

FLINDERS ISLAND STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT

1st April 2013-31st March 2014

It is with much pleasure that I present the annual report of the Flinders Island State Emergency Service Unit, to Council.

MEMBERSHIP

In the past year our membership has remained the same as the previous year, at 14. However, we were effectively down to 11 as 2 members were absent for prolonged periods during the year and one was kept busy with the arrival of a new baby. All three hope to be back as active members soon.

EMERGENCY CALLOUTS

The Unit was very active during the year, responding to a total of nine callouts. These consisted of two MVAs, two search and rescues and five storm damage jobs.

The MVAs were both single vehicle rollovers with the driver being the sole occupant. In both cases the drivers were injured but, thankfully, not seriously. These involved a total of 48 operational hours

The search and rescue jobs consisted of finding a bushwalker needing to be found and carried out of the Stacky's Bite area and another, for a bushwalker requiring assistance, after the onset of chest pains whilst halfway up the Mt Strzelecki track. The first job consisted of assisting Police to locate the man, who had broken his ankle, assisting Ambulance Tasmania volunteers stabilise the patient and then cutting and clearing a track out, so the patient could be carried out approximately 1.5 km to the ambulance. The Mt Strzelecki job worked out well for us, as we had only begun the walk up the track, when the patient walked out with the assistance of a nurse, who happened to be with him. We then helped him down and into the ambulance. The above jobs involved a total of 50 operational hours.

The storm damage jobs all occurred during the very rough months of August and September. These jobs consisted of clearing fallen trees and debris from public roads and private driveways. Another callout involved dismantling and stabilising a wrecked shed and a fence at a property in Whitemark. Another involved removing, from the edge of the road and stabilising, a shipping container, which had been blown off the back of the truck. The Unit also assisted the local Council Airport staff in stabilising the arms and panels on wind-damaged solar panels at the Whitemark Airport. The five storm damage jobs involved a total of 91 operational hours.

TRAINING



Our members were involved in a total of 1703 hours of training over the year. This training takes place internally, every second Tuesday night and with four full weekends of external training provided by the regional training officer from Launceston. Included in this training were Road Crash Rescue, Storm and Flood Damage, Search and Rescue, Navigation, First Aid, , Steep Slope Rescue and , for the first time, a full weekend of Four Wheel Drive Techniques and Recovery training.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

A total of 184 hours of community activities were performed by our members during the year. Included in this was traffic control and manning water and food stations for the FIAA5, the Pub to Pub and the Flinders Five fun runs. We also assisted Hydro staff in lifting and winching into place a new diesel generator set. Finally the Unit provided lights and generating equipment for the Multi-Purpose Centre when required during the Centre`s rebuild phase.

EQUIPMENT

We have continued to maintain and upgrade our gear during the year, with the most notable purchase being four wheel drive recovery equipment for both vehicles. This is the latest gear available and it can also be used for road crash rescue. During the next twelve months, we are due to have our hydraulic road crash rescue equipment (Jaws of Life) upgraded by the State Headquarters, so we look forward to that.

FINANCE

An audited financial statement of our Unit`s finances, showing a credit balance of \$1911.01, as of 31st March 2014, is included.

SUMMARY

Finally, a big thank-you to our members and their families, to the SES staff, Ambulance Tasmania Volunteers, Tas Fire Volunteers, Tasmania Police, Flinders Island Council staff and Councillors and to everyone else who have assisted us throughout the year.

Michael Withers,

Unit Manager