

# NATIONAL EMERGENCY

## RESPONSE

Official Journal of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services



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Official Publication of  
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

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www.aies.net.au

#### WEBSITE CONTENT

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

# NATIONAL EMERGENCY



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Official Journal of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services

Autumn 2014 • National Emergency Response

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**Bob Maul** LFAIES

**General Secretary/Registrar**

AIES is pleased to announce the following emergency service people were elevated to Life Fellows, Fellows or joined the AIES between December 2013 and February 2014.

NAME	ORGANISATION	STATE
Marilyn King	RFS	QLD
Alan Hatcher	FES	QLD
Leah Hepworth	WSC	VIC
Daniel Bolton	FRS	WA
Jennifer Ruffle	RFS	NSW
Phillipa Barr	EM	NSW

Please note that there appears to be some confusion with the two databases utilised by AIES. One is our online membership subscription database and the other is for mailing data for the *National Emergency Response* journal. If members need to update their details, this needs to happen in both databases; registrars can access and maintain members' details on the membership database, as well as the journal database. In the future we plan to amalgamate both lists but for now members need to be reminded to have both updated. Make sure you contact your registrar in the first instance to ensure you keep receiving the journal.

**RFS:** Rural Fire Service; **FES:** Fire and Emergency Services; **WSC:** Wellington Shire Council; **FRS:** Fire and Rescue Services; **EM:** Emergency Management



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



[www.facebook.com/aies.online](http://www.facebook.com/aies.online)

## AIES VICTORIA DIVISION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DINNER

A Dinner Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Institute AGM.

**Date:** Friday 4 April 2014

**Venue:** Club Ringwood  
Parkview Room  
Cnr Maroondah Highway and Oban Road Ringwood

**Time:** 7pm for 7.30pm dinner

**Dress:** Lounge suit or uniform  
Miniatures may be worn

**Cost:** The dinner will be subsidised with a cost to members and guests of \$40 per head

**AIES AGM  
details on  
page 9**

Our Guest Speaker is Senior Station Officer Brett Cowcher. Brett is an MFB member of the United Nations Assessment & Co-ordination Team (UNDAC) and was deployed to the Philippines following the November 2013 Category 5 Cyclone "HAIYAN" which devastated large areas with flooding and general destruction. His experiences in the role of co-ordinating deployment of Rescue and Recover teams who responded to the disaster from around the world will make an intriguing presentation.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Alan Marshall LFAIES

*National President*

## WORKING WITH COMMITMENT

Emergency Services are implementing changes in administration through legislation. There is a clear focus on serving all within the community by concentrating on the emergency, using a structured, managed approach to achieve a genuine 'all hazards, all agencies' commitment. The global information revolution, its portability and its instant visual impact, have all contributed to communities' expectations of the emergency services' response. Practically, however, the resources are not finite, and may never be able to meet the expectations. Emergency Management structures and responses will require streamlining and sometimes may need to merge in order to meet the rising costs and expectations. A major lesson we are still learning in emergencies is that with the 'all hazard, all agencies' commitment there must be a cohesive and unambiguous leadership structure that is accountable to achieve sustainable, supported change. Working within the community needs to be a structured team approach, with full support to the whole of the emergency with the best available local knowledge combined with all the available resources. Our 'all agency' approach should be fully focused on a response to an identified escalating major emergency. Our 'all hazards' approach is the approach that still needs the most attention in an emergency. Prevention and planning has to be adaptable to a wide range of situations that includes the recovery phase and the ongoing impact on communities. Commitment is required to improve the management of the needs of children and families, including the psychological issues before, during and after the emergency. We need to deliver a simplified knowledge base to pre-school children, right through to early secondary school children, about emergency management structures, their community involvement and how they may be affected.

## REOCCURRING PATTERNS

As we revisit the 2009 Black Saturday Victoria fires, five years on, and we review the recent early seasonal fires in all other states and other natural disasters like cyclone activities, we see the reoccurring pattern of early seasonal emergencies.

The review questions our ability to cope with possible changes in our understanding of management of some emergencies. Have we identified community resources, are our services able to cope, do we have the trained numbers we believe we have, to respond now to many ongoing issues? We have identified a high reliance on volunteers, their expertise, leadership and their important contribution to local knowledge. Communities are being educated about our volunteers' professionalism, capacity and value. Volunteers must truly be involved in decision the making. Volunteer leadership must not be wasted in our communities through natural attrition or structural streamlining.

We must not forget the children and family issues still ongoing in the rebuilding of communities. Resilient communities expect to get back to normal as soon as possible. However, environmental requirements and safer building regulations have an impact on the time needed to rebuild. The whole work environment of a community can be affected by a disaster. All of these issues can have a detrimental effect on children, families and the community's commitment towards recovery.

## NOTICES: DISASTER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE – GOLD COAST

Australian & New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference, Gold Coast Queensland, 5-7 May 2014. This conference is a joint initiative of three not-for-profit organisations – the Australian Institute of Emergency Services, the Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Organisation Inc and the Association for Sustainability in Business Inc.

This international event brings together key stakeholders involved in the prevention, management and recovery of major disastrous events, and is a forum to examine the issues surrounding natural and man-made hazards.

It will examine what we have learnt in the past few years and will provide a comprehensive forum that shines a light on resilience, and offers professionals (and future professionals) an opportunity



to examine the expertise, competencies and systems relating to the preparedness for future disasters, emergencies and hazards and the ability to recover from them quickly and efficiently. For more visit <http://anzdmc.com.au>

## ANNUAL MEETING OF GENERAL COUNCIL

The meeting of the General Council will be held at the Salamanca Inn, 10 Gladstone Street, Hobart, Tasmania, on 12 April 2014, commencing at 9.15am.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AIES AGM will also be held on Saturday 12 April 2014, commencing at 7pm at the Salamanca Inn, 10 Gladstone Street, Hobart, Tasmania. This meeting is hosted by the Tasmanian Division of the AIES.

For accommodation contact the Travelodge Hotel Hobart Address located at 167 Macquarie Street, Hobart.

Contact regarding this meeting should be directed to President of the Tasmanian Division Ron Jones by 10 April 2014 via phone 0427 008 705 or (03) 6429 3224, or email [president.tas@aies.net.au](mailto:president.tas@aies.net.au)

## JOURNAL CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Keeping to the theme of our Journal, each year the General Council awards a contribution of a published article in the *National Emergency Response*. I encourage you all to continue the delivery of your excellent articles to your magazine.

On behalf of the General Council of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services, I thank you for your support, stay safe and healthy and continue your networking. ●

# CHILDREN IN DISASTERS: THE WAY FORWARD



Professor Beverley Raphael and Dr Penelope Burns suggest that better education for children, their parents and teachers, about disasters plays a significant role in their protection.

Professor Beverley **Raphael** and Dr Penelope **Burns**

*Source: Australian Journal of Emergency Management, Volume 29 No. 1, January 2014*

Children have greater vulnerability, both physically and mentally, in disasters but the ways children experience 'disasters' varies enormously. Both the impact of the disaster and the response of the child will be influenced by many factors. These include, but are not limited to, the age and developmental stage of the child, whether the child is alone or with family or trusted adults in familiar environments, and socio-demographic and cultural factors.

The particular hazard of the disaster influences the degree to which children may be affected. In Australia, natural disasters are frequent, seen in the media, and often, in ways, feel familiar to the child. But the severity and terror may be overwhelming in severe and sudden catastrophes such as Cyclones Larry and Yasi (Queensland) or the Black Saturday bushfires (Victoria). Disasters caused by human activities, such as terrorism are different and potentially threatening in other ways.

The nature of the exposure, such as the degree to which there is a threat to life of self or loved ones, the fear generated, and the consequence of loss, injury, damage and dislocation, may have on-going effects on the child and

family, in terms of physical and mental health, social and economic problems.

## CURRENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Education programs for children about disasters have been implemented. These include models such as preparedness actions for cyclones with a school-based strategy planned for children, and homework planned with parents (Ronan, Crellin & Johnston 2012). More directly focused initiatives include, responding to warning messages, safety in the face of impact, school training on evacuation, the roles of teachers in gathering and checking children, and self-protection strategies. Programs include 'Drop Down Low and Go Go Go', 'Stop Drop and Roll' (NSWRFS 2005) for fire, and 'Drop Cover and Hold' for earthquakes (NZ Government 2012). Education in understanding warning, threat, and actions to be taken for protection and safety are critical. The messages need to be clear and simple with well-defined brief action statements. Training and practice can embed survival strategies as part of the child's repertoire in a crisis.

Focusing education and training initiatives on the disasters children are

most likely to experience is particularly important. In the Australian context, this includes floods, fire, cyclones, and storms. Media exposure learning may create unreal views. At one extreme there is inevitable destruction, death and helplessness, and at the other, there is invincibility. The realities of severe impacts can bring shock and fear to adults and children; and these may powerfully reverberate in times to come.

## TRAINING IN CONTEXT

The context of children's lives will be critical when they are exposed to disaster. The importance of early reunion with family can be a powerful force for a child's wellbeing and recovery into a safe world. Comforting children, particularly younger children, can help to settle their arousal and bring back a sense of security. Being with teachers and other known and trusted adults who are well informed in safety procedures and have educated the children in their care about what they need to do in an emergency will also be reassuring.

Calm, confident and effective action can lower arousal and give a sense that the threat can be addressed. The emergency, particularly if life-threatening, is likely to impact very significantly on children.



Younger children may not understand the finality of death but will respond to the fears of others. This reverberation may have effects that need to be addressed in recovery strategies. A young adolescent who was involved in a disaster where her own life was threatened and a friend died, stated in her distress, 'we should not have had to know we could die'. The realities and permanency of death are often difficult to know and not easy to learn, even as one grows into adult life. The causes and threat of the emergency can directly, and indirectly, impact children of all ages and contribute to risk of post-traumatic stress symptoms or disorder, or other mental health consequences.

Similarly, the losses associated with disaster, ranging from the deaths of loved ones, including friends and pets, to the loss of home, and familiar environments, can have substantial impacts. The disruption of familiar life patterns may bring great sadness, grief and possibly mental health consequences. The parents' own distress, trauma and loss may make it more difficult to comfort a child, yet also make it more critical that affection and shared sadness can pave the way to adaptations in life for the future.

### EDUCATION FOR RECOVERY

Education must extend to parents and family, both for their needs, and for their children. The complexity of family structures and functions, with diverse, blended and single parent structures will need to be understood and encompassed. Such education should also include building on resilience. On-going education to assist children in their recovery is important. This needs to involve teachers in their understanding of the effects a disaster experience may have on children's educational capacities, the behaviours that may signal potential health, mental health, or behavioural problems, and whether to refer a child for assessment and possibly treatment. Important resources have been developed to assist teachers and parents to manage such issues and when to seek help (McDermott & Cobham 2013, Wraith & Australian Red Cross 2010, Raphael 2010, Kenardy et al. 2011, Roberts 2009). Valuable and effective school-based programs have been developed, trialed and found to be effective for dealing with mental health problems that may have developed as a consequence of disaster experiences, or that reflect exacerbations of existing

problems, such as anxiety disorders. These include models such as those of Pynoos, Steinberg & Brymer (2007) and the excellent Australian programs developed by McDermott and colleagues (2013). These latter have integrated assessment and treatment into school-based programs with positive outcomes that both educate and treat.

Educating children, their families, their schools and communities about disaster is important. Such education needs to be clear, practical and focused. It should aim to encourage people, including young people, to tune into their strengths as well as what they can do to protect themselves and others. It needs to be attuned to the threats and the hazards and the potential impacts. Ideally, such knowledge should include aspects of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Above all, actions are central: what are the actions that have priority, and how can these be learnt? There should be rote learning of the body's language of protection and response. The advanced and well-researched warning systems for bushfire risk in Australia are good indications



of clear messages of protection and safety (NSWRFS 2005).

Our children are vulnerable both physically and mentally in the face of disasters. Adult support in preparing children to address the many challenges in crises is critical. To do so is not about embedding fear, but recognising and building on the strength and courage that are the core of resilience and hope for children and their parents. As suggested by indigenous Australians 'our children are our future'.

Children have died in disasters across the world including in Australia. Let us honour these children by educating and building skills and knowledge for the future of all children in the face of threat and the many hazards of life.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Professor Beverley Raphael** is Professor of Psychological and Addiction Medicine, ANU, Professor of Population Mental Health and Disasters, UWS, and Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, UQ. She is the Foundation Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Newcastle. Her clinical and research areas focus on policy and program development in population mental health, prevention, child and adolescent mental health as well as the impact of trauma and disaster.

**Dr Penelope Burns** is a Senior Lecturer in General Practice, UWS, and a PhD candidate at ANU looking at the roles of general practitioners in disasters. She has been involved in undergraduate and postgraduate disaster education. Her clinical and research areas include systems development and processes for general practitioners, the management of animals in disasters, and the evaluation of disaster education.

*This article reflects the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily those of this publication.* ●



# IN BRIEF

## AUS DAY AWARDS



The AIES extends its congratulations to two members awarded at this year's Australia Day Honours.

Anthony Scott Oxford OAM, ASM, CSTJ, MAIES, from Victoria received the Order of Australia Medal for services to the community, particularly through St John Ambulance Victoria.

This is the second Australia Day Honour for Mr Oxford who last year received an Ambulance Service Medal in the Honours list.

Queensland member Margaret Ann Garbutt ESM, MAIES, received the award

of the Emergency Services Medal.

AIES President Alan Marshall said it was very gratifying to see these honours being bestowed on two AIES members.

"It underscores the contribution being made by dedicated people in fulfilling a usually unsung role in ensuring the wellbeing of the community," he said.

## AEMI WORKSHOP



**Australian Government**

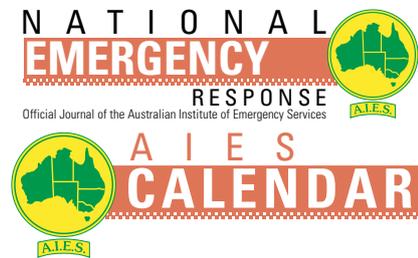
**Attorney-General's Department**

**Australian Emergency Management Institute**

The National Security and Emergency Management Knowledge and Lessons Management Workshop will be conducted at the Australian Emergency Management Institute from 29 April to 1 May 2014. The workshop will be held at Mt Macedon and will provide an opportunity to share lessons and develop national insights.

For more information contact Assistant Director – Education, Research and Training Cameron Scott on 03 5421 5275 or email [Cameron.Scott@ag.gov.au](mailto:Cameron.Scott@ag.gov.au)

## JOURNAL AND CALENDAR



Got a story ready or an idea to pitch? *National Emergency Response* is pleased to accept story submissions about the work of emergency services professionals and volunteers who are members of the institute. There is an annual award presented to the most outstanding member contribution, presented at the Annual General Meeting. Professional and amateur photographers are also invited to submit photos for the journal and particularly for the calendar. Please contact the Editor at [editor@aies.net.au](mailto:editor@aies.net.au)

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# EARTH: FIRE & RAIN



## Australian & New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference

5-7 May 2014

QT Gold Coast Hotel,  
Surfers Paradise, Queensland

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

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

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

### Topics

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

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



## Abstract submissions now being accepted

For more information please visit our Conference website [www.anzdm.com.au](http://www.anzdm.com.au) or contact the Association Secretariat  
**Email: [conference@anzdm.com.au](mailto:conference@anzdm.com.au)**  
**Ph: 07 5502 2068**

*Abstract submissions close Monday 25 November 2013.*



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# NOTICE OF 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

All Members of the Institute are cordially invited to attend the

## **2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

to be held at the:

Salamanca Inn

10 Gladstone Street, Hobart, Tasmania

on Saturday 12 April 2014

commencing at 7 PM

the Order of Business shall be:

Welcome

Apologies

Confirmation of Minutes of 2013 Meeting and Matters Arising

President's Report

General Secretary/Registrar's Report

Adoption of Financial Statements

Notices of Motion

General Business

Guest Speaker

Dinner

By order of the Board of Directors

**Robert A Maul**

General Secretary/ National Registrar/Company Secretary, AIES

**RSVP:** President Tasmania Division Ron Jones on 0427 008 705 or (03) 6429 3224  
by 10 April 2014

# PROTECTION OF LIVES AND PROPERTY VIA SOCIAL MEDIA



Acting Chair of the CFA Board, Claire Higgins

Source: [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

**M**ore activity on the fireground over summer generates more social media activity for CFA. Emergency service agencies use social media to both share the most up-to-date information and engage in a two-way conversation with the public.

Recent disasters in Australia such as floods in Queensland demonstrated that accurate information is spread widely during emergencies and misinformation can quickly be corrected if emergency services are actively monitoring and engaging with the online community.

Traditional media channels remain important sources of emergency information but they require listeners or viewers to be switched on at the

relevant times. During emergencies, many people are unable to constantly monitor radio or television to ensure they get the critical information that's relevant to them.

It's vital that the public uses a range of sources to gather their information. This includes social media, the new Vic Emergency website at [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) and agency websites such as [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

Social media is delivered directly to people's mobile phones. Even people on the move can check the most up-to-date information when it suits them, not when the media chooses to broadcast it.

The new FireReady app was released in December by the Fire Services Commissioner, supported by the Department of Justice and emergency service organisations. CFA lent a great deal of support to ensure the best possible product with about 117,000 people now registered users.

The FireReady app is complex given all the data it must gather and deliver. Take time to get to know the new app: set up your watch zones so you can get direct alerts.

Any feedback should be sent to [firereadyapp@emergency.vic.gov.au](mailto:firereadyapp@emergency.vic.gov.au)

At the heart of social media is basic communication. Platforms like Twitter and Facebook build a connection to the community, but conversations you have online don't have to be any harder than a chat with someone who wanders into the station.

Well done to the many CFA brigades now engaging in these online chats and taking the protection of lives and property online. Brigades from

Narre Warren to Mt Hotham-Dinner Plain are active on Twitter. A number of our regional directors are also regularly tweeting.

CFA has almost 27,000 Twitter followers with numbers tripling in the past year. A tweet sent on New Year's Eve warning of penalties for illegal fireworks reached a potential 325,000 Twitter accounts through retweets and fireworks-related hashtags.

CFA's Facebook page has doubled the number of followers in the past year to 208,000. Last October this post reached more than two million people through forwarding, sharing and liking: Join us in wishing our Victorian crew a safe journey as they join firefighting efforts in NSW. Hundreds of messages of support and gratitude poured in.

CFA Social is a new group on Facebook where CFA members managing social media can share ideas and ask questions. There are 169 members so far and their brigade pages have over 70,000 fans between them. ●

Claire Higgins is Acting Chair of the CFA Board. She is also Chair of the Victorian State Emergency Service and a member of the Ambulance Victoria, Manidis Roberts and Watermove Boards. Her other appointments include Chair of the Comcare Audit Committee and she is an independent member of the Surf Coast Shire Audit and Victorian Office of Public Prosecutions Audit Committees.

Any brigade wanting to learn more about social media should contact the Digital Media team at [cfaupdates@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:cfaupdates@cfa.vic.gov.au)

The Template Toolkit also includes helpful information: 'Facebook for Brigades' and 'Twitter 101'.

CFA Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cfavic](http://www.facebook.com/cfavic)

CFA Twitter: [twitter.com/cfa\\_updates](http://twitter.com/cfa_updates)

# NOGGIN SOLUTION IMPROVES RED CROSS ACCESSIBILITY IN EMERGENCIES



(L-R) CEO Australian Red Cross Robert Tickner, Minister for Justice Michael Keenan MP, Volunteer Red Cross field operator Sally Dowse, National Manager Emergency Services Australian Red Cross Andrew Coghlan.

**N**oggin, the leaders in emergency and incident management solutions for corporates and governments, has implemented the Register. Find. Reunite service for the Australian Red Cross.

The Register. Find. Reunite service, which was launched by the Federal Minister for Justice Michael Keenan and Australian Red Cross CEO Robert Tickner, will be used to register the location of people affected by a disaster and reconnect them with family, friends, and loved ones who are looking for them.

The new service is implemented using the Noggin OCA cloud-based incident management and crisis communication solution. Cloud technology ensures availability and scalability in disaster

and crisis situations where enquiries can escalate to tens of thousands in a very short time.

Noggin Managing Director James BW said, "During the 2009 Victorian bushfires 22,000 people were affected and 21,000 enquiries were made about their safety, providing real challenges for the old system."

"So, scalability is critical and using a cloud-based solution means we can achieve this and guarantee the robustness of the systems to make sure they are available when they are needed.

"Design and usability were absolutely critical software considerations in the implementation of the Register.Find. Reunite. system.

"Many of the operators of the system, including Red Cross, police forces, and community service departments, are required to use it in situations of high stress, so it had to be simple and quick to pick up, despite the fact that underlying it, was some very sophisticated technology.

"We imparted the latest responsive design thinking into the system ensuring that it can be easily used across different devices including mobile phones, tablets etc. as well as in low bandwidth environments."

Australian Red Cross National Manager of Emergency Services Andrew Coghlan said, "After an extensive tender process Noggin was chosen because it met the key requirements and are demonstrated leaders and innovators in emergency management both in Australia and further afield."

Noggin leverages the functionality of their industry-leading product, Noggin OCA, to easily and successfully share information with other relevant agencies in the emergency sector.

Register. Find. Reunite. can be accessed via the Australian Red Cross website during emergencies.

Noggin IT is the emerging leader in next generation cloud-based software for enterprise incident management. Noggin IT is an innovative Australian IT company that creates customised information exchange solutions for managing emergencies, risk, compliance and employee/stakeholder communications for corporations and government agencies.

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**Register. Find. Reunite.**

**Welcome.**

This service registers, finds and reunites family, friends and loved ones after an emergency. Use **Register** to let people know you are safe. Use **Find** to look for people you know may be affected by an emergency. **Reunite** is a matching process that enables us, with permission, to share details to connect family, friends and loved ones.

To start, go to the event below and choose **Register** or **Find**.

**Active emergencies**

Event name	Event location	Event date	Action
Hazelwood Open Cut Mine Fire	Victoria	27/02/2014	<input type="button" value="Register"/> <input type="button" value="Find"/>

For any emergency not listed please call 000

This website was produced with funding provided by the Attorney-General's Department through the National Emergency Management Program grant program.

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# Information about Probate and Deceased Estates

## (will with an appointed executor)

### What is probate?

Probate is the term used throughout Australia for the process by which a person named as executor in the last valid will of a deceased person becomes entitled to stand in the shoes of the deceased for the purposes of distributing the deceased's assets in accordance with the deceased's will.

The executor must apply for a Supreme Court order for a grant of probate according to the rules which apply in the state or territory in which the deceased lived. In some cases, the Court's power to grant probate (in uncontested matters) is delegated to the Registrar of Probates who functions separately to the Court via the Probate Office.

As part of the application process the executor must prove the will, in other words, the executor must produce and lodge the original of the will and swear on affidavit that it is the last known will of the deceased. In most cases this is just a formal process which goes smoothly, but occasionally the Probate Office will have some questions or require more information and, even more rarely, there may be some challenge to the validity of the will.

Probate has nothing to do with probate duty which was a state based tax applying to deceased estates throughout Australia and abolished many years ago.

### Do you need probate?

The executor is not legally obliged to obtain probate, however there are a number of scenarios where, practically speaking, the executor will need to obtain probate, namely:

- If the deceased owned real estate either solely or as a tenant in common, and
- If the deceased held significant bank account balances solely (banks vary as to their requirements but anything over around \$10,000 is likely to require probate)

So for an estate with a jointly owned home and minimal other assets, there may be no need to obtain probate, and the executor could simply administer the will using a copy of the will and copy of the death certificate to satisfy all necessary authorities.

### Some important facts about probate in Australia

- A grant of probate once made in a state or territory can be registered or resealed in any other state or territory without the need to reswear affidavits or prove the will again.
- Some states and territories have a simplified regime for small estates (estates worth less than a prescribed maximum figure varying between \$10,000 and \$50,000)
- In all states and territories (apart from SA) you must give at least 14 days notice of your intention to apply for probate by publishing a notice to that effect.
- All states and territories allow claims to be made against an estate by persons who may have been inadequately provided for in the will (testator's family maintenance or TFM claims)

The contents of this information sheet is intended as general advice only and should not be relied upon for any specific circumstances. If you require specific advice on your own personal circumstances then please contact us. If you require financial and/or accounting advice you should contact a qualified accountant and/or financial adviser.

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# NSW SAYS WOW



Bondi Beach (NSW) is a sea of orange on WOW Day 2013. Photo courtesy of NSW SES.

By **NSW SES**

**W**hat an impact our Wear Orange Wednesday (WOW Day) made last year.

The community really got behind our volunteers and showed their thanks in a vibrant show of orange everywhere.

At Bondi Beach people volunteered to spell a giant WOW in the sand, decked out in orange they came with kids and dogs in tow. The Minister of Police and Emergency Services, the Hon Michael Gallacher joined NSW SES Acting Commissioner Jim Smith to chat and thank our volunteers, including those from our Sydney Northern Region that assisted with the display on the Bondi promenade.

On a (major highway), commuters had to do a double take as they drove past Ploddy the Dinosaur, who was not only orange, but emblazoned with a big blue SES. The animal theme continued with the Dubbo Rhinos and the giant Prawn at Ballina also decked out brightly coloured for the day.

WOW Day flags were flown around the state too. NRMA Insurance had flags made to line streets in Sydney that read 'Thank Our SES Heroes'. Other flags depicting our volunteers could be seen along Macquarie Street in the NSW towns of Dubbo and Parkes.

Councils got in on the act with a Mayoral reception at Ryde plus staff getting decked out at Moree Plains Shire Council and at Willoughby Council. Lighthouses

in Wollongong were lit up and the new SES Unit at Coniston made the front page of the local paper. In Newcastle there were lots of orange landmarks including the Town Hall Clock, the Obelisk and the Civic and Customs House fountains, which looked good enough to drink!

It was great to see schools everywhere having orange mufti days. Holy Family Primary at Lennox Head, Woodburn Primary, and Saint Pats at Murwillumbah all joined in the fun. The St Philomena's School at Moree and the Moree Christian School thanked the NSW SES volunteers who had helped them out during the floods whilst Harrington Public School and Glenorie Public had WOW Day activities too.

Our volunteers and staff around the state did radio and television interviews to tell people about all the great work we do as an organisation, some even giving insight to training activities. There were thank you barbecues held at Taree City Unit and at Lachlan Region headquarters and Paddy the Platypus was run off his webbed feet.

We got fantastic support from our proud partner NRMA Insurance, with their offices around the state drenched in orange. They also engaged assistance from the Triple M Grill Team and Kyle and Jackie O from 2Day, who all did a great job showing their support and promoting the day.

Private companies and organisations also got behind the day. Stocklands

shopping centres around the country joined in promoting the event and encouraged their shops to go orange. The Bunnings at Narrabeen, Belrose and Artarmon all got on board and so literally did the Busways and Hillsbus drivers who decked themselves out to join in the fun.

In the NSW SES state headquarters in Wollongong the WOW Day competition for the best decorated section is always highly competitive and this year was no different. The Special Operations team won with a series of scenarios that saw the judges suddenly thrown in as NSW SES volunteers to deal with a road crash rescue response, delivering first aid as part of a Community First Responder Unit, and deploying a throw bag as part of a flood rescue.

In NSW, SES regions and units there were creative displays of orange that embraced with great pride this day of thanks and celebration.

Around the state the gestures of orange appreciation made it clear to our wonderful volunteers that the work they do in the worst of weather and hardest of times has placed them firmly in the hearts of the people of NSW.

Check out the gallery of fun on the WOW Day website [www.wearorangewednesday.com.au](http://www.wearorangewednesday.com.au)

And go to YouTube to watch a video mash up of the WOW Day event in Sydney's Bondi. ●



# A WOW OF A COMPETITION

**Bill Hoyles, MAIES**

SES Deputy Local Controller Canada Bay, NSW

I accepted an invitation to be one of the judges at NRMA Insurance Head Office for the NRMA Insurance staff's efforts for WOW Day. There were three categories to be decided – Best Dressed Person, Most Outrageously Orange Team, and Most Creatively Decorated Work Area (team or individual).

Walking into the foyer of 388 George Street Sydney was a WOW experience in itself. An archway of orange and white balloons dominated the entrance, with large silver inflatable letters above it saying 'Thanks SES'.

I collected my visitor's pass and was met by Carrey Cultra and Marianne Jaques from the NRMA Insurance Community and Sustainability Team.

They whisked me up to their office, where I was greeted by other team members and their own team's amazingly creative display. A castle wall and a spider's web, with the letters S-E-S spelt out in spiders painted orange...to be followed later by the team dressed in orange, with orange witches hats and white beards in a sort of Santa's Elves meets Charlotte's Web scenario.

I then met my first co-judge - with his bright orange braces - Acting CEO of NRMA Direct Insurance Alex Harrison and, with Carrey as our scribe and photographer, we started the judging.

Alex picked up a handmade paper orange flower at the first display and attached it to his shirt - picking up an orange crunchie bar at the next display and an orange cupcake at the third. I was, of course, suitably restrained.

My next co-judge was Chief Financial Officer of NRMA Direct Insurance Frank Costigan and with Community and Sustainability Ops Manager Lee McDougall this time as our scribe and photographer we judged the next three floors.

Frank was taken back to his childhood at one display where his favourite apricot delight slices were featured, 'they used to cost 10 cents a bag', and at another display he managed to reserve a slice of home-baked orange cake for later.

Orange food and drink was the order of the day. The variety of orange items



AIES member Bill Hoyles (Second from right) in his judging role at NRMA on WOW Day.

on display was amazing – carrots, oranges, apricot jam, melons, orange pekoe tea, orange sweets, orange juice, Fanta, and even non-alcoholic orange shots in shot-glasses.

Teams had baked orange cakes and orange cupcakes; some had prepared packages of orange food, orange Cheezels, and orange poppers labelled for each judge, and one team had even made a bouquet of chocolates wrapped in orange paper with small inspirational poems attached. The chocolates were consumed by Canada Bay SES volunteers at training later that night. Some work areas were a sea of orange balloons and streamers; some teams had bought high visibility orange vests; some had wigs, others feather boas, and there were orange sunglasses, shoes, tights, dresses, coats, hats, caps, flowers and other items too numerous to mention. One man had an amazing inflatable orange suit complete with internal fan [bought on eBay], and an orange full face pull down ski mask.

There were SES orange screen-savers on computers, orange pens on the desks, SES and Paddy Platypus photos, SES advertising and SES information – and several homemade SES and WOW Banners.

One work area had been turned into an SES disco, with orange people playing orange guitars, an SES bouncer on the entrance, and an SES VIP pass required for admission.

And everywhere there were signs saying 'Thank you' to the SES volunteers. Thanks for that NRMA Insurance staff!

It's evident that the relationship between NRMA Insurance and SES is more than merely a commercial arrangement when one sees the enthusiasm and commitment that has been generated amongst the staff at grassroots level in support of the SES (and I only saw one of 200-plus buildings that got into the orange spirit nationally!). It was a genuinely enjoyable WOW experience and one that I would be happy to repeat. ●

**Wear Orange**

Wednesday (WOW Day) is a national celebration of the dedication and commitment of the thousands of men and women who selflessly volunteer their time and energy with their State or Territory's State Emergency Service. WOW day takes place each year and in 2014 will be held on Wednesday 12 November. For more visit [www.wearorangewednesday.com.au](http://www.wearorangewednesday.com.au)

# MY YOUNG ENDEAVOUR VOYAGE

All photos by Steven Rypp.



Steven Rypp

**M**y Young Endeavour Voyage from Sydney to Melbourne via Newcastle in December 2013 was without doubt one of the best experiences of my life. From day one I began meeting some amazing people that I knew would be the start to creating lifelong friends.

On the first day we learnt a lot about the ship and sailed to Athol Bay in Sydney

Harbour which would be our first stop. On the first night we learnt how to tie basic knots, basic steering of the ship and we were placed into watch crews. The watch crews were rostered onto four-hour watch shifts whilst the ship sailed throughout the day and overnight and would be the team we would work with throughout all activities leading up to Command Day (where the full youth crew would be given the ship to sail for a 24-hour period).

I was placed in the White Watch Crew and one of my main highlights on the trip was after dinner on the first night where I embarked on my first climb and managed to climb aloft to the top. Our White Watch Team encouraged each individual to climb as far as they could go and it was a fantastic team bonding exercise and something that I will always remember.

Day two and three involved deck safety training, carrying out the basics of setting and furling the sails and safely operating the safety equipment on-board. We were blessed on-board our voyage with having Luke who was a brilliant Navy head chef and the food throughout the trip was incredible and well above gourmet standard.

After lunch on day 2 we set sail from Sydney Harbour at 4pm and sailed overnight to just off Patonga in Broken

Bay where we anchored to conduct further team bonding exercises. This is where I experienced my first and only form of sea sickness on the voyage. Thankfully it was only one night and then I got into the groove with my sea legs.

After our anchorage off Patonga we set sail for Newcastle and arrived safely on day four at 7am. Whilst in Newcastle we all went ashore for brunch and to have some free time at the beach which was enjoyed by all. After brunch we set sail at mid-day and the winds picked up in the afternoon which allowed us for the first time on the voyage to set the topgallant and the topsail which were the square sails and this was a rewarding experience and everyone worked together well. The plan was to arrive the next morning (day five) in Jervis Bay.

Having sailed overnight and achieving our arrival to Jervis Bay on day five, we all enjoyed making use of the rope swing and having a good swim. After this we were treated to an excellent barbecue lunch on deck where the management of the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme came to join us and see how we were travelling.

At 2.30pm we set sail and practiced setting the main sails again after heading into strong south westerly winds. We were lucky overnight to make use of the strong





winds to be able to pick up speed to make it towards to the Bass Strait. The afternoon of day six was exciting for me as we entered the Bass Strait and we were treated to 30 knot winds which increased to gale force winds which forced the ship to bounce around a lot and I along with some of my friends on-board really enjoyed the rough conditions.

Overnight after seeking some earlier shelter in Refuge Cove we set sail and passed oil and gas refineries forcing everyone to wake up to tack the ship at 4am and this was a challenging task in the rough conditions which everyone handled well.

Throughout day seven the wind remained strong and we were treated to strong showers as well which meant washing our clothes for the next day with the soap and bucked treatment was off the cards.

When the rain stopped we were treated to a top deck barbecue dinner and we remained at anchor through the night

near the main island in the Hogan group to seek refuge from the 3-metre swells.

We departed on day eight at 9.30am to hit the Bass Strait and the 3-metre swells yet again to pass Port Phillip Bay and sail through the night with the aim of reaching Rye mid-afternoon on day nine.

Day eight involved a lot of tacking to go with the winds changes that occurred. We continued sailing on day nine towards anchorage at Rye and today involved practicing everything we had learnt in preparation for Command Day. Command Day is the day where the navy crew hand over the ship to us in the youth crew to sail for a full 24 hours and to complete a range of team bonding tasks.

At 10am on day 10 the ship was officially handed over to us and we began to complete a list of twenty-four tasks given to us which included tasks for sailing, setting sails, navigation requirements and fun team bonding exercises such as a beach/swim assault team, running a disco on-board and

for team participation and encouragement. Overall I really enjoyed Command Day as it gave me a great opportunity to improve my teamwork and leadership skills to work together with my ship mates to ensure we completed set tasks but enjoyed ourselves at the same time.

We officially arrived in Melbourne on day 11 at 10am before enjoying the rest of the day and final night's sleep before leaving the ship at 10am the following morning.

Since the trip our youth crew have all set up a Facebook group and we all still regularly keep in touch with each other. We have all shared photos on the group page and this has been a great medium for keeping in touch and seeing how we all progress.

I would like to thank the Australian Institute of Emergency Services (AIES) through the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme (YEYS) for providing me with this fantastic opportunity and it is something that I will always cherish. ●

# RELYING ON VOLUNTEERS

Victoria's Auditor-General John Doyle has released a report on Managing Emergency Services Volunteers, tabled to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the Black Saturday bushfires (7 February 2014).

The report acknowledges that volunteers perform a crucial role in Victoria's emergency services. The report stated, 'They give their time, risk their safety and do an outstanding job protecting the lives and property of all Victorians.'

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) and the Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) are responsible for responding to bushfires, floods, storms and road accidents.

As shown by the Black Saturday bushfires, and more recently the bushfires in January 2014 and the floods of 2013, Victoria is prone to natural disasters.

The regularity and severity of such events is predicted to increase.

Both CFA and SES's workforces are mainly volunteers and, given their important role, it is essential that CFA and SES provide effective support to them during incident responses and with day-to-day activities such as training, administrative support and counselling.

The report found that both CFA and SES have challenges with volunteer support, recruitment and retention.

Both agencies need to address their workforce planning so that they have sufficient volunteers with the skills needed to respond to incidents.

Currently, 'CFA does not know how many volunteers it needs and SES does not accurately know how many it has'.

Both agencies have weaknesses in the way they analyse information on their volunteers' skills and qualifications, which means they are unable to identify workforce skills gaps.

The report recommends that both agencies 'evaluate their volunteer support systems and processes, and explore opportunities to collaborate with each other'.

The Auditor-General noted that 'both agencies have accepted my recommendations and I am confident that SES will be greatly assisted by CFA, which is making strong progress towards its volunteerism support goals'.

The Auditor-General is 'confident this report will contribute to improvements at CFA and SES that will assist these volunteers in carrying out their duties'.

View the full report at [www.audit.vic.gov.au](http://www.audit.vic.gov.au) under Reports and Publications. ●

## CFA WELCOMES A-G REPORT

### Mick Bourke

CEO CFA

Source: [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

As we welcome and accept the recommendations of the Victorian Auditor-General's Managing Emergency Service Volunteers report, we remember the 2009 Victorian bushfires almost five years ago.

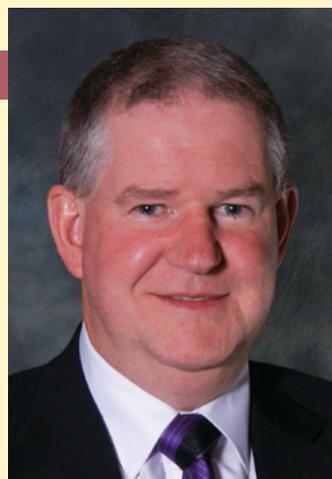
And we know that...Victoria's emergency services personnel are doing an outstanding job in protecting our communities.

In accepting the recommendations in the report, CFA is pleased to see that the Auditor-General undertook interviews widely across CFA's eight regions, engaging with staff and volunteers at 13 locations across Victoria.

The Auditor-General's recommendations clarify and reinforce our current approach on programs we are implementing to support volunteers, such as the Government-funded Volunteer Support Program and the ongoing development of field-based transportable mobile training props for use at a local level by our volunteers.

This work is being driven by CFA's Operational Training & Volunteerism directorate, established in 2011 to ensure a strong focus on the needs of our volunteers at a corporate level.

CFA will implement the recommendations in the Auditor-General's report, leading to further improvements for our volunteers across Victoria.



# INTERPOL GLOBAL SECURITY AND COUNTER TERRORISM CONVENTION

Sydney, NSW 28–30 January 2014



*Address at the opening from*

Attorney-General Senator  
The Hon. George **Brandis** QC

I appreciate INTERPOL's initiative in organising this event with support from the Government of Canada and the Australian Federal Police. It is an honour to welcome you all to Australia for the first ever INTERPOL Global Security and Counter Terrorism Convention.

INTERPOL considers this convention will provide member countries with a greater understanding of its tools and services. It will showcase some key members' expertise in the field of counter terrorism with a view to greater collaboration and engagement between agencies and countries globally in the future. I commend INTERPOL on bringing you all together to discuss such vital issues.

Preventing and responding to terrorist threats is a global responsibility requiring government and international agencies, the private sector and the community to work together.

This event is a perfect example of INTERPOL's global role in enabling police agencies to collaborate to make the world a safer place. INTERPOL has

been working to address terrorism over a number of decades – as far back as the 1950s. However a specialised Fusion Task Force was created in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks in the United States. The Fusion Task Force has more than 270 contact officers from more than 160 countries, which form a global network of counter terrorism specialists.

Through INTERPOL, member countries can share experiences, analyse approaches and detail investigative techniques that enhance our ability to prevent terrorist attacks and strengthen our borders.

Terrorism continues to pose a global threat. As the terrorist threat becomes increasingly complex and dynamic, and terrorist tactics and operational doctrine evolve, law enforcement agencies must develop and maintain effective capabilities in order to mitigate the ongoing threat.

I can assure you that the new Australian Government is committed to this objective.

Australia has been an INTERPOL member since September 1948 and in its capacity as the INTERPOL National Central Bureau, the Australian Federal Police – or AFP as it's more commonly known – represents Australia's law enforcement interests.

The AFP considers its relationship with its international partners key to combating the threat of terrorism. The development of collaborative working arrangements built through these relationships is considered invaluable. For example, the relationship forged between the AFP and Indonesian National Police during the response to the Bali bombings has endured and continues to yield positive outcomes.

The AFP, along with other law enforcement and security agencies, works to prevent, disrupt and investigate terrorist activity against

Australia and Australian interests both domestically and internationally. The AFP remains committed to strengthening collaboration with domestic and international partners in order to safeguard the security of Australia and other nations, and to respond to emerging threats and prevent terrorism at its source.

Since 2001, more than 110 Australians have been killed in terrorist attacks. The Bali bombings in 2002, which killed over 200 people including 88 Australians, highlighted that the threat of terror was closer to home than many had previously perceived. While we have watched and responded to these attacks, we know that the threat of an attack here on Australian soil is real. To date, 23 people have been convicted of terrorism offences under the Australian Criminal Code.

We are witnessing a shift in terrorism tactics and techniques from large-scale, September 11 style attacks to 'lone-actor', smaller-scale, multi-mode attacks. This shift in tactics creates significant difficulties for law enforcement and intelligence agencies in identifying 'lone-actors' who, due to their autonomous activities, are less likely to attract the attention of law enforcement during the planning phases of their operations. Such tactics were vividly demonstrated in Boston and London last year.

It was the view of the previous government as indicated in its National Security Strategy in January 2013 that this shift was a new era in which threats from non-state actors and from outside our region have diminished.

That view is too simplistic. It is not the view of the new government. We regard the threat of terrorism – including non-state actors and from outside our region – as undiminished.

Of course, the methods of terrorists will continue to evolve. They will continue to adapt and look to new



technologies and changing, volatile global situations.

Countries must continue to work together against the global terror threat wherever it is originating, and not simply view threats and vulnerabilities as local versus international. In all likelihood, so-called home-grown or regional threats are influenced, if not directly assisted, by offshore events and groups.

Increased access to foreign travel and ability to connect and communicate with people around the world has enriched individuals, business and society. However, the global access and connectivity we now take for granted also present opportunities and tools for terror groups to expand their reach.

This is all exemplified with the current situation in Syria. The conflict has claimed more than 100,000 lives, forced 2.3 million Syrians to flee for neighbouring countries, and left half the population in need of humanitarian aid. We hope the Geneva II conference can result in agreeable solutions that address the root cause of the conflict and the human suffering. We strongly support what UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and his Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi tried to achieve in difficult circumstances.

***Terrorism continues to pose a global threat. As the terrorist threat becomes increasingly complex and dynamic, and terrorist tactics and operational doctrine evolve, law enforcement agencies must develop and maintain effective capabilities in order to mitigate the ongoing threat.***

But while the fighting is limited to Syria and its immediate region, the ramifications from the conflict extend beyond the region and present a complex set of global security challenges.

Here in Australia, as recently as last December, two men were arrested in Sydney and charged with foreign incursion offences and there have been several reported deaths of Australian citizens. Such events remind us of the risks to Australian citizens and our national security from individuals who support or engage in far-away conflicts.

The proscription in Australia of Jabhat al-Nusra and, more recently, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant demonstrate



the need for global law enforcement and security agencies to remain vigilant.

In Australia, like many other countries, we are witnessing a growing trend of citizens travelling offshore to engage in, or support terrorist activities or conflict. These individuals not only potentially breach Australian laws and commit offences offshore, but upon their return to Australia they pose a significant national security risk.

Those who actively participate in combat or assist in the planning

and facilitation of such activity can become radicalised and obtain new skills— including the ability to conduct an attack on Australian soil, radicalise others and impart knowledge and skills gained offshore.

It is important for the international law enforcement community to work together in the effort to counter the threat from the region. Forums like this one today provide an opportunity for this to occur.

The ongoing violence in Syria is giving rise to increasing tensions between the Sunni, Shia and Alawi communities in Australia. This has manifested in localised violence and criminal activity. My Department works closely

with Australian law enforcement and security agencies to implement the Countering Violent Extremism, or CVE, Strategy. The aim of the CVE strategy is to reach out to communities to build trust, resilience and social cohesion. In partnership with communities, the Australian Government is working to address factors that make people vulnerable to extremist influences — including recruitment by terrorists — noting there is not just one path to violent extremism. The aim is to lessen the appeal of the violent extremist ideologies that fuel terrorism.

While important, it would be naive for governments to think that community engagement alone is a panacea.

There will always be a role for law enforcement and security agencies in mitigating and responding to threats. The ability for agencies to work together to share intelligence and information is vital to meet the threat posed by terrorists. Recent arrests and past prosecutions are evidence of the success of such efforts, however we must constantly guard against complacency.

In closing, it is important to encourage events like this forum, to ensure a coordinated response to the terror threat globally. These events provide a valuable opportunity for international cooperation and to learn from others' experiences. I commend the work of INTERPOL and its ability to facilitate the coming together of law enforcement and security agencies from around the world. It is clear that ongoing global and regional cooperation is vital to combatting the threat posed by terrorism. ●



*Constable Craig Menzel exposes the Swiss audience to Aboriginal culture with a far from wooden performance on the didgeridoo.*

# STRIKING A CHORD ON THE WORLD STAGE

Conducting yourself on the world stage in front of the top brass is a daunting prospect for most, but not for the talented musicians who represent the Band of the South Australia Police.

Mathew Rodda





**F**rom 19-27 July 2013 the Band was a major attraction at the acclaimed Basel Tattoo in Switzerland, performing 15 times before sold out crowds of around 8000 people. With music arranged by Music Director David Polain, the Band's captivating performance highlighted some well-known traditional Australian songs as well as showcasing the music of popular Australian artists such as Kylie Minogue, Olivia Newton-John, the Bee Gees, John Farnham and Peter Allen.

The Band was also instrumental in the success of the much-loved Basel Tattoo Parade, contributing to the carnival atmosphere along the 1.8 kilometre route lined with around 180,000 spectators.

After being highly impressed with the Band's debut at the Basel Tattoo in 2010, event organisers generously funded all costs for Band members to once again strike a chord with the appreciative Swiss audience. The Band was also prominent in advertising for the Basel Tattoo, with Drum

*Described by Tattoo Director Erik Julliard as having a standard of performance, professionalism and dedication of the highest regard, the Band spent more than 4400 collective hours preparing for Basel.*

Major Sergeant Adam Buckley emblazoned on local public transport and appearing in various television and print advertising and event merchandise.

"The Band's performances in Basel further underlined the esteem in which it is held internationally, with it being the envy of other police jurisdictions both in Australia and overseas," Drum Major Sergeant Buckley said.

Described by Tattoo Director Erik Julliard as having a standard of performance, professionalism and dedication of the highest regard, the Band spent more than 4400 collective hours preparing for Basel. This included 41 rehearsals in the four-month period prior to boarding the plane for Switzerland.

"Once in Basel, we endured a gruelling week of 12 to 16-hour-long days in preparation for opening night," Drum Major Sergeant Buckley said.

"It was well worth it once we heard the crowd's enthusiastic response to our performances which created a 'lump in the throat' for many



A local bus trumpets the achievements of the Band with Constable Craig Menzel and Drum Major Sergeant Adam Buckley as two of the faces of the 2013 Basel Tattoo.



The Band performs at a popular public concert at Lange Erlen Park.



of us. Playing Australian music on the international stage certainly generated a sense of pride in both our country and SAPOL."

### HITTING ALL THE RIGHT NOTES IN BASEL

For musician Lynda Culshaw, her first experience of the Basel Tattoo hit all the right notes despite the extreme weather conditions with an average of 35 degrees and exhaustive humidity.

"I was in awe of the event's size and popularity. It was a tremendous privilege to be involved in the largest international massed bands event in Europe," she said.

"The Band's support amongst the Basel community was amazing. We were greeted with such friendliness and enthusiasm as people

remembered the Band's acclaimed performances at the 2010 event.

"The respect and support for the Band extended to the international bands, with whom we developed a fantastic camaraderie throughout our time in Basel."

These strong relationships were mainly forged at the 'cast bar' where performers socialised after the show.

"Each band had to provide entertainment at the bar on one or two nights during the Tattoo," said the Band's vocalist and compère, Constable Melissa McCaig.

"Unfortunately my disciplined approach to each Tattoo performance prevented me from spending too much time socialising. Drinking alcohol and talking in a loud environment are the worst things a singer can do for their voice."

The Band showed it was in tune with the local community by participating in a 'Children's Day' where members provided free entertainment to local school children and their parents. They also performed at a hugely popular public concert held at picturesque Lange Erlen Park on the Swiss/German border.

"There was just a great energy amongst the community at these events. Like most Europeans, the Basel public seem to embrace the arts and entertainment as an essential part of their lifestyle," Constable McCaig said.

Having performed at the 2010 Basel Tattoo, Constable McCaig was thrilled to once again live every singer's dream of performing in front of a huge international crowd. She was joined on centre stage by fellow singers

*Drum Major Sergeant Adam Buckley (centre) leads the Band during one of their many acclaimed performances at the Basel Tattoo.*



Constables David Burvill-Holmes and Todd Martin, accompanied by Constable Craig Menzel on didgeridoo, to provide a unique Australian flavour to close the show each night.

"It was a massive honour to be featured in the finale of the nightly show. To receive accolades and feedback from international producers and directors was very affirming and humbling," she said.

"While the big arena shows were filled with highlights, one of my most memorable moments from the trip was when a man came up to me with tears in his eyes after watching his little girl dance with me in front of the stage at a daytime concert in the park.

"This is what stays with you once the long hours of rehearsals and time spent away from family are long forgotten." ●



**Thank you to the South Australia Police for granting permission to reprint this article, which originally appeared in *Blueprint*, Issue 3, 2013.**

# RECOVERY FUND LAUNCHED TO ASSIST INJURED MEMBERS

In January the Victorian policing community banded together to launch a recovery fund to support three members who were badly injured in an explosion.



L to R: BankVic Chairman, John Mugavin, Police Association Secretary, Greg Davies and Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Ken Lay kick-start the fund with sizable donations from their respective organisations at a media event in January. Photo by Suzy Wood.

**S**ergeant Tony Scully, First Constable Emma Quick and Constable Varli Blake all received horrific injuries from a gas explosion as they attended a routine welfare check at Middle Park in January.

The new fund – an initiative undertaken by the injured members' fellow officers from the St Kilda and South Melbourne police stations – has been set up to assist the three members and their respective families cope with the years of recovery and rehabilitation that lie ahead of them.

All members and the public at large are invited to donate to the fund.

The Police Association, Victoria Police, and BankVic got the 'ball rolling' in January, with each organisation making a substantial donation to

the fund. Every cent donated to the fund will go to the injured members.

If you wish to donate to "The Tony, Emma, and Varli Recovery Fund" you can do so online, at a BankVic branch or any Westpac branch by using the following account details;

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Alternatively, cheques made out to "The Tony, Emma & Varli Recovery Fund" can be posted to BankVic, 121 Cardigan Street, Carlton, Victoria, 3053. ●



Top to bottom: Constable Varli Blake, First Constable Emma Quick and Sergeant Tony Scully.

# POWERLINE BUSHFIRE RISK CAN BE CUT



The risk of powerlines sparking major bushfires can be significantly reduced with cutting-edge mapping technology, according to a visiting international expert.

**C**hris Kelly, founder of US vegetation management software company Clearion, has been invited to Australia to advise utilities on how Geographic Information System (GIS) technology can help mitigate a chief cause of Australian bushfires.

His visit comes amidst growing scrutiny on bushfire risks posed by powerline failures, with details emerging they were the likely cause of the Perth Hills crisis, which destroyed more than 50 homes in January 2014.

GIS technology is already used to manage vegetation by some of North America's biggest utilities, and Mr Kelly is working in close partnership with Australian GIS leader Esri Australia to bring the new approach to local utilities.

Mr Kelly said some of the measures currently being mooted to address the issue of wayward vegetation, such as disconnecting power supply during a fire, amounted to 'tinkering around the edges'.

"Completely cutting power to communities at the risk of bushfires brings its own dangers, and other measures such as large scale vegetation cutbacks and the widespread insulation of powerlines are not affordable," he said.

"What is needed is an end-to-end approach to vegetation management, which is what GIS technology can provide.

"The technology enables utilities to overlay assets and environmental maps with information about inspections, maintenance history, weather patterns and vegetation characteristics.

"This allows utilities to develop a risk profile of their networks and focus their vegetation control on the areas that are in the greatest danger of bushfires."

Esri Australia GIS in utilities expert, Harry Kestin, said the technology delivers an interactive, digital dashboard which provides greater levels of insight and situational awareness.

"For example, while a current vegetation management cycle

might dictate trees near powerlines in a certain area should be cut back every three years, other uncontrollable external factors may come into play, such as drought or flood," Mr Kestin said.

"GIS technology enables utilities to analyse these scenarios and delay or bring forward the cycle, which results in a safer environment, reduces over or under-servicing and delivers more efficient resource use."

Mr Kestin said mobile devices, which strengthened the communication chain between vegetation management strategists and workers in the field, could also access the system.

"Because everyone is connected to a centralised system, they are working from the same playbook," Mr Kestin.

"This strengthens the system's integrity, removing the chance of information being lost between the field and office or vice versa, and ensuring the work is being done in the right locations." ●



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Completed Application forms with fees should be forwarded to the Division Registrar in the State where you normally reside. Further information may also be obtained by contacting your Division Registrar or General Registrar of the Institute at the following addresses:

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

#### **THE INSTITUTE'S OBJECTIVES**

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

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- An opportunity to be part of a progressive Australia-wide Institute dedicated to the progression and recognition of the Emergency Service role in the community.
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- The opportunity to use the initials of the particular membership status after your name.
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# FIRE DESTROYS ST KILDA ICON

STOKEHOUSE

Iconic Melbourne restaurant the Stokehouse was destroyed by fire in January.

Around 200 patrons and staff were forced to evacuate the St Kilda restaurant after a fire, which originated in the kitchen, engulfed the two-story timber building.

It took firefighters almost three hours to bring the blaze under control, with structural issues including a collapsed roof, and strong onshore winds, at times hampering their efforts.

The restaurant was built on Crown land and while its owners vow to rebuild, its future is in the hands of the Victorian Government, Port Phillip City Council and the community. For now, a 'pop-up' restaurant on the site has emerged and it is business as (almost) normal.

The landmark restaurant was due to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. ●

*Photo by MFB Station Officer Stephen Smith (Oakleigh Fire Station, Melbourne).*





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