

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## EMERGENCY SERVICES FOUNDATION



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## ***The Emergency Services Foundation (ESF)***

### Mission and Vision

#### The ESF was created to:

- Provide immediate financial relief to Victorian emergency service workers and their families in the event of a fatality or injury in the line of duty.
- Support research into issues of importance to the emergency services industry and the community.

### Background

The ESF was founded following the 'Ash Wednesday' bushfires in 1983. At this time a public appeal was launched to provide financial assistance to emergency service workers and their families, recognising the on-going hardship experienced as a result of death or injury sustained in the line of duty. The appeal's sponsors agreed to use the residual funds to institute the ESF Trust.

Since its inception in 1987, a number of Victorian emergency service workers and their families have received financial benefits from the ESF. In addition, the ESF Scholarship Scheme has awarded more than 120 scholarships over a diverse range of research projects. The ESF Alumni provides a network for these scholarship recipients enabling knowledge sharing and a continued commitment to the work of the ESF.

#### Member Agencies



# ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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## HIGHLIGHTS

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ESF Conference - 1 and 2 July 2014 –  
Diversity in Emergency Management

Raheen Scholarship Awards Luncheon held  
on 11 July for the 2014 awardees. Certificates  
awarded to the following four awardees:

**Faye Bendrups**  
*SES Volunteer*

**Paul Elso**  
*CFA*

**Michelle Murphy**  
*AMBVIC*

**Duncan Worsfold**  
*DEPI*

Conference Dinner hosted by the ESF Alumni  
– Tuesday 2 July 2014

Scholarship Information Nights – 18 June and  
5 November 2014

Volunteer Leaders Forum – 3 and 4 May 2014

The ESF welcomed Stephen Griffin of SES  
in June 2014 and Jim Higgins of MFB to the  
Board in July 2014

Gaye Mason appointed as Company Secretary  
& Treasurer in July 2014

Honorary Life Membership to the ESF  
awarded to Greg Sassella

25 Years' Commemorative booklet released in  
June 2014

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# BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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**Neil Bibby**  
*Chairman*

**John Warburton (Gaye Mason appointed 14 July 2014)**  
*Treasurer/Secretary*

**Mick Bourke**  
*Country Fire Authority*

**Greg Sassella**  
*Ambulance Victoria*

**Jim Higgins (appointed 4/7/2014)**  
*Metropolitan Fire and  
Emergency Services Board*

**Tim Cartwright**  
*Victoria Police*

**Mary Barry (to June 14. Stephen Griffin appointed)**  
*Victoria State Emergency Service*

**Craig Lapsley**  
*Emergency Management Commissioner*

**Laurie Lavell AM**  
*Director*

**Neil Soullier OAM**  
*Director*

**Catherine Dunlop**  
*Director*

**Secretariat**

**Jenny Davis**  
*Executive Officer*

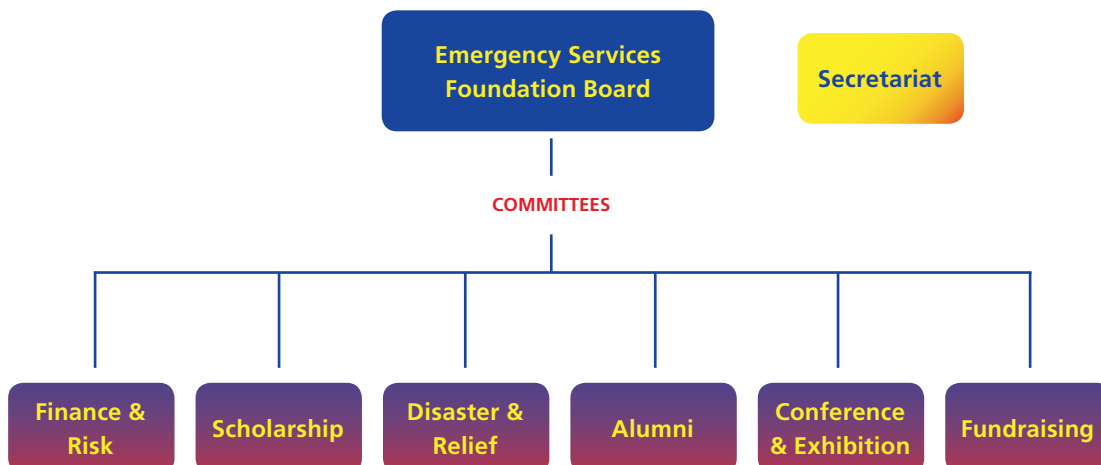
**Patron**

**Jeanne Pratt AC**

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# HOW THE ESF IS STRUCTURED

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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Presiding over my third year as Chair of the ESF, I am delighted at the progress we have made towards ensuring the Foundation remains relevant into the next decade in what is a very dynamic time for the sector in Victoria.

The year has seen many positive events and activities for the ESF. Once again our annual conference was a huge success and remains one of the premier knowledge and networking events for emergency services in the State.

Covering a range of topics the annual Emergency Management Conference was attended by nearly 500 delegates and 18 exhibitors, our highest level of exhibitors yet. Feedback from the event was excellent and we are proud to have hosted such a fantastic event. A full conference report appears on page 5.

2014 also saw four scholarships awarded across four agencies. Congratulations to the volunteer and three emergency service staff selected. Our scholarship program goes from strength to strength. My heartfelt thanks to both the Scholarship Committee and the ESF Alumni Management Team who help make this important initiative possible.

I also acknowledge the generosity of the Victorian Government through the Department of Justice for their ongoing contribution, funding the emergency service volunteer scholarships and Volunteer Leaders Forum.

The Board was delighted to confer Life Membership to Greg Sassella, outgoing CEO of Ambulance Victoria. During his time with the ESF, Greg has made an outstanding contribution to the Foundation and the wider emergency services sector. He has been at the fore-front of collaboration and cooperative engagement across our key agencies and served on the Board from 2002 TO 2014.

John Warburton also retired from his role as Company Secretary and Treasurer. I am delighted John has agreed to remain as a Director and congratulate him for the contribution

he has made to the sound governance of the Foundation and the guidance he has provided in this key role over the last 17 years. We welcome Gaye Mason to this important position.

The ESF continued its partnership with students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (USA) who delivered a research project and presentation on 'Increasing Koori Engagement in the Emergency Services'. The presentation was held at MFB in Burnley. The annual program with this Institute continues to provide interesting and robust information for our sector to aid evidence-based decision making. All past research projects can be accessed on the ESF website.

The ESF's Volunteer Leaders Forum in May was once again a great success. Held on the 3rd and 4th of May 2014, the forum was attended by many delegates and opened by Governor Alex Chernov. The Foundation would like to thank the State Government for its financial support.

2014 has proved to be a successful year for the newly created Fundraising Committee. Over the year we sourced a beautiful bear decked out in vintage fire-fighting uniform as our primary fundraising property. We anticipate good response to this unique ESF bear which will be formally launched in 2015.

2014 also saw the launch of the commemorative '25 Years' booklet which was distributed at the June 2014 board meeting. Video interviews with some of the 'founding fathers' of the ESF are also on the internet and I would encourage all to view these as they demonstrate the wisdom and foresight of these wonderful people who have made such a rich contribution to our sector over many decades.

On closing I note with delight that the ESF has not been required to make any significant contributions to families when loved ones have been killed or severely injured in the line of duty. While this is a core function of the Foundation, we are always heartened in the circumstance when these relief payments are not required.

**Neil Bibby**  
Chairman



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## DISASTER & RELIEF COMMITTEE

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The ESF's fundamental objective is to provide financial relief to members and families of emergency service workers who are injured or who have died while on duty, or in active service.

While this is a foundational activity, I am delighted to report that in 2014 the ESF was not required to make any such relief payments. This is wonderful and comes on the back of a few very difficult years for our sector, where loss of life has been experienced.

Our relief assistance usually takes the form of immediate financial relief with the payment of \$10,000 to meet initial financial demands during this very difficult time of shock and great distress for families.

To ensure the ESF's capacity to at short notice raise additional revenue, in the case of a future large scale event, arrangements are in place to leverage off the public appeal mechanism which will enable the Foundation to support those in need, should this be required.

**Neil Soullier**

Chairman Disaster & Relief Committee

## FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

This year saw the formation of a fundraising committee focussed specifically on achieving donations from the wider public to support the Foundations activities.

One of the first initiatives of the Fundraising committee has been to develop a fund-raising bear. Ashely arrived on our shores just before Christmas last year. This magnificent bear is fast becoming a real collector's item. It has wonderful attention to detail and would make an excellent gift. If you want to purchase one you can do so on the ESF website [www.esf.com.au/bear/](http://www.esf.com.au/bear/)





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# ESF CONFERENCE 2014

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## 1-2 July 2014

The EMC 2014 'Diversity in Emergency Management' was another successful event attended by around 500 delegates over the two days of the conference. The trade exhibition was the largest to date with more than 18 exhibitors and we acknowledge the support of these companies and thank them for their on-going involvement. We believe the trade exhibition at the conference is a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase innovation to a focussed and relevant target market.

Continued strong support from member agencies and sponsors was a major contributor to the events success, along with another powerful speaker program, which catered to a broad range of interests. The EMC Committee continues to create outstanding and innovative speaker programs and we thank them, and those who spoke, for such an outstanding and informative program.

Opened by The Hon Kim Wells, Minister for Police and Emergency Services. The Conference coincided with the launch of Emergency Management Victoria, (formerly the Fire Services Commission) a transitional phase in the emergency management arrangements for our State. This is timely recognition of the need to focus on an all hazard, all agencies approach to emergency management in the future.

Delivering an entertaining and thought provoking keynote address, Rev. Tim Costello, CEO of World Vision shared an alternate view of the emergency services. Following his presentation, the conference hosted a wide variety of interstate and international speakers. John Hamilton, Director of Civil Defence and Emergency Management New Zealand delivered a strong paper on Adaptive Capacity, and Mark Croweller, Director General, EMA discussed ways to institute a national approach without stifling state innovation.

The workshop on day two of the conference, 'Gender in Emergencies' was attended by over 70 people and received a strong positive response.

Marine Emergencies were also a feature of the 2014 conference with Donovan Croucamp (DTPLI) chairing the initial key presentations. These were followed by a panel session/exercise led by David Crompton- Guard of the same organisation.

Our 'Chiefs Panel' focused on 'Shifting the Hump - When Extremes become Normal'. Special thanks to Dudley McArdle for chairing the panel (DMac Directions). We had a number of new faces on the panel and feedback was that it was one of the best Chiefs Panel for some time.

Special thanks must go to Steve O'Malley of MFB and Ian Nicklen of the Department of Justice, for all their hard work on speaker recruitment, the response was outstanding.

The EMC Conference is presented by the Emergency Services Foundation to provide a forum for the exchange of the valuable information gained by emergency services workers in the line of duty, and in research.

As such, we were proud to host nearly 500 delegates from all emergency service agencies, as well as Federal, State and Local government departments and community groups.

### **Mark Swiney**

Chair Conference Committee



# ESF Conference and Dinner









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# EMC 2014 CONFERENCE & DINNER

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## EMC 2014 Conference was sponsored by:

- Bureau of Meteorology
- Departments of Human Services
- Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure
- Department of Sustainability & Environment
- Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner
- Fire Services Commissioner Victoria

## The EMC Committee:

- Mark Swiney (Chair), Metropolitan Fire Brigade
- Ged Griffin, Victoria Police
- Peter Baker, Country Fire Authority
- David Harris, Department of Primary Industries
- Neil Akers, Ambulance Victoria
- Ben McFadgen, Victoria State Emergency Service
- Tarini Casinader, Bureau of Meteorology
- Geoff Russell, Department of Human Services
- Heather Lakin, OESC
- John Schauble, Fire Services Commissioner
- John Laursen, Department of Transport
- Rory McKenzie, Department of Sustainability & Environment
- Ian Nicklen, Department of Justice

Attended by 165 guests the Conference Dinner was another hugely successful element of the 'Diversity in Emergency Management' 2014 Conference.

Master of Ceremonies was TV and radio personality John Blackman and the guest speaker was FR Bob Maguire, who gave a typically witty and pointed talk on his work with 'street kids'.

The Alumni who organise the dinner again thank Victoria Police and other sponsors for their continued support of this important networking event which adds an important dimension to the whole conference experience for delegates, particularly those from interstate and regional Victoria.

### **Mark Swiney**

Chair Conference Committee



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# ALUMNI REPORT

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The 2014 year has been a year of growth for the ESF Alumni building on the very solid foundation and hard work of previous committees.

The Alumni maintained an active presence at the 2014 Emergency Management Conference, setting up and manning a booth at the Conference with the intention of encouraging conference participants to consider an ESF Scholarship. Alumni members also assisted prospective scholarship awardees in preparing their 2015 applications and I would especially like to thank the members of the Alumni who have offered their time as mentors.

The ESF scholarships are a cornerstone of the work of the ESF and the Alumni committee members are very keen to ensure the applications remain at a very high standard and processes are in place to ensure year on year improvement. Assistance is also being provided to successful candidates before, during and upon their return from completing and reporting on their research. In future awardees will also be provided with an easy to use 'template' for recording of their receipts and acquittals.

The conference dinner was very well attended and provided conference participants and partners with great entertainment, networking opportunities and the chance to listen to an excellent guest speaker. Once again the dinner proved to be a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of Rosie Keane who manages the Events portfolio.

A Planning Day was held on the 26th August 2014 and five portfolios have been set up to enable us to manage the overall workload and responsibilities of the Alumni.

Portfolio Managers and deputies have been appointed and the responsibilities of each portfolio are well understood.

- 1) Events
- 2) Knowledge & Network
- 3) Promotions
- 4) Governance
- 5) Membership

Work is well underway for sponsorship contacts and speakers for next year's Conference and Booth and the 'Alumni Policy and Procedure' document has been simplified.

It is very pleasing to have a number of very committed Alumni management team members representing agencies across the sector, focussed on the growth of the Alumni and overall support of the work of Emergency Services Foundation.

**Matthew Anderson**  
Chair ESF Alumni



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# ESF SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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The ESF Scholarship scheme allows fellowships and grants to be awarded to members of the Victorian emergency services undertaking advanced studies on issues affecting our sector in Australia or overseas.

The program is open to volunteers and paid staff across the agencies and government departments who make up the recognised emergency services sector in Victoria.

In 2014 awardees travelled to a variety of different countries to participate in valuable educational research. Their reports and findings are archived on the ESF website and over the years this library has grown to a significant body of work and valuable resource for the sector. The individual projects for our awardees for 2014 are covered elsewhere in this report.

A complete list of scholarship awardees can be found on the ESF website at [www.esf.com.au/files/scholarships/esfscholarship-awardees.pdf](http://www.esf.com.au/files/scholarships/esfscholarship-awardees.pdf).

The Scholarship Committee administers the scheme on behalf of the Board, and the 2014 program was launched the preceding year with two information nights hosted by the Alumni on the Scholarship Committee's behalf. We thank them for again hosting such important events, which not only promote the scholarship program but provide important networking opportunities.

At the information nights, past awardees are on hand to provide prospective scholarship applicants with an understanding of the key selection criteria and strategies to enhance the quality of their application. We thank these people for their continued support to this important program.

The ESF gratefully acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government through the Department of Justice who sponsor the scholarships for volunteers.

My thanks also to the Scholarship Committee members who assisted in the tasks of short listing and interviewing candidates and continue to contribute to the development and outcomes of the ESF Scholarship Program.

**Katrina Bahen (Director HR, VICSES)**

Chair, Scholarship Committee

## Awardees

Faye Bendrups  
*SES Volunteer*

Paul Elso  
*CFA*

Michelle Murphy  
*AMBVIC*

Duncan Worsfold  
*DEPI*

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# FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

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*For the financial year ended 30 June 2014*

The Foundation is progressing, but continues to be hampered by a low capital base which is difficult to increase in the current constrained financial environment.

That said, we have this year run another highly successful Emergency Management Conference, which is an important event in emergency agency calendars. We have also awarded a number of overseas learning scholarships and sadly, again made payments to the bereaved families who lost a loved one in pursuit of their duties. We were pleased to continue managing grants from the State Government, this year amounting to \$115,000. We have received these grants over the past five years which are used to fund volunteer scholarships and the annual Volunteer Leadership Conference.

We achieved an improved financial result this year with a surplus of \$13,894 (2013 \$32,538 loss). However, after accounting for the Tynan Eyre Memorial Fund surplus of \$20,615 (2013 \$22,426) our operating loss for the year was \$6,712 (2013 \$54,964 loss).

We continue to pursue activities which will help to provide better services to our emergency services community. We have set a goal to replenish our capital at least back to its initial value in real terms. As a result there are a number of fund raising activities being planned or pursued and we are hopeful that some will bear fruit in the upcoming financial year.

While we work to ensure that we are financially sustainable for the future, we are pleased that presently our activities and related costs are no greater than our present annual

income provided we continue to achieve reasonable returns on our investments. This enables us to direct any funds donated or raised to our capital replenishment program. Our invested funds are managed externally using an index manager investing across a diversified range of local and global sectors adopting a 'balanced' risk profile. We commission an annual review of our investment practices and profile using an experienced asset consultant.

The Foundation is extremely grateful for the valuable ongoing contribution that the ESF Alumni makes. The Alumni is made up of dedicated past scholarship awardees who meet regularly to plan for and run various Foundation events throughout the year. They also provide mentoring support for prospective scholarship applicants.

Members of the Board of the Foundation are made up primarily of the leaders or senior personnel of the major emergency service agencies in Victoria plus suitably qualified lay persons. All members of the Board are experienced in the many facets of good corporate governance and there is a significant emphasis placed on this aspect of our business. The Board receives regular reports and updates on our governance and management practices. We are also externally audited annually.

Later this year I will retire from the role of treasurer after fifteen years. I would like to place on record my appreciation of the support received from board members, respective chairpersons, our executive officer, members of the Alumni, Tony Pool from High Profile Events, Michael Anderson, asset consultant and our auditors Crowe Horwath.

**Gaye Mason**  
Chair, Finance Committee

As at 30 June 2014

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## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

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As at 30 June 2014

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash assets	24,936	12,705
Receivables	15,711	5,875
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>40,647</b>	<b>18,580</b>
<b>Non current assets</b>		
Managed fund investments^	1,143,410	1,121,384
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,184,057</b>	<b>1,139,964</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Income received in advance	51,108	31,167
Payables	32,253	24,538
Provisions	5,811	3,268
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>89,172</b>	<b>58,973</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>1,094,885</b>	<b>1,080,991</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated funds	1,094,885	1,080,991
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>1,094,885</b>	<b>1,080,991</b>

This is an abridged version of the accounts of the Foundation which are audited by Crowe Horwath. A copy of the full audited accounts is available on request to the Foundation.

# INCOME STATEMENT

*For finance year ended 30 June 2014*

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Investment Income from managed funds <sup>^</sup>	91,118	70,946
State Government Grants expended this period	94,000	74,733
Proceeds from conference	48,836	35,514
Administration contributions	29,500	23,750
Imputed credit refunds	1,387	2,060
Alumni dinner sponsors	570	14,000
Alumni membership fees & other income	-	859
Project management (State Government Grant)	11,500	8,900
Other income	4,986	-
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>281,897</b>	<b>230,762</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Scholarships*	50,236	49,847
Volunteer Leadership Conference & scholarships paid this period	94,000	74,733
Personal assistance payments	23,000	50,000
Executive officer payments	66,100	66,000
Audit fees	4,783	1,386
Insurance	2,795	2,162
Other expenses	27,089	19,172
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>268,003</b>	<b>263,300</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) for year**</b>	<b>13,894</b>	<b>(32,538)</b>

<sup>^</sup>Investment income from managed funds includes income attributable to the Tynan-Eyre Memorial Fund \$42,936 (2013 \$31,517).

\* Tynan-Eyre Memorial Fund scholarships \$22,971 (2013 \$10,000)

\*\* Loss attributable to the Foundation after excluding Tynan Eyre results, \$6,721 (2013 \$54,964 loss)

This is an abridged version of the accounts of the Foundation which are audited by Crowe Horwath. A copy of the full audited accounts is available on request to the Foundation.



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## SCHOLARSHIP TESTIMONIALS

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**In 2014, the subject of my ESF scholarship research was to visit the *Instituto Nacional de Defensa Civil* (INDECI, the National Institute for Civil Defence) in Lima, Peru.**

The purpose of the visit was to attend as an observer/participant at the *Simulacro Nacional de Sismo y Tsunami* (the National Earthquake and Tsunami Simulation) in the capital Lima, where more than 70% of the population participates in national or bi-national emergency drills every year. My visit as an observer consisted of

- Observation of special events/emergency exercises
- Field trips to sites of recent emergency events
- Conducting interviews with key personnel
- Attending meetings and briefings

INDECI effectively uses and promotes its guiding motto: *Defensa Civil: Tarea de Todos* (Civil Defence is Everybody's Work) to engage the community. The message nominates the whole of society as being responsible for action. The community is engaged as responders in small teams called brigadas (brigades), in all apartment and office blocks, workplaces and schools. Being a brigade member is easy and achievable. This whole of community approach means the population is aware and prepared for emergencies.

More than forty professionals from nine organisations provided me with time, information, published materials and collaborative experiences. I was also invited by the *Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas por el Estado* (SERNANP, similar to National Parks and Wildlife) to visit the remote Andean village of Piscacucho, situated within the Macchu Picchu Historic Sanctuary, to meet with the head rangers and exchange ideas about EM practices and methods, particularly firefighting.

I gratefully acknowledge the generous support of General Alfredo Murgueytio Espinoza, Chief of INDECI, and Dr. Francisco José Ambía Camargo, Chief of the INDECI Office of Co-operation and International Affairs.

**Faye Bendrups** - Civil Defence in Peru: National Earthquake and Tsunami Simulation Exercises



Firefighting workshop with park rangers at Piscacucho, the Macchu Picchu Historic Sanctuary



Setting up a Forward Command Post, central Lima





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## SCHOLARSHIP TESTIMONIALS

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### Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest

In 2014 I was lucky enough to be awarded a scholarship that allowed me to travel to the US and visit a variety of emergency management services and medical institutions currently leading world practice with initiatives to improve survival from 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest' (OHCA).

Cardiac Arrest affects thousands of Victorians annually. Currently in Victoria, ambulance and fire services are dispatched to out of hospital cardiac arrests in the community.

The ESF Scholarship gave me the opportunity to visit two high performing world renowned resuscitation centres currently undertaking trials involving cardiac arrest patients - Chicago University Hospital and Philadelphia University Hospital. I spent time with their medical directors and saw first-hand some of the innovative ways they are approaching CPR training as well as post resuscitation management.

The directors were able to share with me the outcomes of their work and the impact these outcomes have had in changing their respective EMS protocols and the difference this has had in patient outcomes from cardiac arrest.

I had opportunity to undertake a ride-along in the various cities (Phoenix, Chicago, Seattle and Philadelphia) and observe first-hand the teamwork and performance of their members while attending cardiac arrest patients. Specifically I was able to see the benefit of feedback devices during CPR as well as the various airway management devices. Two of these EMS systems currently lead the world in survival from OHCA.

Attending the Resuscitation Academy and completing the High-Performance-CPR training workshop was the highlight of the tour. I met with EMS providers from around the world and spent two days looking at key opportunities for improving outcomes from cardiac arrest. I then followed this up with some one-on-one time, addressing some of the issues we might face here in Victoria in implementing change and learning's from their systems in how to overcome these obstacles.

The take home message is 'work smarter' not harder. I have developed a package titled 'Key Opportunities for Improving Outcomes from OHCA' which has been rolled out across Ambulance Victoria and we have begun to measure the impact of this training with promising results in improved paramedic practice and patient care.

**Michelle Murphy** - Clinical Support Officer,  
Metro West Region  
Ambulance Victoria





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# SCHOLARSHIP TESTIMONIALS

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## **“Enhancing Emergency Management of Train Incidents in Victoria – A focus on preparedness and response”.**

The topic for this research eventuated from the identification of a knowledge gap across Victoria and, to varying degrees, agencies around Australia. Victorian and interstate agencies have many examples of emergency incidents involving trains which have led to investigations and coroners recommendations. This, combined with the knowledge that our train networks have an increasing size and complexity, due to increasing workload for both freight and passenger travel, necessitates further work in this area.

More specifically, research of best practice in the US and UK focused on a model for the risk assessment of train emergencies, planning considerations, opportunities and methods, training methods and systems, response procedures and the engagement of and collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

In November 2014, I travelled to the US where I spent time with CSX Transportation in Jacksonville Florida, (a major freight provider), the Department of Homeland Security – Transport Safety Administration and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in Washington DC and the New York Fire Department (FDNY).

In the UK, I was hosted by the London Fire Brigade, Kent Fire and Rescue and included time with the London Underground and the Channel Tunnel.

This cross section of industry, emergency response agencies and government agencies provided significant insight in to areas of strength and those needing improvement within Victorian Emergency Management agencies.

The focus of my recommendations mainly centres on preparedness. The research identified that our response procedures and Incident Management System will be effective for this emergency type as long as pre-planning and training occurs through a strengthened network and collaboration with rail service providers and responsible Emergency Management agencies.

### ***Highlights of the trip include:***

- Attending a 'live' HAZMAT job in Florida and seeing their processes in action including the Emergency Control Centre,
- Having access to Department of Homeland Security programs in Washington DC,
- Visiting the FDNY training academy 'The Rock',
- Touring the Channel Tunnel in the UK with the Fire Service.

**Paul Elso** – Enhancing emergency management of train incidents in Victoria – A focus on preparedness and response.





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## SCHOLARSHIP TESTIMONIALS

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**For my scholarship project I travelled to the United States with the aim to investigate best practice for managing contractors in the delivery of destruction, disposal and decontamination (3D) activities in an emergency animal disease response.**

The logic behind travelling to the US was the existence of the US National Veterinary Stockpile which is the national repository for veterinary countermeasures for combatting foreign animal diseases. The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) and its staff support States, Tribes and Territories responding to emergency animal diseases by providing critical veterinary equipment and linkages with contractors who have the ability to provide large amounts of resources in short time for destruction, disposal and decontamination activities.

I spent two weeks in the country, with much of the first week in the States of Wisconsin and Minnesota, followed by the second week at the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service headquarters at Riverdale, Maryland.

I was able to meet and discuss the NVS arrangements with key USDA and State Veterinary Services colleagues whilst actively participating in a full scale logistics exercise and a large scale decontamination demonstration at Volk Field Air National Guard Base in Wisconsin. I was also able to interview other key USDA staff who manage contracts and day-to-day communications with the 3D contractors under the NVS program.

The highlights of the project were comparing 3D projects with international colleagues and understanding that the issues are the same wherever you travel. Also being in the company of NVS staff when the first case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (as part of the large 2015 outbreak) was diagnosed in California, and discussing their deployment decisions in real time.

**Duncan Worsfold** – Investigate best practice for managing contractors in the delivery of destruction, disposal and decontamination (3D) activities in an emergency animal disease response.

Annual Report 2014



