

# SAVEM

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Inc.



## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015

Vol 4 No 2, "Christmas" edition

### EXERCISE BE READY, OCTOBER 2015

Many thanks to everyone who was able to come to the Exercise this year. The slightly different format of a desktop "hypothetical" went well with positive feedback from participants. The incident was a fictitious fire on Eyre Peninsula near Port Lincoln. Sincere thanks to Dr Nancy Bombardieri for her Level 1 training on the first day, especially as she had serious family matters to deal with interstate. Special thanks too to Bob Kearney whose presentation on Saturday afternoon was inspirational as always.

**Actions from the Exercise** will be a work in progress, including updating the SAVEM Plan, finalising more SOP's and issuing trained, registered volunteers with ID cards. See below for more on this.

**Post Exercise**, Dr Claire Moore ran a Level 1 on Kangaroo Island with the support of KI vets in Kingscote. Many thanks to nurse Kate Welz for organising this. Claire and Nurse Coordinator Carol Haley visited and spoke to CFS brigades at Kangarilla, Sellicks Beach and Happy Valley, and Logistics Manager Emilis Prelgauskas gave a breakfast presentation to Adelaide Light Rotary Club. Belair CFS brigade have also requested a visit in the new year. The Coordinator gave a conference presentation about SAVEM at the Australasian Natural Hazards Management Conference in Perth.

### OTHER PROJECTS

The SAVEM Fireground Safety Training DVD is in post production, and will be a very useful resource for new and existing volunteers. This project was made possible by an SGIC community grant.

The SAVEM All-terrain vehicle project, funded by SAFE-COM and the Natural Disaster Resilience Program is underway, with an order placed with Adelaide Hills Toyota for a new Hilux. Handy Systems, who fitted out the Jeep, will again equip the Hilux. Our horse float/logistics trailer project, funded by Bank SA/Westpac Group will roll out in the new year, and a recent private donation will enable us to purchase our inflatable field hospital.

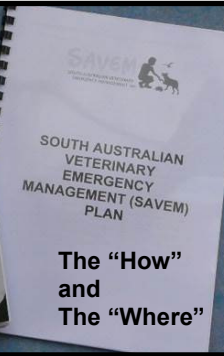
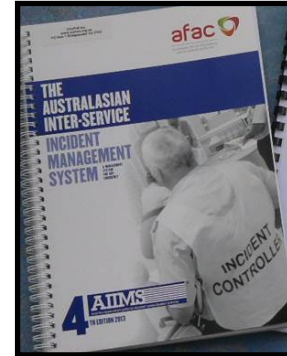
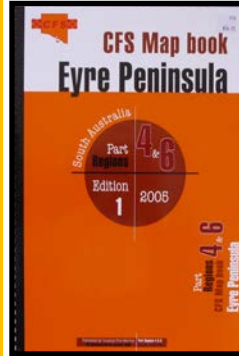
**SAVEM ID CARDS** are required to be part of an Activation. If you haven't sent your digital photo, please email to [info@savem.org.au](mailto:info@savem.org.au) as soon as possible. Many thanks to PIRSA for making ID cards for the Pinery activation at short notice, but we do need ID cards ready to go in our kits.

**THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS A LIFE OF PURPOSE**

Stuart Ellis, CEO, AFAC



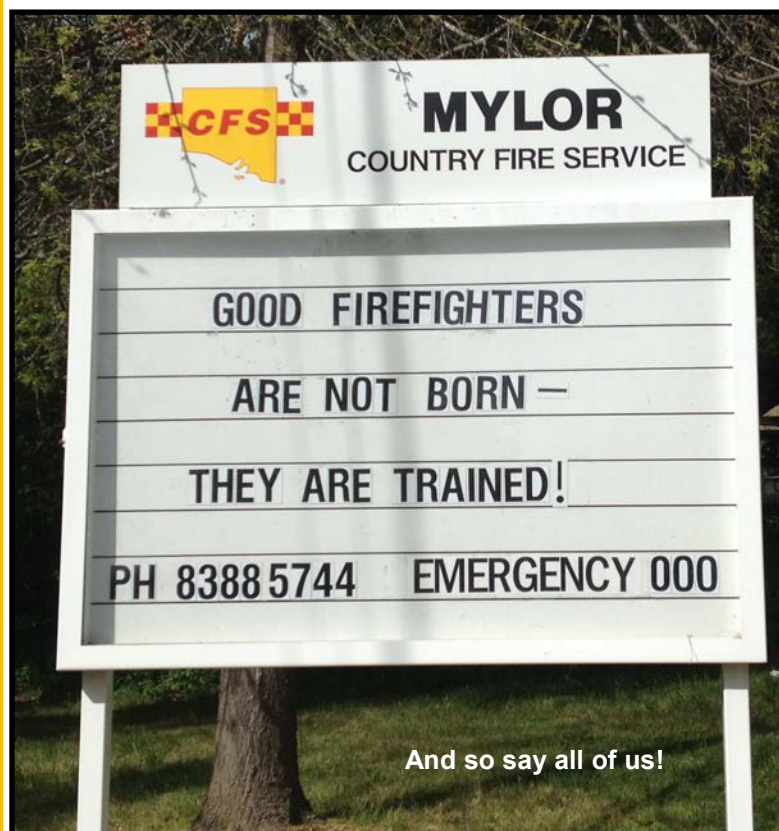
The Logistics Manager with SAVEM posters



The "How" and The "Where"



Bob Kearney captivating and inspiring his audience.



And so say all of us!



## SAVEM ACTIVATIONS THIS FIRE SEASON

See the SAVEM website for Sit Reps and media links.

SAVEM has been activated for two fires already. Both these fires began in November. The **Kyeema** fire was elevated to a Level 3 fire and taken very seriously due to its location and proximity to townships, property and the nearby Kyeema Conservation Park. Several aircraft were deployed, and the CFS contained the fire very quickly. A one-vehicle SAVEM team attended fireground on two days, and monitored the situation for another two.

Properties alongside the fireground were letter-boxed with SAVEM contact details, and we spoke to residents as well as on-fireground crews. Many thanks to SAVEM Operations Manager Dr Simon Edwards for making his practice at Willunga ready to receive fireground animals.

The **Pinery** fire began on Wednesday 25 November. Ops Manager Dr Claire Moore joined the Coordinator and the Logistics Manager in SAVEM Control. SAVEM attended briefing at PIRSA, Glenside, on Thursday morning, and sent a one-vehicle surveillance/assessment team to fireground on Thursday afternoon. We liaised with Adelaide Uni vet school at Roseworthy, where we set up our Local Control Centre on Friday morning. SAVEM was Activated for ten days, and on-fireground for six.

The Pinery fire was vastly different from Sampson Flat. A friend from Eyre Peninsula remarked that it was "Wangary (2005) revisited". Crop fires are very fast moving, dangerous fires, and tragically two people lost their lives. SAVEM teams attended calls to many species of animals, and assisted PIRSA in the unenviable task of stock destruction. We conducted animal health checks for animals on the periphery of the fireground, where one of our main concerns was for their respiratory health. As the Vet school at Roseworthy had the fire on its doorstep, there was no need for us to set up a triage hospital, as was the case at Sampson Flat. Roads were open quickly and animal owners could access their regular clinicians quite readily. Community recovery will go on for years: it was heartbreaking to see so many homes, and so much farm machinery damaged or destroyed.

Sincere thanks to the SAVEM volunteers who could attend. SAVEM looks forward to discussing future collaboration, and Emergency Management training opportunities we can offer Roseworthy once the intensity of the Pinery response passes. Thanks to Prof Wayne Hein and Practice Manager Di Whatling for their support to SAVEM.

### FINALLY, TWO NOTICES:

**REMEMBER, only PIRSA**, who heads up Agriculture & Animal Services Functional Service, and its Participating Agencies (SAVEM, RSPCA, AWL, PPSA, DEWNR & AVA SA) have legal authority, when Activated, to work on fireground with respect to animals, and then only at the discretion of the Control Agency (CFS). Any other groups who claim otherwise are operating illegally, and must be reported up the chain of command.

EMAILS: there have been some difficulties with volunteer email addresses, which we are endeavouring to promptly rectify. The master BCC list will be ready ASAP.



Kyeema: note strip of red fire retardant. The contained fire still burning in inaccessible rocky terrain.



The Pinery fireground: what was broad acre crop



Barabba - the smallest Post Office in Australia, post code 5460. Not far from a picturesque bend in the Light River, green & complete with water birds. The things you find on a fireground.....



Dr Oliver and Nurse Linda with rescued "Sooty", now doing well in foster care.



Day 5 crew: Carol, Peter, Linda, Delwyn, Torben, Brigitte (with Sooty) and Fiona

WISHING YOU ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR