

ESF IMPACT

newsletter

ISSUE 46, September 2023



ESF 2023 Scholarships Supported by Rotary



The Emergency Services Foundation has entered a partnership with Rotary to support the longstanding ESF scholarship program. ESF has granted around 150 scholarships since 1988 to provide recipients with funds to cover the expense of travel to advance their knowledge and expertise.

The ESF scholarship program enables people from across the Victorian emergency services the opportunity to undertake a study tour that will lead to improvements in Victoria's emergency management sector. The tours provide valuable opportunities for self-enrichment, knowledge, and experience in an area the recipient is passionate about. Both paid staff and volunteer members of ESF's member agencies can apply and have undertaken tours.

Research areas that address ESF's focus on the prevention and early intervention of mental ill health are encouraged, however any other topic which has the potential for sector wide benefit will be considered.

Peter Romanis from the Victoria Police Major Collision Investigation Unit has recently returned from a study tour to the United States where he sought to understand how the issue of compassion fatigue is addressed. Peter will present the findings of his work through a webinar in the new year.

According to Peter, 'Embarking on this study tour has been an incredible opportunity to deepen my understanding of compassion fatigue, as I have had the privilege of meeting experts in the field and immersing myself in a positive and enriching experience.'

ESF scholarships are not for completion of tertiary or other qualifications. They are for informal study through learning from subject matter experts and leading practice. Scholarship awardees prepare a structured written report of their study and its findings, making recommendations for the translation of knowledge to the sector.

The partnership with Rotary builds on strong collaboration between the two organisations at the local level, through Tony's Trek early in 2023, and the new Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards. The partnership will help fund two additional scholarships in 2023. Applications for these are now open, and close on 19 November. Scholarship recipients become ESF Alumni and are encouraged to maintain their association with the ESF and support its work.

The application process is not onerous and [details can be found here](#).

RESPONSES

'The Rotary motto of *Service Above Self* guides our efforts across the globe and we are pleased to partner with the ESF and their work to prevent the incidence and impact of mental injury for Victorian emergency service personnel.'

Rotary District Governor Grant Hocking ASM, RESCA committee

'ESF is delighted to be partnering with Rotary in the delivery of our scholarship program. The funding provided by Rotary means that in addition to those supported directly by ESF, two more worthy emergency worker recipients will be able to travel and consider mental health and wellbeing issues that may have relevance to the 139,000 volunteer and paid emergency workers in our sector.'

Tony Pearce, IGEM, ESF Chair and ESF alumni

'In a time of increasing demands on the Emergency sector, and with catastrophic effects of climate change seen around the world, new approaches for the future are essential. The Rotary partnership with ESF will add to the innovation and capability of the sector, and contribute to securing community safety and resilience.'

Dr Faye Bendrups, SES, ESF alumni

Back in 2016 I was fortunate enough to receive an ESF scholarship. As a result of that experience it has encouraged me to continue research in that and other related subjects, as well as the confidence to share my experience and knowledge in many magazine articles such as [this one on 'High-volume water supplies for firefighting in rural or remote locations'](#).

For me and I'm sure many others the ESF scholarship has made a big impact on my career, both short and long term, and I will be forever grateful and appreciative for the opportunities it has presented me.

Gavin Parker, CFA, ESF alumni

"I have always believed that there is no such thing as failure, just learning opportunities. Yet many groups today still only see failure. However across Australia Rotary can see and ESF believe, so combined the learning opportunities will be endless".

Carina Newton, SES, ESF alumni

[More information on the ESF scholarships funded by Rotary](#)