



NATIONAL EMERGENCY

R e s p o n s e

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

VOLUME 18 NO. 4 WINTER 2005
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**MANAGING
TERRORISM:**

FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

IN THIS ISSUE:

- * GREAT DISASTERS OF THE PAST
- * VOLUNTEERING IN PARADISE

- * UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEER MEDAL
- * HONOURS AWARDS



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Level 2, 673 Bourke Street, Melbourne
GPO Box 2466, Melbourne 3001
Ph: (03) 9937 0200
Fax: (03) 9937 0201
Email: admin@cwmedia.com.au
ACN: 30 086 202 093

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Mark Sawszak MAIES
Sub Editor: Mark Preston MAIES
Sub Editor: Martin Page MAIES

Send articles for inclusion to:
PO Box 6001 UNSW Sydney 1466
Email: ner@aies.net.au

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

Photograph provided courtesy of the NSW Police. It was taken during Exercise Apollo a tactical, simulated counter terrorism field exercise.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

M E Massie

QPM, LFAIES, President

VICTORIAN INSTITUTE MEMBERS RECOGNISED IN AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS LIST, 2005

The following members of the Victorian Division were recognised in the Australia Day Honours List 2005. They are John Howe, Emergency Service Medal (ESM) for services to the community through his long-serving involvement as a permanent officer with Victorian State Emergency Service.

- Jeffery Smith, Emergency Service Medal, (ESM), for service to the community for his long-time involvement with the Citizen Radio Emergency Services Team (Crest).
- Darryl Wells, Australian Fire Service Medal, (AFSM), for services with the Victorian Country Fire Authority, Werribee Brigade of which he is a long-serving Captain.
- Peter Statopoulos, Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), for service to the community through his involvement with the Victorian State Emergency Service as a volunteer and his ongoing search for support for both the Service and SES school cadet scheme.

As National President and on behalf of General Council, I would like to pass on my congratulations to the aforementioned persons for being so recognised. I would also take this opportunity to pass on similar sentiments to all members of the Institute who were recognised in the 2005 Australia Day Honours List.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST RECOGNITION FOR TASMANIAN MEMBER - PETER MORGAN FAIES.

In the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List, Peter Morgan of the Tasmanian Ambulance Service was cited for the Ambulance Service Medal. Peter is a Long-Serving Member of the Tasmanian Division and was a previous Member of the Divisional Board where he served for a period as President.

Peter joined the Ambulance service in 1972 as a volunteer and became a full-time employee of the service in 1974. He worked in various areas of the State and attended the Tasman Bridge collapse in 1974 where he skippered a boat ferrying patients. He is a supervisor with the Ambulance Service. Peter has been a stalwart Member of the Tasmanian Division and over the years, has assisted by facilitating exercises for the Institute involving Members as well as personnel of the various Emergency Services.

I have taken the opportunity to personally congratulate Peter on his well-deserved award and through the magazine on behalf of all members of the Institute, I would congratulate him on his achievement.

In this edition, I would like to pass on to members, details of the Annual Report I submitted to the Annual General Meeting of the Institute in Melbourne on 16 May 2005.

On behalf of General Council, I would like to thank the Victoria Division for the invitation to attend the Dinner this evening. Thanks also to Alan Alder, for arranging the venue for the Council Meeting and a very big thank you to Rhys Maggs for the use of the Victorian SES facilities at which we held our General Council Meeting. We appreciated the assistance of your Staff Members who so readily assisted us and Rhys, thank you very much for the very fine lunch you provided. It went down a treat!!

MEETING WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EMA

On Sunday 15 May 2005, Council Members met with the Director General of Emergency Management Australia, David Templeman, who discussed EMA's Research and Innovations Programme and how best the Institute and its Divisions can best access funding. David was most helpful in these deliberations with us and at the meeting, pledged the use of the facilities of EMA in Canberra to assist the Institute and its various Divisions. David was made an Honorary Member of the Institute and we look forward to a long and fruitful association with EMA, through David.

NER MAGAZINE

I must apologise to members for the lack of a reliable distribution of the NER magazine. This has come about as a result of our problems with our magazine publisher, but I am happy to report that these issues were resolved at our meeting today, with a contract being agreed to between Council and Countrywide Media, through its Director Tony Cornish. I think we can look forward now to a much more reliable magazine with the first edition having been produced and forwarded to Members. Our editorial team for the magazine is:

Editor Mark Sawszak, MAIES,
Sub Editors Mark Preston, MAIES
and Martin Page, MAIES

Council appreciates the professional way that Mark and his team have worked to produce the first magazine, which will assist with providing a good source of information for our Members.



I would once again remind Members, that this magazine is YOUR magazine, and its continued success is totally contingent on the production of articles for publication. We call upon ALL Divisions and Members to make a real effort to produce articles and send them through our Registrar, Bob Maul for publication. Articles need to be formatted in Word Microsoft Office to assist with their publication.

WEBSITE

Mark Sawszak has also taken on the duties of Website Manager and has created a new website at: www.aies.net.au

He has requested that Divisions maintain the relevance of this website by updating their Division's information through our Registrar, Bob Maul.

Once again, I would pass on my thanks to Mark Sawszak for taking on the responsibilities of managing our website and congratulate him on his efforts to date.

APPLICATION TO FELLOW

I am happy to advise that at our meeting today, Allan Holley of NSW was elevated to the status of Fellow. Allan is a member of General Council and has served in that capacity for some years. Allan also serves as the President of the New South Wales Division. Allan's elevation is well and truly warranted and I congratulate him on being so recognised.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

I am happy to advise Members that Council have determined that there is no need this year to increase Membership fees, so that they remain at:

Registration	\$20.00
Members	\$30.00
Fellows	\$40.00
Corporate Members	\$250.00

COMBINED EMERGENCY SERVICE CONFERENCE

Council agreed to assist the Victorian Division in its conduct of the combined Emergency Service Conference on the 22 October, 2005. The Conference will be held at the Hawthorn Campus and an amount of \$500 has been pledged in order to assist with the production of programmes and other material associated with the Conference.

AUSTRALIAN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FORUM

At the Council meeting today, we received a report from Allan Holley who is the Institute's representative on the Australian Emergency Management Forum. Allan informed us that he had attended a Conference in Canberra in April and is satisfied that the forum is progressing towards achieving their aims, in particular, in gaining recognition of the voluntary organisation as a third sector of the Emergency Management Structure.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Institute at the end of 2004, stood at 697 as opposed to 710 in the previous year. This represents a loss of 16 members and Council is concerned about this waning membership. It is appreciated that the lack of the distribution of the NER magazine would have been a contributing factor in this membership loss. Divisions are asked to look at their membership situation and report to Mr Bob Maul strategies that can be put in place in increasing membership in their individual divisions.

INTEGRATION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES CONFERENCE

Council approved today the conduct of an Integration of Emergency Services Conference, to be conducted by the Queensland Division on the 3, 4 and 5 November 2005 on the Gold Coast, Queensland. This is to be a National Conference for all Emergency Services personnel, hosted by the Queensland Division. It will be titled, Earth, Water, Wind and Fire Integration of Emergency Services. Council further approved funding for myself and Bob Maul to attend and assist in various aspects of the Conference.

Queensland Division is to be congratulated for initiating this Conference which will contribute in furthering the aims and objectives of the Institute.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING 2006

The next meeting of General Council and the AGM of the Institute will be conducted in Adelaide on Monday 10 April, 2006.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it would be remiss of me not to pass on the Board's appreciation to our Secretary/Registrar Robert (Bob) A Maul. Bob has worked tirelessly and diligently throughout the year and the efficient way he prepares the financial reports of the Institute is to be highly commended. This is a very onerous responsibility, as the reports must be of the same standard as they are for a very large corporation. Thank you Bob for your efforts.

I commend my report for final acceptance and this I so move

Thank you,

AUGUST 2005

2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS - NATIONAL BOARD AND INSTITUTE

Melbourne was the venue for this year's Annual Meeting of National (General) Council and the 29th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services. Both meetings were held on Monday 16 May, 2005. Mr Rhys Maggs, the Director of SES was kind enough to provide the Conference Room at the State HQ of the Victorian SES as the venue for the Annual Meeting of National Council which lasted from 9am to 3.30pm (NSW Division of the Institute).

National Council was most appreciative of the Victorian SES Director for making the SES HQ available to the Board to enable the meeting to be held. The Annual General Meeting of the Institute was held that night at the Bells Hotel with about forty members being in attendance. It was very encouraging to see such a large group in attendance, including the Director of the Victorian SES. Mr Barry Dean of Emergency Management Australia gave the keynote address which dealt with his visit to Banda Aceh in Sumatra which suffered such devastating loss of life as a result of the Tsunami which inundated the island in late December 2004. His address was well received and Mr Dean has offered to provide a copy of his address for incorporation in *National Emergency Response*.

Issues which arose at the meetings in Melbourne and were resolved by the National Board of Directors are detailed below.

INSTITUTES NATIONAL INTERNET WEB SITE

We are pleased to announce that we have a new AIES National Web Master, Mark Sawszak, who is an officer attached to the University of NSW Emergency Management Division. Chris Wright, our previous Web Master for many years, had to relinquish the appointment of Web Master, as well as the Editor of our journal, owing to pressing business commitments with the Tasmanian Police Service and University studies. Chris undertook this work with a great deal of enthusiasm and personal inconvenience to his family. Our Institute is indebted to Chris's contribution for many years and wishes him well in his future endeavours.

A new AIES web site has been established by our new webmaster and the site is in the process of further development.

The site is: www.aies.net.au

INSTITUTES JOURNAL - NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

As was mentioned in the previous paragraph, Mr Chris Wright resigned as Editor of NER last year. As a result, the Board approached Mr Mark Sawszak, who kindly agreed to take over the mantle of Editor of *National Emergency Response* from Chris Wright. The Board is grateful to Mark for accepting the onerous honorary appointment. Other appointments to our editorial NER staff include Mr Martin Page and Mr Mark Preston who have accepted the positions of Deputy Editors.

Thank you for your support guys.

At the time of writing this article, members would have finally received the first edition of the 2005 edition of NER. We sincerely apologise for the delays in getting our magazine to members, but owing to the inability of the publisher to meet deadlines and finally closure of the publisher's business, including finding a new editor, the National Board was unable to provide the magazine late last year and earlier this year.

NATIONAL OFFICE BEARERS

Re-elected to the National Board for the year 2005/2006 were:

President/Director and Principal Executive Officer

Maurice Massie, QPM., LFAIES
(Representing Tasmania)

Vice President

Brian Lancaster, ESM., LFAIES
(Representing South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory)

Directors

Alan Alder, OAM., LFAIES (Representing Victoria)
Alan Holley FAIES., (Representing NSW/ACT/NZ)
Reginald Marshall MAIES., (Representing Queensland)

General Registrar, Director and Company Secretary

Bob Maul

Auditor

Ross Greenwood

Solicitor

McPhee/Kelshaw

The Board was pleased to meet with the Director of the company Countrywide Media, Mr Tony Cornish, in Melbourne on 16 May 2005, when following detailed discussions the Board agreed to enter into a two-year



contract with the magazine proprietor. The Board was most impressed with the quality of the first edition of NER printed by the company. We thank our members nationally for their patience and forbearance in this matter.

NSW and Queensland Directors reported that Mr Steve Anderson and David Parsons and Doug Macdonald members of the NSW and Queensland Divisions have agreed to act as NER Divisional Correspondents for their State.

NEW FELLOW

National Council has approved of the recommendation of the NSW Division that Mr Alan Holley, the NSW Division President be granted the status of Fellow of the Institute. The Directors of National Council extend their congratulations to Alan on his elevation of status.

AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FORUM

This year Emergency Management Australia conducted a three-day conference for emergency management volunteer operatives at the Canberra National Convention Centre. The activity was conducted on the on the 5, 6, and 7 May 2005 with some five hundred volunteer members from various organisations and agencies attending. Financial support for the Conference, in addition to EMO's contribution, was provided by The Department of Family and Community Services, AUSAID, Australian Taxation Office and Qantas. The AIES which is a full voting member of the forum was invited to send delegates to the conference. Members representing the AIES on this occasion were Alan Holley, NSW Division President (AIES Nominated Forum Member), Bob Maul, General Registrar/Company Secretary, Mr Steve Anderson, Member of the NSW Division Board and Mr Des Rainsford, member of the Queensland Division Board. All AIES delegates were most impressed with the conduct of the Conference including the manner in which it was managed and the excellent hospitality arrangements. A detailed report on the conference will be submitted by Mr Steve Anderson for inclusion in our journal.

The Conference was opened by the Acting Governor-General John Landy (the former famous Olympian and great miler) and the welcome address given by the Federal Attorney-General the Hon Philip Ruddock, MP. The Attorney in his address mentioned, inter alia, "that it is the Australian way to step in and lend a hand to those in need. This spirit is demonstrated by the 500,000 volunteers who form the backbone of Australia's emergency management and service capabilities. These volunteers carry out a wide range of essential services. They work behind the scenes and coordinate emergency operations. Volunteers do all this work without the expectation of reward or recognition. They volunteer because they care about their fellow Australians. Without their dedication, Australia would not be able to manage the risk of emergencies, and it would not be the proud and

prosperous country it is today..." The keynote presentation was delivered by Major-General B (Horri) Howard, Rtd, Chairman of the Emergency Management Volunteer Forum, who gave a report card on the National Summit

"Volunteers do all this work without the expectation of reward or recognition.

They volunteer because they care about their fellow Australians."

for Emergency Management Volunteers in 2001 and developments since. Other speakers included the Taxation Commissioner, who launched the ATO's booklet "Non Profit Organisations and Fundraising", Dr Fiona Wood, Australian of the Year, who spoke on "Drivers for Change" and Mr Len Foster, CXO, Australian Fire Authorities Council, whose address was entitled "Enhancing Links to Further Benefit Volunteers and Their Communities".

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S VISIT

At the invitation of the AIES National Board, the Director-General of Emergency Management Australia, Mr David Templeman met with Directors of the Board in Melbourne on 15 May 2005. The Board and Mr Templeton had long and meaningful discussions on a number of emergency management-related activities, including the role and raison d'être of the AIES. As a result of this meeting, the DG and AIES agreed to work closer together and to assist one another, where practicable, to enhance emergency management projects throughout Australia.

At the conclusion of the night, the National Board bestowed Honorary Membership of the AIES on Mr David Templeton. This is the highest honorary award the AIES can grant.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR 2004 AND COMPANY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Company Secretary, Bob Maul, presented the Annual Accounts and Financial Statements of the AIES to the Annual General Meeting of the Institute in Melbourne on Monday evening the 16 May 2005. He recommended the adoption of the accounts on the basis that:

- a The Profit and Loss Account was drawn up to give a true and fair view of the company's financial situation at 31 December 2004;
- b The Balance Sheet was drawn up to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at the end of the 2004 financial period.
- c The cash flows gave a true and fair view of the cash flows of the company, and that the accounts were made out in accordance with Divisions 4A and 4B of part 3.6 of the Corporations Act, and give a true and fair view of matters dealt with by those Divisions.

The Secretary reported that the Institute remained a viable concern with the net assets of the National Division standing at \$32,601.86, as against a book assets value of \$31,850 last year. (Assets of the State Divisions not included in this statement.) Income increased by an amount of \$1723.47 whilst expenses decreased by an amount of \$1993.89 giving a modest profit of \$751.57.

Amongst matters covered in his report the National Secretary stated that an issue of concern is the continuing decline in membership of the Institute. There were a number of reasons for this, including age of members, retirement from service organisations and deaths. He reiterated that as membership subscriptions were the Institute's principal source of income, it is vital that if the Institute is to carry out its functions and roles in the future as an independent forum for the submission of ideas and recommendation on emergency management issues on a National basis, its membership base must not only be retained, but that each Division look at ways and means of encouraging new and younger members to join the Institute. We need new and "young blood" so that the Institute can in future carry out the role established under its Charter and Articles of Association. It should be remembered that the Post Nominals which members are entitled to use are the cheapest in Australia, and have always been.

NOTE: To get the issue of membership "off the ground", National Council has agreed to establish a Membership Sub-Committee headed by one of our Victorian members, which will work through the Victorian Division and report its finding and recommendations to General Council. Any members who have brilliant ideas on this subject should pass this on to the General Registrar who will arrange for the submission to be sent to the Chairman of the Sub Committee.

STATE DIVISION ACTIVITIES

Our State Divisions, from reports received, were quite busy during 2004 with Queensland and Victoria conducting conferences in Brisbane and Melbourne and all States hosting quarterly meetings at which guest lecturers gave addresses on various interesting emergency management topics.

A synopsis of Division Reports is covered in later sections of this edition of the journal. The representatives of NSW, Queensland, and NSW mentioned the following AIES sponsored activities which will be held in 2005 and 2006.

- a AIES Queensland Emergency Management Conference
- November 2005- Gold Coast.
- b Victorian AIES /Combined Emergency Management Conference – Hawthorn Campus, Melbourne – 22 October 2005.
- c NSW AIES/Combined Emergency Rescue Expo
– Hawkesbury, Sydney, May 2006.

Detailed information on the conferences will be sent to members via email, by post or communicated through NER.

The National President and General Registrar will attend the Queensland Conference in November 2005 on the Gold

Coast by invitation from the Executive of the Queensland AIES Division.

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER 2001 AIES MEDAL

Since last year, our State Divisions have issued the UN International Year of the Volunteer Medal to further members of the AIES. As National Council still holds additional stocks of these medals, Divisions have been asked to have a look again at their membership registers to ascertain if there are any other members of the Institute who would be worthy recipients of the medal. Guidelines for the issue and wear of these medals will again be sent by the General Registrar to Divisions for issue to members of our Institute.

NEW DIVISION SUB BRANCHES

Alan Holley, our NSW Division President has advised that the NSW Divisional Board intends to hold two of its quarterly meetings in other parts of the States during the remainder of the financial year. It is intended to hold dinner meetings in Canberra and Dubbo. Many of our members reside in areas other than Capital Cities, and due to the tyranny of distance cannot always attend our quarterly dinner meetings which are held in the Capital Centres. The Board is anxious to revive Institute Sub Branches in such centres as Canberra and Newcastle etc., In the past, these branches held regular meetings and were very active.

Bob Maul

*General Registrar/Company Secretary
June 2005*

QUEENSLAND

I would like to thank the Queensland Board members for their effort over the past year with juggling their full-time jobs and running the Queensland Division of the Institute. They are Ron Melton VRM, Mick Davis, Queensland Ambulance Service, Peter Dawes, Surf ` Life Saving, and Fred Rainsford, SES.

Like all other States our members missed receiving the National Response Magazine. To keep members abreast with local news issues, the Queensland Division, decided to put together a State magazine and named it Queensland Emergency News. It was supported with articles and photographs by the State Government. We would like to pass on our thanks to Queensland Surf Life Saving and Queensland Ambulance for their help in distributing this local magazine to outlying areas.

In May 2004, the Division held a dinner which was attended by senior representatives from the Premier's Department, Queensland Fire and Rescue Services, Queensland Ambulance, Queensland Police, Queensland rail, Port of Brisbane, Anti terrorist members from the Department of Defence and the State Emergency Service. Our keynote speaker was the Hon Philip Ruddock, MP., Federal Attorney-General. The topic of his speech, which is reproduced in this edition of NER was "Managing Terrorism for a Safer Community".

Queensland Division, despite managing a very large State continues to maintain its membership numbers. At the end of 2004, the Division numbers totalled 171 Members, 6 Fellows and one Corporate member. We look forward to a challenging year ahead.

Reg Marshall

Queensland President

VICTORIA

Division Membership as at 31 December 2004 stood at ninety-eight members. We managed to maintain the status quo with four members leaving. Two of those who left were struck off for non-payment of subscriptions, the others retiring or moving up north. Additional members joined up in 2005. Two of our new members are Emergency Management Consultants and the other two are Emergency Services personnel.

Responses to a number of queries about our magazine's irregularity were accepted by members who realised that there can be problems involved with publications relying on volunteer input.

The Combined Emergency services Committee is planning to present its 27th seminar on Saturday October 22nd 2005 at Hawthorn Campus of Melbourne University. This venue is most appropriate being in suburban Melbourne. As a non-residential campus it allows us full use of all facilities with adequate parking for delegates. "Age of Technology" is the theme of the Seminar. Conduct of this activity has been well received that the Institute has approached for speakers.

Victoria's new Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon Tim Holding has been invited to open the Seminar. Australian Federal Police Commissioner, Mick Kelty, will give the keynote address.

Speakers at the Seminar will include members of the Victoria Police Forensic Centre (CSI Melbourne), Australian Customs Service, Australian Quarantine Service, Department of Sustainability and Environment (Fire Combat technology), State Coroner's Office, Coastguard Victoria, EMA (Tsunami Response) and Rural Ambulance Service.

The seminar has been supported by the AIES since 1981 and it is recognised and also supported by the Heads of agencies and the Department of Justice which provides an annual grant to help defray overheads. This grant enables the Organising Committee to keep the registration fee down to an affordable level for "hands-on people" who are our target audience. This year the registration fee will be \$60, slightly more than last year. A detailed brochure indicating guest speakers etc., will be circulated to AIES Divisions and other interested bodies shortly. In the meantime, those interested in attending should contact the undersigned at Melbourne (03) 9844 3237.

Alan Alder

Registrar – AIES Victoria

SA/WA AND NT

The following news is taken from the report of the Registrar for South Australia/Western Australia and the Northern Territory Division.

It gives me great pleasure to present my first registrar's report for the year ended 31 December 2004. During the Institute's financial year from January 1 to December 31, 2004, applications were received from eleven (11) new members. These members are employed in the following organisations:

State Emergency Service SA	3
SA Country Fire Service	1
Australian Red Cross	1
SA Police	1
BHP	1
WA Police	2
SA Ambulance	2

The Division lost a total of seventeen members, which included 13 resignations, two deaths and two transfers. A membership drive has continued and is ongoing. In 2005, another application for membership was received and processed. The total membership of the Division at 31/12/04 stood at 208. It is of great interest to note that there are over forty (40) Services and other organisations represented by the membership of this Division. This includes WA and NT membership.

The major program of this Division continues to be the conduct of dinner meetings at about two monthly intervals. Guest speakers are chosen carefully for their involvement in emergency and disaster matters and, on occasions, of general interest to members. The response to those meetings indicates the success of the program. Average attendance has been close to 35 persons at each dinner meeting.

There has been, once again, a varied program provided for members as shown hereunder:

February	Mr Vince Monterola - Chairman SAFECOM The Dawkins Report
April	Mr Robert Perry - Journalist Sharing 40 years Experience
June	Mr Andrew Lawson Manager Operations Planning C.F.S Services Working Together
August	Mr Garry MacPhie Dept of Primary Industry & Resources "The Goose Series"
October	Mr Lee Francis - SA Ambulance Service "Services Working Together"
December	Mr Christopher Hannocks CEO Monarto Zoological Park "The DNA Project"

Sincere thanks must go to the KBOM and their staff for the magnificent support and service they have provided to the Institute. Our thanks go to the Mess Manager, Mr Don Mawson, for his personal help and assistance.

The Institute continues to provide a forum that encourages communication between all the different services and organisations that respond to personal and public emergencies and/or disasters. As individuals,

"The Institute continues to provide a forum that encourages communication between all the different services and organisations that respond to personal and public emergencies and/or disasters."

it enables us to have a greater understanding of each organisation's capabilities, and this is invaluable in the management of crisis situations 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 at all possible to attend the Institute meetings.

Unfortunately, due to work commitments, Mr Chris Lemmer is unable to re-nominate for Board membership this year. On behalf of all members, I take this opportunity to extend grateful thanks to Mr Lemmer for his contribution to the Institute as a member of the Board.

I would personally like to support everyone who has supported me in my inaugural year as Registrar. In particular, a special thank you must go to Mr Bob Hegarty for his tireless efforts in personally undertaking to photocopy all Institute paperwork. He has achieved this feat in a timely manner, despite his involvement with disaster recovery efforts following the Tsunami and Eyre Peninsular bush fires.

It is also appropriate that I thank on behalf of the membership, the Division President, Mr Barry Presgrave, whose keenness, energy and great interest is an inspiration to us all.

John W Lenton

Registrar



TASMANIA

Membership of the Tasmanian Division at 31 December 2004 stood at forty-two members (42). This figure does not depict a true picture of our membership as we currently have applications for three new members (since processed) and a transfer from Queensland. So, realistically our membership in the New Year stood at 46 members.

There are a number of other members still on our list, but for reasons I will explain later, we cannot establish their financial status at this stage. Our official membership comprises 10 fellows, one Life Fellow and 31 members, plus the new members and the transferee to which I have referred.

The Division has been through a tumultuous time during the period under review. Our woes commenced in March 2004 when a new Registrar was appointed and records were not maintained. An attempt to correct this by appointing another Registrar during the year failed when that person had to resign for personal and other reasons. I am happy to report, however, that all is not lost, and with the hard work of our President, Mr David Paton, our Vice President, Darrell Johnson and one of our members, Les Batchelor, the situation has been rectified with our financial books balancing, and we are now on track again and raring to go !!

The Divisional Board met on a regular basis throughout the year and three dinner meetings were organised one being on the West Coast at Strahan.

On 18 April 2005, the Division conducted its Annual General Meeting at the RSL Club at Lindisfarne, and the following members were appointed to the Board.

President

David Paton (*Tasmania Police Rtd*)

Vice President

Darrell Johnson (*SES*)

Board Members

Les Batchelor (*Chaplain*)

John Mackonis (*SES*)

Peter Geard (*Tas Fire Service/SES*)

Maurice Massie (*Tas Police Rtd*)

Auditor

Bob Graff

National

Maurice Massie *Representative*

Subsequent to that meeting, Jannene Geard has agreed to take over the role of Registrar. Jannene is the wife of Peter Geard and has been a long-time supporter of the Institute. Jannene's contact details are as follows:

Bus: (03) 6249 0918 Home: (03) 6268 1143

Email: jannene.geard@ap.csplc.com

Because of the difficulties we are facing, it was determined that we should split the Registrar's functions and Les Batchelor has taken over the duties as Divisional Treasurer. His contact details are as follows:

Home address: 47 Seddon Street Austins Ferry 7011 TAS.

Home Ph. No (03) 6249 8951 Mob: 0407 545 587

In spite of our difficulties, the Division has been able to meet our financial obligations and has already forwarded to our National Registra and Secretary Bob Maul, our due Capitation fees.

It is intended to conduct our regular PJ Parsley Award in conjunction with a meeting to be held in Strahan on 30 July 2005. Once again, it was the lack of a Registrar that created the delay in proceeding with this important event in our Divisional Calendar. With restructuring that has been put in place in the Tasmania Division, I look forward with confidence to our future.

ME Massie

State Representative

COMBINED EMERGENCY SERVICES SEMINAR COMMITTEE

27TH ANNUAL SEMINAR



"THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY" IN THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

ABN 35 488 356 910

Saturday 22nd October 2005 at the Melbourne University Private Hawthorn Campus

442 Auburn Road, Hawthorn MEL REF 59 E2

This, our 27th Seminar, will again be a One-day presentation. We have selected as the theme **"The AGE OF TECHNOLOGY"**. We believe that the subject matter will be of great interest to members of the various Emergency Services, Support Agencies, Municipalities and the Corporate Sector. Our Speakers will present aspects of the theme and, as always, we are targeting the "hands on" people and the planners.

The **Hon. Mr. Tim Holding MLA** Minister for police and Emergency Services has been invited to open the Seminar
Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mr. Michael Kelty will deliver the keynote address.
Papers will be presented by Speakers from the following Organisations:-

Emergency Management Australia - Earthquake and Tsunami aftermath

Australian Customs Service

The Coroners Office – Wide ranging roles and responsibilities.

Department of Sustainability and Environment - Fire fighting Technology

Victoria Police Forensic Services

Australian Quarantine Services

Coast Guard Victoria

Rural Ambulance Victoria

The Committee believes that this selection of interesting, thought provoking subjects will once again ensure that our attendees will receive value for the cost of the seminar. Unfortunately, our seminar venue is limited to the first 150 attendees so book early to avoid disappointment. Further details will be circulated when finalised.

At the end of the day's program we will provide the usual facility for general discussion with conviviais.

Overnight accommodation will be available Friday & Saturday Night at a local Motel and can be booked by directly contacting the Motel listed below.

The Registration Fee for the Seminar includes Morning & Afternoon Tea, Lunch, Speakers Notes and conviviais.

Saturday October 22nd 2005 - [Mark your diary now.]

Registration Fee (includes GST) - Saturday Seminar \$60.00

Accommodation: California Motel 138 Barkers Road, Hawthorn Ph: 9818 0281 Freecall 1800 331 166
A special rate is offered for seminar attendees.

For Further information regarding registration for the Seminar please contact our Registrar: Mr Bob Wardzynski
The Registrar, P.O. Box 52, Briar Hill, Victoria, 3088 (Enclose S.S.A.E)

Phone: (A/H) (03) 9436 8366 Fax: (03) 9436 8377

E-mail: admin@cessci.com.au

Or you can register on our website www.cessci.com.au

MANAGING TERRORISM FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

Hon. Philip Ruddock

Attorney-General,

An address delivered by the Hon Philip Ruddock, Federal Attorney-General to a meeting of the Queensland Institute of Emergency Services in Brisbane in 2004 (note the prediction made about Great Britain- para 8)

1. Firstly, may I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we meet on - the Jagera and Turrball people and pay my respect to their elders, both past and present. Other acknowledgements: Mr Reg Marshall Queensland President Australian Institute of Emergency Services. Mr Ron Melton Vice-President, Mr Peter Dawes Registrar. Mr Mick Davis AM and Mr Fred Rainsford committee members.

INTRODUCTION

2. I am delighted to be with you this evening. Tonight I want to give you an update on the war against terror and I want to fill you in on the Government's latest thinking on terrorism issues.

LEVEL OF THE TERRORIST THREAT.

3. It is clear that we are now living in a highly volatile, and highly unpredictable, security environment.

4. Terrorism remains a very real and deadly threat, numerous terrorist groups continue to be active in all parts of the world.

5. In the last twelve months, there have been terrorist attacks in countries including Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Turkey, the Philippines and Russia.

6. Just a few days ago an Australian engineer working in Saudi Arabia has been killed by what appears to be an act of terrorism.

7. In Spain, we have seen bombings that were precisely planned and executed. The attacks were designed to kill ordinary people and they were planned to create as much fear and chaos as possible.

8. The dangers facing the United Kingdom have been highlighted by the arrest of nine young men who are alleged to have been stockpiling the ingredients for a fertiliser bomb. The British home secretary David Blunket is on record as saying that it was not a question of 'if' the United Kingdom would be targeted, but a question of 'when'.

9. This perception that a large-scale attack is imminent, and almost inevitable, was further confirmed during my recent visit to the United States. I met with the director of the CIA, George Tenet and he made it very clear to me that they believed that Al-Qaida was intent on mounting an operation as large as the tragedy that we saw in New York on September 11.

10. These are extremely sobering forecasts. They come

from senior and highly respected figures and they serve to highlight just how real and dangerous the terrorist threat is.

AUSTRALIAN RESPONSE TO TERRORISM:

11. For its part, the Howard Government is absolutely determined to protect Australia from attack.

- We do not underestimate the terrorist threat.
- We are not complacent.

- And we are not sitting back passively waiting for the terrorists to make their next move.

12. The Government's duty is to protect the safety of its citizens and to preserve the nation's sovereignty. These are enormous responsibilities and we treat them with the utmost respect and seriousness.

13. Since September 11, we have committed almost 3 Billion dollars to the war against terrorism and we have put in place more than one hundred counter-terrorism measures.

14. Every day, the Government is looking for ways to improve and strengthen our counter-terrorism strategies. We are constantly testing and refining the capacity of our security agencies and we are always open to new legislative options to ensure we have the most up to date laws in place.

15. Our vigilance against terrorism is ongoing and relentless.

"Terrorism can infiltrate our cities with relative ease. Indeed, our cities have now become the new battlefields and civilians have become targets."

COUNTER-TERRORISM PHILOSOPHY AND INITIATIVES.

16. Unfortunately, no amount of security measures can fully insulate us from an attack. The reality is that all countries and all people are vulnerable.

17. This war against terrorism is not a traditional war.

- There is no defined battlefield.
- Traditional borders are meaningless.
- There is no conventional military force to fight with.
- And there is no hierarchy or leadership to negotiate with.

18. Terrorism can infiltrate our cities with relative ease. Indeed, our cities have now become the new battlefields and civilians have become targets.

19. The other complicating factor is that unlike professional soldiers, the terrorists are fanatics who have no respect for their own lives. Suicide attacks are their standard operating procedure and as we saw with the twin

towers, these suicide attacks can take devastating forms that were previously unimaginable.

20. This is an enemy that has no sense of self preservation and this means that prevention rather than simply prosecution and punishment have to be the way forward. Prosecution and punishment to a terrorist who is prepared to take his or her own life as well as the lives of others is a meaningless concept.

21. So the philosophy underpinning the Government's counter-terrorism strategy is essentially one of prevention. We are focused on stopping an attack. But at the same time we realise the likelihood of an attack is very high. So if one does occur we are making sure that we have the right response and mitigation strategies in place.

TERRORISM LEGISLATION.

22. The strengthening of our counter-terrorism laws was one of the first - and most important things the Government did to protect Australia from attack.

23. We created a number of new offences relating to terrorism - it is now a crime to commit, train or prepare for a terrorist act and it is illegal to be a member or to support one of the 16 terrorist organisations that we have so far listed.

24. We developed legislation to deny terrorists access to the funds they need to carry out their attacks. We legislated to enable our law enforcement agencies to use intercepted material when investigating criminal activities and we enhanced ASIO's powers to obtain warrants to detain and question persons who may have information about terrorist activity.

"The international intelligence community is succeeding in identifying and preventing terrorist activities."

25. Unfortunately, events like Bali forced the Government to introduce further Laws. There is now an extra-territorial offence of murder to ensure that terrorists who kill Australians abroad cannot escape justice and the drawn out process of listing Jemaah Islamiyah as a terrorist organisation after Bali highlighted the inadequacies of our listing process. Legislation has recently been passed to enable us to list terrorist organisations based on our national interest and security needs, without relying on the United Nations to list an organisation before we do. On Monday I announced that the Government has decided to list P.I.J as a terrorist organisation.

26. The Government has recently introduced a bill to strengthen various aspects of our counter-terrorism legal regime. The bill improves the ability of Australia's law enforcement authorities to effectively enforce our terrorism laws. The bill makes it easier to prosecute persons who commit hostile activities while serving with the armed forces of a foreign state and it strengthens the laws for the confiscation of proceeds of crime.

27. The bill also strengthens the laws for membership of terrorist organisations and the offences of providing training to or receiving training from a terrorist

organisation. This will place the onus on the accused person to ensure that they are not involved in training activities with a terrorist organisation.

These changes reinforce the message that Australia will not deal lightly with would-be terrorists.

INTELLIGENCE CAPACITY.

28. Proper legislation is important but laws can only be useful once we know what the terrorists are up to. This is why good intelligence is more important than ever.

29. Good intelligence has two elements. Firstly, we need to collect reliable information on what the terrorists are doing. Secondly, we need to become expert at collating, analysing and then acting upon this information.

30. I make no secret of the fact that the intelligence we have at the moment is not as good as we would like it to be. There is no such thing as perfect intelligence and there never will be.

31. The terrorist groups we are now dealing with are extremely difficult to infiltrate and we simply do not have extensive intelligence networks working within organisations such as Al-Qaida or Jemaah Islamiyah.

32. Nevertheless, the number of foiled terrorist attacks around the world does show that the international intelligence community is succeeding in identifying and preventing terrorist activities.

33. The Prime Minister has made it clear that the Government will give our intelligence services whatever resources they need to do their job fully.

34. Just this week the Prime Minister and I opened the new national threat assessment centre. The centre will analyse information and make assessments twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. It reflects the importance we place on good intelligence and demonstrates we are determined to use the intelligence we have in the best way possible.

35. I have every confidence that we are improving our intelligence capacity and I have every confidence that our intelligence is helping us to prevent an act of terrorism.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION.

36. The security of our critical infrastructure is another important element of the prevention process.

37. A few weeks ago we held high level discussions with officials from the United States about the need to protect our economic infrastructure.

38. We know that terrorists and others are targeting our economic infrastructure and we know that this involves targeting the physical facilities, supply chains and computer networks which underpin and drive our national economy.

39. The difficulty we face in protecting this critical infrastructure is that no single business and no single level of Government has sole ownership or control over it.

40. For this reason, it is essential that there is cooperation between business and Government. Since September 11, the Government has been working closely with the business community. Despite understandable concerns about commercially sensitive information, the level of cooperation has been exceptional.

41. To build upon this spirit of goodwill, the Prime Minister recently announced a high-level forum on critical infrastructure and national security. The forum is an acknowledgement of how important it is that we protect our economy from terrorism and other threats. Its main purpose will be to look for further ways we can work together to safeguard our economic infrastructure.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

42. Our desire to prevent an attack must be tempered by the reality that, like the United Kingdom and the United States, we are a terrorist target. A terrorist attack in Australia is a distinct possibility and we must be ready to deal with it.

43. As members of the emergency services community you understand only too well the importance of having the right arrangements in place to respond to, and recover from, a catastrophic event.

44. Whether it be a terrorist attack or a natural disaster the same emergency management principles apply.

- The injured need to be treated.
 - Action has to be taken to prevent further injuries from happening.
 - The safety of the site has to be ensured.
 - Work has to get underway to restore essential services.
45. In all emergencies, coordination and cooperation at all levels of Government is the most important thing. We need to ensure we can deliver coordinated and multi-agency responses no matter where or when an incident may occur.
46. The Australian Emergency Management committee is currently working on the development of national priorities. These priorities will form the basis for the way we handle emergencies. In developing these priorities we always need to bear in mind the expertise and views of police and other emergency services personnel.
- You work to restore order to dangerous situations.
 - You risk your life to save others and in a great many ways you understand - and have the greatest insight into - the issues of emergency management.

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL EXERCISE.

47. To evaluate our preparedness for a terrorist incident we recently conducted Australia's first multi-jurisdictional counter-terrorism exercise.

48. Mercury 04, involved nearly three thousand people. The exercise presented a range of complex terrorism scenarios.

They included:

- Mock attacks by terrorists on an offshore oil and gas facility north of Darwin.
- Bomb blasts in Victoria and the Northern Territory.
- A high-profile kidnapping in Tasmania.
- A siege and other incidents across the country.

49. As these scenarios were played out, Emergency Management Australia (EMA) Coordinated two special incident task forces to look at and make recommendations on consequence management arrangements.

50. A decade ago an exercise of this type may have seemed a bit excessive - but today it is realistic and a necessary test of our counter-terrorism capabilities event.

51. Over the course of Mercury 04 some minor problems were identified. One issue was the time it took to communicate information along the Command Chain.

52. But the overall outcome was a positive one. It showed that the arrangements we have in place are working and it showed that we are well prepared for an attack.

HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT.

53. Those that are continually arguing that we need a homeland Security Department should take note of just how well Mercury 04 went.

54. I don't see the point of changing things for no reason.

55. The structures we have in place are working smoothly and they are appropriate for our particular circumstances.

56. Interestingly, the British Government considered - and rejected - proposals for a department of homeland security.

57. The labour party home secretary told the House of Commons in November 2002 that a homeland security facility: "is way beyond anything that we in this country could contemplate without completely dislocating not only our Government procedures but the investment that we need in key services that secure the kind of lifestyle, economy and services that make this country worth living in..."

58. The opposition's fascination with the idea of a homeland security department is nothing more than political grandstanding. They have no constructive contribution to make to the security debate and they are desperately trying to make it look as though they have something new to say.

59. A homeland security department is not something that we need. If anything, it would just create a vulnerability in an area where we are performing well.

CONCLUSION.

60. I have emphasised the gravity of the situation we face and I have made it clear that the Government is determined to do whatever is necessary to reel in the terrorist threat.

61. The questions everyone wants answered are:

- Whether we are winning the war against terrorism.
- And whether we are making the world a safer place.

62. Of course there are no simple answers and it is simply not possible to definitively say 'yes we are winning the war against terrorism, and 'yes' we are making the world a safer place.

63. But I am brave enough to point out that the international community has registered a number of successes.

- Al-qaida's capabilities have been significantly degraded, with two-thirds of its membership either killed or captured.
- Terrorist assets worth well over 200 million dollars have been seized or Frozen.
- More than one-hundred terrorist plots have been foiled.
- And those responsible for the Bali bombings are being brought to justice.

64. The terrorist threat still exists. And no-one can predict when we will defeat terrorism. But our efforts and our sacrifices are producing results. We have the will and determination to succeed. And ultimately the terrorists will be stopped.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEER MEDAL – THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEERS 2001

Bob Maul

General Registrar/Company Secretary General Council

Some of our AIES members throughout Australia have sought information as to the bona fides of the United Nations Year of the Volunteers 2001 Medal minted by the AIES in 2002. The following provides guidance about the UN Volunteers Medal and the reason for its issue by National (General) Council, including criteria for its issue:

On November 20, 1999, The United Nations passed Resolution 52/17 (International Year of the Volunteer). The Australian Government was a signatory to the Resolution and did recognise all points of it, including the issue of a Medal for volunteers involved in emergency organisations. The Medal and LOGO were governed by the Guidelines for the use of the IYV 2001 LOGO.

“The main objective of the Medal was to increase recognition, facilitation, networking and the promotion of volunteering.”

All United Nations Awards are also given the status of foreign awards, by the Commonwealth, and are sanctioned for wearing on a case by case basis relating to Australia’s involvement in UN activities. The Medal was given recognition by the South Australian Government, through both houses of Parliament, and was given the status of a State Award. The ribbon of the medal consists of two colours, orange comes from the LOGO of IYV2001 whilst the blue signifies the United Nations.

The National Council of the Institute after close consideration in 2001, was pleased to make the decision to make this Award available to those members of the Institute who made, or, have made a significant contribution in the development of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services. This was to be consistent with such

Awards being made in all Divisions around Australia.

The main objective of the Medal was to increase recognition, facilitation, networking and the promotion of volunteering. The bottom line is that it is a genuine Award with its recognition being very open throughout the various Governments and Organisations throughout the world.

The Award adds value to our emergency volunteers be they operational or support personnel. It has been identified, at National level, that the Australian Institute of Emergency Services is such a support Organisation.

National (General) Council resolved that the criteria for the issue of the Medal was to be as follows:

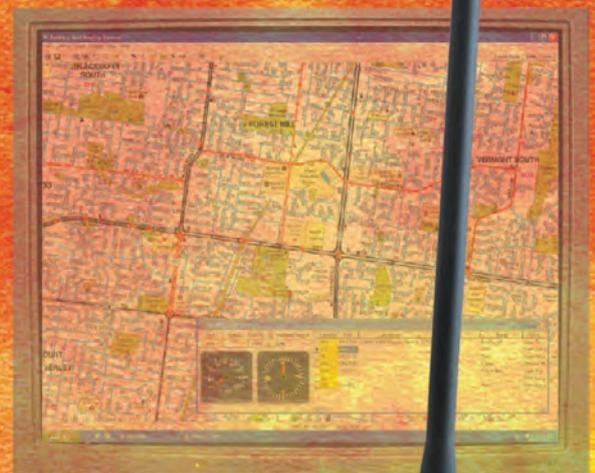
- i Member must be a current financial member;
- ii Member must have served more than one year prior to the year 2001;
- iii Member must have served 7 years as member of the AIES;
- iv Member must have provided outstanding service to the Institute or made a significant contribution to Institute as determined by State Divisional Boards.

National Council made it clear that it did not wish to lay down “hard and fast rules” as to what constitutes “outstanding service” or “significant contribution” and stated that Divisional Boards might consider issuing the Medals to those, but not exclusively, who had served the Institute in the capacity of Office Bearers, Registrars, Editors of Journals, Divisional Correspondents etc. provided they complied with the criteria set out above. Divisional Boards were also encouraged to present recipients of the Medal with a Certificate of Recognition as designed by National Council, and it was suggested that a prominent citizen be invited to meetings where medals were to be presented to members.

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VOLUNTEERING IN PARADISE



Yachts at anchor in East Cove

During a holiday on Flinders Island in 2001, my wife and I fell into conversation with the Island Development Officer. He told us of a Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife program that put volunteer caretakers on a small island in Bass Strait approximately halfway between Flinders Island and Wilson's Promontory for periods of three months. Our curiosity and the thought of being "lighthouse keepers" prompted us to contact the coordinating Parks and Wildlife ranger and apply for a posting.

After filling in the appropriate applications and supplying CV's and lists of abilities etc., we journeyed to Tasmania for an interview and were accepted as the first "Mainlanders" to be included in the program. We initially were to do the winter shift but were offered the summer 2002 period following the unavailability of the original caretakers.

So began the master plan.

- Research and gather as much information about this "Deal Island".
- Understand the duties and expected outcomes.
- Establish how much personal gear we could take via aircraft to Tasmania and ultimately to the island.
- Plan supplies for three months at own expense (no re-supply once on the island). Food would have to be purchased and packed in Launceston.
- Coordinate the payment of bills and holding of mail etc during your 3-month absence (no mail deliveries or posting facilities on the island).

Deal Island is part of the Kent Group National Park, Tasmania's latest park gazetted in 2001. It is approximately 1700 hectares of absolute beauty - high rocky headlands, secluded sandy beaches, tussock grass plains and forested areas. It is 60 kilometres from Flinders Island and about 80 kilometres from Wilson's Promontory. It supports a wide variety of wildlife including wallabies, possums, penguins, the occasional seal, raptors and other bird-life and the white-lipped snake that is fortunately small and fairly inoffensive. The crystal clear waters abound in a good selection of fish, squid, crayfish and abalone. (The waters have recently been declared a marine reserve).

YACHTS AT ANCHOR IN EAST COVE

The lighthouse, built in 1847 and operated by convicts, stands on a high headland, 305 metres above sea level and is the highest light in the southern hemisphere. This unfortunately proved a problem in low cloud and fog, which obscured it 40% of the time. Its exact location is Lat. 39° 29.8' S Long. 147° 19.3' E.

The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1992 and came under the control of Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife.

As the light station was considered the most complete station remaining in Australia it was heritage listed and the caretaker program was commenced. The caretaker's residence is in a compound about three kilometres from the lighthouse and overlooks East Cove and Murray Pass, a one-kilometre wide passage of water between Deal and Erith and Dover islands. The compound contains

the caretaker's residence, a visitor's house, the original superintendent's house (built in 1847 and now a museum), a radio room, a generator room, a large well-appointed workshop, a storage shed, a large vegetable garden and the oldest existing outhouse in Australia.

As caretakers, we were to maintain a presence to protect the facilities and to carry out a list of work duties. These duties included painting (anything that didn't move), fencing, cleaning, weed eradication, animal and bird surveys, rain recording, track work, gardening, maintenance of the generator, the quad bike, the mowers, the pressure pump, the water storage amenities and the lighthouse and houses.

DEAL ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

So at the end of November, we travelled to Launceston and spent a week buying, packaging and delivering our supplies to the shipping company that would deliver them to Flinders Island. We would fly by light aircraft to Flinders; load our supplies onto a charter fishing boat and head off to our home for three months. So began the adventure.

Our research had not entirely prepared us for the beauty of the island; it was very reminiscent of a tropical Queensland island, until you stepped into the water. Water temperature was about 14° but did rise to about 19° in February. We had also not envisioned the number of yachts, fishing boats, crazy kayakers etc that would call in to visit the island. Many a great BBQ was held at the jetty and many friendships were made and experiences shared. This was the bonus of our stay. In between performing our duties we walked all over the island and wondered at the many magnificent sights and intimate coves and cliffs. Fishing was always on the agenda although I had to rely on the resident fish identification book before enjoying



Deal Island Lighthouse

the meal. I spent a day aboard a visiting fishing boat out of Victoria and made it back to shore with very rubbery sea legs and a bucket full of superb fish that sustained us for a month.

Our house was very comfortable, with gas stove, gas hot water and a gas fridge that regularly needed servicing. Power was supplied at night from a beautiful old Lister generator that was lovingly cleaned everyday and serviced religiously. Although there was considerable water storage, we could not get water through the day without starting the generator and turning on the water pump.

So I was tasked to install a large tank high on a hill to gravity feed to the compound to give us 24-hour pressure. A freighter delivered this tank at 7pm one evening along with four 220-litre drums of fuel and 10 large gas cylinders. Imagine our surprise when the freighter edged in towards the beach and rolled everything into the sea. Fortune would have it that we had some other volunteers on the island that week so it was strip off, into that water and get the supplies ashore. With great difficulty drums and tanks were loaded into the trailer and that tough little



quad bike dragged several loads up the one kilometre track to the compound. Moving the tank was a little more complicated as I had to build an extended frame on the trailer, load the tank and then very slowly edge it up the track to its prepared site. I then installed the fire pump adjacent to the main water storage, connected it into the line and within 30 minutes pumped 5000 litres of water up to the new header tank. Mission accomplished.

THE HOUSE COMPOUND

I resurrected the old HF radio and was able to establish communications with Mersey Radio, a volunteer station in Devonport. This station supplied weather forecasts and assistance to Bass Strait "boaties". I had many enjoyable chats with the station operator Lionel on 2524 and 4535 and regularly acted as a relay when communications proved difficult. Bass Strait is a very unpredictable mass of water. You would experience two or three days of perfect calm and then a rapid deterioration with squalls and wind. Wind that would



The Aircraft Wreck Site

blow continuously for days at 20 to 40 knots and at times up to 70 knots. Learning to work (and walk) in this wind was an experience. It would blow your tools away, blow your ladders over, blow your paint off the brush and occasionally blow you off your feet. The trick was to plan your jobs on the side of the island away from the wind and be ready to change quickly as the wind tracked you down. There were days when we experienced severe squalls with mountainous seas smashing onto the rocky headlands and casting salt spray right across the island. It was an exhilarating experience to “crawl” out to the edge of a cliff, to stare into the face of the gale and to feel the power of nature.

One day we received a phone call from a boat that had anchored in the cove below the compound. It turned out to be the Australian Customs boat “Corio Bay”. We were invited on board to meet the crew and the invitation was extended to stay for dinner. As we went ashore on that beautiful, sunny, clear afternoon a heavy sea fog rolled in and nil visibility prevailed for several hours. Another vagary of Bass Strait.

New Year’s Eve was celebrated at the top of the lighthouse with a lovely hot dinner and champagne. We started the lighthouse generator, turned on the internal lights and toasted the New Year. No, we did not turn on the beam (totally forbidden).

“It was an exhilarating experience to “crawl” out to the edge of a cliff, to stare into the face of the gale and to feel the power of nature.”

At the end of our stay we returned to Brisbane very relaxed and filled with great memories. We were asked to include a section in our report relating to how we dealt with the isolation. Isolation wasn’t a problem, returning to civilisation was more difficult. Noise, smells, large crowds, gaudy shopping centres, forgotten pin numbers, road rage, countless stories from stressed friends etc and the frenetic pace of society convinced us it was time for a “sea change”.

PARADISE REVISITED

Within six months we were offered the Autumn 2004 stint on the island and so began the second adventure. This time we decided to move permanently to Tasmania and to get actively involved in their volunteer wildcare programs. We returned to Deal in June 2004 and found the island still as beautiful, the weather still as variable, the water still as cold, the visitors still as interesting and the solitude still as perfect. We experienced weather patterns that were considered the worst for 30 years but were still entertained by the variables of these patterns.

As Anzac Day fell during this stint we decided to hold our own dawn service. On September 23, 1943, an Airspeed Oxford aircraft out of East Sale was performing an anti-submarine exercise near the island. The aircraft was performing several rolls over the island when it went into a dive and crashed into a hillside very close to the lighthouse. All four crew were killed. They were buried on site but eight months later their bodies were removed to the Victorian War Cemetery at Springvale, Victoria. The engines and several pieces of the aircraft remain in the bush and so pre-dawn we made our way down to the site of the crash and held a very private but moving service. There was a very surreal moment as the day dawned and we looked down into Squally Cove that was not unlike another Cove so far away and you could visualise the landing craft, the high cliffs and that moment in history.

THE AIRCRAFT WRECK SITE

The island had now been equipped with VHF and UHF radios so we could now talk to yachts, fishing boats as well as Volunteer marine radios. This proved very helpful as many craft sheltered around the islands during the many storms etc. It was not unusual to receive a phone call from a yacht owner planning to overstay at Deal offering to bring any supplies that might be running low, especially red wine.

At the end of this stay we headed to our new home in Tasmania content at the wonderful opportunities we had experienced. The offer has already been made to return for another stint in the next two years. How could you refuse? There are many volunteer programs on other islands around Tasmania and we will entertain these possibilities also over the next few years. I have joined the Tasmanian Division of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services and have also become a member of the Lachlan Rural Fire Brigade. Volunteering is addictive.

Dallas Baker
OAM 20/09/2004

74 Moss Beds Road
Lachlan Tasmania 7140
(03) 6261 1548
dallasbaker@hn.ozemail.com.au

GREAT DISASTERS OF THE PAST

THE GREAT MIDDLE AGE CONTAGION

By Bob Maul

General Registrar/Secretary AIES (National Council)

This is the first of a series of articles by the author on the great global disasters of the past which left a profound impact on mankind

The December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami must be ranked as one of the great disasters or catastrophes in our written global history, with a death total around the Indian Ocean rim of somewhere between 250-300 thousand and billions of dollars in infrastructure damage.

Some figures place the death toll at over 1 million or more, although the exact death toll will not be known for many years as in many places no official demographic records were kept.

No one would deny that such a death toll and damage bill is horrendous, but when compared to some other world disasters in the past can it be really assessed as “catastrophic”?

Before we can even begin to use this term we must ask ourselves what we precisely define by such words as “emergency”, “disaster”, “major disaster”, “cataclysm” or “catastrophe”.

These words are often used very loosely in press editions or by the public at large to describe an event which causes loss of life or damage.

Perhaps it is a matter of individual or community perception or interpretation as to what constitutes each event, or what the consequences of such an event are on our individual circumstances, our local community, or a region, state or country as a whole.

It is impossible to precisely allocate a numeral quantity in terms of death or destruction in respect of each of these events, suffice to say that some events cause little damage or death, others cause many deaths and large damage, whilst there are others which result in enormous loss of life and destruction of property and community assets.

Each individual will make up his own mind as to which event will fit what category of emergency.

Attempts have been made in the past to categories and quantify each type of event in terms of numbers of death. One of these is as follows:

Emergency	(10-100 deaths)
Disaster	(100-1000 deaths)
Major Disaster	(1000-10,000 deaths)
Cataclysm	(10,000-100,000 deaths)
Catastrophe	(100,000- 1 million deaths)

A question one has to ask here is, what constitutes an event where the death toll exceeds one million – “an

apocalypse”, and is such an event rare?

“Apocalyptic” events are not as infrequent as we might think, although they are quickly forgotten by mankind.

For example;

- The great global cooling of 536-543 AD – Plague and starvation (Eurasia) – resulting from a gigantic Asian volcanic eruption, probably Krakatoa. An event leading to the “European Dark Ages” and final destruction of the Roman Empire.
- The great post World War I flu epidemic – (19 million deaths)
- World War II – (50 + million deaths)
- Tang Shan earthquake -1976 China – estimated 1.5 million + deaths

Devastating as these occurrences were, they are by no means the largest disaster, cataclysm or catastrophe, whichever one prefers, which has ever beset mankind in written history.

What then was the greatest and most horrific natural emergency in terms of human deaths that has occurred to date in the world. Was it a flood, an earthquake, a Tsunami, a fire or a Typhoon that can be credited with this “mantle of distinction”? No, not one of these events has hitherto met these criteria. The event that has claimed this title was the Great Middle Age Bubonic Plague, which is more commonly referred to, as the “Black Death” or the Great Contagion.

It is estimated that the “Black Death” killed somewhere between 25 and 30 million people in Europe, and probably another 30-40 million in the Middle East, Asia and Africa, although the exact death toll will never be known as detailed records of deaths in the latter continents were either not kept, or scantily at least, in the Middle Ages.

Even in Europe where the death toll was estimated to be between a third of the population, and in some areas even as high as 100%, mortality records at that time were either unreliable or non-existent. This was due to the fact that so many perished, particularly the clergy who were the custodians of records in those days.

Middle Ages Censuses (not entirely reliable) estimate the population of Europe at the beginning of the 14th Century to be about 70 Million. At the time the plague reached Continental Europe the population had reached 75 Million. When the “Black Death” had run its course by the end of 1352, the population was about 50 million or less.

Whatever the total death toll was, its impact on society at the time was truly horrendous and long lasting.



ORIGIN AND CAUSES OF THE PLAGUE.

Chronicles of the Middle Ages indicate that the plague originated somewhere in China sometime in the 1330s, possibly in Mongolia.

Bubonic plague had been endemic in the area for thousands of years, and although severe outbreaks of the contagion occurred from time to time, the disease had never been so virulent or of such dimension.

In its track through China and Mongolia alone it is estimated that in excess of 20 million died (a conservative figure), and the disease was no “respector” of age, sex or physical condition. Plague, specifically bubonic, had always been present in the Mongolian/Western Chinese areas and was transported by black rats which infested the area, including other rodents such as marmots and similar species.

Asiatic rodents were the carriers of the oriental rat flea which harboured the infectious plague bacillus “Yersinia Pestis”. Although outbreaks of bubonic plague had been severe and had been spread along the “silk route” from Eastern Asia to the “Fertile Crescent” for centuries, these outbreaks were nothing in comparison to this Middle Age pestilence.

Even though historians may differ as to causes, spread and scale of the disease, one thing is for certain, that it commenced in the era of the Greater Mongol Empire in the 1330s and 1340s at the time of the great or sadistic Mongol dynasties “the Timurids” when they were in the midst of expanding their empire in Central Asia, the Middle East and the Indian Sub continent.

Mongol warriors had no concept of hygiene and slept with their domestic stock inside their tents “yurts”. As was their natural custom their “accommodation” moved with them as they expanded their conquests across Eurasia. Being a mobile warrior race the Mongols took very few prisoners, killing their foes, and the women and children of their enemies alike.

Slaughter of populations occurred on a wide scale. Heaps of bodies were left on the plains, in cities, towns and villages as the Mongols did not wait around to bury their victims. As the corpses rotted, the bodies were devoured by rodents, who then multiplied on a vast scale and travelled along the trails of victims from Mongolia to the west.

“Whatever the total death toll was, its impact on society at the time was truly horrendous and long lasting.”

Mongols were also not averse to wearing the clothing of the departed, with the result that where a person has contracted the disease from fleas of rodents those fleas would have readily bitten the next person or persons (Mongols) who wore that clothing and to domestic animals such as dogs, etc who slept in the tents of their masters. Thus the disease spread as rapidly as the conquering hordes of bloodthirsty Mongols.

Originating probably in Mongolia in 1331 the disease was first carried eastwards towards China and then westwards along the Mongol trade routes into Central Asia

and finally to the Middle East, Europe and Africa. Oriental records make mention of epidemics in Central Asia in 1339.

Slowly the plague reached the town of Sarai on the Volga River in 1345. From then on it moved rapidly southwards and westwards. Epidemics broke out in the next year in Astrakhan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkistan, the Caucasus and practically all of the northern and eastern shores of the Black Sea, including the Crimea.

Early in 1346 the plague had reached the Crimea with tens of thousands of Tartars, a sub group of the Mongols, dying outside the settlement of Kaffa (now Feodosiya).

Tartars at the time were besieging the town, which was an Italian Genoese trading seaport on the Black Sea. In order to force the inhabitants to capitulate and cede the port to them, legend has it that the Tartars catapulted the corpses of plague victims into the settlement’s fortification, a well known European siege tactic.

Many Tartars fervently believed that the plague was a foreign disease brought to their shores by Italian merchants. They therefore, retaliated with the only weapons at their disposal – decaying corpses.

Gabrieli de Mussi, an Italian lawyer and citizen of the town at the time, summed the situation up as thus:

“Mountains of the dead were catapulted into the town of Kaffa which was awash with rotten corpses. The stench was intolerable and only one in several thousand was able to flee the town.”

More realistically, it is far more likely that the plague was carried into the port by scavenging black rats which picked up infected fleas as they gorged on the corpses of the Mongol plague victims in the encampments.

INVASION OF EUROPE

Europe had its first encounter with the disease when trading vessels infested with rats and carrying plague ridden survivors from Kaffa landed at Messina, Sicily, Italy in 1346. Whilst every effort was made to contain the victims aboard the vessels, rats from the ships swam ashore thereby quickly spreading the disease.

Catania a nearby settlement was severely affected, with a death toll close to one hundred per cent. From Sicily the plague spread rapidly across Europe in two years. It reached the Byzantium City of Constantinople in 1347, the second time the city had encountered a devastating plague; the first being in 541-3 AD during the reign of the Emperor Justinian.

Alexandria in Egypt, as did Cairo, experienced the plague in the same year with the plague moving at a rapid pace over Southern Egypt, North Africa and the Middle East, including the Arabic States. By 1348 the plague had spread to Palestine, Tunisia, Arabia, Turkey, Northern Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Austria, England and France.

Death on an enormous scale occurred in the Cities of Pisa, Florence, Genoa, Avignon, Marsailles and Barcelona, as well as other Northern Iberian Ports along the Mediterranean. In 1349, it was well established in all of Britain, most of France, Ireland, Holland, Switzerland, Norway, Northern Germany, the Holy Roman Empire and Italy. The plague entered Sweden, Iceland, Poland, Finland

and the City of Novgorod, Russia in 1350. Greenland experienced the plague in 1351. By 1352 it reached Moscow and Kiev in Russia and then found its way back to Kaffa in the Crimea in the same year, having done a complete circle in six years.

Florence in Italy was one of the first great Middle Age cities to succumb to the plague. Over one hundred thousand of its inhabitants died in the first few months of 1347. Boccaccio, the famous or infamous Italian writer, of the "Decameron" fame wrote of the plight of plague victims in Florence in the following terms:-

" Whilst every effort was made to contain the victims aboard the vessels, rats from the ships swam ashore thereby quickly spreading the disease."

"As for the lesser people who were of the most part middle class, they presented the most miserable spectacle, for those who had no hope or who were seized by poverty, had to remain in the area and fell ill by the thousands every day... since they had no servants or any other help, almost without exception all of them died... many would meet their ends in public streets both day and night and many who met their ends in their houses, would first come to the attention of their neighbours because of the stench of their rotting corpses..."

PLAGUE ARRIVES IN BRITISH ISLES

Plague arrived in England in the village of Melcombe, in the county of Dorset early in 1348 when two trading vessels landed at the village. One of them had aboard a plague victim from Gascony in France and it was through him that the people in the village were the first to be infected in England.

During the spring and summer of that year the plague entered south western England and depopulated the town of Bristol with a terrible ferocity, with almost all of the citizens perishing in a short time. At the time Bristol had a population in excess of ten thousand souls.

From Bristol its vengeance was unstoppable. Within months the epidemic had spread to almost all of England and Wales. Because victims died so quickly (from half a day to four days after contracting the disease), there were not enough cemeteries or persons left alive to bury the victims. London, one of the largest European Cities, was another City to experience the devastating effects of the plague in the same year. Whilst accurate records of deaths are not available, chronicles suggest that as much as 50% of the population perished.

Contemporary accounts state that the "cause of the pestilence or great mortality was a particular sinister alignment of planets or foul winds created by earthquakes." "Looks" according to one Middle Age physician "could kill".

As the most densely populated city in Great Britain, London suffered from overcrowding and poor sanitation. The River Thames was totally polluted and cesspits within

the City were contaminated. This contamination only added to the woes of the citizens. Additionally, London was struck by the two types of plague pneumonic (the worse of the two) and bubonic.

Bubonic plague is characterised by the formation of egg sized swellings, called buboes, at the site of the infected flea bite and manifests itself under the armpits or in the groin or neck of victims. Hemorrhaging under the skin occurs and there is an outbreak of purple blotches over the body, principally the waist. Once afflicted the victim dies an agonizing death within three to four days.

The second form of plague called pneumonic occurs when it moves into the lungs of a victim. This allows bacteria to be passed from person to person through coughing, sneezing or merely breathing and exhaling tiny droplets into the air. Persons who are infected by this type of plague usually die within one to two days.

The third type of plague caused by septicaemia is the worst of the three types. In this type of plague massive numbers of bacilli enter the bloodstream. A victim's body virtually explodes. Within hours a rash appears with the victim dying within a day or even earlier, sometimes hours. This type of plague is 100% fatal.

A poem written in Britain at the time of the pestilence gives a vivid cue as to the effects of the disease.

*" A sickly season the merchant said,
The town I left was filled with dead,
And everywhere these queer red flies
Crawled upon the corpses' eyes,*

*" Fair make you sick the merchant said,
They crawled upon the wine and bread,
Pale priests with oil and books,
Bulging eyes and crazy looks
Dropping like the flies,*

*" I had to laugh, the merchant said,
The doctors purged, and dosed, and bled,
And proved through solemn disputation
The cause lay in some constellation,
Then they began to die,*

*" First they sneezed the merchant said,
And then they turned the brightest red,
Beggd for water, then fell back,
With bulging eyes and face turned black,
They waited for the flies,*

*" I came away, the merchant said
You can't do business with the dead
So I have come here to ply my trade,
You'll find this to be a fine brocade...."
And then he sneezed !*

The Citizens of Scotland fared no better against the plague than their cousins in England. When the inhabitants of Durham in Northern England were in the grip of the plague, their Scottish brethren saw an

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opportunity to engage in looting across the border. However, this opportunism was something that in hindsight they would rather not have undertaken.

Scottish soldiers who returned with their booty took the plague into the Scottish heartland and by late 1349 and early 1350 the plague had entered Scotland. The plague exacted a terrible death toll on the Scottish population during the spring and summer of 1350 with more than a third of the population being exterminated in a year.

Given the virulence of the plague and the details thereof described in Scottish chronicles, it seems highly probable that the cold Scottish winter led to an outbreak of pneumonic plague, with the added complication of septicaemia.

An assessment of the effects of plague in Ireland is extremely difficult owing to the fact that very little documentation on the event is available in that country. Nonetheless, an extract from a parchment of a cleric, Friar John Clyne, who resided in Kilkenny, sheds a little light on the plight of those within Ireland who were stricken by the disease.

“Plague stripped villages, cities and castles and towns of their inhabitants so thoroughly that there was scarcely anyone left alive in them. The pestilence was so contagious that those who touched the dead or the sick were immediately affected themselves and died, so that the penitent and confessor were carried together to the grave...This amazing year was outside the usual order of things, exceptional in quite contradictory ways- it was very rare for just one person to die in a house, usually husband, wife, children servants all went the same way...”

It is estimated that between 30-45% of the population died in Ireland. Some villages experienced a death toll of 80-90% and in Kilkenny the death-rate may have been as high as 100%.

BLACK DEATH IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE

France, like Italy and Great Britain, and other European states suffered immeasurably. According to the French historian, Jean Froissart, a cleric, who wrote a detailed thesis on effects of the plague in his country, a third of the population of France died as a result of the pestilence. His country at the time was the most populated state in Europe, so it probably suffered the most casualties in terms of numbers of deaths.

Four hundred persons died daily over a period of three months in Avignon, and about forty thousand (40,000) people out of a total population of approximately fifty thousand (50,000) in this city died within a year. Graveyards overflowed, and a single graveyard in this city received more than eleven thousand (11,000) corpses in less than two months.

During a three-month period in Paris more than a thousand people died daily in Paris. In less than a year, more than sixty thousand men, women and children in the city out of a population of 180,000 met their maker.

It is interesting here to diverge for a moment to look at the means by which the plague was contained in some more cloistered communities. Avignon, the seat of the Popes at that period of history, was severely affected by

the plague with the majority of its inhabitants falling victim to the disease.

Physicians or the “learned” were unable to offer a remedy. However, one of the advisers of the Pope, who was a resident within the walls of the “Castille of the Pope”, recommended that all entry to the castle be forbidden and that fires, in a continual circle, be lit day and night to ensure that no human or beast or vermin of any type could gain access or entry to papal premises. Fires continued to burn around the castle for many months until the plague had run its course in that City and after it moved to other centres.

By a strange coincidence none of those inside the walls were subjected to the maladies of the plague, and the Pope’s life was spared as were many of his aides who resided within the papal sanctuary. It’s a pity that this advice and assistance was not equally shared with the townsfolk.

When the plague finally reached Germany the population “fell over like tenpins” with two thousand people a day dying in Frankfurt and more than twelve thousand losing their lives at Erfurt. Large cities like Hamburg, Berlin and Dresden suffered even more deaths.

Extreme fear of the disease led to waves of anti-Semitism. Across Germany, in a multitude of towns and villages, the blame for the plague was laid at the feet of Jews. Tens of thousands were accused of poisoning wells, and put to the torture, and then burnt at the stake.

Some towns were so desperate they offered large sums to individuals who could eradicate the rats, hence the origin of the story of the “Pied Piper of Hamelin”.

A similar situation prevailed in England, where the militaristic monarch King Edward III persecuted Jews in great numbers, eventually killing or banishing them in total as had his grandfather, Edward I before him. Edward, of course, was a pragmatist and used the assets of the Jews for the continuation of the war with the French (100 Years War) after the worst effects of the plague abated.

“In less than a year more than sixty thousand men, women and children in the city out of a population of 180,000 met their maker.”

Animals were not immune to the plague with different animal species dying in large numbers in rural areas, including cattle, sheep, pigs and dogs. A poignant excerpt from Giovanni Boccaccio’s writing provides us with a vivid illustration of the plague effects on beasts of the field.

“My own eyes had one day among others experienced in this way, to wit, that the rags of a poor man who had died of the plague, being cast out into the public way. Two hogs came upon them... and after their wont, rooted among them with their snouts, took them in their mouths and tossed them about in their jaws. Then, in a little while, after turning round and round, they both, as if they had taken poison fell down dead upon the rags with which they had in an ill hour intermeddled”.

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PESTILENCE

Populations in cities were particularly vulnerable to the disease due to the proximity of houses to one another, very narrow streets, the uncleanliness of the population during the Middle Ages, the unsanitary conditions in which the population lived and the practice of keeping domestic animals indoors. Moreover, as present day local council garbage collection services were non-existent, garbage, refuse, dead animals, including rodents and human faeces and urine were thrown into the streets.

These practices thereby compounded the spread of the disease. Pastoral areas were not spared, as urban rodents would share their infected fleas with their rural cousins, and often infected livestock would be driven from a town into the countryside.

Class was a classic feature of middle fourteenth century Europe, but the plague spared no class. It mattered not whether they were noble, rich or poor. One of the most gruesome aspects of the disease was its dehumanising effects upon populations as a whole.

As the plague fastened its grip on cities, towns, villages and rural Burroughs, the sick and afflicted became the objects of revulsion and derision alike. Matter or compounds that exuded from the bodies of victims, gave off an unbearable smell. Sweat, excrement, saliva and breath became overpowering.

Blood which often oozed out of the sick was black or red, thick and putrid. Unlike any other disease that preceded it, the "Black Death" degraded and then destroyed the victims unmercifully.

Those who were lucky to survive began to lose all sense of morality and justice. A new attitude of disrespect for the institutions of government, the executive arm (the King and his Chancellors) and church, and its hierarchical structure, began to emerge in many parts of the Continent. Middle Age citizens could find no logical or divine reason for the catastrophe, and hence showed contempt for the church and all it stood for.

This dissatisfaction, no doubt, provided the impetus or galvanising force for later reform movements such as the Calvinist, Lutheran and English Protestant religions and churches, which eventually brought an end to the unity of the Catholic Church in Northern and Central Europe in the 16th Century.

One of the most far-reaching aspects of the plague was the unprecedented deaths of priests and scholars, who were the holders and the fount of most of the knowledge in those times. In Great Britain, from the Norman Conquest onwards, the languages of the educated were Latin and French, and all clerical and judicial documents, drawings, judgments, administrative orders, and decrees, books and manuals were written in these languages.

The educational vacuum created by the dead clergy and the learned aristocracy allowed new ideas to flow and led to the reintroduction of the Anglo/Celtic language which subsequently led to the common people being educated. After the plague concern for the survival and repository of knowledge, and books of learning, resulted in the

construction of many centres of education throughout Europe, particularly Universities.

Recent research has led to the discovery that victims who survived the plague may have passed to future generations a unique ability to resist the immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes AIDS. Medical Science shows that the virus for AIDS and the plague bacterium attack the victim in similar ways. Individuals who are today immune from the AIDS virus may have received this immunity due to a genetic mutation handed down to them from ancestors who survived the Middle Age plague.

"Class was a classic feature of middle fourteenth century Europe, but the plague spared no class."

Another interesting aspect of the plague was the resurgence in the belief of astrology and magic, and the startling spread of witchcraft and Satanism in the 15th century, all normal psychological reactions to the sufferings to which the population was subjected.

LATER PLAGUES AND MODERN CONCERNS

There were, and have been, many plagues before and after the Great Contagion or "Black Death" of the Central Middle Ages 1330-1352, although none before, and after, have ever matched the ferocity of this period of plague.

A great plague which occurred during the period 536-543 AD in Eastern and Central Europe caused vast mortality, and is credited with the final collapse of the Roman Empire and Europe entering an era called the "Dark Ages". As severe as it was, it did not cause the same devastation as the Middle Age "Black Death", and nowhere near the number of deaths and over such a vast area.

Plagues recurred in Europe in the period after the "Great Death or Mortality", particularly in the 1360s, 1370s and 1390s. It then lay fairly dormant until the Great Fire of London in 1665, after which its occurrence was spasmodic and of vastly lesser scale than the "Black Death" of the middle 14th Century.

A sinister consequence of the "Black Death", and immediate later plagues, was the mortality of the young. So great was this impact on society that by the beginning of the 14th century, the population of Europe was almost half of what it was before the plague, less than 40 million compared with 75 million at the start of the plague.

Another interesting aspect of plague is the effect it has on the fortunes of powerful nation states. For example, Spain, probably the foremost nation in the 16th and 17th centuries, as a result of its acquisition of the Americas, lost a considerable part of its population in the plague epidemics of 1596 (Spanish Armada), 1648 and 1677. Some historians have suggested that in this period Spain from being the most pre-eminent country in Europe fell to a nation of global insignificance by the beginning of the 18th century.

Serious outbreaks of plague re-emerged in the 19th and 20th centuries in Asia. During the period of Chinese



expansion in the China/Burma/ India region of the Himalayas in the 1850s, Chinese troops contracted plague and transported the disease through large parts of China, the disease spreading eventually to Canton and Hong Kong in 1894. Millions died.

Bombay (or Mumbai as it is called now) in India experienced a major plague epidemic in 1898. This outbreak killed six million. And in early 1900s bubonic plague, although of minor nature, occurred in Sydney, Australia, in the Rocks Area. Spreading from the waterfront, rats carrying the oriental flea carried the disease throughout the city. Within eight months 303 cases were officially recorded and 103 died.

Quarantine areas were established throughout the City of Sydney, and cleansing and disinfecting operations lasted from March to July of that year, and included demolition of slums.

The last large scale outbreaks of pneumonic plague occurred in Manchuria in 1910-1911 and 1920-1921, with these two outbreaks claiming the lives of over one hundred thousand people. To curb the plague in this region, the Soviet Union Government established health stations across Siberia to monitor and eradicate the disease. Since then no further large scale outbreaks have occurred. Russia made great steps forward in medicine to deal with this type of disease, but many of the biological advancements made have been incorporated in its biological warfare programme.

A country which used the plague bacterium as a warfare agent was Japan. It was used during the Manchurian conquest before World War II, and by three different methods.

Firstly, by the dropping of contaminated rice for rats to feed on. Secondly, by the droppings of contaminated lint. Thirdly, by the use of infected fleas which were dropped over the target areas in bomb-like weapons. Whilst these methods had some limited success, the experiment "backfired" in that the Japanese Imperial Forces suffered heavy casualties themselves.

Today the plague flea, apart from its cultivation in biological laboratories, continues to exist in many countries. Endemic areas these days include, Western USA, Canada, Mexico, China, Mongolia, India, Central Russian Federation Republics, South East Asian States and Siberia.

Modern day antibiotics make it easy to treat bubonic plague if it is detected early. The pneumonic variation of the plague is more difficult to deal with because patients often die before diagnosis. However, it can be treated successfully, with strong antibiotics and isolation. A vaccine is available and may be used in endemic areas for people likely to be exposed to rodents and their fleas.

USE OF PLAGUE FOR FUTURE WAR AND TERRORIST PURPOSES

Many nations today have developed the techniques to produce, deliver and spread plague particles, particularly the highly contagious and lethal form of pneumonic plague. Sizeable quantities of the disease can be dispersed over wide areas by aerosol dissemination to subdue

a country or have it capitulate in time of a war situation.

The use of such "weaponry" presents two problems. In the first instance the use of plague could rebound on the nation or military forces delivering the disease. Additionally, there is no way of ensuring the control of its spread on the ground once delivery is effected.

In the second instance, many countries which possess and manufacture biological agents are signatories to treaties banning the use of biological agents. Rogue nations which are not signatories to such treaties may not, however, be swayed by ethical considerations, and it is extremely doubtful that terrorists or terrorist organisations which have political or other motives in mind will be so sympathetic as to not use plague as a weapon under any circumstances.

Russian Federation States, western nations and some third world nations have laboratories where strains of plague bacteria or viruses are kept and are being further refined for possible future use. Eventually, a strain of plague may well be manufactured for which there is no antibiotic available.

In such circumstances its escape from safe repositories, or its sale to terrorist groups would have devastating consequences for mankind globally. Prudence dictates that we must not discount this possibility, for to do so would leave nations at the mercy of a merciless foe which would kill indiscriminately and in enormous numbers.

If a strain of plague were to escape as a result of natural disaster or be deliberately dispersed by an enemy using aerosol means, for which human beings had no immunity, or for which no suitable antibody existed, the global toll would be immeasurable.

If we extrapolate the mortality rate of the Middle Age Plague of 33 % to the current world population of, say 6 billion, it would seem plausible that perhaps some 2 billion or more would be exterminated in a short period of time. Judging by the economic chaos which occurred in the aftermath of the 14th century "Black Death", modern man would not fare better, and maybe the consequences would even be greater.

We must not be complacent nor adopt the attitude that "it will not happen". It did happen and can happen again. Germs, bacteria and viruses have a unique ability to mutate and become very resistant to drugs and antibiotics.

We only need to remember the Asian flu outbreak which occurred in China two years ago and spread killing a significant number globally. In terms of "Black Death" numbers it was a minuscule outbreak, nonetheless world health authorities had great difficulty in containing the disease, as well as coping with the "small" number of deceased. How would world health authorities or nations deal with a future plague outbreak where a billion or more are likely to die?

This is an issue that nations around the globe must seriously consider, and at least, make some preparation for. To wait for it to happen without having some plan is to invite an inevitable apocalypse. Vigilance, planning and preparation will be the price of future survival.

The Australian Institute of Emergency Services with the support of the Queensland Government is conducting a National emergency Services Conference at the Gold Coast Queensland in November 2005. An interim program is shown hereunder. Those wishing to attend this conference should contact Carillon on e:mail mail@ccm.com.au or mdavis@emergency.qld.gov.au

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
QUEENSLAND BRANCH**

NATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXPO



**3,4,5 NOVEMBER 2005
EARTH, WATER, WIND & FIRE
INTEGRATION OF
EMERGENCY SERVICES**



INTERIM PROGRAMME

ACCREDITATION

NB: This conference has been approved for Continuing Education as follows:

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2005

THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2005

1500 - 1630	Registrations Conference Foyer
1800	Opening, Trade Displays - Ashley Gordon, Director, Carillon Conference Management
1810	Mayoral Welcome TBC
1830	Cocktail Welcome Function and Presidents "Meet & Greet" in Trade Display Area -Sponsored by: TBC



FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2005	
0800	Registrations
0830	Conference Opening & Welcome Session – Chair Welcome Address – Maurice Massie, President, Australian Institute of Emergency Services TBC Official Opening by The Honorable the Minister for Emergency Services, Chris Cummins MP TBC “Integration of Emergency Services” Conference Themes and Overview – Conference Convenor
SESSION 1	
1.1 - 0900	Large-Scale Event - S E Asia Tsunami David Templeman Dir Gen EMA (Title to be confirmed).
1.2 - 0940	Open Forum, Trauma Care, Response to Challenges in Large-Scale Events Guest Panellists, David Templeman, P Scully
1010	Morning Tea – Trade Display Area

SESSION 2 - Large-Scale Event Co-ordination Strategies	
Concurrent Session 2.1 PREPARATION & PLANNING	Concurrent Session 2.2 RESPONSE & RECOVERY
2.1.1 - 1030 Planning for Effective Inter-Agency Coordination in Large-scale Events Fiona McKersie – Dept Dir-Gen, Governance – Dept of Premier & Cabinet Qld	2.2.1 - 1030 Effective Response & Recovery through Inter-Agency Coordination – Immediate Post-Impact Phase Michael Kinnane ESM – Dir-Gen, Dept of Emergency Services Qld
2.1.2 - 1050 How Effective is Inter-Agency Planning for response to large-scale events?	2.2.2 - 1050 Contemporary Principles in Operational Response to Large-scale Incidents
2.1.3 - 1110 Planning for Effective Inter-Agency Communication in Large-scale Events	2.2.3 - 1110 How Effective is Agency Response & Recovery Co-ordination in large-scale events?
2.1.4 - 1130 Planning to Include the Coroner’s Office in Large-Scale Events Michael Barnes, State Coroner Qld	2.2.4 - 1130 Funeral Industry Interdependency and Coordination in Large-Scale Events Chair: P. Kennedy
1150	Discussion
1215	Lunch - Trade Display Area

SESSION 3 - Core Issues in Large-Scale Events – Lessons from recent events	
SESSION 3 – Chair TBA	
3.1 - 1300	Mass Evacuations – Suggest Plan for Darling Harbour (Sydney) for large gatherings
3.2 - 1320	“A National Financial System failure” – What Do We Do? (Treasury or Reserve Bank Rep)
3.3 - 1340	Inter-Government Relations – Governance Issues in Counter Disaster Planning Michael Kinnane ESM
3.4 - 1400	Multi-Disciplinary Teams- - SE Asia Tsunami Response and Recovery Tracy Hicks, Matt Smith EMA
3.5 - 1420	Large-Scale Logistics – Session 3.4 and 3.5 run as a joint session.
1440	Discussion

FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2005 (Continued)	
1500	Afternoon Tea - Trade Display Area
SESSION 4	
Concurrent Session 1 - Session 4.1 PREPARATION & PLANNING	Concurrent Session 2 - Session 4.2 RESPONSE & RECOVERY
4.1.1 - 1530 Command Structures in Large-Scale Events Senior NSW Police Officer TBC	4.2.1 - 1530 The Role of the Funeral Profession in Large-Scale Events Speaker TBA
4.1.2 - 1550 Planning for Public Health in Large-Scale Events Speaker: Dr Brad McCall, Public Health Medical Officer, Qld Health	4.2.2 - 1550 Personal Issues following Large-Scale Events Presenters: Prof Douglas Patton Jane Shakespeare-Finch Chair: P Scully
4.1.3 - 1610 Civil Infrastructure Lifelines – Contingency Planning for Major Disruption TBC	
4.1.4 - 1630 Introduction to the NH90 Helicopter family and its civil assistance capabilities Luke Herden, Australian Aerospace	
Discussion	Discussion
1900	Conference Dinner

SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2005	
SITE VISIT: HUET HELICOPTER Underwater Escape Trainer - TBC	
0930	Morning Tea - Trade Display Area

SESSION 5 - Terrorism Forums	
Concurrent Session 1 - Session 5.1 PREPARATION & PLANNING - RESPONSE & RECOVERY	
5.1 - 0950	Terrorist Threats to Australia – Preparation & Planning at National level – A Whole-of Govt Approach - Keynote Speaker Speaker: Duncan Lewis – First Assist Secretary, National Security Division, Dept of Prime Minister & Cabinet
5.2 - 1010	Counter-Terrorism - Response & Recovery Strategies at National level – A Whole-of Govt Approach Speaker – Don Patterson EMA
5.3 - 1030	Counter-Terrorism – Preparation & Planning at State Level and State Level Response and Recovery Strategies – A Whole-of Govt Approach Speaker – Fiona McKersie, Dept Dir-Gen, Governance - Dept of Premier & Cabinet Qld Chair: TBA
5.4 - 10:50	Counter-Terrorism – Potential Impacts for Emergency Services Response & Recovery Strategies at State Level – A Whole of Govt Approach include CRBIE Strategies Presenters: Team of Police, Fire/HAZMAT Ambulance and Health Reps
5.5 - 11:10	Proposed SERT Team Presentation – QPS The Role of Police in Countering Terrorism
1150	Discussion
1200	Lunch – Trade Display Area



SESSION 6 – Mitigation for Large-Scale Events – Applications of Unique Experiences	
Session 6.1	
6.1 - 1300	Disaster Mitigation Through Risk Management Senior Officer from EMA
6.2 - 1320	The Value of Long-Term Climate Prediction in Assessing Future Natural Disasters Dr Roger Stone, Science Manager, Qld Dept of Primary Industries
6.3 - 1340	Enhanced Services Offered by the new Doppler weather Radar Bruce Gunn, Qld. Radar Services Manager, Bureau of Meteorology.
6.4 - 1400	Development of the Australian Tsunami Alerting Service Jim Davidson, Regional Director, Bureau of Meteorology
1430	Discussion
1500	Afternoon Tea - Trade Display Area

SESSION 7	
1520	Session 7.1 Open forum Panel:
7.1 - 1520	Open Session – Focus on the highlights of the Conference Chair: David Templeman, Director-General EMA

SESSION 8	
1550	CONFERENCE CLOSING - Chair TBA
Thanks & Farewell - Conference Chair	
1600	Conference Close

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

NATIONAL COUNCIL

The General Registrar
Australian Institute of Emergency Services (General Council)
14, No 159 Middle Head Road Mosman, NSW 2088
Fax: (02) 9265 4830 or Email: ramaul@tpg.com.au
National Web Site: www.aies.net.com

TASMANIA

The Registrar
Tasmania Division, Australian Institute of Emergency Services
PO Box 1 Lindisfarne, Tasmania, 7015
Email: stromnes@bigpond.net.au

QUEENSLAND

The Registrar
Queensland Division of Australian Institute of Emergency Services
P O Box 590, Fortitude Valley Queensland 4006
Email: pdawes@lifesaving.com.au

NEW SOUTH WALES, ACT AND NEW ZEALAND

The Registrar
NSW Division of Australian Institute of Emergency Services
PO Box 149 Ryde, NSW 1680 Email: aies.nsw.sec@depot.com.au

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The Registrar
South Australia Division of Australian Institute of Emergency Services
16 Greenfinch Crescent, Wynnvale, South Australia 5127
Email: esphor@dodo.com.au

VICTORIA

The Registrar
Victorian Division of Australian Institute of Emergency Services
c/o 44 Webb Street Warrandyte, Victoria, 3113
Email: aldaaies@alphalink.com.au

WHAT ARE THE INSTITUTE AIMS?

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 ARE:

- * 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 cooperation in counter disaster services administration.

WHAT THE INSTITUTE OFFERS YOU

- * 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.
- * An independent forum where you can be heard and your opinions shared with other emergency service members.
- * A journal with information from institutes and other sources around the world in addition to the interchange of views between Divisions in Australia, as well as access to the Institute web site.
- * Reduced fees for members at Institute Seminars and Conferences and information service supplied by professional experienced officers.
- * A Certificate of Membership.
- * The opportunity to use the initials of the particular membership status after your name.

WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP COST?

Nomination Fee: \$20.00.
Annual Subscription: \$30.00
Fellows: \$35:00.
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Note: Institute Fees may be tax-deductible.

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Applications for membership will be considered from persons who are at least twenty-one years of age and who:

- * Are members of a permanent emergency service or associated service with at least two years experience, or
- * Are volunteer members of emergency or associated services with a minimum of four years experience as an emergency services member. Admission as a member may be granted if in the opinion of the General Council the applicant meets all other conditions of membership and passes such examinations and/or other tests as may be required by General Council.

MEMBERSHIP

There are four classes of membership:
* Members * Fellows * Life Fellows * Corporate
There are five categories of affiliation with the Institute that may be offered to persons who do not meet the requirements for membership
* Associate * Student Member * Retired Member
* Honorary Member * Honorary Fellow

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* Ambulance Service * Police Service * Fire Services
* Mines Rescue * Community Services * SES * Safety Officers
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* Transport Services * Emergency Equipment Industry
* Emergency Management Organisations.
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National President Maurice Massie QPM, LFAIES (08) 6248 6373
president.national@aies.net.au

General Registrar/Company Secretary Bob Maul, LFAIES., JP (02) 9969 9216
general.secretary@aies.net.au
6 Union Street, Mosman, NSW 2088

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY, NEW SOUTH WALES & NEW ZEALAND DIVISION

President Alan Holley, FAIES 0418 829 080
president.act@aies.net.au

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registrar.act@aies.net.au
PO Box 149 Ryde NSW 1680

QUEENSLAND DIVISION

President Reginald Marshall, MAIES (07) 3344 2644
president.qld@aies.net.au

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NORTHERN TERRITORY, SOUTH AUSTRALIA & WESTERN AUSTRALIA DIVISION

President Barry Presgrave, OAM., FAIES (08) 8278 8530
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Registrar John Lenton, MAIES (08) 8251 5713
maljwl@yahoo.com.au
16 Greenfinch Court, Wynn Vale SA 5127

TASMANIA DIVISION

President David Paton, APM., FAIES., JP (03) 6243 6073
president.tas@aies.net.au

Registrar Jannene Geard, MAIES (03) 6249 8951
registrar.tas@aies.net.au
47 Seddon Street, Austins Ferry TAS 7001

VICTORIA DIVISION

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Registrar Alan Alder, OAM., LFAIES (03) 9844 3237
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44 Webb Street, Warrandyte, VIC 3113

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE JOURNAL (NER) & AIES WEBSITE

Editor Mark Sawszak, MAIES (02) 9597 1125
ner@aies.net.au

Sub Editor - Mailing List Mark Preston MAIES PO Box 6001, UNSW Sydney, NSW 1466
mail.ner@aies.net.au

Sub Editor - Website Martin Page MAIES (02) 9597 1125
web@aies.net.au
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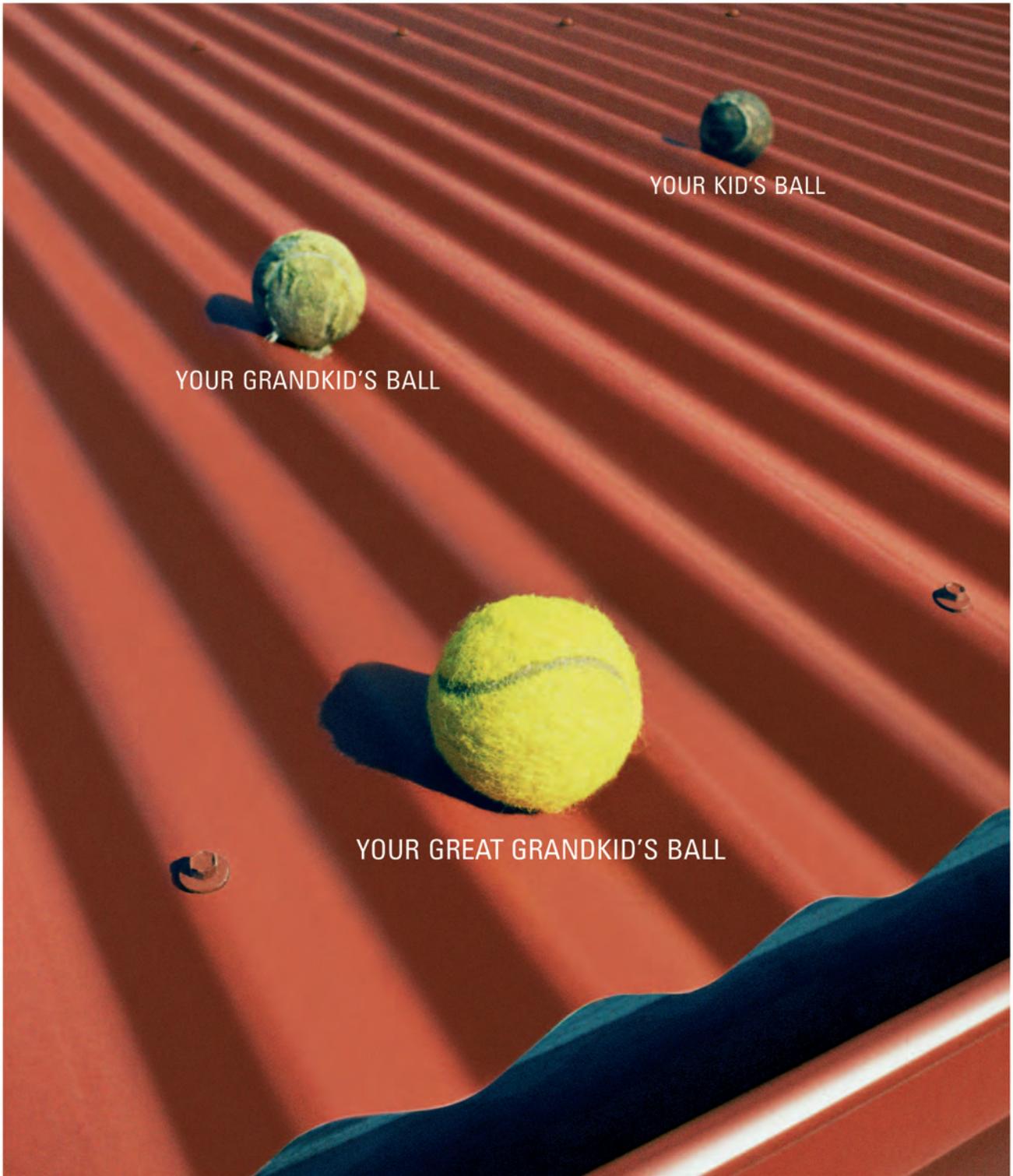
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