations where fire crews practise how to be situationally aware in the face of an unpredictable fire situation. They learn how to make the best decisions in managing the unfolding fire.

But the iFire team is working towards building a more advanced AI system that learns the underlying and unforeseen patterns of

fire behaviour to create more precise and detailed simulations of these unpredictable fires.

This will enable incident commanders and firefighters to engage with unanticipated fireground threats and better prepare to protect people and property under threat from flames.

The longer-term goal is that the iFire system will ultimately enable firefighters on a tablet or any other smart screen device in any location to experience the look and feel of a possible future fire scenario in real time. This won't be as immersive, but it will be effective for use in the field when managing a fire and will improve tactical and strategic responses.

Although iFire has been specially designed for firefighters, the technology behind it can be tweaked for many purposes. For example, it can be used to help better train and prepare emergency service workers for other natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes. •

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ENHANCED BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT

In May 2024, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' (DFES) Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) hosted a workshop on the impact of bushfires on systems and networks that support community function.

Source: WA Department Fire & Emergency Services

Representatives from 12 local governments and staff from four DFES regions participated in the workshop that followed the release of the updated Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2023, which now includes systemic risk. The guidelines help local governments prepare for potential disruptions to the systems and networks that support the community, boosting community resilience and reducing the impacts of a bushfire.

WHAT IS SYSTEMIC RISK?

Systemic risk refers to the potential of a bushfire to cause widespread disruptions across interconnected systems and networks that support community function. These impacts extend beyond the immediate fire-affected area, influencing social, economic and environmental aspects of the community.

For example, if a bushfire destroys a local school, children will need to be relocated to another town for their education. If rebuilding takes years, families may move permanently to where their children are attending school. This population decrease can lead to several major issues:



- Population decline: families may not return even after the school is rebuilt, causing a permanent drop in the community's population.
- Economic impact: small businesses and other employers lose workers and customers which may force them to close. If farmland is also affected, it could disrupt local, regional and statewide supply chains.
- Community disruption: local clubs and organisations might shut down due to the reduced population, leading to a decline in community values, wellbeing, social connections and resilience.

Addressing systemic risk involves understanding how a bushfire can trigger widespread disruptions, affecting people's quality of life and the overall functioning of the community.

THE APPROACH

The workshop's primary objective was to test collaborative approaches for assessing systemic risk. By bringing together individuals familiar with local communities, the workshop fostered discussions and brainstorming sessions to explore effective risk management strategies.

This collaborative environment helped participants improve their risk management skills and highlighted the importance of community empowerment and resilience in addressing systemic risks. For example, through education and working groups focused on bushfires, participants learned about treatments to reduce systemic risk, developed effective bushfire plans and enhanced the adaptive capacity of the community.

Feedback from the workshop emphasised the human-centric nature of systemic risks and the value of community-focused resilience strategies.

The strong turnout and enthusiasm from local governments and DFES staff was a testament to the significance of this topic. OBRM plans to continue refining this approach and integrating it into future educational workshops.

For more information, please contact OBRM at obrm@dfes.wa.gov.au. •



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A FORCE FOR PREVENTION

Made up of more than 700 volunteers from brigades across the state, CFA's Planned Burn Taskforce (PBTF) is a critical initiative to reduce the severity of bushfire, and protect lives, properties and the environment.

Source: Country Fire Association Victoria

Taskforce members have a variety of skills sets. Some have extensive burning experience and years of membership under their belts; others are newer CFA members who have recently completed their General Firefighter training.

At its core, the taskforce's efforts aim to reduce fuel loads. However, the proactive, coordinated approach to the burns not only helps safeguard communities, but also preserves natural habitats and biodiversity, promoting rejuvenation and resilience.

Members interested in joining the PBTF must complete General Firefighter, Entrapment Drill and Tree Hazard Awareness and have their captain's approval.

We spoke to three members of the taskforce to find out their motivations for joining and why they believe the taskforce is important.

Rowville brigade firefighter Michelle Tie said being a member of the PBTF gave her the opportunity to

be active across wider sections of the community.

A CFA member for five years and in the Planned Burn Taskforce for three, Michelle saw joining the group as an opportunity to get hands-on experience with fire after completing her General Firefighter training.

"I hadn't done any planned burning prior to joining the taskforce. It's a fantastic way to learn and build experience, and I have learned so much 'on the job'."

Michelle said she was initially nervous attending her first burn with the taskforce because she was the only member from her brigade, but she found the group to be incredibly supportive.

"By stepping outside of my comfort zone, I have learned so much about fire behaviour especially across different environments which are often very different to the usual callouts we get at Rowville," Michelle said.

"I came away from that first burn a much more confident firefighter.

"I love working with different brigades and members from across the state – the camaraderie makes me incredibly proud to be a part of CFA."

Michelle believes that the success of the PBTF lies in its ability to support brigades to achieve local and state goals.

"It's so vital that brigades have access to the support, skills and experience of the wider CFA community to manage their fire risk," she said.

"At the end of the day, this makes Victoria safer for everyone."

"Joining the taskforce is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience and training on the tools especially for members of smaller brigades who may not get close to, and experience, fire prior to a campaign season," Tully Machtynger said.

"It also provides the opportunity to network with the broader CFA community, talk to people from other brigades and learn how they operate and train."



Michelle Tie, Rowville Brigade



Elvis Crook, Bulla Brigade



Tully Machtynger, Kalorama and Mt Dandenong Brigade

A firefighter and Junior leader, Tully has been a member of Kalorama and Mt Dandenong brigade for two years and a member of the PBTF for one.

"Being fairly new to CFA and the area, joining the taskforce was recommended by one of my assessors when I was going through General Firefighter as a great way to see and get used to fire in a controlled way," Tully said.

"I've been to six or seven burns across the state, predominantly in West Region. I hadn't done any planned burning prior to joining the taskforce, only responding with my brigade to a couple of escaped burn-offs conducted by local residents."

The taskforce is activated when districts are unable to fulfil needs locally. While it's a role that requires flexibility and the time commitment varies, Tully said she has learned so much working alongside experienced taskforce members.

"It's psychologically beneficial to know what you can face in practice,

and the taskforce has definitely value-added to my volunteer experience," Tully said. "My sense of my own capability has completely changed. By my third burn I felt more confident turning out and in my ability to support my own brigade on the fireground."

With 21 years of membership under his belt, a change in career gave Bulla Captain Elvis Crook more flexibility in his availability so he put himself forward for the PBTF.

"I've participated in a number of planned burns over the years. I thought the taskforce would be a good opportunity to network with members from across the state as well as keep my fireground skills sharp," he said.

"There is no better means of observing fire behaviour in a controlled environment which ultimately benefits your skills throughout an active fire season.

"An added benefit of having such a broad group of members together from across the state is being able to informally share information and ideas."

Elvis said that without the taskforce many critical burns wouldn't go ahead as regularly.

"I remember a burn earlier in the year where I was on a local truck with the brigade captain. The rest of the crew was from the PBTF.

"He was very thankful that we were there to crew the truck as the burn we were doing would help protect his land and that of other community members."

Elvis says that if you are thinking of joining the taskforce – do it!

"The thing I enjoy the most is the camaraderie. The taskforce is like a family; I have made connections with other members who I now call friends.

"Attending a burn is also training in itself. I'd highly recommend any newer members who have not had a lot of fireground experience or might be with a brigade with low call numbers to join to build on their experience.

"I've been in the CFA a long time and haven't immediately felt so at home like I do with this crew." •



2024 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN POLICING – AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF WOMEN AND POLICING

Source: QPS Media

The Australasian Council of Women and Policing (ACWAP) has been participating in the global network of women in policing since it was established in August 1997. It consists of women and men within law enforcement agencies and the community who work together to improve the opportunities and services provided to women within our communities.

Each year ACWAP presents a number of awards for excellence in law enforcement.

The Awards for Excellence in Policing are an opportunity to publicly acknowledge and reward the achievements of women and men who are contributing to improving policing and law enforcement and ensuring policing services are enhanced for women.

This year's 25th Excellence in Policing Awards was held on Thursday, October 24, in Brisbane, Australia, in conjunction with the biennial ACWAP Development Seminar co-hosted by the Queensland Police Service.

The following Awards were presented:



THE AUDREY FAGAN MEMORIAL AWARD

Sponsored by the *Australian Federal Police*, honours the memory of Assistant Commissioner Audrey Fagan APM who was the ACT's Chief Police Officer at the time of her death on April 20, 2007. The Audrey Fagan Memorial Award recognises outstanding women who have shown exceptional qualities as a mentor, role model and leader of men and women in policing and law enforcement and is chosen by a selection panel from the nominees across all Award categories. This year the Award was presented to **Hannah Packer**, New South Wales Police Force. Hannah is a dedicated and compassionate investigator who leads her team with excellence. She has handled complex and challenging investigations with unwavering integrity and professionalism. A role model who mentors others and encourages staff to seize development opportunities. Hannah is an inspiration to those she works with.



THE BEV LAWSON MEMORIAL AWARD

Sponsored by *FC Lawyers* is the Council's most prestigious award and recognises the most outstanding woman who has been a trailblazer in any law enforcement activity or support service. The Award is in honour of the ground-breaking achievements of Bev Lawson, who as a former Deputy Commissioner of the New South Wales Police Force was Australia's most senior woman in policing until her untimely death in 1998. This year the Award was presented to **Jill Clarke**, Queensland Police Service. Jill is a trailblazer and has dedicated her career to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of others. She provides high level case management to victims, witnesses and concerned parties relating to thematic complaints of misogyny, sexism, racism, homophobia and bullying. Jill's empathetic response and approach has had a significant impact in changing the perspective and mindset of victim-survivors and concerned persons, in particular women, to empower them when reporting unacceptable workplace behaviour.



THE CHAMPION OF CHANGE AWARD

Is sponsored by *Queensland Police Service*. This award acknowledges men's individual and/or collective influence and commitment to improving policing for women. It also acknowledges the importance of men's role in increasing women's representation in leadership within policing and how policing is delivered to women in the community. Areas of particular focus are how the Champion has achieved a real change in workplace culture and mindset and empowered both women and men within law enforcement to advance gender equality and improve policing for women. This year the award was presented to **Brett Curran**, Victoria Police. Brett drives ongoing cultural changes in gender equity and inclusion to enhance the lives of women and other key communities in policing. Importantly, he also guides men and other leaders on how to contribute to the solution.

Malcolm Campbell, Western Australia Police Force and **Shane McLennan**, Tonga Police were both recognised with Highly Commended Awards in this category.



THE INTEGRITY AND COURAGE AWARD

Is sponsored by *QBank* and acknowledges the courage required to make the community and law enforcement better for everyone. It is an opportunity to recognise more than just physical bravery but seeks to recognise the courage and integrity of the circumstances where someone has the time to think about the implications of their actions and the impact those actions will have on their career, their family and themselves. It includes resolving conflict or situations that require challenging established beliefs or practices and protecting others who are negatively affected by unlawful, dangerous discriminatory or unethical practices or events. This year the award was presented to **Akausha Savage** and **Millie Stephen**, Queensland Police Service. When faced with an extremely dangerous and volatile situation on a remote island with no sworn police, and no accoutrements, both unsworn police liaison officers did not hesitate to assist a female actively being assaulted by her drunk and aggressive partner to limit harm and trauma to the victim.



THE MOST OUTSTANDING FEMALE LEADER AWARD

Is sponsored by *Western Australia Police* and recognises a member who demonstrates dynamic and innovative leadership, mentored and guided others and contributed significantly to their field. This year the award was presented to **Loletta (Loretta) Hunt-Tevaga**, New Zealand Police. Loretta is recognised for her dedication, innovation and unwavering commitment to community engagement, diversity and general equality within law enforcement. She is inspirational leader who quickly grasps concepts and leads with a calm and professional demeanor.





THE MOST OUTSTANDING FEMALE ADMINISTRATOR AWARD

Is sponsored by *Australian Border Force* and was awarded to **Carmen Walters**, Queensland Police Service. Carmen has been instrumental in developing and implementing high profile and highly regarded wellbeing programs for Queensland Police Service members. She is a mentor for early-career female psychologists to promote careers in law enforcement and supports members and their families in response to critical incidents and major events.

Dr Shuang Fu, New South Wales Police Force was recognised with a Highly Commended Award in this category.



THE MOST OUTSTANDING FEMALE INTELLIGENCE PRACTITIONER AWARD

Is sponsored by the *Australian Institute of Professional Intelligence Officers* and this year was awarded to **Katherine Lee**, Victoria Police. Katherine's efforts to establish innovative intelligence collection opportunities and structured environmental scanning frameworks have been critical for the successful implementation of intelligence-led offender management model for Registered Sex Offenders across Victoria Police.

Hannah Doak, New Zealand Police was recognised with a Highly Commended Award in this category.



THE EXCELLENCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE FOR WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY AWARD

Is sponsored by *TripleZero Property Group* and this year was awarded to **Lisa Clemence** and **Sameh Morgan**, New South Wales Police Force. Lisa and Sameh are recognised for their outstanding work in the creation and development of the Empower You App and for their efforts to ensure the safety of Victim Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence.

The New South Wales Police Force Police Transport Command South/West was also recognised with a Highly Commended Award in this category.



THE MOST OUTSTANDING FEMALE PRACTITIONER AWARD

Is sponsored by *Police Association of New South Wales* and this year was awarded to **Rosalind Grant**, Australian Federal Police. Rosalind is a highly experienced investigator, who draws upon her personal experiences to mentor and lead others, ensuring investigative priorities are achieved. She is recognised for her ability to work collaboratively and constructively across agencies, legal systems and at all levels and ranks.

Lynette Gibson, South Australia Police was recognised with a Highly Commended Award in this category.



THE EMERGING LEADERSHIP AWARD

Is sponsored by *South Australia Police* and this year is awarded to **Natalie Arnold**, New South Wales Police Force. Natalie's positive attitude and drive for intelligence-led policing is all encompassing. She is highly respected as a role model and subject matter expert within the intelligence community. Natalie improves policing for women by her support and in leading the way inspiring the next generation of female sworn and unsworn intelligence officers.



THE EXCELLENCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE PACIFIC REGION AWARD

Is sponsored by the *Australian Institute of Police Management* and this year was awarded to **Ruci Nasemira**, Fiji Police Force. Ruci is recognised as a professional and experienced officer. She is an inspiration and provides guidance to women both within law enforcement and in the community. Ruci is a prominent in the community, enhancing the safety and security of Fiji's communities.

Maryanne Yabara, Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary was also recognised with a Highly Commended Award in this category.



THE MOST OUTSTANDING FEMALE INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Is sponsored by *Queensland Police Union of Employees* and this year the award was presented to **Deborah McDougall**, Queensland Police Service. Deborah has made significant contributions to investigative practice concerning interrelated fraud and identity theft offences, holding offenders to account and facilitating justice for victims of identity theft.

Amanda Cary, New South Wales Police Force was recognised with a Highly Commended Award in this category.



THE EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH ON IMPROVING LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR WOMEN AWARD

Is sponsored by the *Australia & New Zealand Society of Evidence Based Policing* and this year was awarded to **Demi Kuiters**, Queensland Police Service. Demi has shown outstanding determination and perseverance driving a research-initiated information sharing partnership between the Queensland Police Service and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). This partnership emerged following an in-depth analysis by Demi on the relationship between animal cruelty and domestic and family violence contributing to better policing practices and a safer Queensland community. ●



If you require any further information with regard to these Awards please contact Sandra Venerables by email at president@acwap.com.au.

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Bicycle Response paramedics attend special events throughout Victoria, including the Spring Racing Carnival, music festivals, ANZAC Day, New Year's Eve, and the Formula 1 Grand Prix

AV'S BICYCLE RESPONSE PARAMEDICS RIDING HIGH

In recognition of World Bicycle Day, Ambulance Victoria (AV) is celebrating its elite and highly skilled Bicycle Response Unit.

Source: Ambulance Victoria

The Bicycle Response Unit is a team of experienced paramedics trained to provide rapid emergency care using tailor-equipped bicycles for special events.

Senior Team Manager Ross Manning has been a member of the Bicycle Response Unit since its implementation in 2005 and said it's an important response capability for AV.

"For special events, we're often first on scene so can provide life-saving medical care until an ambulance arrives," Ross said.

"We work in teams of two and carry modified versions of all the equipment you'd find on an ambulance," he said.

AV Manager Emergency Management Ian Hunt said the Bicycle Response Unit is an important response capability for special events, allowing paramedics to navigate crowded areas for quick access to patients during an emergency.

"In events where there are crowds and heavy foot-traffic, our Bicycle Response paramedics are really

important as they can quickly reach areas which may be difficult to access by car," Ian said.

"Our Bicycle Response paramedics carry life-saving medical equipment, including an automated external defibrillator, medication, airway equipment, and trauma management supplies," he said.

"In medical emergencies like cardiac arrests where every second matters, Bicycle Response paramedics can arrive on-scene early and provide immediate lifesaving first aid until an ambulance arrives."

Ambulance Victoria was one of the first ambulance services in Australia to implement a bicycle response capability.

"Ambulance Victoria has led the way in innovative response capabilities, and the unit is able to proactively monitor crowds and provide support before an issue escalates into an emergency," Ian said.

Ross said "we're the eyes and ears on the ground at an event and can see

what's happening and intervene early to provide help".

"There's been a few times where we've seen someone who didn't look well and stepped in to assist before the call to Triple Zero was made," he said.

While the role can be physically demanding – such as one New Year's Eve shift where Bicycle Response Paramedics travelled a combined total of more than 100-kilometres across Melbourne CBD – Ross said it was a privilege to be a part of the unit.

"We all love being a part of the team. We get to combine our passions of riding our bikes and helping people."

Bicycle Response paramedics attend special events throughout Victoria, including the Spring Racing Carnival, music festivals, ANZAC Day, New Year's Eve, and the Formula 1 Grand Prix.

World Bicycle Day is an internationally recognised day on 3 June established by the United Nations to recognise the benefits of using bicycles. ●



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RELEASE OF THE COVID-19 INQUIRY REPORT

Source: pm.gov.au

Australia was one of the most successful nations in its pandemic response, but an investigation by the independent COVID-19 Response Inquiry finds the country was not adequately prepared for a pandemic.

The Inquiry is a reminder of the incredible service and sacrifice of so many people, not just frontline workers, but every single person in Australia.

It was a time of great uncertainty and adversity. Thousands of Australians lost their lives. Borders were closed. Australians were asked to stay in their homes.

The Albanese Government believes we need to be transparent about how the response to COVID-19 was managed and learn the lessons to inform the management of future public health emergencies.

The independent Inquiry says Australia went into the pandemic with stretched health and aged care systems, no clear national management plan, and deficiencies in the National Medical Stockpile.

The Inquiry finds the economic response to the pandemic was critical in achieving the desired public health outcomes.

But mistakes were made, and those mistakes were costly, and inflationary.

Modelling cited in the report says peak inflation could have been reduced by at least 2 per cent if the economic policy settings during the pandemic had better matched the public health restrictions.

Global supply shocks contributed to substantial inflationary pressures in the Australian economy, but the impact was clearly compounded by some poor policy choices during the pandemic and its immediate aftermath.

The Inquiry found that trust in governments and in science has waned as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the responses of Australian Governments.

The report says that rebuilding community trust and maintaining it needs to be an immediate and ongoing priority, because a key partner in any pandemic response is the Australian public.

The Inquiry was established in September 2023 to consider Commonwealth responses to the pandemic, including vaccines and financial support. The Inquiry also considered the role of National Cabinet.

It was led by an independent panel with significant experience in public health and economic policy – Ms Robyn Kruk AO (Chair), Professor Catherine Bennett and Dr Angela Jackson.

The Inquiry has 9 guiding recommendations and 26 actions for both short term and longer-term work to improve Australia's preparedness for future pandemics.

The Inquiry received 2201 submissions from organisations and individuals, conducted interviews and roundtables, and commissioned research to understand the experiences of those most heavily affected.

Stakeholder interviews included the former Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, Health Minister Greg Hunt, and Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt, as well as a majority of the former State Premiers and Chief Ministers.

The Government will release a response after careful consideration of the Inquiry's findings and recommendations.

In the interim, the Albanese Government will deliver a new Australian Centre for Disease Control, which is one of the central recommendations of the independent Inquiry.

Read the full report at www.pmc.gov.au/resources/covid-19-response-inquiry-report

QUOTES FROM PRIME MINISTER ANTHONY ALBANESE

"The pandemic was an extremely difficult period for many Australians,

with its impact still being felt. Given the magnitude of this crisis, I determined that it was in the national interest to review what worked and what we can do to be better prepared in the future.

"I thank the panel members for their dedicated work. I also thank the many individuals and organisations who shared their experiences of the pandemic.

"The Australian Government is committed to doing all that we can to ensure Australia is fully equipped and prepared to face future pandemics. We will release a response after careful consideration of the Inquiry report."

QUOTES FROM MINISTER FOR HEALTH MARK BUTLER

"This inquiry will be the blueprint to ensure Australia is better prepared for the next pandemic – and there will be a next pandemic.

"As the Inquiry makes clear, Australia lacked sufficient planning and preparation for a pandemic. There are a lot of lessons.

"The establishment of the Australian CDC will help ensure we are prepared next time.

"Within the next 24 hours, I'll be discussing the Inquiry with my health minister colleagues. Those discussions will continue over coming months."

QUOTES FROM TREASURER JIM CHALMERS

"The pandemic showed us the best of Australians' resilience, but it had a profound and lasting impact on our nation's economy that we are still repairing today.

"The Inquiry has told us that big decisions were taken, and big mistakes were made. These mistakes were costly and added fuel to the inflationary fire.

"The report, and the progress we've made since, are proof of why our responsible economic management is so important. It's why we're so focused on fighting inflation, delivering responsible cost of living relief, and repairing the budget mess we inherited" •



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STATE OF THE CLIMATE 2024: INCREASED FIRE WEATHER, MARINE HEATWAVES AND SEA LEVELS

Ongoing changes to Australia's climate and weather are occurring as the country warms in line with global trends.

Source: CSIRO

The *State of the Climate Report* 2024 has found Australia's weather and climate has continued to change, with an increase in extreme heat events, longer fire seasons, more intense heavy rainfall, and sea level rise.

The report, prepared every two years, was released today by Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, and the Bureau of Meteorology.

It draws on the latest national and international climate research, monitoring, and projection information to describe changes and long-term trends in Australia's climate.

Scientists found the oceans around Australia are continuing to warm, with increases in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere leading to more acidic oceans, particularly south of Australia.

CSIRO Research Manager, Dr Jaci Brown, said warming of the ocean has contributed to longer and more frequent marine heatwaves, with the highest average sea surface temperature on record occurring in 2022.

"Increases in temperature have contributed to significant impacts on marine habitats, species and ecosystem health, such as the most recent mass coral bleaching event on the Great Barrier Reef this year," Dr Brown said.

The rates of sea level rise vary across the Australian region, with the largest increases in the north and south-east of the Australian continent.

"Rising sea levels around Australia are increasing the risk of inundation and damage to coastal infrastructure and communities.

"Global mean sea level is increasing, having risen by around 22 centimetres since 1900. Half of this rise has occurred since 1970.

"The rates of sea level rise vary across the Australian region, with the largest increases in the north and south-east of the Australian continent."

The amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere continues to increase, contributing to climate change, with 2023 the warmest year on record globally.

Dr Karl Braganza, Climate Services Manager at the Bureau of Meteorology, said Australia is continuing to warm, with eight of the nine warmest years on record occurring since 2013.

"This warming has led to an increase in extreme fire weather, and longer fire seasons across large parts of the country," Dr Braganza said.

The report describes the shift toward drier conditions between April to October across the southwest and southeast, and reduced rainfall in southwest Australia now seems to be a permanent feature of the climate.

"The lower rainfall in the cooler months is leading to lower average streamflow in those regions, which can impact soil moisture and water storage levels and increase the risk of drought. Droughts this century have been significantly hotter than those in the past," Dr Braganza said.

"However, when heavy rainfall events occur, they are becoming more intense, with an increase of around 10 per cent or more in some regions.

"The largest increases are in the north of the country, with 7 of the 10 wettest wet seasons since 1998 occurring in northern Australia."

Although Australian emissions have declined since 2005, Australia is projected to see continued warming over the coming decades, with more extremely hot days and fewer extremely cool days.

The rate of emissions decline will need to accelerate from now to meet Australia's 2030 emissions targets.

State of the Climate 2024 is the eighth report in a series published every two years by CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology. The findings highlight the importance of ongoing monitoring and help to inform and manage climate risk. ●



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- or by telephoning 0418 726 224 (after business hours)

Inquiries are to be directed to treasurer@aies.net.au or by telephoning 0418 726 224.

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including postage & handling fee

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Medium	Chest 54 – Front Length 72.5	
Large	Chest 58 – Front Length 75	
X Large	Chest 61 – Front Length 77.5	
2X Large	Chest 63 – Front Length 80	
3X Large	Chest 66 – Front Length 82.5	
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THE INSTITUTE'S AIMS

To provide a professional body for the study of the roles and functions of Emergency Services and Emergency Management Organisations throughout Australasia, and the promotion and advancement of professional standards in these and associated services.

THE INSTITUTE'S OBJECTIVES

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

THE INSTITUTE OFFERS

- An opportunity to be part of a progressive Australasia-wide Institute dedicated to the progression and recognition of the Emergency Service role in the community.
- An independent forum where you can be heard and your opinions shared with other emergency service members.
- A journal with information from institutes and other sources around the world in addition to the interchange of views between Divisions in Australia, as well as access to the Institute website.
- Reduced fees for members at Institute Seminars and Conferences and an information service supplied by professional experienced officers.
- A Certificate of Membership.
- The opportunity to use the initials of the particular membership status after your name.
- Corporate members receive a bronze plaque free of charge and can advertise on the AIES website, as well as provide articles for inclusion in the Institute's journal.

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Costs
Annual Subscription: \$80
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Corporate Subscription: \$500
Note: Institute Fees may be tax deductible.

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There are four classes of membership:
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• Associate • Student Member • Retired Member
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Applications for membership will be considered from persons who are at least eighteen years of age and who:
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• Are volunteer members of emergency or associated services.

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Our members come from
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The Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia is proud to continue its longstanding support for Crime Stoppers Tasmania, celebrating 30 years of service. To honour the Academy's meaningful contributions, Chairman David Daniels OAM presented the Unity and Community 2024 Award to Bhagavan Zhi-Ji Vimalakirti Patriarch Master.

Crime Stoppers is a vital community-driven initiative, gathering critical information that assists police in preventing and solving crimes. This nationwide program has prevented thousands of crimes each year, playing an essential role in fostering a safer, more resilient community.

