

FLINDERS ISLAND STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT

1st April 2014-31st March 2015

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 reduced by one, following the resignation of two members and the recruitment of a new member who is still on his 6 month probation period. One of the resignations was from Tony Power, who retired after decades of service to the Emergency Services; as a volunteer to the Fire Service, SES and Ambulance, as well as a long career in the Police Force. Hopefully, if Tony moves back to the Island, we might be able to recruit him, for his experience is invaluable.

Our present management and administration positions are as follows:

Unit Manager: Michael Withers

Deputy Unit Manager/Equipment Officer: Peter Bowman

Training Officer: David Heap

Administration Officer: Bruno Imbs

EMERGENCY CALLOUTS

The Unit was relatively quiet during the year, responding to a total of four callouts. These consisted of two motor vehicle accidents, one search and rescue and a call to assist in establishing Emergency Services communications when most were down.

The MVAs were both single vehicle accidents in the Lady Barron township, with a total of three people involved. All suffered minor injuries but thankfully, nothing serious. Our tasks at these accidents included traffic control, assisting Ambulance officers to remove the patients, lighting up and cleaning up the scene. This involved a total of 37 operational hours.

The search and rescue job involved locating a woman who was missing in thick scrub land to the North of Sellars Lagoon. This involved pairs of SES volunteers setting off on different compass bearings and walking for a certain time, then tracking back on the opposite bearing, to the clearing where the lady's car had been located. Fortunately we located her after about 30 minutes as it was getting close to dark by that time. This job involved a total of 32 operational hours.

The communications job occurred on a Sunday morning in January, when a member of the public came to my house to advise that all phones were down. The Municipality's satellite phone was used to contact and advise Emergency Services of the situation. After doing this, we established VHF radios were able to call out off-

Island. I then handed out 6 VHF radios to Ambulance, Fire, Police and the Hospital, to use in case of an emergency. This took a total of 4.5 hours until Telstra were able to restore communications.

TRAINING

Our members were involved in a total of 1802 hours of training over the year. The training takes place every second Tuesday internally and 3 weekends with the Regional Training Officer from Launceston. Included in this were Road Crash Rescue, Storm and Flood Damage, Search and Rescue, Navigation, First Aid, Steep slope Rescue and Four Wheel Drive Techniques and Recovery training.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

A total of 193 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 provided lights and generating equipment for the Council, for the unloading of bluemetal and aggregate off the barge at Whitemark wharf and at the Airport.

EQUIPMENT

We have continued to improve our equipment during the year, with the most notable being the purchase of new hydraulic road crash rescue "Jaws of Life". These are lighter, more powerful and much more user-friendly. This shows the SES's continued commitment to equipment upgrades for our Unit.

FINANCE

An audited financial statement of our Unit's finances, showing a credit balance of \$1055.21, as of 31st March 2015, 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 anyone else who have assisted us throughout the year.

Michael Withers,

Unit Manager

