



NATIONAL EMERGENCY

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THE EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMISSIONER

A LOOK AT THE ROLE OF BRUCE ESPLIN



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WEB REGISTRATION

The new Website has been registered and is <http://www.aies.net.au>

WEBSITE CONTENT

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



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FRONT COVER

The role of Emergency Services Commissioner is an important one. As the only Emergency Services Commissioner in Australia, Bruce Esplin sees creating and building relationships as the most important part of his job. See our feature story on page 8.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Maurice Massie, QPM, LFAIES

National President

On Sunday 20th and Monday 21st of April 2008, the General Council meeting of the Institute took place at the Diana Plaza Hotel Woolloongabba Brisbane.

On the evening of April 21, the Annual General Meeting of the Institute was conducted at the same venue and at that meeting, I presented my report. The address made at the meeting is detailed below.

OPENING

On behalf of General Council, I would like to thank the Queensland Division for arranging the dinner here this evening. I would also wish to welcome you all to the Annual General Meeting of the Institute.

NER MAGAZINE

On Sunday, April 20, the General Council convened and we were fortunate enough to have Tony Cornish of Countrywide Media present to discuss with him the *National Emergency Response* magazine, which is produced by his company for the Institute.

Also discussed was the calendar, which was produced for the first time this year. In our discussions, Tony indicated that they would again produce a calendar for 2009 and expand the distribution list at our request to 1,500 copies. This wider production and distribution would better advertise our Institute.

He also undertook to ensure that the Institute logo and brand name be more prominently displayed on the monthly pages of the calendar and this will represent an improvement on last year's production. As with the previous arrangement, the calendar will be produced and distributed at no cost to the Institute.

The NER magazine publication would be maintained at 3,000 copies per issue and distributed in accordance with the circulation list provided by the Institute.

MEETING OF REGISTRARS

Also on Sunday, April 20, following the adjourned General Council meeting, a meeting of State Registrars was held. This meeting was chaired by our National Company Secretary/General Registrar, Robert A Maul. The conduct of this meeting was to better inform Registrars as to their responsibilities and to gain feedback from them on matters of concern to be put to the re-convened General Council meeting on Monday, April 21. This proved to be a very worthwhile exercise and justified the expenses involved in providing this



forum for the benefit of the Registrars and the General Council.

WEBSITE

At the Council meeting on Monday, April 21, the need for a more professional and relevant website for the Institute was discussed. Following these discussions, John Rice, President of the ACT Division and Council Representative, kindly agreed to investigate the re-establishment of a more professional and user-friendly site. It was further requested that the site be provided with a facility for State Divisions to provide their own input, by way of a page attached to the main site. This then would provide the facility with a more up-to-date information flow to the site.

VICTORIA COMBINED EMERGENCY SERVICES CONFERENCE 2007

Alan Alder, Registrar of the Victoria Division and Council Representative, provided a report on the Victoria Division's combined Emergency Service Conference which was held on October 27, 2007, at the Hawthorn Campus of the University of Melbourne.

Once again this proved to be a particularly successful conference, with 108 attendees present. This is the maximum number that the conference could house, so this proves its popularity as an annual event.



EMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FORUM

Allan Holley, President of the NSW Division and Council Representative, reported on the status of the EMA Emergency Management Forum. Allan continues to represent the Institute on the forum which is convened by EMA Australia. It was reported that the forum met on three occasions during the year and following a workshop which was conducted on April 4, 2007, the EMA have produced a manual "The Recruitment of Volunteers of Non-English Speaking Background" for the emergency service sector.

The new Federal Government has indicated that it is committed to maintaining the forum.

As a member of the group, Allan represents the Institute on the Public Safety Industry Training Board.

Council expressed its appreciation to Allan for his dedicated involvement on the forum and requested that he remain as a representative of the Institute.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 2007/2008

At the meeting today, the following persons were elected to form the Council for the ensuing year.

President	Maurice Massie (Tasmania)
Vice President	Brian Lancaster (South Australia)
Company Sec/ Gen Registrar	Bob Maul (NSW)
Directors	Alan Alder (Vic) Mick Davis (Queensland) Allan Holley (NSW) John Rice (ACT)
Auditor	Ross Gatwood
Solicitor	McPhee/Kelshaw

STATE REPORTS

Each division represented on the Council presented their State report for the preceeding year. Arising out of these reports, it was revealed that in the year under review, the Institute has suffered a major reduction in membership.

This has been an ongoing problem and it is necessary for the Divisions and the Council to address this issue, come up with strategies to grow our membership and to make our Institute more relevant to the emergency services community.



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ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

It was determined at Council today, that it is now time a redraft of our Articles of Association be undertaken. The NSW Division through their Representative and Registrar, have undertaken to draw up a recommended redraft with input from the other divisions. Hopefully, the work will have progressed to a stage that at next year's General Council meeting, we will be in a position to approve the document for publication.

QUEENSLAND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Because of the Queensland division's financial situation, Council has agreed to assist by defraying the amount of \$220 from the capitation fees they are due to pay in order to cover the cost of auditing their accounts for 2007.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The General Council has determined that there is a need to raise the membership fees for members and fellows. This rise is seen as necessary in order to implement strategies to make the Institute more relevant and worthwhile for its membership and to grow our organisation. The new fees will be –

Members	\$50
Fellows	\$60
Corporation	\$250
Entry	\$20

Capitation fees to General Council will remain at 50% of dues collected.

Following this discussion and resolution, the Queensland representative, Mick Davis, indicated they would not pursue with their notice of motions to the Annual General Meeting dealing with this subject. He did however, foreshadow that there may be a renewed submission in 2009.

VICTORIAN DIVISION COMBINED EMERGENCY SERVICE CONFERENCE

Council agreed to assist the Victorian Division in the conduct of its combined Emergency Service

Conference to be held on October 25, 2008 at the Hawthorn Campus of the University of Melbourne.

This being the 30th year of the conference the theme of it will be '30 Years, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow'. An amount of up to \$500 has been pledged by the Council to assist with the production of programmes and other printed material.

AIES ANNUAL PEN PRIZE

As agreed at the General Council meeting in 2007, the annual pen prize for the best article submitted by a member of the Institute for publication in the NER magazine, was decided at our meeting today.

This year's prize is awarded to Grant Coultman-Smith for his article 'Disaster Psychology – A Dual Perspective', which appeared in the Summer and Autumn editions of the magazine. The winner receives a suitably inscribed pen to the value of approximately \$350.

Council agreed to again present this award in 2009.

NEXT MEETING

The next General Council and Annual General Meeting of the Institute will be held in Sydney on April 20, 2009.

CONCLUSION

I would like to pass on the Council's thanks to our National Company Secretary/General Registrar Bob Maul, for his continued diligent and efficient work and the way that he has performed his duties over the past 12 months. This has for one reason or another, been a particularly difficult year, which has brought an additional workload on Bob; notwithstanding this, Bob has carried out his tasks in an exemplary manner and has maintained the high standard required in managing the Institute's business. Thank you Bob.

I now move the formal adoption of my report.
Thank you. ●



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FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY/REGISTRAR

Bob Maul, LFAIES

General Secretary/Registrar



TO AGM OF AIES - BRISBANE APRIL 21, 2008

The financial year 2007 proved to be a disappointing year for the Institute in as much as at national level the Institute incurred an operating loss of \$1,274.31. Our income at national level dropped by an amount of \$3,469.87 in comparison to 2006 and our expenses rose by an amount of \$1,448.12 as compared to the year 2006.

The loss resulted from a number of important issues, namely that there was a very sharp decline in members renewing their subscriptions, hence the substantial loss or revenue, and the fact that our day-to-day costs in administering the Institute at national level became substantially higher. Insurance costs were higher as were the costs of printing and delivering certificates of membership, memorabilia, computer consumables and internet accessibility, and fares for directors to attend the Annual Meeting of the Institute and General Council. The Institute also incurred an additional expense as a consequence of agreeing to the purchase of a suitably inscribed fountain pen for presentation to a financial member for the best article submitted for inclusion in our journal NER. However, our assets with credit unions which attracted interest, offset to a large extent our loss. We will continue to reinvest our liquid assets with credit unions in Australia as a buffer against future increases in the cost of living and operating expenses.

Much of the General Secretary's time during the financial year was spent dealing with administrative duties resulting from the failure of certain divisional members to comply with the Institute's Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association and the Corporations Legislation. A great deal of time was

spent on fixing up compliance issues, but I am happy to report that at the end of the year, the compliance issues were satisfactorily resolved, albeit at some cost in terms of membership losses.

With new procedures in place and restructure at division committee levels, we anticipate that the problems which occurred in 2007 will not resurface in future years, and that hopefully we can now get on with the job of providing better services and support to our membership throughout Australia.

As many of you are already aware, the concerted effort made to improve the quality of our magazine "NER" and the arrangement made with our publisher, Countrywide Media, to publish on an annual basis a large AIES calendar and distribute it to our members, will encourage other emergency management operatives to join the Institute in the future, as it is already doing. In the last six months, the decision to send the magazine to units of the emergency services in many states has resulted in members of the Rural and Country Fire Services and SES joining or rejoining the Institute.

Queensland and Western Australia are lagging a bit in this regard as we are still awaiting addresses of emergency services units in Queensland and Western Australia. Perhaps the Queensland and SA Committees of the AIES could pursue this issue and let me have the addresses of these units so that they can be sent a copy of our journal. This initiative will result, I am sure, in many more persons joining the Institute in Queensland and Western Australia.

Irrespective of our administrative problems in 2007, the audited accounts indicate that the Institute continues to be a viable concern at national level and is able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

I now move that the national accounts be adopted.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE CONTENT

Closing dates for all material are as follows:

Spring 2008	August 15, 2008
Summer 2008-2009	November 15, 2008
Autumn 2009	February 15, 2009
Winter 2009	May 15, 2009
Spring 2009	August 4, 2009
Summer 2009-2010	November 16, 2009

ERRATA IN VOL 21 #2 AUTUMN 2008

The International Crisis and Emergency Management Conference 2008 was re-scheduled to occur on May 21-22. The Editor apologises for this discrepancy.

Geoff Webb, Editor.



ACCOMPANYING NOTE:

As has already been mentioned in another article by our National President in this journal, at a combined meeting of National Directors and State Registrars at our AGM in Brisbane on April 21, 2008, Directors reluctantly agreed to increase some annual subscription rates for the year 2009 and onwards. The increase in subscription rates was proposed by the Queensland Division and debated for a lengthy period at the Annual Meeting of General Council.

Cogent reasons were put up by the Queensland Division to increase membership rates. Some of these reasons, which had a great deal of validity, included inter alia:

- The fact that subscription rates for Members and Fellows had only risen by an amount of \$5 since the Institute's formation in the year 1977 - a rise of just 1.5% per annum since 1977 - substantially below the yearly cost of living adjustments.
- Due to increasing costs over the 30-year period, Divisions were unable to provide a professional level of service to members of the Institute or undertake many of the objectives as enumerated in the Constitution (Articles and Memorandum of Association of the Institution).
- The inability of several Divisions to adequately address the needs of members in the much larger

States of Australia (e.g SA, WA, Qld) due to the large costs of establishing new chapters in Regional Areas and to provide subsidies in encouraging the establishment of such chapters in remote areas.

- The lack of adequate funding to conduct seminars, conferences and training activities etc, to publicise the aims, objectives and raison d'être of the Institute.
- The urgent need to establish a professional AIES internet website which would require a more substantial level of funding for maintenance and updating purposes. Hitherto, this area of the Institute's activities has been maintained and funded by willing Institute members on a voluntary and non-cost basis. This gracious offer is no longer available due to our members who have done the job voluntarily and with good intentions no longer being available to undertake the task of maintenance owing to other commitments.

Whilst National Council was ambivalent about increasing subscriptions, it nonetheless was finally persuaded that if the Institute was to continue to exercise its aims and objectives as enshrined in the Constitution, an increase in funding, particularly at Divisional levels was a necessity. It also felt that the cost of increase would be offset by the fact that subscriptions to the Institute were an allowable deduction for income tax purposes. ●

Dear Sir,

The New South Wales Divisional Board and I as President (NSW) would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as our new Editor. Unlike most letters to the Editor, I have no axe to grind nor obscure cause to champion. I would like to put two issues to our members through the NER and ask for their comment. The membership of the Institute forms a large, diversified part of the emergency management sector and is full of a great deal of experience and talent. I sit on national committees/workshops that deal with emergency management issues and I am often told what "I" as an emergency practitioner want or 'need to have done to me'. But what do we think?

MY FIRST QUESTION POSES:

Is local government really committed to emergency management or does it only provide lip service?

I have my own views as a person who has been in the emergency management sector for 37 years, in both state government and now local government.

MY SECOND QUESTION:

Is there a place for unionism in voluntary organisations involved in emergency response/management?

If so, does it differ between organisations, states, government-funded organisations, non-government organisations; and how much does the culture of the organisation dictate the nature and effectiveness of the union/association?

The NER is unique in that it reaches a truly national audience made up of industry practitioners and experts. I ask members to respond to my questions to enable me to compile some statistics and report back to them in forthcoming journals. It's time we started using this most valuable resource to not only disseminate information, but also gather information from our members.

I can be reached through the link on our website for the NSW President or I can be contacted through the telephone numbers listed in the NER.

Yours in emergency management,

Alan Holley, FAIES

President, NSW Division

THE ROLE OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMISSIONER



Emergency Services Commissioner Bruce Esplin.

Alan **Alder**, OAM, LFAIES

Registrar, Victoria Division



ERVICES R

IF YOU ASKED AUSTRALIA'S ONLY EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMISSIONER TO SUM UP HIS ROLE, HE WOULD TELL YOU IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS.



Bruce Esplin inspects the largest fuel reduction burn ever undertaken in the Otways, April 22, 2008. He is with representatives from DSE and Parks Victoria.

Relationships - a deceptively simple answer for a position that's charged under legislation with providing independent advice to government on any issue relating to emergency management, with the oversight of Victoria's emergency services.

The role of Emergency Services Commissioner was established under the Emergency Management Act 1986 to support the role of the Co-ordinator in Chief of Emergency Management which is the Minister for Police and Emergency Services in overseeing emergency planning response and recovery.

The first and current Commissioner, Bruce Esplin, was appointed to the role in June 2000 and since then has applied an impartial approach whilst working hand in hand with agencies, government and the community to oversee and enhance Victoria's emergency management arrangements.

"As Commissioner, my role is to ensure the state has emergency management arrangements appropriate to our level of risk and to keep those arrangements under constant review, so my office examines them after events to ensure that we learn what went well, what didn't, and what needs to be modified to improve and strengthen our system," said Commissioner Esplin.

The Emergency Services Commissioner also plays a key role in whole-of-government response to emergency situations impacting Victoria including bushfires, gas explosions, extreme storms and floods, critical infrastructure failure and anything else that may constitute a major emergency.

The Commissioner is charged with overseeing the effective utilisation of the common resources of the emergency services, and encouraging and facilitating co-operation between all agencies before, during and after an emergency.

Commissioner Esplin has played a hand in developing Victoria's response to international crises such as the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States, the bombings in Bali, the Madrid train line and Jakarta embassy as well as Australia's response to the tsunami in South East Asia, and the London bombings in 2005.

Another component of the role of the Emergency Services Commissioner is to establish and monitor standards for the prevention and management of emergencies, which are required to be adopted by Victoria's prescribed emergency service agencies.

Commissioner Esplin has also undertaken a number of independent, highly sensitive inquiries into the activities



of government agencies and the appropriateness of the state's emergency management arrangements.

Working directly with communities before and after emergencies, the Commissioner ensures communities have an opportunity to speak directly with senior representatives in government, and to contribute to the planning and policy of the way emergencies are managed.

Interestingly, if you ask Commissioner Esplin where emergency service agencies have made the most progress and where the room for improvement still lies, the answer is one and the same.

"Communication, co-operation and working with the community," he says.

"It all comes back to working together, for agencies this means better integration and working even more closely together. It also means seeing the community as a true partner in their own safety."

You begin to get a sense of what Commissioner Esplin means when he says the job is all about relationships.

Inquiries such as the 2003 Victorian Bushfire Inquiry or the work done meeting directly with communities to review the 2005-2006 statewide fires and Gippsland floods gives communities a chance to influence improvements in the emergency management sector.

This is something Commissioner Esplin regards as a key to the strength of emergency management arrangements in Victoria.

"By meeting with individuals and communities face to face, around the kitchen table at their homes, and on their farms, we give people the opportunity to have a direct say in their own safety, in how they think things could be improved in the future."

To this end the Commissioner travels the length and breadth of Victoria in his work with all communities.

The move away from seeing the community as merely the passive recipient of services to an active participant in their own safety planning, sees the need for individuals and communities to take personal responsibility for themselves and their communities, something the Commissioner is passionate about.

"Our rural communities are a fantastic example of resilient Victorians who understand the personal responsibility message, who protect their homes from bushfire, and who don't expect a fire truck at every house. More than 31,000 people attended bushfire preparedness meetings last year to find out what they had to do to play their part. This number had grown from 8,000 in 2002/2003.



The Emergency Services Commissioner and the then Premier of Victoria, Steve Bracks announce the findings of the Victorian Bushfire Inquiry in 2004.

The Commissioner has supported the drive for more engaged communities by involving and fostering partnerships with non-traditional emergency service providers, like media outlets, telecommunication carriers and infrastructure operators.

The Commissioner sees establishing partnerships with the likes of the ABC as the emergency broadcaster - a policy which has now been mirrored nationally - and including the private sector such as telecommunications and power as critical. The intent is to create practical connections for communities facing emergencies and create a seamless approach to emergency management.

The Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner is currently undertaking an inquiry into the recent wind storm in Melbourne, and a review of port emergency response.

For more information about the work of the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner visit the website www.oesc.vic.gov.au

OVERVIEW OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner is supported in his portfolio of responsibilities by two Deputy Commissioners, a Director of Strategy and Finance and four branches within his office comprising a team of 40 to 50 people.

POLICY AND PLANNING

The Policy and Planning Branch develops and implements emergency management planning and

policy initiatives under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner, Policy and Planning.

PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW

The Performance and Review branch establishes, maintains and monitors performance standards of Victoria's emergency services and undertakes reviews and inquiries in support of the Commissioner, under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner, Performance and Review.

STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Strategic and Financial Services branch co-ordinates strategic, financial and legislative planning for the Commissioner and the sector.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND MEDIA UNIT

The Community Relations Unit provides advice and support to the Emergency Services Commissioner to assist him with his work with communities.

LEGISLATION

The Office of the Commissioner is responsible for administering the following Victorian legislation:

- Country Fire Authority Act 1958
- Emergency Management Act 1986
- Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act 1958
- Victoria State Emergency Service Act 2005
- Emergency Service Telecommunications Authority Act 2004. ●



ACT DIVISION NEWS

Philip Gaden, MAIES

Registrar, ACT Division

The ACT Division continues to grow, and our membership now stands at 20 members, which is a great result. The Division is actively pursuing new activities and services for members, as well as seeking more membership thus allowing us to attract speakers for our dinner meetings. We are also exploring the option for lunchtime or breakfast meetings to broaden our services to members.

We are developing a new meeting format, where we hope to alternate between site visits and dinner meetings every two months. With the huge range of emergency service organisations represented in the ACT and surrounding NSW district, we have a great opportunity to get involved in all levels of emergency service from local and state (ACT and NSW) as well as federal.

Our first site visit for 2008 was held on May 13, at the Lake George Zone Fire Control and Operations Centre at Queanbeyan. We were hosted by Inspector Peter Weatherstone, the Learning and Development Officer, who showed us through the facilities. We are also pleased to welcome Peter to the ACT Division of the Institute.

The Lake George Zone covers the Queanbeyan City and Palerang Shire, and encompasses some 1200 volunteers with nearly 60 brigades in the area. Some of the challenges facing the zone are the expansion of the township of Bungendore and new Defence Headquarters facility nearby.

The strong growth in the region has created additional requirements for the Rural Fire Service. In the coming financial year, breathing apparatus will be fitted in some brigades. This capability will be welcome, however represents an increased training burden on volunteers.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 8. For details please contact the Registrar, Phil Gaden by email to pwg@amsa.gov.au or 0413137761. ●



Figure 1



Figure 2

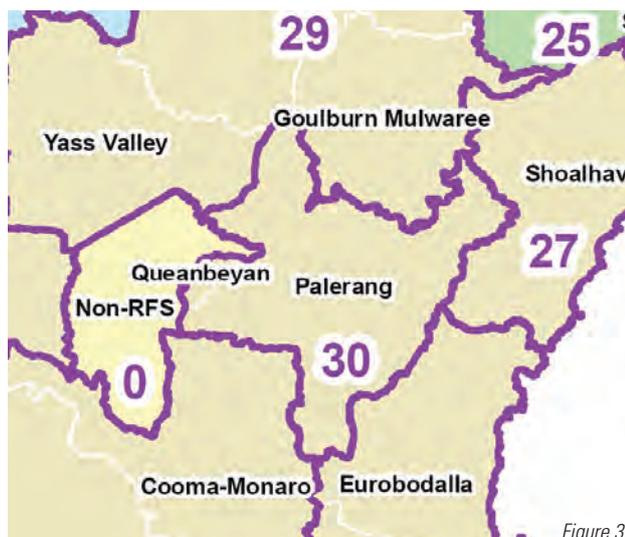


Figure 3

Figure 1: Peter Weatherstone explaining the T-card system to members.

Figure 2: Lake George Zone Fire Control Communications Room.

Figure 3: Lake George Zone. Image courtesy of NSW Rural Fire Service.



SA DIVISION NEWS

Jan Burgess, MAIES

Registrar, South Australia Division

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following is the registrar's report for the Institute year ending December 31, 2007. The following are some general comments on the activities of this division for the past 12 months.

MEMBERSHIP

During the Institute financial year from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007, 10 applications for membership were received. Two of these were from previous members who had let their membership lapse.

Those 10 applications were from the following organisations;

- SA Health Department 6
- SA Ambulance Services 1
- State Emergency Service 2
- Sea Rescue Squadron 1

Nine members were lost due to failure to advise new contact/address information. There were four resignations due to a variety of reasons.

Our membership drive continued during 2007 and is ongoing.

Total financial membership as at December 31, 2007: 151 (inclusive of ordinary members, fellows, life members and corporate members)

Total members on mailing list as at December 31, 2007: 214.

ACTIVITIES

The major program of this division continues to be the conducting of dinner meetings every two months. This year, the committee changed the venue of these meetings and I am sure you would agree it has been for the best. Our sincere thanks go to the staff and management of the public schools club who made the transition a welcome one.

Guest speakers are chosen carefully for their involvement in emergency and disaster matters whose subjects will be of general interest to the members. The response to these meetings varies from meeting to meeting with an average attendance of about 30.

There has been, once again, a varied program provided for the members, as shown right.

February meeting: Ms Val Smyth Project Manager, Pandemic Influenza Programme
Dept of Health

"Pandemic Influenza – Our Preparedness"

April meeting: Superintendent Andy Telfer
OIC Disaster Identification Unit
SA Police Force

"Role in Response to Events such as Bali and Tsunami In Thailand"

June meeting: Bob Pamment
accompanied by Declan
Guide Dogs SA/NT

"Community Awareness and the Role of Guide Dogs"

August meeting: Tim Anson - Pathologist
University of Adelaide

"Investigating the Crimes of the Regime in Iraq"

October meeting: Bob Crockford
District Officer Special Operations
SA Metropolitan Fire Service

*"How I Avoided Getting My *** and Other Parts Burnt for 29 Years"*

December meeting: Mr James Irvine
Irvine Wines, Eden Valley
"Mr Merlot - My Story"

Sincere thanks must go to the public schools club and their staff for the magnificent support and service they have provided to the Institute.

CONCLUSION

The Institute continues to provide a forum that encourages communication between the different services and organisations that respond to personal and public emergencies and/or disasters. This enables us to have a greater understanding of each organisation's capabilities and this is invaluable in the management of emergencies as and when they occur. For the greatest benefit to be achieved it is in everyone's interest to encourage other people to become members of the Institute and, where possible, to attend the Institute dinner meetings. ●





TASMANIA DIVISION NEWS

Maurice Massie, QPM, LFAIES

Tasmanian Representative

DIVISIONAL ACTIVITIES

Our Divisional Board has met on a regular basis throughout the year. Additionally, three dinner meetings have been held but attendance at these has been somewhat mixed.

As Council will be aware, our Division hosted the Annual General Meeting of the Institute at the Lindisfarne RSL Club on the evening of April 16, 2007 and you will recall that at this meeting, the 30th anniversary of the Institute was celebrated.

The Division was also responsible for arranging the venue for the General Council meeting and the accommodation of the delegates and their partners, in Hobart. On behalf of our Division and Council, I subsequently wrote to the Commissioner of Police Tasmania, thanking him for making his staff and facilities available to us thus enabling the conduct of our General Council Meeting at Police Headquarters.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Tasmania Division stands at 40. This is a substantial decrease in membership compared to last year, which stood at 51. The major reason for this decrease has been due to the non-payment of membership fees by individual members. A number of other members were lost during the year due to retirement and ill health. I am happy to advise however, that four members have been approved by the Divisional Board and their applications are currently being processed.

The Division is making every endeavour to increase our membership and we have activities programmed that we hope will achieve this end.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Tasmania Division was conducted at the Lindisfarne RSL on Saturday February 23, 2008. Immediately following that meeting, the new Divisional Board met and confirmed the following positions for the year:

President	Darrell Johnson (SES)
Vice President	Martin Boyle (SES/Customs)
Board Members	David Paton (Tas. Police Ret'd) Peter Geard (Tas. Fire/SES) Les Batchelor (Chaplain Service) Maurice Massie (Tas. Police Ret'd)
Registrar	Jannene Geard
	Ph: (03) 6249 0918 or (03) 6268 1143
	Email: registrar.tas@aies.net.au
	Postal address: PO Box 1, Lindisfarne TAS 7015
Treasurer	Les Batchelor
Auditor	Bob Graff
National Rep	Maurice Massie
North West Rep	Ron Jones

P J PARSSEY AWARD 2008

There were two nominations for this year's award, and after much deliberation of the Divisional Board, was Mr Leigh Higgins of Bruny Island declared as a worthy winner.

Leigh joined the SES on Bruny Island and was the local co-ordinator for the Bruny Island Council. When Kingborough Council took over responsibility from the Bruny Island Council, Leigh remained as the local co-ordinator on the Island. Trained in Road Accident Rescue, Leigh was instrumental in developing an excellent rescue capability on Bruny Island. He is a past recipient of the Emergency Services Medal.

The presentation of the award was made by Betty Parssey, wife of the late Peter Parssey, at our Annual General Meeting. The P J Parssey Award has been an ongoing project by the Tasmania Division for 19 years and perpetuates the name of Peter Parssey, who at the time of his passing, was a member of the Tasmanian Divisional Board and a co-ordinator of the Clarence SES Unit.

CONCLUSION

The Tasmania Divisional Board looks forward to the challenges of growing our membership and increasing the profile of the Institute within the State in 2008/09. ●



VICTORIA DIVISION NEWS

Alan Marshall, OStJ, FAIES

President, Victoria Division

As at December 31, 2007, the Victoria Division had 106 members. This is an increase of six from last year. With the change in the Institute's financial year which is now January 1 to December 31, we only have three unfinancial members at year's end. Follow-up reminder notices have gone out. We understand that one of the three may be on an overseas assignment.

We have had two resignations of long serving members of the Victoria division: that of Kevin Icely who has been a member since 1988 and was a regular attendee at these annual dinners and Jeffery Smith. We value the support of our long-time members and wish them well in their retirement.

A number of State Divisions report an increase in membership, which we attribute to our excellent institute magazine - *National Emergency Response*. I think you will agree that the magazine is now of very high quality both in content and production. We have received many complimentary comments about NER including those from two new applicants currently being processed, a true indicator of the long-held General Council view that a professionally produced magazine strongly enhances our image and creates interest in the Institute. Our congratulations to the editor and the publisher of NER.

We are currently still having problems with our website which was devastated by several virus attacks. We look forward to it being completely reconstructed. This had meant that interested applicants have not been able to download the application forms from the site. Victoria has recently mailed out four forms to personnel who managed to get onto the Registrar address on the new homepage.

The 29th Combined Emergency Services Seminar was again supported by the Institute. It was held at Hawthorn on October 27. This is the 26th year that it has received AIES support. The seminar met all of the expectations of the seminar committee. There were over 100 paying attendees. It was opened by Ms Danielle Green who is the Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Services. The keynote address was given by the Victorian Emergency Services Commissioner, Mr Bruce Esplin.

There were speakers from VICPOL, CFA, SES, DSE,

Telstra, WorkSafe and the Australian Transport Safety Authority (ATSB).

The input from these services contributed to a most successful seminar.

As the Victoria Division President, I took the opportunity at the seminar to address the audience following the afternoon break, on the roles of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services.

As a result, interest was raised from some of the attendees seeking more information. Full self-explanatory application forms were mailed out to four enquirers. This is in addition to those that were mentioned earlier.

Planning for the 30th seminar is well under way; it will be held on October 25 with the theme '30 years- Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow'. Emergency and support services are being approached for speakers, and Trevor White, VICSES Director of Operations, will open the seminar with AIES stalwart Roger Jones giving the keynote address.

The Australian Institute of Emergency Services continues to play a vital role in maintaining links between emergency service personnel.

The two recent instances of flooding in Victoria again emphasised the need for all of our emergency and support services to interact; lessons learnt during the first flood enabled the second incident to be much closer controlled with much improved resource management.

Throughout any emergency, we need to keep our communication lines open, respect each other's roles in emergency services and continue to look out for each other at all levels of responsibility.

Each of us needs to consider our roles as emergency service personnel.

- We need to know what our role is exactly,
- We need to ask ourselves if our role is effective,
- Are we acting efficiently and
- Who might eventually replace us, thus ensuring that the knowledge and experience we have gained in the service is passed on?

I thank the registrar for his support. I thank you the members, for your ongoing support to the aims of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services. ●

NORTHERN TERRITORY EMERGENCY SERVICES



*Our future emergency services operatives in Northern Australia.
Photo by courtesy of the Northern Territory Emergency Services.*



*Members of the Northern Territory
Emergency/Fire Services at a recent
rescue exercise in Darwin.
Photo by courtesy of the Northern
Territory Emergency Services.*

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Michael John (Mick) Davis, AM

*FAIES, FACAP, LMACAP, FCHSE, MBA, Grad. Dip. Mgt. BBus
Director, General Council of AIES, Queensland Division*

Mick has 44 years experience in ambulance service delivery in both state administration and regional operations. He began his ambulance career in Rockhampton (Qld) as an Honorary Officer in 1964 and was appointed to the permanent staff in 1969.

Mick has since served in road and air ambulance operations, in training, special projects, and in supervisory and senior management roles including Acting Assistant Commissioner, District Superintendent, Superintendent Planning & Personnel (GBR) and State Manager Staff Development in QAS leading many innovative changes. His current appointment in QAS is Manager Workplace Health & Safety and Heritage & History.

Mick joined the AIES in 1993 and was elected to the Qld Division Council in 2000. Since 1975, he has held senior positions in many other organisations (two of which are now public companies), many associations and chaired many association and company sub-committees. He is currently serving as Queensland Division Chair and Director on the General Council.

In 1981, Mick was elected to the Institute of Ambulance Officers (Aust) National Council and served in most of its executive roles. He served as IAO National President from 1992 to 1995. Mick was a member

of the team that developed and implemented the "College" concept that re-constituted the IAO (Aust) to become the Public Company and College called The Australian College of Ambulance Professionals (ACAP). Mick is currently a National Director of ACAP and National Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Standing Committee. He is also a Director on the National Board of the Order of Australia Association and current Queensland Chairman of the Association.

He is currently a Director and Treasurer on the Board of the Health and Community Services Workforce Council having now served on that Board for nine years. Mick also is the current State Branch Registrar for the Queensland Branch of the Australian College of Health Service Executives.

Mick has extensive experience in the application of contemporary corporate governance principles and has coached many new national directors on this subject. He also has extensive experience in convening national and international conferences and specialised education events.

Mick was appointed "Member" (AM) of the Order of Australia in June 2000 for his services to the Australian College of Ambulance Professionals and to ambulance education and training at national and state levels. ●

John Rice, MAIES

President, ACT Division

*Senior Search and Rescue Officer, Australian Search and Rescue (AusSSAR) Emergency Response,
Australian Maritime Safety Authority*

John joined the Queensland Police in 1973, serving in both uniform and plain clothes. He left the police in 2000 to pursue further challenges in the field of search and rescue, having been appointed as the Queensland Police State Search and Rescue Co-ordinator and Training Officer and Officer-in-Charge of Water Police.

John has been a helicopter rescue crewman with Surf Lifesaving Australia and CareFlight Queensland and a volunteer member of the Queensland State Emergency Service and New South Wales Rural Fire Brigade. He is qualified in land, marine and aviation search and rescue management, helicopter winch operations, fast roping, rappelling, FLIR and as an air search observer leader and fixed wing drop master/dispatcher.

In 2000, he took up a position with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority where he qualified as an Aviation SAR Specialist and Senior Maritime Co-ordinator

(RCC Australia) and was appointed to the position of Principle Adviser – Training and Standards and Director, National Search and Rescue School.

John is a recipient of the Australian National Sea Safety Award "in recognition of his contribution to sea safety and the saving of lives at sea" and a Queensland Ambulance Service, Assistant Commissioner's Commendation for his work in the development of a Marine Ambulance Program on the Gold Coast. He is the author of "The Search & Rescue System", the procedures and operations manual adopted as the standard doctrine by the National Police Search and Rescue Managers training program (Maritime Search and Rescue). He has also been a consultant to Australian Emergency Management (Disaster Rescue) and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (National Search and Rescue Manual).

John has been a member of the Institute since 1988. ●



BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Chris Ainsworth, MAIES

Board Member, South Australia Division

Christopher J Ainsworth, 2008 - Fulbright Professional Scholarship in Vocational Education and Training (VET) sponsored by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

"My Fulbright Scholarship will be a unique opportunity to forge strong Australian/US alliances, which can prepare Emergency Management operatives to work in a global environment."

Chris Ainsworth, Executive Officer of the Risk and Emergency Management Education Centre (RAEMEC) and a Project Consultant to Swinburne University, has won the 2008 Fulbright Professional Scholarship in Vocational Education and Training (VET) sponsored by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. This scholarship was established in 1995 to support the exchange of research and ideas in VET between Australia and the United States.

Through his Fulbright Scholarship, Chris Ainsworth will undertake research with the City of Austin's Office of Emergency Management and the City of Dallas' Office of Emergency Management, on a project to increase professional respect between full-time and volunteer emergency management staff through equitable access to training. He plans to undertake his six months research from June 2008.

"I plan to research US emergency and risk management organisations that have full-time and volunteer functional roles. I will review major disasters, the aftermath and recovery, integrating lessons learnt into an Advanced Diploma of Public Safety – Emergency Management, enhancing the program and incorporating 'emerging world practice' standards."

Chris hopes his Fulbright will provide a foundation in the development of an Australian applied undergraduate program in Emergency Management. As well, he hopes it will establish long-term linkages with Emergency Management Offices in Austin and Dallas with the view of strategy and internship exchanges. "Outcomes will contribute to the long-term sustainability of world-class emergency management training in Australia," believes Chris.

Chris is currently completing an MBA with the University of Adelaide and has completed two Advanced Diploma's in Public Safety, Emergency

His involvement with the Australian Institute of Emergency Services Board for the past several years has equipped him with not only a statewide, but also a national perspective in his field.

Management and Community Safety with Swinburne University of Technology Melbourne and a Diploma of e-Learning at the University of Technology – Sydney.

In 2001, Chris was named an Australian National Training Authority – Flexible Learning Leader and in 2002 was awarded a South Australian Emergency Services Levi Grant to pilot and implement his Flexible Learning Leaders Research. His involvement with the Australian Institute of Emergency Services Board for the past several years has equipped him with not only a statewide, but also a national perspective in his field.

Chris is also a volunteer with the South Australian Country Fire Service (SA CFS), where he helped co-ordinate the introduction of the Advanced Diploma of Public Safety – Firefighting Management into the suite of leadership programs.

The prestigious Fulbright program is the largest educational scholarship of its kind, created by US Senator J William Fulbright and the US Government in 1946. Aimed at promoting mutual understanding through educational exchange, it operates between the US and 150 countries. In Australia, the scholarships are funded by the Australian and US Governments and corporate partners and administered by the Australian-American Fulbright Commission in Canberra.

Chris is one of 24 talented Australians to be recognised as a Fulbright Scholar in 2008. Applications for Fulbright Scholarships in 2009 open on June 1, visit www.fulbright.com.au

Communications Manager Australian-American Fulbright Commission commsmanager@fulbright.com.au
61 2 6260 4460 www.fulbright.com.au ●





bluelight

www.bluelight.com.au

www.bluelight.com.au is the official website of the various Blue Light State Councils. Its purpose is to provide our **youth with information** about **Blue Light events, activities** and other **Police Youth initiatives**. The web site also enables the user the opportunity to **give feedback** for further enhancement of the Blue Light organisation. Within the site are links to other affiliated web sites, which have specialised information concerning **drugs** and **alcohol, sexual abuse, suicide prevention** and **crisis help** from appropriate professional organisations, which they can access in privacy, at school or home.

www.bluelight.com.au

DISASTER MANAGEMENT IS PLANET MANAGEMENT

FACTS, CHALLENGES, AND FORECASTS FOR 2008

This summary contains some of the most crucial data, and describes the challenges for creating safe, sound and secure communities in 2008.

Gunnar J Kuepper

Emergency & Disaster Management, Inc California

WORLD POPULATION

The 200 million square miles of Earth surface (60 million sq miles land area, 140 million sq miles water) contain the entire human population of currently 6.6 billion people. The surface is segregated by 265 nations, dependent areas, and other entities.

About 50% of the world's population today lives in urbanised areas.

33% belong to the Christian religion (of which 17% are Roman Catholics, 6% Protestants, 4% Orthodox, 1.25% Anglicans, and others), 20% are Muslims, 13% are Hindus, 6% Buddhists, 0.37% Sikhs and 0.23% belong to the Jewish faith. 13% belong to other religions, 12% are non-religious and 2.4% are atheists.

ECONOMY

The global economy grew at 5.4% in 2006 to US \$66 trillion. The population grew 1.1% to 6.6 billion, and the average world per capita income increased by 4.3%.

However, only two per cent of the world's richest people own more than 50% of the global wealth, while the poorest 50% of people own just 1%. Or, in other words, the income of the 225 richest people on the planet is equal to those of the poorest 2.7 billion people, about 40% of the world population.

According to the International Monetary Fund, the annual gross domestic product (GDP) at purchasing power parity (PPP) per capita ranges:

- from around US \$1,000 or less (many African countries such as Niger, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, etc.)
- to about US \$37,000 (most industrialised nations such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden)
- to approximately US \$44,000 for the USA
- to more than US \$70,000 for Luxembourg and Bermuda.

The GDP – PPP list, unlike the nominal GDP, does reflect differences in the cost of living in different countries. In the nominal GDP, people in more than 100 countries have an annual income of less than US \$5,000. Of that, people in nearly 50 countries do earn less than US \$1,000 a year.

DISASTER COSTS

According to Munich Re, one of the world's largest re-insurance companies, 950 natural disasters were recorded in 2007, which is up from 850 last year, and the highest figure since the company started keeping systematic records in 1974.

The damage caused by natural disasters in 2007, mainly earthquakes, hurricanes, flooding, and wild fires amounted to US \$75 billion (EUR 52 billion). One of the costliest events was Storm Kyrill that affected large parts of Northern and Western Europe in January of 2007. Kyrill was unusual in that its field of hurricane-force winds was very broad, resulting in insured losses of about US \$5.8 billion (EUR 4 billion) and total economic losses of some US \$10 billion (EUR 6.9 billion). Germany alone accounted for half of these losses.

Two flooding events in June and July in Great Britain each led to insured losses of about US \$3 billion (EUR 2.1 billion) and total economic losses of US \$4 billion (EUR 2.8).

A mid-April winter storm in the US resulted in losses of US \$1.57 billion (EUR 1.1 billion), and the October wildfires in California amounted to insured losses of at least US \$1.9 billion (EUR 1.3 billion).

The deadliest natural disasters in 2007 included the South Asia flooding from July to September, which claimed around 3,000 lives, as well as November's tropical cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh, which accounted for the loss of 3,300 people.

GLOBAL HEALTH

The world's average life expectancy has increased from 48 years in 1955 to 67 years today (USA today 77 years). Life expectancy in India at mid-century was around 32 years and had risen to 64 years by 2000. The global population seems to change from high mortality and high fertility, to low mortality and low fertility.

But again, due to HIV/AIDS and other public health issues, from sanitation to nutrition, today's life expectancy in poorer nations is almost half that of the industrialised, richer nations.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that CO₂ emissions rose faster than its worst-case scenarios projected during 2000-2004 and may, without significant actions, rise 25% - 90% over the 2000 levels by 2030. It is estimated that China surpassed the United States in carbon emissions in 2006 by 8%. The USA actually decreased its CO₂ emissions by 1.4% from the previous year.

One of the consequences of global warming is rising sea levels which, according to NASA, will threaten more than 630 million people living in coastal areas.

The trend in respect to weather extremes shows that climate change is already taking effect, and more related catastrophes should be expected in the future. Decision-makers should not be misled by the absence of mega-catastrophes in a single year 2007.

As an example, and mainly unnoticed from the general public, a record amount of Greenland's ice sheet melted in the summer of 2007, exceeding the previous high mark by 19 billion tonnes. In addition, for the first time on record, the Northwest Passage, a shipping route connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans across the Arctic, became a navigable waterway.

A team of scientists discovered in September of 2007 that large tracts of Arctic sea ice were merely three feet deep, down from six feet only six years ago.

One study says that the average global temperature has risen to the warmest level of the past 12,000 years. Temperatures are only 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit below the maximum temperature of the past million years.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

In addition to global warming and subsequent climate changes, large areas of our planet are subject to overpopulation; industrial disasters; air, water, and soil pollution; loss of vegetation due to overgrazing, deforestation, and desertification; loss of wetlands, wildlife, and non-renewable mineral resources including hydrocarbons; and soil degradation, depletion, and erosion.

The human population increased from 1 billion in 1820, to 2 billion in 1930, to 3 billion in 1960. From there, it nearly exploded to 4 billion in 1974, 5 billion in 1988, and 6 billion in 2000.

Subsequently, unsustainable exploitations of ecosystems are currently under way in large parts of Asia, Africa and South America. The above human activities increase the risk of nonlinear and irreversible changes in the environment, which may have catastrophic effects on human health and development.

WATER CRISES

Water is essential for all forms of life on earth, from plants, to animals, to humans. Life on earth can't

exist without water. Because of overpopulation, mass consumption, misuse, and pollution, the availability of drinking water per capita is inadequate and shrinking as of the year 2006. The 2003 UNESCO World Water Development Report predicts that within the next 20 years, the quantity of water available to everyone may decrease by 30%. It is estimated that 90% of all wastewater in underdeveloped and developing countries goes untreated into local rivers and streams.

Currently, 40% of the world's inhabitants have insufficient fresh water for minimal hygiene, and at least 1 billion people routinely drink unhealthy water. In China alone, 300 million people do not have clean water, and about 750 million do not have access to improved sanitation. Half of China's 617 largest cities face water deficits, and the capital city, Beijing, with a population of nearly 18 million, is among the most water-short.

In the year 2000, more than 2.2 million people worldwide died from waterborne diseases related to the consumption of contaminated water, or drought.

According to a UN climate report, the Himalayan glaciers that feed Asia's biggest rivers - Ganges, Indus, Brahmaputra, Yangtze, Mekong, Salween and Yellow - could disappear by 2035 as temperatures rise. Approximately 2.4 billion people live in the basin of these rivers. In India alone, the Ganges provides water for drinking and farming for more than 500 million people. India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar could experience severe floods followed by droughts in coming decades.

Due to today's extensive use in agriculture, high-tech manufacturing, and energy production, water is increasingly more precious than ever in our history. As another example, according to the WWF (World Wildlife Fund), untreated wastewater from China's Yangtze River basin has become the single largest polluter of the Pacific Ocean.

Therefore, water is a strategic resource around the globe and will be one of the critical and causative elements for future political conflicts.

Necessary resolutions, from improved water management, to sustainable use, or even energy-intensive desalination are far from being achieved particularly in underdeveloped or developing countries.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

80% of the population (87% male and 77% female) over age 15 can read and write, which is one of the major achievements of our times. However, over two-thirds of the world's 785 million illiterate adults are found in only eight countries (India, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Egypt); of all the illiterate adults in the world, two-thirds are women.



The combined unemployment and underemployment in many non-industrialised countries is 30%; developed nations typically have a 4% - 12% unemployment rate.

MIGRATION

Subsequent to the gap in economic power and employment opportunities, 74 million so-called "south to south" migrants move each year from one developing country to another, and 84 million so-called "south to north" migrants move from poor states to rich ones.

The massive internal and transnational migration increases the world's population of "slum" dwellers by at least 25 million every year. These legal or illegal settlements are located at the fringes of urban margins, with insufficient housing, sanitation, employment, or other infrastructure. This is causing serious problems in the political, social, and economic arenas. Today's and the future's record-setting populations in those urban shanty towns have little or no access to education, healthcare, or the urban economy. Subsequently, these areas are breeding grounds not only for diseases, but for all kinds of violent activities including street gangs, illegal militias, religious militants, and terrorists.

In 2006, ethnic and cultural clashes were the cause of continued territorial fragmentation and internal displacement of an estimated 6.6 million people, and cross-border displacements of 8.6 million refugees around the world. Just over one million refugees were repatriated in the same period.

One of many examples is the current situation in Zimbabwe, a country in the southern part of Africa. Political and economic turmoil with rampant unemployment, skyrocketing inflation, food shortages, etc., continued to create havoc for the population of 12 million in 2007.

Up to 3 million people are believed to have fled to neighbouring countries in recent years. An estimated 1.8 million Zimbabweans are infected with HIV/AIDS.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Two hundred years ago, most of today's technologies, from nuclear, to pharmaceutical, mass transportation including aviation, etc, did not exist and were not even envisioned. It the late 1890s, Henri Becquerel, Pierre and Marie Curie discovered a new phenomenon which came to be called radioactivity. At that time, neither these three Nobel Prize winning physicists nor the public could visualise the subsequent progressions, from the first atomic bombs in 1945, to the commercial use of nuclear power in the early 1950s, to the Chernobyl disaster in April of 1986.

Following the explosion of the nuclear power plant in the Northern Ukraine, a plume of highly radioactive particles went into the atmosphere and drifted over parts of the western Soviet Union, Europe, and Northern America. In the aftermath of the nuclear meltdown, at least 400,000 people had to be evacuated and resettled away from the highly contaminated exclusion zone near the disaster site. Worldwide, millions of people, livestock and wildlife alike became exposed to unhealthy levels of radioactivity.

These consequences were not foreseen by the scientists who started working in the early 1900s with uranium salts and radium. They received various radiation burns, much like sunburn, and thought little of it.

A similar development can be identified through the progress of the chemical industry. In 1872, 15 sulfuric acid manufacturers founded the Manufacturing Chemists' Association of the United States, predecessor of the American Chemistry Council. Four years later, in 1876, the American Chemical Society was established. The organic compound methyl isocyanate (MIC) was discovered in 1888 as an ester of isocyanic acid. About 100 years later, on December 3, 1984, the accidental release of MIC from a chemical plant in the city of Bhopal, India, led to the immediate death of approximately 4,000 people, caused more than 100,000 injuries and exposed probably up to half a million people to the toxic substance.

In 1996, a female sheep named Dolly was the first mammal to be cloned from an adult somatic cell, using the process of nuclear transfer. This was remarkable because it proved that a cell taken from a specific body part could create a whole individual. Previously it was believed that a specific cell could only produce replicas of the same body part from which it was obtained. The animal was cloned by Ian Wilmut, Keith Campbell and colleagues at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, Scotland, and lived normally for six years.

Since then, many other large mammals have been cloned, including horses, cows, goats, pigs, rats, mice, rabbits, cats and mules. In April of 2005, "Snuppy", the world's first cloned dog was born. Cloning technology is now considered a promising tool for preserving endangered species. However, like the researchers, physicists and engineers in the 19th century, we will experience the still unknown advances, threats, and unintended consequences of the production of identical genetic clones, and other modern technologies in the times to come.

In the US, the Federal government does not support research involving cloning human embryos, but Americans already eat genetically modified corn and soybeans.



Today, the continued and exponential growth in science and technology, from biotechnology, to communication and information, to new technologies such as robotics and nanotech, raises both hopes (eg, to solve many of humanity's current challenges) and fears (eg, development of even more destructive weapons used in conflict and terrorism).

OUTLOOK

Due to climate change and global warming, an increase in the severity of weather-related disasters (from flooding to drought) has to be expected.

In addition, the vulnerability of countless communities towards natural and manmade disasters is rising significantly all over the globe. More and more people with more goods and wealth settle in ever more perilous locations. As a prime example, some of the largest global metropolitan areas and economic powerhouses are located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, an area that is prone to severe earthquakes and volcanic activity. This includes the greater areas of Tokyo Bay with a population of nearly 40 million, Los Angeles with a population of nearly 20 million, and San Francisco Bay with a population of more than 7 million.

Similar trends continue not only along the hurricane-prone coastal regions of the Southeastern United States, but in most urban centres around the world. Even without an increase in frequency or magnitude in weather events, geological occurrences or manmade calamities, the growing number of people and assets in exposed areas increases the susceptibility to damages or injury.

The threat of a global pandemic by an emerging virus is still as relevant as it was at the beginning of mankind. The most recent SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak between November 2002 and July 2003, with 8,096 known infected cases and 774 deaths (a mortality rate of 9.6%) worldwide, is proof that a contagious virus can still create havoc on a global scale.

The current spread of the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus in birds is considered a significant pandemic threat. The avian H5N1 virus can't be transmitted from human-to-human, but an infection can't be treated and is mostly lethal. Of the 340 people infected as of Dec 2007, 209 have died, leading to a mortality rate of 65%.

The growing competition among states over depleting resources, from water to hydrocarbons, and increased fanaticism over issues such as ethnicity, culture, race, and religion, boost the potential for international conflicts.

With global access to information and weapons, more factions evolve to settle territorial disputes or historical/religious/cultural claims, by means of violence, terrorism and war.

Armed conflicts between the uniformed forces of independent states are currently on the decrease. At the same time, stateless, but oftentimes multinational groups that are detracted from the sustenance and welfare of local populations, increase their efforts to destabilise governments and societies through violent activities.

Once any system starts to deteriorate, it may reach a certain tipping point beyond which a catastrophic break-up may not only become explosively rapid, but also irreversible. Gunnar J Kuepper

Facing those and other extraordinary threats and challenges in the near future, the author is not extraordinarily impressed by 200 pages of Emergency Management policies and procedures that describe the process of how and when the owner of a flooded tennis court is reimbursed and to what extent. This is neither a service to our communities, nor to global health and welfare nor in any way related to the monumental task of emergency management.

For the entire report "Disaster Management 2008 – Facts, Challenges and Forecast" or for more information contact Gunnar J Kuepper at gjk@edmus.info

About the Author: Gunnar J Kuepper is Chief of Operations with Emergency & Disaster Management in Los Angeles, California. This independent firm advises private, non-profit, and governmental institutions throughout the world in emergency management programs and conducts comprehensive vulnerability studies. He has analysed, lectured, and published his findings of emergency management programs and the response operations in many catastrophic incidents, ranging from natural disasters, to human-caused accidents and technological failures, to acts of terrorism and ultraviolence.

Among his many professional activities, Gunnar serves since 1999 as a Principal on the NFPA 1600 Standard Committee and since 2007 as a Director of the California Emergency Services Association.

Gunnar was most recently re-elected for his 5th term as the Region 9 President of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). He represents more than 400 emergency managers who protect a population of nearly 50 million in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Pacific Trust Territories.

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PREVIOUS DOCUMENTS INCLUDE:

- The 2007 Version of NFPA 1600 Standard
- Drought in the Southwestern US, 2007
- Human Plague Case in Apache County, Arizona, Sep 2007
- Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) aka Blue-Ear Pig Disease, Aug 2007
- Failed Car Bombs at Glasgow Airport & London City, June 2007
- Kyrill Hurricane in Europe, Jan 2007
- 2006 Report on Future Disasters
- The 2006 U.K. Aviation Plot
- The Mumbai Train Bombings on July 11, 2006
- Southwest Boeing 737 Accident at Chicago's MDW Airport on Dec 8, 2005
- Hurricane Katrina Report
- Air France A 340 Accident, Toronto, Canada, Aug 2, 2005
- The London Bombing Attack on July 7, 2005
- The 2005 Bird Flu Report
- The 2005 Kashmir Earthquake
- Cromagnon Republic Nightclub Fire in Buenos Aires on Dec 30, 2004
- The 2004 Christmas Tsunami
- Global Aviation Terrorism, 2004
- Madrid Train Bombing, March 11, 2004
- Report on Historic Disasters: Mitigation and Recovery
- Subway Train Accident in Valencia, Spain on July 3, 2006
- 6.2 Earthquake at Java, Indonesia on May 27, 2006
- Sinking of the Egyptian Ferry Al Salam Boccaccio 98 in the Red Sea on February 3, 2006
- 2005 Briefing on the NFPA 1600 Standard ●

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The following EM professionals commented on this paper, sometimes extensively: Lloyd Bokman, John Hardcastle, Pamela L'Heureux, Sarah Leigh Williamson, Michael Martinet, Michal Mumaw.

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- 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.

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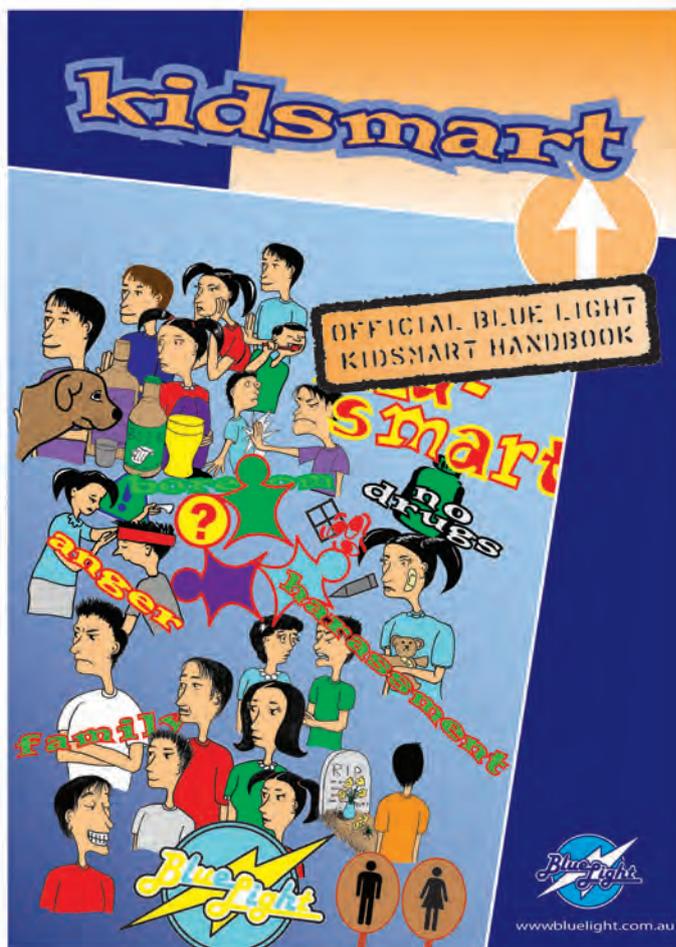
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