

# SAVEM

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Inc.



## SAVEM NEWSLETTER

### JULY 2019, Vol 7 No 1

Winter “peacetime” is the season for planning and training. The SAVEM Training Team has been meeting regularly to develop a new training program. Parts of this have been delivered, and the training calendar will be uploaded to website very soon.



Government of  
South Australia



DISASTER  
RESILIENT  
AUSTRALIA

SUPPORTED BY CITY OF

# ONKAPARINGA



### Grant success

SAVEM’s **Natural Disaster Resilience Program** (NDRP) grant for the Volunteer Training Team project is nearing completion. We have also been awarded **NDRP** funding for the Field Hospital trailer and for the 2019-2020 Communications Strategy, which includes the new website. The free Google site was significantly limited both in appearance and user-friendliness. The new site will enable better communication pathways internally and externally. It will go live very soon, and we are most grateful for the enthusiastic assistance of **Gyre Digital** with this project. Writing new material for the website has shown how much SAVEM has evolved since 2009. Special thanks too to Jan Mahoney for her generous IT support during SAVEM’s first decade.

Two **City of Onkaparinga** grants – from the 2018-19 Community Training & Development Fund, and the 2019-20 Community Grant Program, enabled the Coordinator to attend and present at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Fire Behaviour and Fuels Conference in Sydney, 30 April-2 May, and to purchase some new PPE for volunteers. We sincerely and gratefully acknowledge the support of the City of Onkaparinga. A report from the Sydney conference will shortly be uploaded to the ‘News’ page on the website.

### A word on training...

Training is mandatory for all SAVEM volunteers. An “active” deployable volunteer must attend training relevant to their level at least every two years and complete annual updates. Just like all emergency services, we are committed to continuous improvement. The training calendar, including prerequisites, will be uploaded to the new website. Basic training includes: Online Introductory modules, Fireground Safety DVD, face-2-face Level 1 and Exercises. Intermediate and advanced training includes Team Leader (by invitation from the Training Team), occasional specialist courses and those offered by external providers, such as map reading, introduction to GPS, Thermal Imaging Camera use, 4WD training and Psychological First Aid.

### Psychological First Aid

On July 9, 15 SAVEM volunteers attended a one-day *Psychological First Aid* course at **Australian Red Cross** in Adelaide. This training teaches us skills to best understand how to assist the owners of the animals we are called to assist in emergency incidents. The trainer had field deployment experience, and the training modules and team exercises were directly relevant to our tasks.



### Research in practice – and recommended reading

A recent publication from the UK is *the heat of the moment* by Sabrina Cohen-Hatton PhD, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of London Fire Brigade. This text is full of real-world, best-practice examples of decision-making which can be readily applied and added to SAVEM’s training regime at Team Leader and above level. It also outlines the strengths of ‘realism in training’ – our efforts to do this early in 2019 were thwarted by extreme temperatures and dangerous fire conditions. We will continue to look for opportunities to implement realistic training environments, as we enjoy finding new, innovative evidence-based ways to improve our training even more.



This conference had several presentations and panel sessions about indigenous cultural burning – which is very different from prescribed burning – and very effective.

## COMING SOON!

## THE NEW SAVEM WEBSITE

