

Welcome to SAVEM's September 2012 Newsletter, Volume 1 Number 4

COMPLETION OF FIRST PROJECT

With a very successful "Treating Burns" workshop presented by Dr Anne Fowler, on 26th August, 2012, SAVEM has completed its first project funded by SAFECOM. Three Level One (Introductory) workshops, two Team Leaders workshops, the Legislation workshop (which was recorded for repeat use) and Treating Burns saw SAVEM's outreach expand beyond Veterinarians and Veterinary Nurses, to include a significant group of Wildlife carers, and volunteers from beyond the animal care industry. About 180 volunteers in all attending, with more having registered to be involved in the future.

THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM

This year SAVEM has received approval from SAFECOM for our programs to be extended to Regional South Australia to conduct our Level One program in "peacetime", and for public outreach in an Awareness program.

The first part of the outreach program is already underway by means of our website, and the Awareness brochure will be with the graphic designer for final touches in the coming days.

The first Regional workshop was very well received at Yankalilla on 5th August, targeting the Fleurieu Region, and the Mid North workshop is at Moonta on 23rd September.

THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

Underlying all the above is SAVEM's day to day management which continues by the Committee.

This involves maintaining our records and administrative procedures, monitoring new volunteers' registrations as they arrive by post or email, maintaining our data base, and prioritising the quite long list of peacetime tasks which need attention prior to bushfire season 2012/13.

In particular in coming weeks two or three Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) will need to be completed, and SOP volunteers will receive a separate email regarding this very soon. There will of necessity be a fairly tight time line for completing these. Anyone who has not already indicated willingness to help with SOP's is very welcome to join in. Several groups of three or four volunteers will be working on these.

"Many hands make light work" is a proverb which once was frequently heard but seems to be overlooked in this age of pressure and a time poor population. It is still very applicable, and those of you who have eagerly offered to help in some way will receive a task! Thank you!

We are in the fortunate position now that a number of SAVEM's volunteers have completed three out of four workshops, and some, all four.

FUNCTIONAL MANAGEMENT – your preferences

This means that over the next couple of months it will be “all hands on deck” to complete some essentials before December, to enable SAVEM’s teams to be ever better prepared toward the day we will be activated.

Please contact the Coordinator, Rachel Westcott, at info@savem.org.au with your preferences for specific involvement, as well as thinking about the Functional area (**Planning, Operations, Logistics**) roles in which you wish to prepare for and participate in, at time of event activation.

Deputies need to be identified for all Team Leader, Coordinator and Control positions, as well as a third tier of volunteers so that we are “three deep”. This is to allow enough personnel to effectively cover all shifts in a large activation event, and to ensure SAVEM has resilience and longevity, and is not reliant upon, and structured around the founding individuals.

Team Leaders (TL) workshop attendees received the Australian Interservice Incident Management System™ (AIIMS™) Handbook at their training.

If you would like to pursue TL training, or would like your personal copy of the Manual, please contact the Coordinator. It is very easy to read and is well worth a close look at a chapter a week.

INVOLVING OTHER SECTORS

Carol Haley (North) and Belinda Battersby (South) have become SAVEM’s Veterinary Nurse Coordinators. All communication needs to come through the info@savem.org.au email address to contact Carol or Belinda.

Carol’s **Information for Nurses** letter will be uploaded with this Newsletter, so please Nurses have a look at this.

Wildlife and other animal **Carers** are coming into the organization via SAVEM’s outreach venues, and we welcome their participation.

Some volunteers are not from the industry at all. We again thank our wonderful Web Coordinator, Jan Mahoney, a CSIRO Communications Officer.

Veterinarians

Sincere thanks to those of you who have already willingly offered to take on a more involved role with SAVEM. I’m delighted to be able to share the workload!

Those of you who have thought about it – we are just a simple email away.

Black Saturday in Victoria was nearly four years ago, but there is no room for complacency.

Your help and initiative assists in securing the wider functions of the organisation. Thank you.

SOME MORE ABOUT REGIONAL TRAINING

With SAFECOM financial support, Regional training began with a Level 1 (AKA Introductory) course held at Yankalilla.

The venue was the Youth & Community Centre adjacent to the Area School campus, and made available to us by Yankalilla Council at low cost. SAVEM provided the speakers, resource materials and attendee support. Delicious Catering was sourced by SAVEM from the Yankalilla Bakery, and from "The Courthouse" cafe. Use of the Community Centre facilities included the very large new kitchen, and Bruce from The Courthouse prepared our lunch so that as the morning session wrapped up, we were presented with freshly prepared locally produced food. Part of SAVEM's Regional program ethic is to source as much as possible from the local community.

People came from Kangaroo Island and from across the Fleurieu, resulting in 30 registrations. A segment of the SAPOL presentation from the 2011 Legislation Workshop, recorded live, was incorporated into the presentations about Emergency response arrangements in the South Australian jurisdiction. The recording of the Legislation workshop will be very useful in other training courses, or can be used as a stand-alone repeat of the original.

TREATING BURNS

In August SAVEM brought Dr. Anne Fowler to Adelaide to present her 'Treating Burns' course. This was held at the Central Queensland University campus building on Greenhill Road, Wayville. Ninety people booked.

Anne was delighted to have veterinarians, vet nurses and wildlife carers attend in approximately equal numbers, an achievement which is a "first".

This course normally costs \$455 on-line. Face-to-face, it was even more powerful.

Thanks to SAFECOM, SAVEM was able to provide the course at no cost, and the venue was made available by CQU, again at no cost, for which we sincerely thank them, especially Prof. Drew Dawson and Dr Kirrilly Thompson.

But participants were asked to contribute toward the cost of producing the sizeable course notes with its colour illustrations.

The 'donation tub' set up for the day covered this, and our thanks to all the participants for this support.

WEB SITE

Please visit the SAVEM website from time to time, where upcoming events are listed, and newsletters and other notices posted. You will find the on-line volunteer registration forms there as well.

NEXT REGIONAL WORKSHOP – Mid North at Moonta

Thanks to the York Peninsula veterinary practice at Kadina, SAVEM has local initiative to arrange this, the second of our regional training days. A Level 1 course is to be run on Sunday September 23. The venue and contact details are on the website. Of course, anyone is welcome to attend the Regional training days, you don't have to be a "local"! The goal of regional training is to bring SAVEM to practitioners in the regions, especially to those who may not travel to Adelaide easily or regularly. The Moonta venue aims to be accessible to areas throughout Yorke Peninsula, the Mid North and Clare valley.

There will be further regional events in the eastern part of South Australia during 2012/13.

FIRE GROUND

The SAVEM Committee sees an important role in continuing to build strong and effective relationships with other Emergency Services. As a result, SAVEM is in discussion with senior CFS personnel about SAVEM volunteers taking part in specific CFS activities, with a focus to the mutual benefit of both groups.

The hope is to shortly finalise a formal 'fire ground' training day through which SAVEM volunteers will learn more about real world fire fighting issues. And CFS become acclimatised to the positive role SAVEM volunteers bring to bear.

This will be advised as arrangements come to fruition.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

To cast the SAVEM net more broadly in the wider community, and to inform and educate the public, our Public Awareness information leaflet is nearing completion.

It is of the usual 3 fold DL format, which gives 6 'topic' sheet faces.

The draft is about to be delivered to the graphic designer, for professional advice and input before printing. It canvasses householder responsibilities to plan for pets and livestock in the normal range of options: "stay or go" for both people and animals. To leave animals behind with pre-arranged protections, or leave early with them.

It also sets out SAVEM's post event response and recovery role, to triage, treat, rescue and reunite.

The intention is that this leaflet will be circulated to veterinary clinics and other public information sites for distribution as public information.

Previous outreach activities have included Oliver Funnell's attendance at the 2011 conference in Darwin, various public presentations and newspaper coverage, and we continue this diverse outreach. Should you be aware of any opportunity to speak to a local group, school or service organisation, please contact the Coordinator.

Every summer has the potential to produce the next Black Saturday.