

FLINDERS ISLAND STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT

1st April 2015-31st March 2016

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

MEMBERSHIP

The Unit's membership has remained as the previous year, at 14. During the year we welcomed back David Heap, on a more regular basis, as our training officer.

Other officer bearers are as follows:

Unit Manager: Michael Withers

Deputy Unit Manager/Equipment Officer: Peter Bowman

Administration Officer: Bruno Imbs

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During December the Northern Regional Officer visited the Island and presented the Long Service Medals at a function attended by Police, the Mayor and other members of Council's Emergency Management Committee.

Medals were presented to:

Glenn Goessing- 5 years.

Ralph Posch- 5 years

Michael Withers- 20 years

Peter Bowman- 25 years

Les Pitchford- 40 years

Les Pitchford's amazing record of long service includes approximately 12 years on Civil Defence, which handled emergency situations in the community before the SES was formed.

EMERGENCY CALLOUTS

The Unit was called out to two incidents during the year. These consisted of a motor vehicle accident involving one vehicle and a search & rescue operation for a missing fisherman at the North East River.

The MVA occurred on Trousers Point Rd with the driver being the only occupant, when the vehicle rolled. Our tasks included traffic control, assisting ambulance officers in loading the patient into the ambulance, removing

the vehicle and cleaning up the scene. Fortunately the patient received only minor injuries and was released from hospital after a check-up. The job involved eight operational hours.

The search and rescue went on for a period of three weeks with our volunteers being involved for a total of nine days. Over this period the search area took in the entire North Eastern coastline of Flinders Island, plus some of the outer islands. We were involved with the Police boat, rescue helicopter, cars, quad bikes, and a lot on done on foot. We estimate that we covered about 4000 kms and were involved for 324 operational hours. Despite all this, the missing person, nor any evidence of him, was ever found.

TRAINING

The members were involved in a total of 1762 hours of training over the year. Included in these were; road crash rescue, search and rescue, navigation, storm damage, setting up and operating communication, first aid training, traffic control and general rescue training. Most of this training was done internally, within the Unit, which shows the memberships` continuing devotion to the volunteering task.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

A total of 161 hours of community activities were performed by our membership during the year. Included in these were; traffic control and manning water and food stations for the FIAAI 5, Pub to Pub and Flinders 5 fun runs. We also assisted Council outdoor staff by providing lights and generating equipment at Whitemark Wharf and at the Airport, when bulk loads of blue metal were being unloaded.

EQUIPMENT

Our equipment continues to be improved and maintained. Hopefully our new rescue truck will arrive early in the new financial year. This vehicle will greatly assist us in any emergency situation and its purchase is only made possible by the fantastic financial assistance provided by the Council.

FINANCE

An audited financial statement of our Unit`s finances, showing a credit balance of \$3041.04, as of 31st March 2016, is included.

SUMMARY

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

Michael Withers

Unit Manager