

All in a day's work for Peter

By Hayley Gillespie

Processing approval requests, preparing budgets and developing fleet replacement strategies, as well as responding to medical emergencies is all in a day's work for Peter McMurtrie.

It's a busy life, but the DES Fleet and Equipment Management Executive Manager and Honorary Ambulance Officer wouldn't have it any other way.

For the past nine years, Peter has kept to the same routine every week day. Each morning, as he leaves his Alexandra Hills home he logs on to the QAS radio network. And, each afternoon, as he leaves DES headquarters at Kedron, he logs on again, notifying AFCom that he's available to respond.

During March and April this year, Peter responded lights and sirens to 30 code one cases. At 25 of those cases, he was first on scene.

Emergencies are nothing new to Peter. He's been in the field most of his life. In 1967, following six years as a volunteer first-aider with the St John Ambulance Brigade, he joined the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service. He has vast experience in Disaster Planning and Operations including direct involvement in the West Gate Bridge collapse, Hoddle Street and Queen Street shootings, multi-fatality fires at Pentridge Jail, Ahmad factory and William Booth Home and the Violet Town Southern Aurora rail crash.

An experienced paramedic, Peter joined QAS as Deputy Commissioner, Planning and Support Services in 1991. When the position was abolished, he was appointed Assistant Commissioner South Eastern Region. In 1997, he took up the challenge of Executive Manager, Fleet and



Equipment Management with DES. At the same time, he started 'logging on'.

"When I knock off from my office job, I put a different hat on and make myself available as a volunteer," he said.

"I do it to keep my skills up and to keep my hand in, that's why I enjoy doing this. I don't want to let go of those skills. I look for every

opportunity to use them. I volunteer with QAS on New Year's Eve and Anzac Day as an Honorary."

On top of his paid job and honorary job, Peter finds time to devote to several allied organisations. He has been with St John Ambulance Australia for 45 years and currently holds the position of Queensland Deputy Commissioner.

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