

Gavin George



Priceless, is the best word to describe working with ESF and Siusan MacKenzie. Siusan and her staff assisted us in scheduling, hospitality, and amusement and it was all incredibly thoughtful and appreciated. Throughout this process, we have been able to explore every inch of the Emergency Management Sector from a unique perspective that as a technological student, I was very unaware of. This journey has taught incredible life lessons of fostering relationships, taking care of your teammates, and possessing a work life balance. From a cultural perspective, I was able to emerge myself in the unique Aussie culture, which is a lot different than Boston, MA. Having this exposure has been irreplaceable. However, out of everything, I think my favorite part of the trip was meeting one of the most amazing, big-pawed, puppies I have ever met, the one and only, Albi!

Hunter Daris



Working with ESF pushed me out of my comfort zone and I am deeply appreciative of it. This endeavor broadened my perspective beyond the straightforward problem-solving I do at my university classes as I'm earning my bachelor's degree as an aeronautical engineer. Unlike the typical assignments I'm familiar with, where answers are either right or wrong, this project introduced me to the complexities of real-world challenges. It made me understand that there can be multiple potential solutions. This project not only helped me form into a well rounded individual, but also gave me a deeper appreciation for the complexity of problem-solving for societal challenges. I am extremely thankful for Siusan and her team being so welcoming to Melbourne and giving me an unforgettable experience.

Ella Devault



Working with ESF has been an amazing experience that helped me to grow not only as a student, but as a person in general. I learned and expanded on so many skills like interviewing, presenting, and working with qualitative data in a field so different from what I am studying. It was so amazing to speak to so many different individuals throughout Victoria's emergency sector and to hear their inspiring stories. It helped me to better appreciate the ripple effect that everything has on the people around us, and that is something I will take with me throughout my career as an engineer and beyond. Working with ESF was truly a once in a life-time experience and I will never forget the lessons I learned here!

Federico Lenson



My time in Melbourne working with ESF has been a period of substantial growth for me, especially when it comes to my interpersonal skills and analytical skills. As a STEM student that works with numbers all day, I often feel that I don't get enough work relating to more human oriented issues. Usually what I'm dealing with involves problem solving for more technical systems as opposed to hierarchical ones, but in the case of our project, each part is a person with their own stories and experiences. Hearing those stories and extrapolating data and coming to conclusions based on anecdotal evidence isn't something I've ever done before, and frankly at times it felt like there was no rhyme or reason to it. For that reason, I've come out on the other side as an engineer with much better interpersonal skills, and the means to make the world a better place from more than just a technical aspect. I can't thank the ESF team enough for this experience, and for helping with the logistics of this project!