

# NATIONAL EMERGENCY



## RESPONSE

Official Journal of the Australasian Institute of Emergency Services

VOLUME 36 NO. 1 AUTUMN 2023  
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**INTERNATIONAL  
FIREFIGHTERS' DAY  
THURSDAY 4 MAY**



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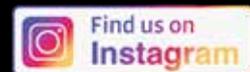
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# NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Official Journal of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services

Autumn 2023 • National Emergency Response

## CONTENTS

### REGULAR COLUMNS

2	New Members
4	President's Message and AGM Report
6	AGM Wrap-up
26	Merchandise
27	Membership Information
28	AIES Contacts

### FEATURES

3	Wear Orange Wednesday
8	New research reveals how forests reduce their own bushfire risk, if they're left alone
11	CFS expand road crash rescue capability with Heavy Rescue Vehicle
12	Emergency Services Foundation Conference
16	Celebrating International Women's Day
18	Years of negligence and cronyism underpin devastating earthquake toll in Turkey
20	Queensland lures international police talent under new agreement
21	St Patrick's Day fires five years on
22	Australasian Women in Emergencies Day
23	Mental health help for emergency services workers
24	Closing the Loop: The Challenges of Change
25	\$1 billion cocaine seizure unravels drug network

#### FRONT COVER

Photo credit: Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA  
[www.facebook.com/dfeswa](https://www.facebook.com/dfeswa)



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## NEW MEMBERS

The Australasian Institute of Emergency Services is pleased to announce the following emergency services people joined the AIES between 26 October, 2022 and 6 April, 2023.

NAME	DIVISION	ORGANISATION
Allan Anderson	NSW/ACT/INT	Department of Health
David Beckett	SA/WA	SA CFS, ADF - Army
Steve Brown	NSW/ACT/INT	NSW Rural Fire Service
Raelene Billingsley	VIC	VICSES
Kathy Cook	NSW/ACT/INT	SLHD
Andrew Duncan	VIC	Ambulance Victoria
David Hall	VIC	Everbridge
Vanessa Henry	TAS	St John Ambulance Australia Tasmania
Zach Jackson	NSW/ACT/INT	Complete Response Solutions Pty Ltd
Aurora Jan	QLD/NT	St John NT
Dean Petrisevic	VIC	Victoria State Emergency Service
David Rose	NSW/ACT/INT	ACT SES
Gabrielle Smith	QLD/NT	Sojitz Coal
Sarah Steinegg	QLD/NT	Airservices Australia
Wayne Sunderland	QLD/NT	Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service
Adam Townsend	VIC	Country Fire Authority
Michael Weaver	SA/WA	WA Police Force



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<https://au.linkedin.com/company/australian-institute-of-emergency-services> or log in at [au.linkedin.com](https://au.linkedin.com) and search for 'Australian Institute of Emergency Services' under 'Companies'.

Articles, photographs and short stories are sought for the *National Emergency Response Journal*. Please submit items for the next edition to [editor@aies.net.au](mailto:editor@aies.net.au) by **19 June 2023**. There is an annual award for the best article submitted by an AIES member.



## INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' DAY

Thursday 4 May 2023

Each year we celebrate International Firefighters' Day on 4 May to coincide with the feast of St. Florian, the patron saint of all firefighters.

On this day respect is paid to volunteer and career firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge current and past firefighters for their commitment, courage and selfless pledge to serve their community.

Find out more about this special day at [www.firefightersday.org](http://www.firefightersday.org)

Source: WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services





# WEAR ORANGE WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, 17 May, 2023, is Wear Orange Wednesday or “WOW Day”. On this day we encourage communities across Australia to wear orange and thank all SES volunteers who generously give their time to help communities during flood and storm emergencies.

**N**ational Volunteer Week (NVW) is the annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contribution of our nation’s volunteers. From Monday 15 to Sunday 21 May 2023, NVW will celebrate the significant contribution of almost six million volunteers across Australia, and we will highlight our SES members.

Everyone is encouraged to get their workplaces, families and friends involved in WOW Day celebrations by wearing orange and posting a photo to social media.

These highly skilled men and women drop everything to help when people need them the most. From conducting emergency repairs to buildings damaged by cyclones, storms and floods, to ferrying cargo and passengers across floodwaters, the SES provides a vital service for the people of Australia.

Here’s to all the volunteers across the country who work all year round to protect us at our most vulnerable. We thank you for saving lives and protecting communities. ●

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR WEAR ORANGE WEDNESDAY:

- Host a morning/afternoon tea with an orange theme
- Encourage people and businesses to wear orange on May 17
- Share videos or photos of thanks during May, tag @SES and use the hashtag #thankyouSES



Remember to make Wednesday 17th May 2023 the day you wear orange to show your support of SES volunteers and share videos or photos of thanks during May.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND AGM REPORT

Robert (Bob) **Maul**, LFAIES, JP (NSW)

*National President*

In this edition of our magazine, I would like to pay tribute to two outstanding long-time former colleagues on the National Board, one who is recuperating from major surgery, and the other who passed away at the end of February. The two colleagues whom I speak about are Alan Marshall, C.ST.J., LFAIES and Barry Presgrave AM., OAM., LFAIES, who both served extensive terms on the AIES National Board – Alan as National President and Barry as a National Board Director.

The two Directors also served long terms as Presidents of the Victorian and South Australian State Division Management Committees respectively. The National Board extends its deepest sympathy to Barry's family.

I think that I speak on behalf of the Board by extending our grateful appreciation for their long service to the Institute, and the significant contributions that both Alan and Barry made to the Institute over many years at both national and state levels. A separate article on Barry Presgrave and the contributions he made to the Institute and many other Australian not-for-profit organisations will follow soon.

Just as we expected a lessening of the incidence of flooding across the Australian continent, the weather returned for the worst in the latter months of 2022 when a deluge of rain impacted many communities located in inland Victoria and NSW. The worst affected river valleys which experienced either major or catastrophic flooding were the Macquarie, Lachlan, Namoi, Belubula, Murrumbidgee, Murray, Campaspe, Loddon and Goulburn rivers.

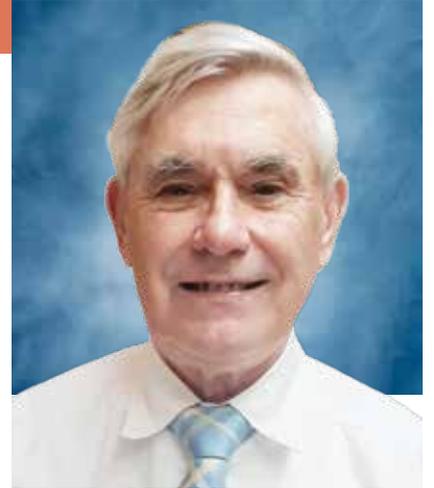
The townships and cities that suffered the greatest damage were Forbes, Dubbo, Gunnedah, Eugowra, Shepparton, Echuca, Moama and Euston. Thousands of homes in these areas experienced either major flooding or suffered irreparable damage with tens

of thousands of evacuations needing to be carried out by the SES with support from police, rural and city fire brigades, rescue services and local members of communities in the affected areas.

Major flooding also occurred along the Darling and Macintyre river systems resulting in the Menindee lakes reaching very high lake levels for many years. As late as February 2023, vast inundation of pastoral land and communities was occurring along the Murray River in South Australia. Some of the rainfalls that occurred in the rural areas of NSW and Victoria were some of the highest ever recorded.

Damage to homes, orchards, community infrastructure, crops, utilities, fencing, roads, commercial premises, and stock was enormous; at the end of 2022 it was estimated to be nearly \$7 billion, and with continuing long-term flooding along the Darling and Murray the financial cost to the community is likely to be more than that again. This will make it the costliest natural disaster on record in Australia.

Many members of our Institute in these rural areas, cities and towns – who are members and also officers of many government emergency management



authorities – gave tremendous support to those who suffered losses over many weeks. The Institute wishes to acknowledge the wonderful efforts of these individuals throughout Australia.

As our members will recall, the Institute over the last three years has signed Memorandums of Understanding or affiliation with several overseas and Australasian kindred emergency management agencies and organisations. Just over a month ago the National Board was able to sign a further MOU with an agency called Response and Recovery Aotearoa New Zealand (RRANZ).

The Institute is proud to be associated with this organisation. The RRANZ is



*Four metres of water inundates Rocket Park in Moree. Credit: NSW Rural Fire Service Moree Brigade.*



a social enterprise formed to enable individuals working in the emergency management sector of New Zealand to access contemporary industry specific leadership and advanced skills education and training.

No doubt, staff and volunteers within this agency would have worked tirelessly and assiduously over many weeks helping victims of the devastating cyclone which impacted New Zealand in late February 2023. The cyclone wreaked havoc through most of the North Island bringing with it not only cyclonic winds, but huge rainfall totals not probably seen for 50 or more years.

The lashing rain and consequent flooding and landslides damaged and destroyed thousands of homes, stock and businesses, as well as public utilities. The Institute trusts that public measures that are currently being put in place by the New Zealand Government will enable communities in New Zealand to recover from the disaster as soon as practicable.

During the past couple of months, the National Board has considered the implementation of an extra post nominal to recognise exemplary emergency management practices and professional qualifications attained by AIES members.

The post nominal, which members can use behind their names, will be known as Certified Emergency Services Manager (CESM). This post nominal, if granted by the National Board, would appear after the category status ie M/FAIES, CESM.

The purpose of the CESM is to recognise our members who are investing and advancing in their knowledge and skills to better serve their community. The post nominal will be awarded on a Professional Development Points System. Our members will ask, what is in the CESM for our members? There are several reasons but in summary they are:

- a. Recognition of their investment to grow knowledge and skills.
- b. Recognition that they are staying contemporary.
- c. Recognise that they have a professional mindset.
- d. Recognition they have a curiosity mindset.
- e. Recognition that they have a continuous improvement mindset.

Implementation of the scheme, including recognition of emergency management skills and qualifications attained, and the awarding of the post nominal, will involve:

- a. Continual professional involvement by the individual, which could include tertiary studies, attendance at conferences, short courses, and approved emergency management events.
- b. Each type of activity would carry a certain number of points and a person would have to attain a set number of points, or a set number of hours in a year, which could be achieved by attending leadership courses, emergency management courses, and from other EM disciplines.
- c. Applicants for CESM post nominal would submit their previous three years professional development as evidence for each application. Evidence would include certificates, diplomas, degrees attained, etc.
- d. Candidates must earn 3,000 points over three years with a minimum of 800 points in any one year.
- e. Members need to submit a signed testimonial from two AIES members, or two persons of good standing recognised by the Board.
- f. The awarding of the post nominal would be for a period of three years, and extension based on new evidence each three years.
- g. The application for the post nominal would carry a fee which would cover administrative costs.
- h. Awardees would be listed on the AIES national website to verify the granting of the post nominal.
- i. Consideration will be given by the Board to the issue of a CESM pin.

The National Board is still working on the finer details of the scheme, but it is expected that all the details will be finalised at the April 2023 Annual Meeting of the Board in Melbourne.

As soon as the scheme is approved, members will be advised soon after of its implementation, the purpose of the post nominal, and the points system associated with the scheme, including the Application Form and Third-Party form which would be published in this journal and on the AIES website.

It should be noted that the granting of the post nominal will be in accordance

with the provisions of the AIES Constitution and Rules.

Recently, a survey was conducted with members of the Australian Capital Territory AIES Division to ascertain if there was an appetite by members of that Division to amalgamate with the New South Wales Division. Following this survey, a formal vote was held with the members of the ACT Division with a majority of votes cast in favour of amalgamation.

The Secretary and Vice President of the ACT Division will become members of the NSW Division Management Committee representing the views of those that live in the ACT.

The National Board subsequently at its February 2023 meeting endorsed the amalgamation of the two Divisions, which includes the New Zealand Division, but left the door open that, if sufficient members with the ACT made representations to the Board in the future to re-establish the ACT Division, the Board would seriously consider the proposal.

Even though the position of State President for the ACT Division ceases to exist, Christine Miller will continue to serve as the National Vice President of the AIES for the next two years, being appointed as a director at last year's AGM.

It is gratifying to observe that the Institute continues to attract membership from throughout Australasia. Many applicants have in the past four months applied and been granted membership by the Board of Directors.

The National Executive has noticed that the level of emergency management qualifications and skills as evidenced by the applicants have been of a very high standard. The Directors are very pleased to welcome these new applicants.

In December, the Board established a Special Interest Group for Health Emergency Management. All members of the Institute are eligible to participate in this group. The group is aimed at pulling together those who work or have an interest in health emergency management.

The Group will hold monthly meetings, via Zoom, related to the various emergency management codes. If any member is interesting in joining the group, please email the working members at [HEMSIF@aies.net.au](mailto:HEMSIF@aies.net.au) ●

# AGM WRAP-UP

The Australian Institute of Emergency Services held its 2023 AGM in Melbourne on Saturday 1 April.

By Doug **Caulfield**, OAM, RFD, FAIES

**W**e were pleased to have 33 members and guests witness several presentations on the night and the audience was a mixture of face-to-face participants as well as those who joined from around Australia via Zoom.

National President Bob Maul, LFAIES delivered his President's report noting the continued growth in membership. He thanked the Board and the State Divisions for the work being done in the area of innovation and improvements of membership benefits. The members and guests then enjoyed a pleasant meal together before the presentation of AIES National Awards took place.

Preceding the National Awards, the Victorian Division President, Grant Coultman-Smith, OAM, VA, BJ, JP, FAIES presented Victorian member, Alan Marshall, CStJ, LFAIES with the 2023 Alan Alder Award for exceptional service to Emergency Management.

The citation for the award reads: *'In recognition of his sustained excellence in Emergency Management, his dedication to the fostering of constant improvement in his local Emergency Services and ongoing selfless service to the community'.*

The presentations then moved on to the AIES National Awards for excellence and Victorian Division Secretary Bill Little, FAIES was presented with a National Award for Excellence in the area of Operations.

The citation for that award reads: *'In recognition of sustained excellence in Emergency Management in numerous operational roles and the proliferation of awareness nationwide'.*

The Combined Gippsland Essential Industries Group, represented by the current President Nick Demetrios, MIAEM, MAIES, was presented with The National Award for Excellence in Innovation. Nick is the current Senior Manager, Security and Emergency for AGL and is based at the AGL Loy Yang Power Station in the Latrobe Valley.



2023 AIES AGM - 2023 Alan Alder Awardee Alan Marshall CStJ, LFAIES presented by Vic Div President Grant Coultman-Smith.

The citation for the award reads: *'In recognition of sustained and productive levels of innovation across a wide range of emergency management issues delivering tangible benefits to allied essential industries, local communities both in the broader Gippsland Regional area and beyond'.*

We thank guest speaker for the event Adjunct Associate Professor Alan Eade, ASM, KStj, MAIES. Until

recently, he was the Chief Paramedic Officer for Victoria and provided a thought-provoking address relating to the current thinking around provision of health related services to both the community and first responders in times of response and recovery. Our National President presented Alan with an engraved AIES Challenge Coin as a token of the Institute's appreciation. ●





*Vic Div Secretary Bill Little, FAIES presented with AIES National Award for Excellence (Operations) by Vic Div President Grant Coultman-Smith.*



*AIES National Award for Excellence for Innovation.*



*National President Bob Maul, LFAIES presents the AGM Guest Speaker Alan Eade with an AIES Challenge Coin in appreciation for his address to the National meeting.*



*2023 AIES AGM Guest Speaker - Adjunct Associate Professor Alan Eade, ASM, KStJ, MAIES.*



## THE 2024 AIES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN BRISBANE ON 11 MAY\*

This date is subject to change. Please keep an eye on our website and Linked In for updates closer to the time.



# NEW RESEARCH REVEALS HOW FORESTS REDUCE THEIR OWN BUSHFIRE RISK, IF THEY'RE LEFT ALONE

Fire management in Australia is approaching crisis point. Seasons such as the Black Summer three years ago showed how our best efforts in firefighting and prescribed burning are insignificant in the face of a changing climate.

But what if forests have their own tools to manage bushfire risk, and we could tap into them?

Philip Zylstra and Grant Wardell-Johnson

*This article was published on The Conversation website  
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**W**e know long-unburnt mountain forests in south-east Australia are far less fire-prone than more recently burnt areas. And forests in south-west Australia have the lowest fire risk when they've not been subjected to prescribed burning.

Our study just published set out to understand why this occurs, by modelling fire behaviour in iconic red tingle forests of south-west Australia. Our findings offer a clear set of tools for living with fire, even in a warming climate.

## THE 'FUEL LOAD' DILEMMA

Most bushfires in the south-west forests of Western Australia occur in areas burned specifically to reduce fuel loads.

Current fire management by government agencies focuses on broadscale burning to reduce fuel load. The practice is also known as prescribed, planned, controlled or hazard-reduction burning. It aims to reduce the intensity of future fires at a location by burning leaf litter and other fine surface matter.

Fuel-load reduction is premised on the idea that the amount of fuel in a

forest determines how flammable it is. The idea comes from early attempts at fire behaviour modelling imported from the United States in the 1960s.

But more recent work has shown prescribed burning can lead to catastrophic outcomes. This includes the near-destruction of critically endangered wildlife populations and the destruction of homes when prescribed burns escape.

So what can be done? Our study on the iconic red tingle (*Eucalyptus jacksonii*) deals with this dilemma.



## GETTING TO KNOW THE RED TINGLE

Red tingles are among the tallest eucalypts, growing up to 70 metres. They grow only in a 6,000-hectare stretch along the high-rainfall south coast of Western Australia.

Red tingles can live for more than 400 years. They regenerate well after fire – even an intense fire – and form naturally mixed aged forests dominated by large old trees.

But red tingles are sensitive to frequent fires, no matter how mild. Flames can enter the tree and hollow it out, eventually causing its collapse.

The understorey of red tingle forest consists of tall, long-lived shrubs that germinate prolifically after fire. These understoreys thin and open as they age.

The goal of our research was to understand how these changes in red tingle forests affect fire behaviour. To do this, we used an advanced fire modelling tool developed by the lead author of this article, Phillip Zylstra, and his colleagues.

The tool doesn't use a simple number to characterise a forest's fuel load. Instead, it uses hundreds of thousands of calculations to determine which plants will ignite – and importantly, which plants won't ignite but will instead calm the flames.

So what did we find? As the understorey of red tingle forest ages and thins, the lower branches of taller plants "self-prune" – in other words, they shed dead leaves and twigs.

When this litter is on the ground, it begins to decay and poses a lower fire risk than if it were still suspended.

The lower branches of taller plants, once self-pruned, are then less likely to ignite as fuel. Instead, they act as "overstorey shelter" that reduces wind speed and fire severity. In this way, mature forests control fire rather than drive it.

Our study showed that, due to this calming effect, fires in mature red tingle forests could be extinguished by firefighters most of the time.

By contrast, our study showed that prescribed burning in red tingle forests creates dense regrowth, which burns severely during bushfires. In such cases, our study showed firefighters are often unable to extinguish the flames and must resort to backburning – a risky fire suppression technique.



*Left: a red tingle tree. Right: a collapsed red tingle after repeated fire. M Howe*



*L-R: a red tingle forest after a prescribed burn, the resulting regrowth, and mature forest. M Howe; P Zylstra*

## MAKING PEACE WITH THE BUSH

Contemporary fire management approaches, and their dependence upon broadscale prescribed burns, contrast starkly with the approach of Australia's First Nations people.

Menang and Goreng Traditional Owners of red tingle and surrounding forests say fire should be used in specific locations, burning only what is needed in small, strategically placed patches. Wadandi Pibulmun Yunungjarlu Elder Wayne Webb advised our team that Traditional Owners deliberately excluded fire from tall red tingle forests.

In our contemporary context, we can co-operate with the landscape – balancing the effects of climate change by using specialist firefighting skills and technological advances to reinforce safe forest havens.

The fire risk in WA's south-western forests, and many other eucalypt forests, is so much lower if they're left unburnt and allowed to mature. Our analysis of red tingle forests helps explain why.

One thing is clear: if we still want forests in our flammable country, we must stop burning their defences away. ●

## PHILIP ZYLSTRA

Adjunct Associate Professor at Curtin University, Research Associate at University of New South Wales, Curtin University.

Philip Zylstra received funding for this project from The Koorabup Trust, The Wettenhall Environment Trust, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance via the Australasian Network for Plant Conservation, and a private donation from Drs Beth and Phill Schultz and family.

## GRANT WARDELL-JOHNSON

Adjunct Associate Professor, Molecular and Life Sciences and ARC Centre for Mine Site Restoration, Curtin University.

Grant Wardell-Johnson has received funding from the Australian Research Council and was employed by the Forests Department and Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) before joining the university sector. He collaborates with staff in industry, government, university and conservation NGO sectors.



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1800 733 276

# CFS EXPAND ROAD CRASH RESCUE CAPABILITY WITH HEAVY RESCUE VEHICLE

The Heavy Rescue Vehicle, located at the Lobethal CFS Brigade, will respond to complex vehicle accidents including specialist and heavy vehicle incidents (e.g. agricultural machinery), industrial and general rescue incidents. This will enable a specialist response to be provided across the Adelaide Hills.

## SA Country Fire Service

This article was published on [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)

It also includes vehicle relocation capability, which is via a purpose-built winch that will be used to drag vehicles off or away from obstacles following a road crash, enabling an injured person to receive medical treatment in the fastest possible time.

CFS Chief Officer, Brett Loughlin AFSM, said the introduction of the Heavy Rescue Vehicle into the CFS' fleet will revolutionise the response of the all-hazard agency and will be lifesaving.

"This vehicle will enable our volunteers to provide a greater specialised response to regional South Australia that was previously limited to metropolitan areas," Chief Officer Loughlin said.

"Every second counts when responding to a road crash incident."

"Having the ability to relocate a vehicle to increase access points, rather than only having the ability to use tools to extricate a person who might be trapped, will enable a person to receive medical treatment sooner," he said.

Mr Loughlin said additional locations for the rollout of further vehicles are being identified through research into CFS response and road network data.

As the largest provider of RCR in South Australia, with 66 specialist brigades across the state, the CFS responds to incidents along the major highways and freight routes connecting SA to other states.

Manager Technical Operations, Tim McNeilly, said the vehicle relocation



### KEY FEATURES OF THE HEAVY RESCUE VEHICLE:

- Standard RCR capability
- Heavy Lifting – 60 & 90t airbags, 50t Heavy Lift Jacks
- Heavy Stabilisation – Stabfast XL, significant cribbing, truck cabin restraint system
- Relocation – vehicle mounting winching, Tirfor, Go Jacks
- Rescue platform
- Industrial rescue options – battery combi tool, tag out lock out kit
- Also, general rescue – Dremel, ring cutter, larger assortment of battery power tools, quick cut saw, chainsaw.

ability will be operated in conjunction with crash recovery system Moditech, run from a tablet, which will provide CFS volunteers with in-depth information on potential hazards.

"New technologies and built-in safety systems in vehicles have helped to increase safety systems for occupants in a car before a crash. However, these create safety hazards and challenges to CFS volunteers when responding to extricate anyone trapped," Mr McNeilly said.

"Moditech technology will allow volunteers to look up specific car models to understand where potential dangers such as airbags, fuel tanks, batteries or SRS control units may be hidden within the car."

The CFS has worked with several agencies around Australia, as well as the

Lobethal Brigade, to determine the most beneficial equipment and capability to include on the truck to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Lobethal Brigade Captain, Jason Draper, said the brigade is called to more Road Crash Rescue incidents than any other type of incident.

"We're thrilled to be chosen as the first brigade to receive a Heavy Rescue Vehicle and it will significantly increase the CFS' response and rescue capability to Lobethal and surrounding communities," Mr Draper said.

"Having an input into the design, capabilities and layout of the truck was an incredible experience. It's something volunteers aren't generally able to have a say in so it truly is a truck designed by firefighters for firefighters." ●



AIES Victorian Division President Grant Coultman-Smith, OAM, VA, BJ, JP, FAIES (on the left) and Victorian Division Vice President Doug Caulfield, OAM, RFD, FAIES speak with conference delegates at the Emergency Services Foundation Conference in Melbourne at the AIES booth. The stand attracted a considerable level of interest over the two days and generated several membership applications to date.

# EMERGENCY SERVICES FOUNDATION CONFERENCE

MELBOURNE, TUESDAY 5 JULY, 2022

## INAUGURAL ALAN ALDER AWARD

The inaugural Alan Alder Award ceremony was held at the ESF Conference in Melbourne last year. At this fantastic winter event, the Victorian Division was proud to announce the winner was Kevin Perry, ESM, MAIES. The Division's Board also announced (and presented) the 2022 Alan Alder Award to John Chaplain. Work is already underway to identify nominees for the 2023 Award.



AIES Victorian Division President Grant Coultman-Smith, OAM, VA, BJ, JP, FAIES provides the audience with the background to the award and some biographical details about Alan Alder, OAM, LFAIES.



*AIES Victorian Division President Grant, providing background in relation to the recipient of the Inaugural Alan Alder Award.*

## Speech extract from AIES Victorian Division President, Grant Coultman-Smith, OAM, VA, BJ, JP, FAIES

“Thank you for the kind introduction and, can I say how great it feels to be back at this prestigious event with so many like-minded colleagues in the Emergency Management Sector.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the significant work undertaken by Tony Pool and the team from High Profile Events for bringing this event to us over these two days and for all the assistance granted to AIES to be able to showcase the inaugural Alan Alder Award tonight.

For those who may not know, the Australasian Institute of Emergency Services was first formed on 12th April, 1977 at Mount Macedon (which I am sure many of you here tonight have very fond memories of).

The AIES offers personnel of emergency services and affiliated organisations the opportunity to become a member of a professional body dedicated to the progression and recognition of the Emergency Services role in the community.

It is in this spirit of recognition that brings us here to the stage tonight to highlight the efforts of a past icon of the Emergency Services in Victoria and to perpetuate his legacy in the form of an annual award in his name.



### ALAN ALDER, OAM, LFAIES

In 2008 Alan stood aside as the Controller or Officer in charge of the Doncaster Unit of the Victoria State Emergency Service, a position that he held for 24 years, since April 1984.

He had been an active serving volunteer since January 1966 when he joined the Shire of Doncaster and Templestowe Civil Defence Unit. The State Emergency Service was formed from the Civil Defence Organisation in 1975.

Besides the SES his interests included the Warrandyte Historical Society, of which he was the long-time Treasurer, the Warrandyte, Park Orchards, Wonga Park Police Community Consultative Committee, of which he was the chairman, and he was also the chairman

of Warrandyte Housing and Support Services.

Alan served as a member of the Manningham Local Safety Committee and the Manningham Municipal Emergency Planning Committee, he was a Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services, a past president and past board member of that National organisation and was the Institute's Victoria Division Registrar from 1981 and carried on that role for many years.

In his 'spare time' he was also the Vice President of the Combined Emergency Services Seminar Committee which presented annual seminars aimed at 'hands on' Emergency Services personnel from 1978 to 2010.

In June 1988 Alan was awarded the National Medal and went on to receive both the first and second clasp to that award.

Alan's ongoing contribution to community service was recognised in 1996 with the awarding of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

He was the Manningham senior citizen of the year in 2002. He received further recognition for community service,

*continued on page 14*

being made a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow through the Rotary Club of Warrandyte in 2003.

He lived with wife Sally in Warrandyte from 1957, and they had three children.

Prior to retirement Alan was a chemical plant engineer and plant manager with a major paint/plastics production company.

On 12th April, 2014 Alan was presented the Australian Institute of Emergency Services National Award of Excellence (the highest award in the AIES National Awards system).

This award was in recognition of excellent and outstanding service rendered to the Institute and its members over many years. In fact, Alan had been the Institute's registrar in Victoria for over 35 years, as well as a past National President and National board member.

Sadly, Alan passed away in January, 2017. He will be missed, but not forgotten. In 2020, the Board of the Victorian Division of AIES believed it appropriate to perpetuate Alan's outstanding contribution to his community by naming an annual award after him.

And that brings me to the reason for my presence here on stage: it gives me great pleasure to announce that the (inaugural) recipient is Kevin Perry, ESM, MAIES.

Kevin Perry, ESM spent 31 years as a paid employee with VICSES, since its inception in 1975/76. He retired in 2007 after spending almost 20 years as a Regional Director and then started his own Emergency Management Consultancy (Kevin Perry and Associates) which he still operates today. ([www.kevineperry.com](http://www.kevineperry.com))

Over the last almost 14 years (in his retirement) Kevin has organised Emergency Management Plans for Aged Care facilities when it became mandatory for these organisations to have a complete plan and not just an evacuation plan. He worked as a volunteer for aged care not-for-profit and would not take any payment for his work. He completed plans for Latrobe Valley Village in Moe, Vasey RSL Care (five plans in the Melbourne area), Sale Elderly Citizens Village and Fairview Village in Warragul just to name a few!

He continues to support and review the Latrobe Valley Village plan on an ongoing basis, especially during the new building process. Recently he



*Kevin Perry, ESM, MAIES responds to the announcement of his successful nomination for the inaugural Alan Alder Award.*

conducted a review of the Fairview Village Plan and a Risk Assessment review is planned for management and staff after COVID-19 passes.

Kevin was contracted by the CFA and (now) DWELP for approximately six months in 2007, after he retired, to review the Fire Plans and the risks at local brigade and regional level. This covered all of East Gippsland – from Sale to Mallacoota, and included Omeo, Bonang, Bendoc, Cann River, Bairnsdale and so on. He was tasked to review all the local brigade identified risks, to include any that were missing and then to check if the Regional/Divisional Fire Plans had these included within their planning. He compiled an Excel table and was congratulated on his efforts.

He assisted his son (volunteer Director of the Clifton Hill Child Care Co-operative) with emergency management planning, risk assessments, OH&S plans and many other matters when the new Child Care Framework came into place. In all, over 50 policy documents were developed for the Board to ratify.

After his home of 44 years was destroyed in the New Year's Eve (2019) fires at Sarsfield, he volunteered for some four to five months with BlazeAid,

assisting the Camp Co-ordinator with community liaison in sorting of the many fencing jobs – using his local knowledge to assist his neighbours and friends who had suffered loss during the fires.

He also maintains his interest with the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund as a Community Committee member.

Please join me in congratulating Kevin Perry, ESM as the 2021 (inaugural) Alan Alder Award winner.

The presentation of the award in 2020 had to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions and so, what we have tonight is a double celebration as we are very pleased to present the 2022 Alan Alder Award as well and that awardee is John Chaplain, who I'm sure many of you in this room will know.

John commenced his emergency management career with the Department of Human Services (DHS) whilst a Corporate Services Manager approximately 35 years ago, which carried a portfolio responsibility for emergency management.

Over that time, the challenges presented were many and varied and included responding to shootings in Kinglake (supporting families of



2022 Alan Alder Awardee John Chaplain proudly displays his recognition certificate having just been presented by AIES Victorian Division President Grant Coultman-Smith.

deceased victims and a community that required some significant community support services). This was at a time when emergency management services were less understood, and were basically “feeling their way”.

John describes his most complex emergency management role with DHS as coordination of support services at Melbourne Airport from those returning from the Bali terrorist event. This was a large task that lasted months and, because it was a new type of emergency, it required a new type of thought process. The airport was a crime scene as those returning needed to provide witness statements and his role was to not contaminate this process whilst coordinating support services for many affected persons. The scale and nature of this event was complex and unprecedented. Those returning were from metro and rural Victoria; many parts of rural Victoria struggled with facilitation of support services and required varying approaches for different forms of assistance. In addition, coordination and facilitation of adequate relief arrangements for the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne

in 2006 required significant consultation across the emergency management sector.

A series of major incidents, such as fires, floods, storms including the floods in December 2003 (around Preston, Darebin, Fairfield and broader Melbourne areas) required a large-scale DHS co-ordination for provision of grants, accommodation and multiple relief and recovery support services for individuals and business. These events occurred within John’s geographic area of responsibility and no doubt presented unique challenges for him and the EM sector as a whole.

In 2008 John joined VICSES and his first role was to produce a relief handbook and to transition relief arrangements from VICSES back to DHS. He was then requested to go back to DHS to assist with the City of Casey methane incident at Brooklyn Fields, to support affected communities and attend some volatile community meetings. This event was unusual and caused large-scale community angst as property prices in the area were adversely impacted.

By the Black Saturday event of 2009,

John was back with VICSES and his role was to undertake a check and balance of the provision of relief services in the affected areas. He undertook this task for around two months working in the affected communities and providing feedback to government as to what was and what wasn’t working for communities.

Shortly after this time, he initiated a project with City of Whittlesea, namely “Chaps and Chainsaws”, that was the provision of chainsaw support to the communities of Kinglake, Kinglake West and Strathewen by VICSES volunteers and staff along with the Army reserve at Watsonia. The task was to cut and stack large piles of timber that was down on people’s property. This project went on for several years. The project was a finalist in the Community Resilience Awards program and has been mentioned in a book recently published by City of Whittlesea related to its 100-year history.

In his time at VICSES John has supported communities during the aftermath of many events in Victoria but has also ventured further afield:

- Tasmania Liaison Officer for Tasmania fires in 2016
- Planning Officer for storms/floods in Queensland and New South Wales
- Task Force Leader for storm event in South Australia

Key achievements throughout the journey include:

- Contributions to 2006 Commonwealth Games
- Contribution to the Black Saturday event
- The contribution to a more seamless approach to relief and recovery arrangements in Victoria
- Chaps and Chainsaws community recovery project
- Responding to emergencies across Australia
- Accreditation to a Level 3 Planner, Incident Controller position
- Appointment to a Zone and Regional Controller position

Please join me in congratulating John Chaplain as the 2022 Alan Alder Award winner.

Ladies and Gentlemen, that brings us to the end of the awards presentation, thank you for your patience, please enjoy the remainder of the dinner activities and we look forward to seeing you again next year.” ●

# CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Emergency services organisations around Australia joined in to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March 2023. The work of women in the emergency services – fire, police, SES and ambulance – was acknowledged and some incredible stories shared.

IWD is important for shining a light on how far we've come in our quest for gender equality, but also how far we have left to go.

#IWD @equity



## SA SES - Dog Operations Unit

8 March

Happy #internationalwomensday to all the wonderful women out there who strive for excellence.

We come together today to thank all our female members and the valuable contributions they make towards the unit. These include our 4 legged friends - Biscuit and Sasha. They give their best at every training session and also when they are deployed to do a search.

#IWD2023 #EmbraceEquity



## NSW Rural Fire Service

8 March

Today is International Women's Day and the NSW Rural Fire Service is celebrating the dedication and commitment of our female members, both volunteer and staff.

One such #NSWRFS member is Samantha Tucker from the NSW RFS Ku-ring-gai Brigade. We spoke with Samantha about her involvement with educating the community and the importance of having a diverse membership within the brigade.



## Western Australia Police Force

8 March

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WA Police recognises the opportunity to 'crack the code' and gain gender equality by capitalising on innovative, transformative ideas and solutions to effect lasting change.

Read more about some of our inspiring female officers and staff





**Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)** ✓

8 March

Today on International Women's Day, we are celebrating six wonderful women of our workforce who've been recognised by the Council of Ambulance Authorities for their contribution to #IWD23

Huge congratulations to Stacie Ramanah (Kedron HQ), Conor Fardon (Kedron HQ), Chloe Page (Cairns Operations Centre), Hayley Grant (Caboolture Station), Jacqueline Fitzgerald (Drayton Station), and Rebecca Whiteley (Southport Station).

These ladies have a variety of backgrounds in our service, including public servants, emergency medical dispatchers, and paramedics.

Each of these femmes formidables has been recognised for the skills, care and professionalism they bring to their roles, and their contributions (along with so many others) enable us to provide a high level of care to Queensland communities.

Thank you, ladies!

#iwd #IWD23 #QueenslandWomensWeek



**Tasmania Police** ✓

8 March

Today is International Women's Day and we want to recognise all the women in our organisation

We've come a long way since women wore a uniform of skirts and heels and carried their firearm in a uniform issued handbag

We now have our first female Commissioner for Tasmania, as well as many other women at the forefront of our organisation.

Thank you to all policewomen, past and present, who serve and protect our community



**VicEmergency** ✓

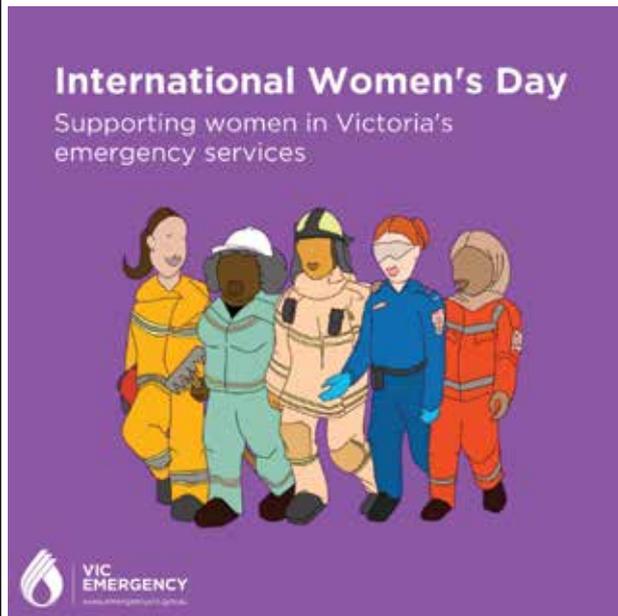
8 March

Happy International Women's Day to the incredible women in our emergency services who protect our community, and continue to navigate the challenges of a gendered society.

In Victoria's emergency services, only 36% are women, and a woman is less likely to hold a leadership position. Diverse voices and experiences directly enrich our work and further enable us to better meet the community's needs.

We recognise how far we have come but how much further we still have to go. Gender discrimination continues to be a barrier for many.

Today, we acknowledge the authentic, strong, caring and empathetic women in our emergency services who are growing in number and responsibilities.



**For the lighthearted!**

Emergency services work is serious, there is no doubt. However, in between reporting on lives saved, criminal activity thwarted and the incredible work that goes into protecting communities, property and land, social media teams are bringing a smile to scrolling eyes by occasionally lightening things up. Here's our recent pick:



**Victoria Police** ✓

21 March

It's #WorldPoetryDay, so here's 10 things we love about you...

- I love the way you drive to the limit, or even just below,
- I love when you see our flashing lights, to 40 you will slow.
- I love the way you do not drink, when you need to drive your car,
- I love it when you plan your trip, whether it's near or far.
- I love it when the road is wet, you take that extra care,
- I love it when you want to drink, you'll bring a taxi fare.
- I love it that you know the risks and never drive on drugs,
- I love it when you make it home for those extra special hugs.
- But most of all we love it when you understand the cost
- And significance of being added to the Lives Lost.



# YEARS OF NEGLIGENCE AND CRONYISM UNDERPIN DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE TOLL IN TURKEY

*In Türkiye, Gaziantep, hundreds of buildings collapsed after the earthquake. The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) is closely working with EU member states, participating states and the Turkish authorities to rapidly mobilise assistance. ©European Union, 2023 (photographer: Lisa Hastert)*

The magnitude 7.8 earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria a week ago, and the powerful aftershock that followed, have left at least 30,000 people dead.

Iain MacGillivray

*This article was published on The Strategist on 14 February, 2023  
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**M**ore than 5,000 buildings have collapsed, including critical infrastructure such as hospitals and schools. The death toll could rise by tens of thousands over the coming days as emergency services dig through the rubble and unearth the tragedy.

This tragedy only adds to the humanitarian crisis that has raged on the Turkish–Syrian border for the past decade. Countries worldwide have responded to the catastrophe by sending humanitarian aid and workers to help the Turkish government and civil-society organisations deal with the disaster. The devastation in the Turkish province of Hatay, near the epicentre of the quake, is a stark illustration of how seriously unprepared government officials were for the earthquake. The country is in mourning, and the implications of this disaster will be

widespread for Turkish society, politics and foreign affairs.

Earthquakes are a natural part of Turkey's past, present and future. The country sits along many active and inactive fault lines, most notably the Marmara fault line that runs south of Istanbul. Yet this is the worst disaster in Turkish history. There is a human element to it and the devastation and death toll could have been avoided.

As Istanbul-based journalist, Borzou Daragahi, noted last week: 'If one building collapses in a known earthquake zone, it is a tragedy. If dozens across several major cities collapse, it signals a preventable tragedy.' In the aftermath of the magnitude 7.6 earthquake that struck Turkey's Kocaeli province in 1999, killing around 18,000 people, building practices were updated and earthquake insurance was made mandatory for all buildings. In the

decades since, scientists repeatedly told the Turkish government that an earthquake of this magnitude could happen again and that they should be prepared for it. However, despite the best intentions with these reforms to the building sector, they have been largely ignored, as indicated by the devastation seen in south-west Turkey.

Successive Turkish administrations have enacted amnesty laws allowing suboptimal building practices to win votes among the poorer sections of the Turkish electorate. Amnesties in the 1980s granted legal titles to the building of illegal gecekondu (low-cost, hastily built housing) that arose during the rural to urban demographic shift in the 1960s and 1970s.

It is no secret that Turkey's growth since the early 2000s has been fuelled by the rapid development of the domestic construction industry



*Hatay, Turkey, 8 February 2023. Members of the UK's International Search & Rescue Team prepare their kit on arrival in Hatay ahead of commencing search & rescue operations following the 6 February earthquakes. Credit: FCDO/UKISAR*



*In Türkiye, Gaziantep, hundreds of buildings collapsed after the earthquake. The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) is closely working with EU member states, participating states and the Turkish authorities to rapidly mobilise assistance. ©European Union, 2023 (photographer: Begum Iman)*

throughout the region. Over the past 20 years, construction firms aligned with the governing Justice and Development Party (known as AKP) have grown rich from favourable contracts and government subsidies. Development projects have turned the expansive green spaces in cities like Istanbul into concrete jungles. Only recently, it was speculated that a new amnesty law would be passed that would have allowed unregistered construction work to go ahead.

The powerful government-backed housing agency TOKI leads the development of new housing projects throughout Turkey. TOKI was involved in a well-publicised 2014 corruption case against the AKP and people close to Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The charges were later dismissed. Affordable housing is still out of reach for the average Turkish person despite the massive

construction increase throughout the country. Yet the easy riches of the real estate industry led to developers and inspectors reportedly cutting corners and ignoring regulations that could have prevented such a disaster.

Recently, the governing party has looked to the construction industry as a source of cheap money to fuel growth rates. Questionable economic policies are crippling the economy, and the AKP needs funds for its election spending and political projects in the lead-up to the presidential and parliamentary elections to be held in May. The government has allegedly misappropriated earthquake tax revenue meant for alleviating such disasters and spent it on other state and political projects. Given the lack of resources, civil-society organisations in Turkey have had to fill in the gaps while they wait for international assistance. It appears that

in these politically charged times and in the 'new Türkiye', politics trumps people.

Yet, despite Turkey's recent bellicose conduct in international affairs towards Greece and Sweden, the international community has been quick to put politics aside and respond to the crisis. When the dust settles and the election cycle ramps up again, it's likely that political pragmatism will lead Erdogan and his AKP to forget the generosity shown. With the election less than six months away, Erdogan and the AKP will likely again turn to increased hostility in foreign policy to distract from Turkey's economic problems and the fallout of the earthquakes.

Natural disasters are unavoidable, but a combination of negligence, lack of regulation and possible corruption contributed to the destruction from this earthquake. Turkey will mourn its dead, and the rebuilding will begin soon. Turkish construction firms will likely get a slap on the wrist from the government for their shoddy practices, but no heads will roll at the top. Pro-government companies and organisations like TOKI will likely reap the benefits of this disaster, given their closeness to the government. It's highly likely that these companies will be given contracts to rebuild collapsed buildings in cities affected by the earthquake. It remains to be seen whether the AKP will politicise the disaster for political gain and demonise the opposition as it has done in the past.

The AKP and Erdogan, however, would be wise to learn from history. It was a botched response to the 1999 Kocaeli earthquake, combined with a freefalling economy, that led to the demise of the Bulent Ecevit government. In the wake of these disasters, the AKP won the election in 2001. If the AKP botches the response to this disaster and wraps its response up in partisan politics, it's distinctly possible that it will backfire and expose what 20 years of its governance has done to Turkey. Come May, the AKP might find itself on the losing side of a 2001-style defeat. ●

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Iain MacGillvray is an analyst with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), based in Washington DC, USA.

# QUEENSLAND LURES INTERNATIONAL POLICE TALENT UNDER NEW AGREEMENT

Foreign nationals with sufficient policing experience will be eligible to apply to the Queensland Police Service (QPS) under a new labour agreement between the Queensland and Federal governments.

Source: **myPolice**

**Q**PS has approval for 500 new international recruits to join the service each year, for five years.

The agreement, the broadest of its kind among Australia's policing jurisdictions, allows QPS to recruit international police officers without the requirement to be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

Commissioner Katarina Carroll said the agreement was the biggest opportunity for internationally experienced officers to work in Queensland.

"The new labour agreement goes beyond what has been offered by any other police organisation in Australia, allowing experienced officers from any country the chance to work for the Queensland Police Service and bring their own unique experiences, knowledge and skills to our organisation," Commissioner Carroll said.

"This is the biggest opportunity that we have offered for international police who are looking for a career in one of the most beautiful places in the world which has so much to offer – from fast paced operations within our major cities, to regional policing in communities in the tropics."

All police officers recruited under the new labour agreement will be required to pass QPS' recruit testing and vetting.

Depending on the level and recency of their experience, successful recruits will be trained through either the existing Police Abridged Competency Education (PACE) program or the mainstream recruit training program, ensuring they meet the standards of the QPS.

At the completion of their training, the newest recruits will be stationed across Queensland to commence their First Year Constable program, with the opportunity to expedite this program and enter the service up to the rank of Senior Constable.

Commissioner Carroll said while the QPS was already a popular choice for internationals with permanent residency, she expected the agreement would remove barriers for others looking to move abroad.

"With this new agreement, I expect interest from international police officers to greatly increase," she said.

"I joined the Queensland Police 40 years ago, and I can say from personal experience that policing in this state has everything to offer – there is something for everyone and every lifestyle.

"To officers out there who might be thinking about a move abroad, now is the time. Come and join the Queensland Police Service."

Senior Constable Lisa Harris became a QPS officer in 2019, after several years in frontline policing in Scotland and West Midlands Police; she said the training provided made the transition very smooth with much of the work and learning based on familiar principles.

"I've felt very welcomed by the wider QPS since the very start of my time here; we have access to modern resources including the vehicles and technology we use to do our job, there's good support on jobs and the salary is great," Senior Constable Harris said.

"Of course, the lifestyle in Queensland is also a big draw card. When I'm not on shift I'm able to do what I love and get outdoors and soak up the Queensland sunshine."

Minister for Police, Mark Ryan MP, said this was a commitment from the Queensland Government to bring international police talent to Queensland.

"This is a win-win. It's an unprecedented opportunity for the Queensland Police Service to significantly expand the diversity of its workforce, while providing a unique opportunity for people around the world to join a world-class police organisation," Minister Ryan said.

"There really is no better state to be a police officer and this new labour agreement shows the joint dedication of the Queensland Government and QPS to remove barriers for experienced talent to come into the organisation."

"The ability to recruit beyond Australia's borders will strengthen the Queensland Police Service's efforts in recruiting police officers for the state.

"I'm excited to welcome international police officers to our Queensland community and hope they enjoy everything that our state has to offer." ●

For more information about the recruitment process visit [www.policerecruit.qld.gov.au/international-police-recruitment](http://www.policerecruit.qld.gov.au/international-police-recruitment)



# ST PATRICK'S DAY FIRES FIVE YEARS ON

On St Patrick's Day 2018 CFA brigades in the state's south west were on high alert.

## VIC Country Fire Authority

*This article was published on [news.cfa.vic.gov.au](https://news.cfa.vic.gov.au)*

**W**ith the temperature soaring, winds forecasted to rise to dangerous levels and a Total Fire Ban in place, firefighters and incident management teams stood ready in case the unthinkable happened.

Between 9pm and 9.30pm on that Saturday, their worst fears were realised when a series of local wind events impacted power lines, sparking fires around Terang, Camperdown, Garvoc and Gazette. From there things happened quickly. By 10pm, firefighters were battling more than 20 grassfires.

Fanned by hot, dry, gusting 100 kilometre per hour northerly winds, the fires merged into four large complex fires, some of the largest many veteran firefighters had seen. In addition to the weather, the firefight was made even more challenging by the darkness and telecommunications outages.

The fires would go on to burn 40,000 hectares including farmland and wildlife reserves. As the last of the fires were contained, 27 homes and 40 sheds and thousands of kilometres of fencing would be deemed lost. More than 219 farms were impacted with livestock losses surpassing 4,000 and tonnes of fodder destroyed.

After the main threat subsided, attention moved to the control of more than 10 subsequent peat fires including three near Cobrico and Lake Elingamite. These peat fires would go on to become long-duration fire fights, burning for more than 50 days, before finally being declared safe on 10 May.

More than 300 firefighters and 29 firefighting aircraft were used to control the fires as they threatened lives and farmers' livelihoods. At least 26 agencies were involved over the lifetime of the fires, including interstate support.

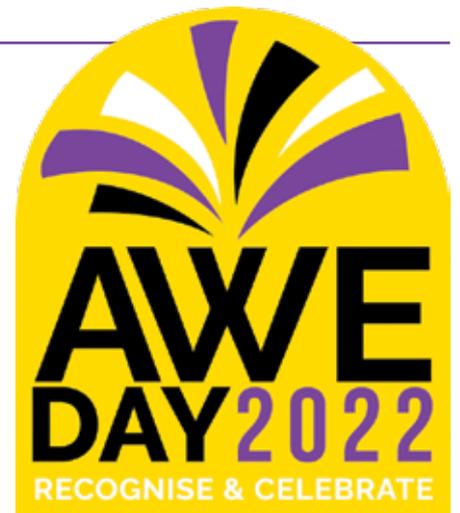
After the fires, communities regrouped and supported affected locals – mental health support and agriculture assistance were both a focus for recovery. Soil damage from peat fires affected many farmers, and innovative drone technology was used to treat and reseed pastures around peat swamps, restoring the areas into productive farmland.

Local health networks, farming groups and local government areas were supported by state agencies for many months to take the community to a new normal state of functioning.

But recovery after large-scale fires is a long process. The St Patrick's Day fires of 2018 had a significant impact on communities across south-west Victoria, particularly from an economic and social standpoint. They continue to recover, even today, as they rebuild their farms, stock and livelihoods. ●

# AUSTRALASIAN WOMEN IN EMERGENCIES DAY

October 10, 2022, was Australasian Women in Emergencies Day, a day to recognise and celebrate women in emergencies and disaster resilience.



## Australasian Women in Emergencies Network

**W**omen bring unique skills and strengths to all areas of disaster resilience and emergency management, and their insights and expertise help build resilience across Australasia.

Australasian Women in Emergencies Day is for all women who work, volunteer or study in emergency services, community or not-for-profit organisations, governments or agencies, universities or schools, and private businesses and organisations.

Many thanks to all the support received for AWE Day and we look forward to celebrating it again in 2023! ●



*“We have many incredible women within Forest Fire Management Vic that dedicate their lives to supporting our communities and protecting our environment...we acknowledge all women across the sector for their extraordinary skills and service.”*



*“We have many incredible women at VICSES that dedicate their lives to supporting our communities. Today as part of Australasian Women in Emergencies Day, we acknowledge all women across the sector for their extraordinary skills and service. Thank you!”*



# MENTAL HEALTH HELP FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES WORKERS

Australia's emergency workers will receive additional mental health support through the establishment of the National Emergency Workers Support Service (NEWSS).

The Government is providing \$4 million to the Black Dog Institute to establish and deliver the NEWSS, which is an expansion of the National Bush Fire Support Service. This service will be extended to all emergency services workers who respond to national disasters such as bushfires, floods, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the NEWSS, emergency services workers will be able to access an online mental health self-assessment and triage service including access up to 12 free sessions with a clinical psychologist face-to-face or via telehealth.

This integrated and tailored approach will make it easier for these essential workers to search for, navigate and

determine their eligibility for support and appropriate resources. Users with more severe mental health symptoms will be linked directly to either the Black Dog Institute's Depression Clinic or the University of New South Wales Traumatic Stress Clinic.

Thirty-nine per cent of emergency responders are diagnosed with a mental health condition at some point in their life. They are diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder at a rate two times higher than the general population.

The service will also provide specialist mental health training to GPs and other health care professionals to help provide appropriate support and referral options to emergency services workers. ●

*Australians are so grateful for their tireless efforts, which have kept communities safe in times of need, and it's only right that we ensure they are supported too.*

Minister, Murray Watt

A joint AFAC and AIDR event

# LESSONS MANAGEMENT FORUM 2023

## CLOSING THE LOOP: THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE

The Lessons Management Forum returns on 2023, and for the first time will be held in Canberra. The Forum aims to bring together lessons management practitioners, those interested in the area of lessons management, those new to the area to share good practice, learnings and innovations, and to create connections across sectors.

**QT Hotel Canberra**

27 June 2023 - 29 June 2023



**W**ith an increase in emergencies, we are seeing a corresponding increase in the number of reviews, inquiries and Royal Commissions. How do we prioritise learning from the lessons identified, while also balancing the implementation and monitoring of recommendations? How do we close the loop and truly learn and understand the underlying drivers of innovations and the challenges experienced? Are we truly learning the lesson?

The 2023 Lessons Management Forum will explore the challenges faced by lessons practitioners and the wider emergency management community in implementing identified lessons to ensure they are learned.

The forum will be hosted as a hybrid event, allowing attendance in person, or virtually for those unable to travel to Canberra. For those attending in person, additional networking opportunities will be made available. ●

### WHAT OUR 2022 LESSONS MANAGEMENT FORUM DELEGATES SAID:

*“Excellent forum with useful, relevant information and learning for all participants - no matter where they are from or what agency they represent.”*

*“A great opportunity for gaining insights from experienced practitioners and information sharing with peers from different environments.”*

*“Online is a great option for those who are unable to travel for any reason and should be maintained for future events. The only real drawback is missing out on the networking.”*

# \$1 BILLION COCAINE SEIZURE UNRAVELS DRUG NETWORK

An international covert operation has prevented a record 2.4 tonnes of cocaine worth \$1 billion from entering Western Australia. The operation resulted in the arrest of 12 people, with the cocaine linked to a Mexican drug cartel.

## WA Police Force

*This article was published on [www.police.wa.gov.au](http://www.police.wa.gov.au)*

The investigation, dubbed Operation Beech, was a joint effort between WA Police Force Transnational Serious and Organised Crime Squad (TSOC), the Sydney Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and with assistance from other state policing jurisdictions.

Operation Beech commenced in November after 2.4 tonnes of cocaine that was destined for Australia was intercepted by the DEA off the South American coastline.

Intelligence suggested the drug traffickers were unaware of the seizure and held the belief the cocaine remained in transit to Australia. This meant the Australian arm of the syndicate continued to prepare to receive their shipment on about 28 December.

This provided an opportunity for Western Australian Police to substitute the cargo using an inert substance and packaging identical to that used by the cartel.

Police dropped the inert substance about 40 nautical miles west of the Perth coastline on 28 December 2022. It will be alleged that the shore party, utilising two vessels (Catalina and Cool Runnings), made multiple efforts to locate and retrieve the cargo.

It will be alleged, that between the 28 and 30 of December 2022, the syndicate's shore party made three trips out to sea in uncomfortable conditions because they couldn't find the cargo.

On Friday 30 December, Tactical Response Group officers arrested three members of the shore party onboard Cool Runnings with approximately 1.2 tonnes of the inert substance. Cool Runnings had steering issues and washed



up on the beach south of Moore River, 70 kilometres north of Perth.

It will be alleged that the other members of the shore party onboard the Catalina then retrieved Cool Runnings from its beach location, towing it out to sea, where they transferred the inert substance onto the Catalina before it sank.

On New Year's Eve (Saturday 31 December), search warrants were executed across the metropolitan area. In total, nine men were charged with attempting to possess 1.2 tonnes of cocaine.

The operation continued after the New Year's Eve arrests with the syndicate still of the belief 1.2 tonnes of cocaine was available for purchase. On Monday 9 January, Tactical Response Group officers raided a Carlisle property and arrested a 28-year-old New South Wales man who has been charged with attempting to possess 200kg of cocaine.

Intelligence received from the ACIC led police to stop a vehicle on the Great Eastern Highway, near Coolgardie, on Friday 13 January. Officers located more than \$2 million cash and charged a 39-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman allegedly connected to the syndicate.

"This was a complex operation involving dozens of specialist officers and detectives resulting in the seizure of an estimated \$1 billion worth of cocaine, and disrupting criminal networks," Mr Blanch said.

"This operation has enabled us to draw out those members of the syndicate who were equipped and prepared to receive and distribute a significant amount of illicit drugs within the community, who may have otherwise gone undetected and waited for the next consignment.

"Our objective is to identify and apprehend those responsible for sending the drugs, but also those onshore criminal syndicates set to receive and profit through distribution in our community.

"The operation sends a message to international drug traffickers – your deadly drugs are not welcome here, and we will work closely and innovatively with our onshore and offshore law enforcement partners to dismantle your operations.

"The WA Police Force TSOC squad are continuing this investigation with offshore partners to identify and prosecute those responsible for organising this shipment.

"We want drug traffickers to actively avoid trying to use our coastline as an entry point."

WA Police acknowledge the assistance provided by other state jurisdictions during this operation.

The 12 accused, some of whom are from America, New South Wales and the Northern Territory, are progressing through WA's courts. ●

# MERCHANDISE

The AIES now has polo shirts and caps available for purchase. Pictures of the shirts and caps are shown below.

## To make an order:

- Complete and return this order form to the following email address: [treasurer@aies.net.au](mailto:treasurer@aies.net.au)
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Inquiries are to be directed to [treasurer@aies.net.au](mailto:treasurer@aies.net.au) or by telephoning 0418 726 224.

**Allow 4-5 weeks for delivery as some sizes may not be in stock.**

**Invoice for payment will be issued once goods are in stock.**

## MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM



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**\$40** each  
including postage & handling fee



### Cap

**\$12.50** each  
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NB: The best way to find a shirt that fits: lay a polo flat on a table and measure under the armpit, from armpit to armpit then match to get the sizing below.

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Small	Chest 51 – Front Length 70	
Medium	Chest 54 – Front Length 72.5	
Large	Chest 58 – Front Length 75	
X Large	Chest 61 – Front Length 77.5	
2X Large	Chest 63 – Front Length 80	
3X Large	Chest 66 – Front Length 82.5	
4X Large	Chest 68 – Front Length 85	
5X Large	Chest 71 – Front Length 87.5	
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# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership forms are available online at [www.aies.net.au](http://www.aies.net.au)

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## THE INSTITUTE'S AIMS

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

## THE INSTITUTE'S OBJECTIVES

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

## THE INSTITUTE OFFERS

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

## MEMBERSHIP

Costs  
Annual Subscription: \$60.00  
Fellows: \$80.00  
Corporate Subscription: \$500.00  
Note: Institute Fees may be tax deductible.

## CLASSES

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  
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## ELIGIBILITY

Applications for membership will be considered from persons who are at least eighteen years of age and who:  
• Are members of a permanent emergency service or associated service, or  
• Are volunteer members of emergency or associated services.

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.

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Our members come from  
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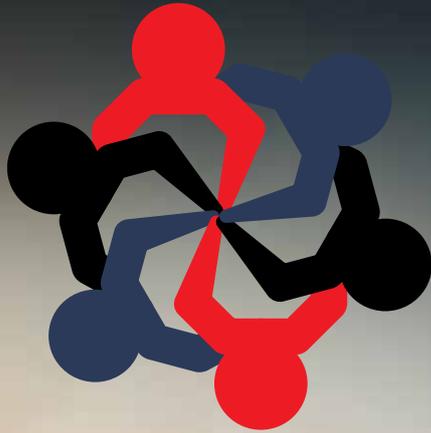
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TASMANIAN CHINESE BUDDHIST ACADEMY OF AUSTRALIA



Tasmanian Chinese Buddhist Academy of Australia welcomed the lunar new year with the community, by inviting old and new friends to ring the Joy Bell at Jin-Gang-Dhyana Temple at Campania.

We are very honoured to have representatives from the Tasmanian government, opposition party and local councils, friends from Campania and wider Tasmanian community to share the joyous occasion.

Ringling the Joy Bell is a traditional Buddhist ritual in China, allowing community members to wish for good fortune and prosperity in the new year.