

# FRONTLINE

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

❖ **SES AWARDS AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY** ❖ **OIL SPILL TRAINING**  
❖ **PADDY VISITS WEST REGION** ❖ **E-EMERGENCY CONNECT** ❖ **SASES & CFS**



**DECEMBER 2010**

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## ON THE COVER

Paddy with the Member for Flinders Peter Treloar at the Lipson Show.

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# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

WARREN HICKS

**I TRUST THAT AS MANY OF YOU AS POSSIBLE HAD A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE NEW YEAR BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY GOT TO SPEND THESE FESTIVE TIMES WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS, RATHER THAN RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS, AS CERTAINLY WAS THE CASE ON THE 7<sup>th</sup> AND 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER.**

Christmas is supposed to be about family, however there are always going to be people who need assistance in the community and at this time of the year it highlights the unselfishness of volunteers to help out in any way they can. One only has to look at some of the SES volunteers interstate that experienced flooding and some major storms at the start of December and put their own Christmas celebrations aside to help their communities as proof of the value of volunteers.

The New Year traditionally is a time to reflect on the previous year and set goals for the new. To say the service has not undergone changes would be a bit of an understatement. We have a new Chief Officer, Chris Beattie who hopefully many of you have met in his orientation trips around the state.

We also had the findings of the cultural review and the green paper on training presented to volunteers, along with work on the constitutions and position statements.

The New Year brings promise that work identified in the cultural review will not be forgotten and finally move ahead. So far there has been lots of talk but very little change and the Association will keep pushing for the changes to occur.

Another potential issue for the Association is the planned cuts in the government spending announced by the Treasurer in September. While the Service has been spared major cuts in its budget, it is the cuts to other government departments that are a concern. The service relies on other government departments for support services and at this stage it is unclear how this will impact on volunteers. The Association is keeping an eye on any planned reduction in support for volunteers or the Service.

**“ THE SERVICE RELIES ON OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR SUPPORT SERVICES AND AT THIS STAGE IT IS UNCLEAR HOW THIS WILL IMPACT ON VOLUNTEERS.**

Throw in training and the odd call out or two and it adds up to a very busy year for the Association and the service. As work continues on the cultural and training reviews I ask that you get involved with the discussions and the process. If you can't do it directly pass your comments on to one of the Association representatives so they can pass it on. The more views we have the better chance there is of finding a solution everyone can live with. More importantly if you pass on your comments don't be one of those people that sit back and make comments about how volunteers weren't asked. Be part of the solution not a part of the problem. People will respect you more if you get involved.

The Volunteers Association will continue to get involved reminding politicians, the press and Headquarters staff that volunteers are important and they need support to do their job in the community. That is what we are there to do, so make use of the Association let us know how you feel, your ideas to improve the Service and how we can help you. As a group we have more weight and say than any individual member.

**PS** In the led up to Christmas I caught up with a number of volunteers who enquired about how I was recovering after my motor vehicle accident as they hadn't heard much. To up date you all, in December my left knee was operated on to tidy up some damage, which should see me getting around more comfortably. The shoulder though, is another story, and may yet need to be operated on.

I have slowly returned to work (not slow enough some would say) and I am helping out at training, but I am not responding to incidents. This has been especially hard when I know crews have been active. I have felt like I am letting the team down.

Thank you for your support and one of my main goals for this year will be to return to full operational duties.

# CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

CHRIS BEATTIE

**SEVEN WEEKS INTO THE NEW JOB AS CHIEF OFFICER AND WHAT AN INDUCTION!** Last week's storms were a real eye opener for me and confirmed that we are truly blessed with dedicated, hard working volunteers and staff, who are willing and able to deploy on operations across the state to support the community in times of need. The statistics from this event in many ways speak for themselves, with over 2,078 formal taskings and requests for assistance attended to by SASES. In addition, our partners in SACFS, SAMFS and SAPOL worked hard throughout the week to support the response efforts. The recovery of impacted communities is now continuing with the hardest hit areas being in and around the towns of Stockport, Tarlee, Birdwood, Riverton and Rhynie. Government and impacted communities have acknowledged

the extraordinary efforts of our members, and from a new Chief Officer, all those involved have my sincerest thanks for their efforts. There will of course be lessons learnt out of last week's emergency and with that, an opportunity to grow and improve our operational response arrangements and incident management capabilities.

**“... WE ARE TRULY BLESSED WITH DEDICATED, HARD WORKING VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF, WHO ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO DEPLOY ON OPERATIONS ACROSS THE STATE ...**

Over the first seven weeks of my tenure, I have been working hard to get out and about to as many units as possible, to meet the men and women of the service, to inspect the facilities, equipment and systems we use and to get a feel for those things that work really well at unit level, as well as for those things we could improve on. In total, 28 units have been visited, including regional trips to North, East and West Regions. Information from these visits will directly inform the Service's strategic and business planning and I hope to be able to provide a summary of key issues in early 2011.

My priorities are now focussed on a number of areas of our business, including our training framework and systems, safety and strategic planning. I have committed to circulating a draft Strategic Plan by the end of January 2011, that will address the recommendations arising from the recent Cultural Review and Training Review, as well as many of the issues raised directly with me by members. I encourage all members to consider and provide feedback on the draft when it is circulated.

Finally, can I wish all members of the Service, as well as their partners and families, a very happy and safe Christmas. Take care and I look forward to working with you all in the New Year.



Where's the road gone at Lower Light?

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

SUSAN CARACOUSSIS

**REFLECTING ON THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, WHAT A YEAR IT WAS FOR THE SES**, both here in South Australia and nationally with the extreme weather conditions, the flood and storms especially on the eastern seaboard and what appears to have changed is that these events seem to be on the increase.

Here in South Australia, volunteers were stretched with record callouts, but as we know you all gave and gave as community support and helping others in times of need is the priority.

The first quarter of 2010 saw deployments to Victoria and Western Australia and then we also experienced numerous wild weekends and even weeks.

When visiting Kangaroo Island, for the Cultural Review, I heard that volunteers were on call outs for that shocking July weekend from 3.00am and didn't stop until after 6.00pm, then we had Penola with units from the South East again working excessive hours as they helped their local community.

The call outs continued and of course our country units had many Road Crash Rescues, the Apollo S in Port Lincoln and then we finished the year with a vengeance and volunteers were again stretched to the limit.

The Premier and Minister were shocked by the damage at Stockport and other regions, but for the SES, as the lead agency, and the work undertaken by the CFS and MFS during these periods, it is hoped that both government and communities will reflect on the roles the emergency sector plays and the importance and need to support our volunteers and ensure that we retain them, as their knowledge and experience is invaluable. We also need ongoing recruitment and then must ensure that the training needed is provided.

By the time you receive this issue of *Frontline*, SES volunteers could well and truly be active along the River Murray as the flooding is expected in mid-January. Interestingly, just as I was working on my update, I happened to be speaking with a family who annually holiday near Blanchetown each January, but instead, they have been clearing their shack and installed another back door, so that waters will be able to flow through. Having been regulars at the river for over thirty years, their comment was it's not a place for children or the dog this year. But more importantly was the fact that they were aware of issues, and conscious of the SES and our message of prevention.

Paddy and the FloodSafe team have been busy in educating the community, often via children, but the message is out there

and the support of many councils in this program is an important partnership and in 2011 the program aims to increase its role in regional areas.

Of course, in November we welcomed our new Chief Officer and he met many volunteers at the Unit Managers' Forum on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November, where many issues were raised, but more time is needed for discussions. He has since undertaken an extremely exhausting schedule visiting as many units as possible

and working hard on the SES Strategic Plan and many policies and procedures, all as a flow on from the Cultural Review.

Then of course, he experienced South Australia's flash floods, storms and the subsequent damage. What a start to a new role.

The Association's Keith Lane Award was presented by the Minister at the SES Awards Ceremony and congratulations to Peter Cumberworth, who was invited to join the Association

Committee as a representative for Central Region and our younger volunteers, which he readily agreed to do.

At the awards ceremony, the Association also took the opportunity to recognise two long serving members, David Ward, who has stepped down as both Treasurer and an East Region representative at our November 2010 AGM, and Dean Overton who had stepped down the end of 2009 as an East Region representative. Our Chair Warren Hicks invited the Minister to present them each with a plaque and writing compendium.

Additionally, the Association thought His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce and our Minister the Hon. Michael Wright should be presented with Paddy's and who better than FloodSafe's Paddy to make the presentation?

The Association has had several changes to our committee and we have included a note from them as an introduction in this issue. Don't forget all committee members are here for all volunteers and we urge you to contact us with any issues, suggestions etc. The committee will be meeting in February and your input on topics to be discussed would be appreciated.

Another suggestion is that we introduce a "Letters to the Editor" style page in *Frontline* and again this can only occur if you contribute. Letters will be published on the basis of "Name and address supplied".

To all, thank you for your support and we look forward to liaising with you this coming year.



Warren Hicks with David Ward (centre) and Dean Overton.



# WELCOME GREG MENNIE

MANAGER - TRAINING AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

come to the SASES from a background of public administration, working recently in the Attorney Generals Department, Building Communities division and the Further Education Employment Science and Technology Department in the directorate of Workforce Planning and Policy. Prior to this I have

performed consultancy roles and delivered and managed training within the TAFE sector both in metro and country South Australia.

One of my first priorities in consultation with key stakeholders will be developing a plan with key deliverables for training. This will include increasing organisational capabilities through the provision of relevant and timely training, reviewing our reaccreditation systems

to ensure currency and streamlining systems consistent with our RTO requirements.

On a personal note I enjoy most sports with my current focus on improving my golfing skills and finishing my home renovations.

I look forward to talking with many of you over the coming months as the organisation moves from the green paper review of training into implementation. ❖

## MINISTERIAL COMMENDATIONS RECIPIENTS

SUE LAMBERT, UNIT COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, BARMERA AND DANIEL GUADAGNIN, UNIT MANAGER, MURRAY BRIDGE, WERE PRESENTED WITH MINISTERIAL COMMENDATIONS BY THE HON. MICHAEL WRIGHT, MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES AT A FUNCTION HELD AT THE ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CENTRE ON TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER. ❖

**S**ue has been a key member in the delivery of the RCR training to SES Volunteers since 2005.

Sue actively simulates an injured person, including utilising various medical conditions or placing herself into difficult positions, similar to those experienced every day by emergency services personnel who respond to RCR incidents. This ensures a realistic scenario for trainees and exercise participants.

Sue and Daniel  
with the Minister. ❖



Sue's experience has allowed many SES RCR practitioners to understand the trauma that a trapped person goes through when they

hear the vehicle being cut by rescue equipment, or as a result of glass being smashed to allow access by medical staff. Sue's active participation ensures that each scenario becomes more realistic, promoting a higher level of training and a more focussed rescuer, with both excellent technical skills and sound patient/casualty management.

Daniel joined the Murray Bridge SES in 2006 and was mentored by the then Unit Manager and SES Life Member Trevor Heitmann, who saw great potential in Daniel. In 2009, Daniel's peers from the Unit recommended him for the position of Unit Manager.

In this position Daniel has taken on responsibility for the leadership and direction of the Unit. Despite facing challenges, Daniel has positively promoted the SES, enhanced and built upon the team that he inherited and forged a strong team in the Murray Bridge SES Unit.

Daniel has been instrumental in maintaining and promoting greater relationships with the local community, fostering enhanced working relationships with the Police, Ambulance Service and Metropolitan Fire Service in Murray Bridge and increased working relationships with the CFS brigades that adjoin the area.

Daniel's commitment to his community and to ensuring that the Murray Bridge SES provides a professional, effective and efficient service to their communities is the view shared by other agencies and the community to whom they serve. ❖

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## NATIONAL AWARD FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S EXTREME HEAT RESPONSE PROJECT AT THE SAFER COMMUNITY AWARDS

A 'NATIONAL WINNER' AWARD WAS PRESENTED ON 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER FOR A STATE WIDE INITIATIVE TITLED *EXTREME HEAT RESPONSE* AT THE AUSTRALIAN SAFER COMMUNITIES AWARDS AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA. ❖

The project involved a number of agencies working together to research and implement new approaches to support the community in times of extreme heat.

SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) Chief Executive, David Place, congratulated the agencies involved for winning the prestigious national award that recognises best practice and innovation in helping to safeguard the community from major emergencies.

Mr Place said that the *Extreme Heat Response* project clearly demonstrates the benefits of establishing partnerships across all areas to build community resilience.

"*Extreme Heat Response* is a joint initiative of the SES in partnership with the Department for Health, Department for Families and

Communities and the Bureau of Meteorology. The collaboration between these agencies focuses on the use of research to inform organisations responsible for community services at times of extreme heat', said Mr Place.

"The project has provided a well researched, strategically consistent approach for agencies to deliver complimentary services and effectively deploy their collective resources. It demonstrates a commitment to work together to prepare the community and reduce the impact of this natural hazard."

SES Chief Officer, Chris Beattie congratulated the team involved and emphasised the importance of the community being prepared for extreme weather.

"The SES is the hazard leader for extreme weather and has worked together with the Bureau of Meteorology and key South Australian Government departments to support the *Extreme Heat Response* initiative. The outcomes of this project will allow for a coordinated approach to building community preparedness, awareness and responsiveness to extreme heat events. It is projects such as this that help members of the community learn about the potential risks they face so they are able to make informed decisions in order to protect themselves and be as prepared as possible for extreme weather" said Mr Beattie.

"In Australia we expect very hot days during summer, but people need to be aware that extreme weather can have a debilitating impact on general wellbeing. By working together we can reduce this impact and increase the survival rates of the most vulnerable members of our community."

Director of Department for Families and Communities State Recovery Office, Ronnie Faggotter added "Heat-waves pose great dangers to some of the most vulnerable members of our society. This joint strategy aimed to ensure that those at risk received the information, care and support they needed, and undoubtedly saved lives during a very hot summer."

SA Health's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr Stephen Christley, said co-operation was the key to producing an effective plan to protect South Australians. "Each SA government department has used their unique expertise to help develop this comprehensive response, which has been successful in reducing serious illness among vulnerable people during periods of prolonged hot weather." ❖

David Place, CE, SAFECOM and Graeme Wynwood, who represented the SES. ❖

❖ The winning team.



# SES AWARDS AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY

**M**inister Wright addressed guests at the inaugural SES Awards and Recognition Ceremony and took the opportunity to welcome SES's new Chief Officer, Chris Beattie, to South Australia. He then also commented on the fact that the State had recently been through a tough State Budget and that he was pleased to note that there had been no cuts to the SES.

The Minister then said: "Today marks the start of SES Week throughout Australia. This is the time to celebrate the tremendous efforts of SES members with the presentation of inaugural Life Memberships, awarded to volunteers and staff who have given over 35 years service. It is also a time to recognise those who have been awarded prestigious medals over the last two years and the other awards which will be presented tonight.

"The State Emergency Service in South Australia is very fortunate to have a large group of dedicated volunteers who often spend a great deal of their private time serving the State in times of need. The act of volunteering in today's climate is very commendable indeed and I pay tribute to the great value of the SES and its members."



◀ New Chief Officer, Chris Beattie.

He then went on to mention that the SES had experienced one of its busiest three months on record from July to September this year when our State was hit by severe storms. The SES had attended almost 4,000 jobs during this time with a raft of road crashes, general rescues and searches. The Minister said: "The Premier and I have both formally thanked the SES for the exceptional manner in which the Penola storm and tornado event in late July was managed."

He also said: "I know the SES has been proactive throughout the year initiating improvements that will ensure a welcoming and supportive network is provided in which to volunteer, work and be a part of. These initia-

**“ IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT A 22 YEAR OLD BOTH LEADS AND SUPPORTS PEOPLE TWICE HIS AGE BUT PETER DOES SO WITH THE HUMBLEST OF ATTITUDES.**

tives have commenced following a state-wide Cultural Review of the organisation starting late last year when the first of two rounds of forums were conducted to seek input from members on issues of concern. The second round, which ended just before the storms struck in July, were held to give feedback on the strategies that would be put in place to resolve such concerns."

The Minister concluded by saying: "I would like to thank all SES staff, volunteers, their families and employers for supporting this organisation. The assistance you provide in times of need is truly inspirational."

## KEITH LANE AWARD

Warren Hicks, Chair, SASESVA, then announced the 2010 Keith Lane Award recipient.

He provided background to the award and acknowledged Keith's daughter Chris, who handed the award to the Minister for presenting to the recipient.

Keith Lane throughout his time in the State Emergency Service and the S.A. S.E.S. Volunteers' Association, was always recognized as an outstanding volunteer leader and someone who always went above and beyond the call of duty in any role.

Approximately four years ago, at the young age of 18, Peter Cumberworth joined his local SES Unit at Enfield. The reason being at this time, the eastern seaboard experienced severe weather and viewing the damage caused by flooding and storm Peter wanted to help.

Since this time, he has attended building impacts, cleared gutters, removed trees, rescued birds, assisted the Police with land/evidence and also body searches.

He also became the youngest and possibly fastest promoted officer as Team Leader within the Unit. Although he is the 5<sup>th</sup> rank in the Unit, he is still lovingly referred to as a "probie", even though he is highly respected by not only his peers, but the older members of the unit, who are his deputies. It is not often that a 22 year old both leads and supports people twice his age but Peter does so with the humblest of attitudes.

In August 2009, Peter received news that no one would expect for a healthy person. Peter was diagnosed with APML (Leukaemia), being one of the rarest forms. He was immediately



\*Peter Cumberworth and Minister Wright.

rushed to hospital and chemotherapy was commenced immediately, again unusual, but they were unsure as to what was being treated at the time due to his platelets dropping so quickly and to such a dangerously low level. Simply if this had not occurred Peter may well not have been with us this evening.

He then spent days, weeks and even months in hospital really weak due to his reaction to the chemotherapy. Yet still on Wednesday's he would think of his Unit.

He was so physically, mentally and emotionally exhausted that there was concern for him and when a group from his unit dressed in their oranges marched into his room and covered it with orange balloons, stickers and for Peter a SES t-shirt to wear. Nursing staff were amazed at how alive he came asking about jobs and what was going on at the unit.

After two months in hospital, Peter went home, but the treatment still continued daily with his family having to take him to hospital

as he had to take his medication intravenously and the chemotherapy also continued.

Peter was determined to get his pic line out, to gain strength and get back to his unit, which he has achieved.

He also recently attended a Leadership Training Course and came back with many ideas for the unit and has established a good network with interstate SES delegates to share ideas.

Additionally, he has also been able to resume his university studies.

Certainly an inspirational young man.

Peter received the perpetual Keith Lane Shield, a trophy and \$1,000 cash. ❖

# LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

The SES introduced its inaugural life membership award so that volunteers and staff who have given 35 years of service to the organisation. The awards were instigated to formally recognise the men and women who volunteer their time and energy to serve their community. The award being another way to thank volunteers who contribute their time not for financial reward, but to assist their own and other communities in times of need. 27 volunteers were awarded life membership.



The Minister and His Excellency with Paddy.



The Award recipients with His Excellency and the Minister.

His Excellency.



Chief Officer Chris Beattie.



Warren Hicks.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS WERE PRESENTED BY HIS EXCELLENCY TO:

|                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Arno Attema       | Enfield Unit                  |
| Gordon Creaser    | Bordertown Unit               |
| Trevor Heitmann   | Murray Bridge & District Unit |
| Ross Johnston     | Prospect Unit                 |
| David Lloyd       | Clare Unit                    |
| Alan Lusher       | Bordertown Unit               |
| Stuart Macleod    | Retired Chief Officer         |
| Peter Mundy       | Prospect                      |
| Roger Murdoch     | Warooka Unit                  |
| William Noack     | Kapunda Unit                  |
| Dean Overton      | Kangaroo Island Unit          |
| William Skinner   | Whyalla Unit                  |
| Campbell Stafford | Onkaparinga Unit              |
| Kerry Stephenson  | Spalding Region               |
| Peter White       | Spalding Unit                 |
| Desmond Whitmarsh | Ceduna Unit                   |

# SASES AND CFS

## WORKING TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY SAFER PLACES

IN THE WAKE OF THE HORRIFIC VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES OF FEBRUARY 2009, A REVIEW HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN TO IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES TO MAKE COMMUNITIES MORE RESILIENT TO THE THREAT OF BUSHFIRE. ❖

**O**ur own Emergency Management Officer, Chris Bastian has been working with CFS and Local Government on this project. Chris' role is an all hazards approach and has had a 'hands on' involvement from the beginning of this project. The work is not only in the office, he has been involved in the field assessments as well.

The outcomes from the review have been that in South Australia we are seeking to provide options to compliment communities' individual Bushfire Survival Plans. The three Tiers are:



### SAFER SETTLEMENTS

A Safer Settlement is a place of first resort for people who have decided that they will leave early on a bad fire day.

A Safer Settlement is a place of relative safety and may be considered as a place where people may choose to remain in, or relocate to if their plan is to leave their home on a bad fire day.

A Safer Settlement is considered to provide the highest level of bushfire safety because;

- ❖ It is an area of low bushfire fuel levels.

- ❖ It is sufficiently distant from continuous bushland or forest to eliminate the risk of spark and ember attack in all but the most intense bushfire activity.
- ❖ Bushfires are unlikely to travel into the area due to substantial buffers of;
- ❖ Established gardens and lawns.



- ❖ Road networks and other zero fuel areas.
- ❖ Access to emergency, health and other community services readily available.

### BUSHFIRE SAFER PRECINCTS

A Bushfire Safer Precinct is a place of first resort for people who have decided that they will leave early on a bad fire day. A Bushfire Safer Precinct is a place of relative safety and may be considered as a place where people may choose to remain in, or relocate to if their plan is to leave their home on a bad fire day. A Bushfire Safer Precinct is relatively safe from bushfire because;

- ❖ It is located in an area of generally low levels of bushfire fuel.
- ❖ It is sufficiently distant from continuous bushland or forest to reduce the risk of spark and ember attack.

- ❖ Bushfire travel will be interrupted by;
  - ❖ Established gardens and lawns.
  - ❖ Substantial road networks and other zero fuel areas.
- ❖ There is likely to be access emergency, health and other community services.

### REFUGES OF LAST RESORT

Refuges of Last Resort will be identified and established in high bushfire risk areas where there are no identified Bushfire Safer Precincts. A Refuge of Last Resort is a space or building

which is a place of last resort for individuals to access and remain in during the passage of fire through their neighbourhood without the need to take a high risk journey. It is intended to provide a place of relative safety, but does not guarantee the survival of those who assemble there, and should only be accessed when personal bushfire survival plans cannot be implemented or have failed. The Refuge of Last Resort is an area that provides a level of protection from the immediate

life threatening effects of a bush fire (direct flame contact and radiant heat).

Refuges of Last Resort are a place of last resort to be at during the passage of the fire front. Not all townships will have Refuges of Last Resort. It is important to understand that Refuges of Last Resort are not to be confused with Fire Refuges, Relief Centres, Recovery Centres, Assembly Centres, or Informal Places of Shelter each has a different and specific purpose.

This is an excellent example of the co-operation between Emergency Services and Local Government to help keep our communities safe. Chris has travelled with the team over the state in all types of weather. Fortunately his last trip to Kangaroo Island was 'smooth sailing'. ❖



# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM (VERSP)

TONI RICHARDSON | VOLUNTEER STRATEGY AND SUPPORT BRANCH

KANGAROO ISLAND WAS THE LOCATION CHOSEN FOR THE LAST VOLUNTEER AND EMPLOYER RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM EVENT FOR 2010 ON THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER. ❖

The event was held at the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard (AVCG) Flotilla in Kingscote and provided an opportunity for local emergency service volunteers from the AVCG, SES and CFS to meet members of the SAFECOM board. Also in attendance were Michael Pengilly MP, Member for Finnis, Jayne

Bates, Mayor, Kangaroo Island Council, as well as a number of staff members from each of the emergency service agencies.

The VERSP event was attended by more than 75 people and provided an opportunity to recognise not only volunteers, but also the employers and families of emergency service volunteers in their support of the emergency services. Attendees were treated to a delicious BBQ dinner (including dessert) as well as presentations from David Place (Chief Executive SAFECOM), Ivan Smith (Deputy Group Officer, Kangaroo Island CFS Group) and Jayne Bates

(Mayor, Kangaroo Island Council). Thirteen certificates of appreciation were presented to employers of emergency service volunteers as well as self employed volunteers.

Certificate Recipients included:

Bob Watson Fire Safety Equipment, Errol Taylor, Island Tree and Stump Service, Mike Swayne, Dudley Villa, Ingrams Home Timber & Hardware, Calana Heights, Davo's Deli, Five Star Design and Construction, Henk Levering, KI Engineering and Auto Airconditioning, Swagman Home Improvements.

Ronald and Patricia Handley from Five Star Design and Construction were nominated by Kangaroo Island SES Unit Manager Bevan Garmeister. Ronald and Patricia actively support both the SES and Australian Volunteer Coastguard. ❖



❖ David Place with King Island Mayor Jayne Bates.  
❖ Top: Kangaroo Island recipients. Ronald and Patricia Handley. ❖



## ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

AT THE SASESVA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER THE FOLLOWING NEW REPRESENTATIVES WERE ELECTED TO THE COMMITTEE AND EACH HAS PROVIDED A BRIEF PROFILE. ❖

### **KYM BERTOLA** **EAST REGION**

"My name is Kym Bertola from the Murray Bridge Unit and I am one of your representatives for East Region. I have been a member of Murray Bridge Unit for over 3 years now. Murray Bridge Unit's core business is road crash rescue which accounts for about 75% of our callouts. We vary between 80-150 tasking per year. My current position in the Unit is Training Coordinator and Deputy Rescue Officer. I have been Training Coordinator for about 7 months now, it is one of my passions and I am currently undertaking my Certificate 4 in Training and Assessment.

Apart from volunteering with the SES, I am a retained fire fighter with the Metropolitan Fire Service, and also work a few hours a week in retail.

I joined the association and now as a representative being another voice for us on the ground, the vollies. I am here as a representative for you- as much as I am here as a voice for my team as well."

### **DAVID COUSINS** **EAST REGION**

My first involvement with the SES was at Burra, in 1998, where I was appointed the Unit Manager. Within a short period though, due to work, I transferred to South Coast as a member, with my son Joel to GDOPs. After a short time as GDOP, I became the Business Manager for the Unit.

Whilst at the unit I have attempted to



become focused on the big picture of SES, being a 32 year veteran of SAPOL.

I now hope to bring this experience to the SASESVA, contributing in a positive manner to the organisation, supporting the Chairman, CEO, fellow members, along with the membership at a challenging time for the future.

### **PAULINE CHRISTIE** **NORTH REGION**

I joined Burra SES Unit and have been the Administration Coordinator since February 2010. I am thoroughly enjoying and have enjoyed the wide variety of training courses I have been able to participate in and which will now enable me to go out and help our communities.

I am the North Region Representative on the Executive Advisory Group and look forward to my role with the Association.

### **AND CASUAL VACANCIES WERE FILLED BY:**

#### **LYN BERGHOFER** **NORTH REGION**

I was born on the Eyre Peninsula at Cowell, the youngest of 10 children.

I am mother to two children, Alex and Carly and Nanna to two grandsons.

My parents were very community minded and active members on a variety of local committees.

My father was also one of 'a few' original St John Volunteers in the local community and



our family car, a 'white Holden station wagon' was often used as an ambulance until an old ambulance was sourced.

I followed my parents lead and over my years spent at Cowell, I was actively involved in local sports and fundraising committees as a member, player, umpire, coach and supporter.

I have been fortunate in that I have travelled across much of Australia and spent 5 years living in WA during the 1980's. I have now been living in Whyalla for the past 12 years and this is where I joined the local SASES Unit in 2000, after an incident that claimed the lives of several local and peninsula community members, some of whom were known to me.

I met my partner Tony, who has been a volunteer with SASES for many years, while attending a SES training course at El Alamein. I have been involved in supporting other SASES units and members at various locations throughout the state during emergency incidents and in the role of a volunteer SASES trainer/assessor at many courses.

I held the position of Training Officer for West Region for a brief 6 months in 2005/6 but due to illness and on medical advice, I resigned from the position. I then took a step back from many state SES activities for several months but remained active (where possible) at a local level. As my health has improved I have been increasing my involvement once again across a variety of activities within SASES.

My employment history of nursing, working within Special Education and for the past few years as a lecturer within Community Services and Health Program for TAFESA Regional has provided me the opportunity to undertake a variety of studies from which I have gained many skills and knowledge that have also assisted me in my volunteer roles.

I look forward to representing the volunteers within SASES throughout North Region and across the state.

I encourage any member to contact me if they have an issue or issues that they would like to discuss with me and/or to put forward for discussion at the volunteer association committee meetings.

#### **PETER CUMBERWORTH** **CENTRAL REGION**

Peter, was announced the 2010 Keith Lane Award recipient and as a young person was invited to fill a casual vacancy in Central Region, which he agreed to willingly.

It is most pleasing to note the influx of youth representation on the committee. ❖





# OIL SPILL TRAINING PUT TO THE TEST

JIM DARLING | TUMBY BAY SES

YEARS OF OIL SPILL TRAINING WERE PUT INTO ACTION ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 8<sup>th</sup> AT AROUND 3.00pm WHEN THE GRAND RODOSI COLLIDED WITH THE APOLLO S WHILE ATTEMPTING TO BERTH AT THE PORT LINCOLN GRAIN TERMINAL. ❖

**T**he Grand Rodosi is a bulk cargo ship of some 68,700 tones with a length of 225 metres and a beam of 32 metres.

The Apollo S was a tuna fishing vessel owned by Australian Fishing Enterprises of 47 metres and 700 tons believed to be worth approximately \$ 20 million, being the largest vessel in the Port Lincoln fishing fleet. It had also recently been refurbished ready for the new season.

It appears that the Grand Rodosi experienced an onboard manoeuvring problem and

T-boned the Apollo S crushing it against the wharf at an estimated speed of about five knots.

Considerable damage was done to the wharf with the Apollo S crushed and sinking alongside the wharf in less than thirty minutes. It was extremely fortunate that there were no crew on board at the time as they would most certainly have been injured or killed.

A local fisherman, Garry Feuerherdt, raised the alarm by ringing triple zero.

It was at this time that the Port Lincoln Regional Headquarters, and the Tumby Bay and Port Lincoln rescue boats were called in to respond together with the Police, MFS, SA Ambulance and Port Lincoln's Department for Transport Energy and Infrastructure oil spill resources. It was rather fortuitous that Tumby Bay had its boat in Port Lincoln, on the day, for servicing and was able to also respond quickly.

The local emergency services have been





practising oil spill training for many years now but have rarely needed to put these skills into action. The Apollo S was carrying a large amount of diesel fuel and oil at the time of impact.

The Tumby Bay and Port Lincoln rescue boats were deployed to erect oil booms to encircle the stricken vessel to contain leaking diesel and recover wreckage from the bay. It proved difficult to deploy booms as the stricken Apollo S had sunk alongside the wharf.

Commercial divers from Australian Fishing Enterprises were brought in to retrieve oil

drums from the Apollo S and to seal off the fuel tanks.

The rescue boats were also used to agitate and break up the diesel spill that was covering a significant amount of the harbour.

A well timed response by the first strike team of the SES, MFS and Flinders Ports ensured the diesel and leaking oil was contained early.

It was reported that this fast response by our local emergency services prevented what

could have been an environmental disaster, as most of the diesel coming from the sunken Apollo S was contained.

Whilst the booms were put in place, to stop the oil and fuel from spreading into the bay, a small amount of fuel did reach the foreshore and on rocks on the north shore the Friday afternoon.

All emergency personnel worked well together and committed themselves over 24 hours, with the MFS handing over the area to DTEI on the Friday evening.

On Saturday, the fuel and oil that had leaked into Boston Bay was dispersed by the MFS boat MV Gallantry and the Port Lincoln Rescue boat.

Oil booms will remain in place until the Apollo S is retrieved.

DTEI held a barbecue, in December, at the SES Port Lincoln complex, as an appreciation of the work undertaken by the SES in

its response to the Apollo S incident, where it was acknowledged that undoubtedly a significant environment issue had been prevented. Certificates of Appreciation were presented by Brian Hemming, Director, Transport Safety Compliance, Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure to Port Lincoln, Tumby Bay and West Operation Coordination Units.



# E-MERGENCY CONNECT

BRONTE MORAN | COORDINATOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT,  
SA FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMISSION

SAFECOM'S E-MERGENCY CONNECT PROJECT WAS AWARDED \$2.53M BY THE COMMONWEALTH'S DIGITAL REGIONS INITIATIVE ROUND 2.

The purpose of the project is to:

- ❖ improve access to a range of online services not previously available to the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) and State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers in regional South Australia
- ❖ position the CFS and SES to take full advantage of the communication opportunities that the National Broadband Network will create.

It will enhance the delivery of training, reduce travel costs and reduce paperwork by providing more than 17,000 volunteers and retained fire fighters across regional South

Australia with access to a new volunteer web portal offering a range of services, interactive web conferencing and media-rich self-paced training courses.

The project will:

1. Roll out broadband connectivity and PCs to over 400 locations across regional South Australia
2. Develop an enhanced volunteer web portal to host a range of new on-line services
3. Fund a new e-Learning team for two years to enhance the CFS and SES training function

The e-learning team, in consultation

with agency trainers, will develop e-learning resources that support the practical and face-to-face training and provide volunteers with more flexible options to complete their training.

While the specific outcomes of the project are still being negotiated, it is expected that its achievements will include the following:

- ❖ By deploying broadband access and PCs to CFS stations and SES units, the project will bring these facilities to a basic standard of digital connectivity appropriate for a modern workplace.
- ❖ Provide equity for regional and remote volunteers to access online systems in line with metropolitan based work practices, such as:
  - ❖ incident management and reporting
  - ❖ documentation, online forms, policies and procedures

- ❖ enabling theoretical 'classroom' aspects of existing courses to be completed by volunteers on-line at their convenience; at their home, work, station or unit.

- ❖ increase availability and consistency of training.

- ❖ enable video and web conferencing for meetings and training to reduce travel.



❖ Prime Minister Julia Gillard with Sturt SES members. Photographer Chris Mangan, *The Advertiser*.





# PADDY VISITS WEST REGION

JIM DARLING | TUMBY BAY SES

PADDY THE PLATYPUS, AT THE REQUEST OF TUMBY BAY SES, MADE A FLYING VISIT TO THE WEST COAST RECENTLY. ❖

**P**addy who is a valuable member of the FloodSafe Team together with his trusted helpers Lyn Little and Toni Caputo visited Tumby Bay and Port Lincoln where he took the opportunity to mentor additional helpers from both Tumby Bay and Port Lincoln Units.

Paddy who is a sensation where ever he goes certainly proved a hit with the children and adults alike.

Tumby Bay SES Unit staged static displays at both our local annual shows, Lipson & Yal-landa Flat. We appreciated Paddy's attendance



in giving us support and making numerous appearances.

One of the highlights was Paddy's Australia wide live broadcast on Radio 5CC from the Lipson Show. As Paddy is unable to speak, he asked if Peggy who is a member of the Tumby Bay SES Unit could respond on his behalf. Radio 5CC's team were Ian Beeby at the microphone and Jamie McDonald to the right, from the 5CC breakfast program called "Good Morning E.P."

Paddy said he thoroughly enjoyed his time out west and has promised to return again next year. ❖

❖ Paddy with the Member for Flinders Peter Treloar at the Lipson Show.

Matt Trenberth Paddy and Peggy Darling at Radio 5CC's live broadcast.



Paddy makes a friend.

Toni Caputo, Bendigo Bank mascot, Paddy, Miss Bendigo Bank and Bob Pycroft at Yallanda flat show.



Paddy in front of Tumby Bay's static display at the Lipson Show.



Bob Pycroft, Tumby Bay's Unit Manager, Paddy and spectators at Yolanda Flat.



## CEDUNA SES ASSISTS

**C**eduna SES was called out on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October to go to the assistance of a disabled vessel with four people on board which was stranded offshore from Cape Nuyts, (west of Fowlers Bay).



SES members Perry Will, Danny Ronan, Peter Codrington and Fisheries Officer Trevor Puckridge set off in the SES Rescue Vessel “Protector” a 3100 series Noosa Cat from Ceduna at about 8.00pm and located the vessel at midnight, when they then towed the vessel into the safety of Fowlers Bay.

The team then steamed back to Ceduna, arriving at 5.00am, a call out of 9 hours, with “Protector” travelling 156 nautical miles (or 289kms).

Another example of distances involved in rescues in West Region. ❖



## LEIGH DRECKOW RECEIVES MEDALS FROM THE CHIEF OFFICER

**L**eigh Dreckow of the Cleve Unit was presented with his National and State medals by the Chief Officer, Chris Beattie, during a visit to the Unit on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Leigh has been a member of the Cleve Unit for over 30 years and as such received the National medal with a 25 year clasp and the State Long Service medal with clasps for 20 and 30 years. ❖

❖ Leigh Dreckow and Chris Beattie.

# WEST OPERATIONS COORDINATION UNIT VIEWS NEW COMMAND VAN



The new command van will be replacing our old command bus which was actually built in the 70s and used as a school bus on Yorke Peninsula, prior to being purchased by the SES in the early 90s for \$8,000. It was then fitted out to meet our needs as a command centre, at a cost of approximately \$20,000.

The new prototype command bus was enthusiastically viewed by WOCU members.

- ✦ The new command vehicle.
- ✦ Our old command bus.



✦ WOCU Acting Deputy Unit Manager Michael Greeves checks out the layout of the bus.



✦ WOCU member Jenny Krahe and West Region Training Officer Tony Stockham inspecting the annex structure.



# SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET: "TUMBY BAY" JIM DARLING

There is no better place to celebrate SES Week than on the pristine foreshore at Tumby Bay.

The local unit set up a static display at the base of Tumby Bay's historic jetty on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November. On display we had our eight meter mono hull blue water rescue boat "Yallana" and its ford 250 tow vehicle plus our Isuzu rescue truck.

The display was manned by six volunteers and whilst the weather wasn't very favourable, there was a steady stream of interested locals and holiday makers through out the morning.

Free promotional items were distributed to interested people and we appreciate the support provided by the VSS team.

SES week in an ideal time to get out in front of the public to display our equipment, interact with the community and create public awareness.

A great time was had by all.





# LETTERS

## APOLLO S LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

13 October 2010

Dear Pye,

As the SASES State Duty Officer, on the afternoon of Friday 8th October 2010 I was advised of an incident where the MV Grand Rodosi had collided with the FV Apollo S whilst berthing at the Port Lincoln town wharf, which resulted in the Apollo S sinking.

Fortunately there were no persons aboard at the time and no injuries were sustained during the incident, however, with 15,000 litres of diesel and some 3,600 litres of oil aboard, the potential for a significant oil spill and environmental damage was very real.

Due to the close proximity of what is acknowledged as one of Australia's most significant aquaculture industries, a timely response in this area is paramount, and there is little doubt that the initial action taken by SASES and other agencies contributed to any pollutants being contained before they could reach critical areas.

The reason for this letter is to pass on my appreciation, and also that of Mr Brian Hemming, Director, Transport Safety Regulation, Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI), and Captain Carl Kavina, Operations Manager, Flinders Ports, on behalf of their agencies, recognising the contribution

Since I am just settling down after the events of the weekend I just wanted to say a big well done and thank you to all that were involved in the response activities that followed after the unfortunate incident in Port Lincoln when the Grand Rodosi collided with the Apollo S.

The local emergency services were outstanding in their mobilisation to assist with the placement of booms around the stricken Apollo S which contained most of the diesel that was on board the vessel. Thanks for your prompt response and assistance

## THANK YOU

Sincere thanks to the CFS, SES and Richard in rescuing me from my 10 metre fall down the well 26/10 at Rendelsham. I am doing well and unscathed. Sandy my owner is getting over the shock.

## Patterson the goat

*The South Eastern Times, November 2, 2010*

made by members of the Tumby Bay Unit towards what has been a very successful outcome.

It is my opinion that the timeliness and professionalism of the response played a significant part in the successful outcome of the overall operation, and ensured that the risk of an environmental incident was kept to a minimum.

Additionally, the ongoing cooperation and liaison by SASES with the Incident Management Team from DTEI as salvage operations are planned continues to attract favourable comment.

It is always pleasing to receive favourable reports, and there is no doubt in my mind that the efforts of those members involved has significantly enhanced the reputation of your Unit and SASES in general, both within the local community and within those agencies involved in the response, and you should all receive these comments with a great sense of personal pride.

I would be please if you would pass on my person thanks and congratulations to everyone involved for a job well done.

Yours sincerely

**Darryl Wright**

SASES State Duty Officer  
Manager  
Volunteer Marine Rescue

in getting people to Lincoln and looking after the response activities with the oil spill.

Well done and although we still have a way to go to get the port to normality you and the emergency services did a fantastic job in trying circumstances.

Regards

**Carl Kavina**

General Manager, Marine Operations  
Flinders Ports

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| ITEM NO. | TYPE                  | DESCRIPTION   | QTY ORDERED | UNIT COST \$ | TOTAL COST \$ |
|----------|-----------------------|---|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| VAPS1    | Polo shirt Men's      | Navy blue Micromesh Cool Dry Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left chest. No pocket.<br>Small<br>Medium<br>Large<br>XLarge<br>2XLarge<br>3XLarge<br>4XLarge<br>Custom made to order   |             | \$46.00      |               |
| VAPS1L   | Polo Shirt Ladies cut | Navy blue Micromesh cool dry polo shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left chest. No pocket.<br>8<br>10<br>12<br>14<br>16<br>Then refer to Men's polo shirt sizing                            |             | \$46.00      |               |
| VAPS2    | Polo shirt Men's      | Navy blue Micromesh Cool Dry Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left chest. With pocket.<br>Small<br>Medium<br>Large<br>XLarge<br>2XLarge<br>3XLarge<br>4XLarge<br>Custom made to order |             | \$47.00      |               |
| VASPS3   | Polo shirt Men's      | Blue/White Cross Dye Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left hand chest. No pocket.<br>Small<br>Medium<br>Large<br>XLarge<br>2XLarge<br>3XLarge<br>4XLarge<br>Custom made to order      |             | \$44.00      |               |
| VASPS3L  | Polo shirt Ladies cut | Blue/White Cross Dye Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left hand chest. No pocket.<br>8<br>10<br>12<br>14<br>16<br>Then refer to Men's polo shirt sizing                               |             | \$44.00      |               |
| VAPS4    | Polo shirt Men's      | Blue/White Cross Dye Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left hand chest. With pocket.<br>Small<br>Medium<br>Large<br>XLarge<br>2XLarge<br>3XLarge<br>4XLarge<br>Custom made to order    |             | \$45.00      |               |

| ITEM NO. | TYPE                 | DESCRIPTION  | QTY ORDERED | UNIT COST \$ | TOTAL COST \$ |
|----------|----------------------|--|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| VAV1     | Vest                 | Shower-proof reversible vest with polar fleece inner and full zip with SES logo on the outside left hand chest. Johnny Bobbin brand.<br>Small<br>Medium<br>Large<br>XLarge<br>2XLarge<br>3XLarge |             | \$45.00      |               |
| VAPF1    | Polar Fleece 1/2 Zip | Navy blue 1/2 polar fleece jumper with SES logo on left hand chest. Winning Spirit.<br>XXSmall<br>XSmall<br>Small<br>Medium<br>Large<br>XLarge<br>2XLarge<br>3XLarge<br>4XLarge<br>5XLarge       |             | \$39.00      |               |
| VAPF2    | Polar Fleece Jacket  | Navy blue full zip bonded polar fleece jacket with SES logo on left hand chest. Winning Spirit.<br>Small<br>Medium<br>Large<br>XLarge<br>2XLarge<br>3XLarge<br>4XLarge<br>5XLarge                |             | \$46.00      |               |
| VAWBH    | Wide Brim Hat        | Akubra style. Synthetic, putty colour with SES logo embroidered on front. Bushie plus brand.<br>Small 55cm to 57cm<br>Large 59cm to 61cm   |             | \$43.00      |               |
| SEST     | Tie                  | SES  |             | \$27.50      |               |
| UME      | Epaulettes           | Unit Manager set   |             | \$13.50      |               |
| OE       | Epaulettes           | Officer set  |             | \$11.00      |               |
| SAE      | Epaulettes           | Stripes set  |             | \$11.00      |               |
| SB       | Badges               | Shoulder set   |             | \$3.30       |               |
| SESP     | Plaque               | Quality timber - SES logo  |             | \$54.45      |               |
| SESWB    | Water bottle Black   |  |             | \$4.40       |               |
| SESTM    | Thermal Mug          | Blue   |             | \$7.70       |               |
|          | Thermal Mug          | Black  |             | \$7.70       |               |
| CCM      | Coffee mug           | China with SES Logo  |             | \$5.00       |               |
| MYOV     | Badge                | Mini Year of the Volunteer   |             | \$2.20       |               |
| MPP      | Mobile phone pouch   | Orange with SES logo   |             | \$5.50       |               |
| Paddy    | Soft Toy             | Paddy the Platypus 28cm high plush soft toy  |             | \$20.00      |               |

|                          |         |                      |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|---------|----------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>DELIVERY COSTS SA</b> |         | <b>ORDER TOTAL</b>   |  |  |  |
| Up to 5 garments         | \$12.00 |                      |  |  |  |
| Up to 10 garments        | \$15.00 | <b>PLUS DELIVERY</b> |  |  |  |
| Up to 15 garments        | \$20.00 |                      |  |  |  |
| Miscellaneous items      | \$15.00 | <b>TOTAL</b>         |  |  |  |

Please send your completed order to SASESVA with a cheque for the total amount to **GPO Box 2706, Adelaide SA 5001**  
 Orders can be emailed to either [susan@sasesva.org.au](mailto:susan@sasesva.org.au) or faxed to **8410 3115**

**DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS**

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