

# Emergency

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Inside cover: CP Matt McGregor with new mums (from left) Anji Naismith  
and Lachlan, Michelle May and Lennart, Ruth Godby and Brock. Photo by  
Jonathon Hall



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# From the Minister



In September, Premier Anna Bligh and I announced an audit into the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS). The QAS has been responding to ever increasing demand for its services. Despite increased staffing and record budgets, this unprecedented demand has placed significant pressure on staff and the service itself.

I would like to commend the members of the QAS for their professionalism and dedication. The fact the QAS has attained a patient satisfaction rate of 97 per cent for its response services is

testament to the dedicated work of our staff.

The audit recommendations will provide government, the department and QAS with guidance on how to ensure ambulance services can be more effective and efficient into the future.

Similarly, I would like to pay tribute to the staff of the QFRS, which had a record year in 2006-07 responding to more than 65,000 call-outs.

Once again, the QFRS response rates to structural fires were outstanding with urban crews responding to 97.5 per cent of structural fires within urban levied areas within the 14-minute benchmark.

Last month, Queensland took the opportunity to pay tribute to our State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers during SES Week.

This was a wonderful chance to recognise not only the sacrifices and effort undertaken by the volunteers, but also the skill and professionalism in which they do their work.

The week started with the

announcement of a major partnership between Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) and NRMA Insurance.

The partnership will provide ongoing support and raise the profile of the SES and the important work they do in the community.

I would like to thank all staff for their hard work and dedication in 2007, and I would like to wish all staff, family and friends a safe and happy Christmas. I hope you have an enjoyable time with loved ones over the holiday period.

I look forward to an exciting and prosperous 2008.

**Neil Roberts MP**

# From the Director-General



On Friday 30 November 2007 I was delighted to participate in the graduation ceremony of 15 fine students who have recently completed the First Step Traineeship program (an induction program for Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander participants) with the Department of Emergency Services.

In preparation for this ceremony I met with Principal HR Consultant Kate Broadley and Indigenous Employment Unit Coordinator, Phil Toby. Proving that the world is a small place, I had coached Phil's son Michael who was a member of the Mabel Park State High

School Rugby League team in the early 1990s.

When leaving, Phil posed the question of how I went from football coach to Director-General. It wasn't meant to be a deep philosophical question. However it was a question worthy of reflection. I indicated to the graduates and their proud families and friends that the answer to Phil's question was about "opportunity" and the support and encouragement from mentors.

These graduates were provided with "opportunity" as part of the First Step program. We will see some become members of QFRS and QAS. Others will join other organisations and some graduates have decided on further study. Our Indigenous graduates will need your support to guide them through their careers.

But these people have a further challenge and that relates to becoming role models for those who will follow their lead. I wish them every success and will follow their careers with interest.

These young DES officers will join all of you in the noble roles of saving people, protecting property and improving community safety. They are looking forward to the challenge. I thank Kate, and her team for their enthusiasm and commitment to an exceptional program.

Finally, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I know the Queensland community appreciates your efforts over this holiday period where unfortunately the demands on you as emergency services personnel will increase.

The festive season should be a joyful time and I hope that you are able to spend some quality time with family and friends. Best wishes.

**Jim McGowan**

# Pilots embrace night vision



EMQ pilot Trevor Wilson views life through green-coloured night vision goggles.

**E**mergency Management Queensland (EMQ) Helicopter Rescue has recently been approved as the first civilian operator to conduct Night Vision Goggle (NVG) operations in Australia.

The night vision goggles look like binoculars but instead of magnifying an actual image they amplify available ambient light and reflect a virtual image on a green phosphor screen. This enables users to 'see' in the dark.

This has obvious safety advantages for helicopter pilots flying at night into areas where they are required to land in the dark.

EMQ was an active participant in lobbying the Civil Aviation Safety Authority to introduce NVG legislation.

The status as first approved operators was due to pre-legislation preparation which included early submission of training and operations manuals to CASA.

Chief Pilot Trevor Wilson said this preparation was a result of input from a number of EMQ's ex-Army pilots who have experience with NVG use in the military.

## New QAS Assistant Commissioner for the South-East

Jayne Barnes has come a long way to be part of the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) team.

Formerly the Chief Executive Officer of the Yorkshire Ambulance Service in the UK, Ms Barnes commences as Assistant Commissioner for the South-East Region in December.

After beginning her career as a nurse, Ms Barnes worked in various roles and in 2001 was awarded a Commander of the British Empire by Her Majesty the Queen for services to nursing and healthcare.

During her time with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service Ms Barnes oversaw the amalgamation of three ambulance services.

"Bringing three culturally and structurally diverse ambulance services together to form the Yorkshire Ambulance Service of 3,500 staff working as one has been exciting as well as challenging," she said.

Ms Barnes said she has always had an attachment to Queensland.

"My sister has lived in Brisbane for 24

years and I have visited her many times.

"We have always wanted to live in Queensland but it has never seemed to be the right time for us.

"My husband recently retired from his position as a Senior Police Officer in the West Yorkshire Police after 30 years service.

"So when the position of QAS Assistant Commissioner was advertised it felt like the right time to apply."

The new Assistant Commissioner said she plans to build on the excellent worldwide reputation the QAS has for quality clinical care.

"I will be a very visible Assistant Commissioner.

"I like being out and about visiting hospitals, stations and meeting staff.

"By listening and working together my aim is to deliver modern patient-focused health care to the residents of the South-Eastern Region.

"And in conjunction with my Assistant

Commissioner colleagues, to the people of Queensland."



Newly-appointed QAS Assistant Commissioner Jayne Barnes formerly CEO of the Yorkshire Ambulance Services, UK.



*QAS Commissioner Jim Higgins with QUT paramedic graduates Prue Sneddon and Alex Thompson.*

## Rosters, graduates and more



There is a lot happening within the QAS at the moment.

The move towards the implementation of 12 hour rosters is progressing well. A ballot on the new system will be mailed to all operational staff during December.

The results will then be announced in the first quarter of the New Year.

Meanwhile, I'm very happy to announce that we have a new Assistant Commissioner for the South Eastern Region.

Jayne Barnes has made the move to the QAS from the Yorkshire

Ambulance Service in the United Kingdom.

I'd like to offer her a warm welcome. I'm sure she will be an asset to the service and help the region continue its move into the future.

I'd also like to thank the Acting Assistant Commissioner Gavin Trembath for his efforts over the past 18 months.

Additionally, the QAS has witnessed the completion of two new milestone courses.

Queensland's first batch of university-trained paramedics have completed their course and been presented with epaulettes.

The 40 graduands from the Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic) degree at the Queensland University of Technology have already made a good impression on operational staff during their training.

Also, the first batch of Isolated Practice Paramedics (IPP) has celebrated the completion of their studies.

Eighteen individuals have finished the Graduate Certificate of Rural and

Remote Paramedic Practice, run by James Cook University.

This is a great achievement, with their new skills allowing them to complement remote health teams by helping with primary health care, administering a greater range of drugs and performing more diagnostic and clinical procedures.

Finally, 2007 has been a busy year for QAS and has seen a significant increase in demand for ambulance services across the state. The effort all staff have put in to meet this challenge has been fantastic.

On that note, I would like to sincerely thank the entire QAS team for your dedication and commitment. I would also like to express my personal appreciation to all operational staff working during the busy Christmas and New Year period.

I extend my very best wishes to you and your families for a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

**Jim Higgins ASM**  
**QAS Commissioner**



Commemorative Service 1- Flag Bearers for Far Northern Region Commemorative Service - Scott Marsh, Graham Russo and Paul Dilena.

## Working together for a common goal



**Q**FRS rarely operates in isolation. In an increasingly complex world of operational response and recovery, QFRS has become adept at joint operations involving a myriad of agencies. Whether attending to incidents or mitigating risk, an all hazard, all risk, joint planning and response approach is designed to produce the best outcome possible for firefighters and members of the public. Take a recent chemical scare at a school in the South Eastern Region. QFRS was called in initially to assist QAS and police. Education Queensland was also heavily

involved, and much of the testing of samples taken by QFRS Scientific Unit were carried out by Queensland Health.

At more complex events, QFRS may be required to work with a range of agencies from other state, local and federal government departments.

This inter-agency environment requires a unified command approach.

This approach is not new in QFRS. It has been operating for a long time, highlighted by the ability of communication staff, urban and rural firefighters to respond in a coordinated way. However today, this approach extends much wider.

For example, an interstate taskforce of firefighters will often incorporate paramedics and EMQ personnel.

When it comes to security operations QFRS is closely involved with Police.

At the scene of a motor vehicle accident, QFRS may work with paramedics, SES, police, Queensland Transport and/or local councils.

QFRS Rural Operations has ongoing joint operations with land management agencies such as Parks and Wildlife, Natural Resources and Forestry.

There are also well-documented and entrenched arrangements in place with:

- other emergency responders such as mines rescue and airport fire services
- other emergency coordinators such as department of communities who have prime responsibility for recovery services
- the coroner and courts when major investigations are required
- media units within government and commercial media

I believe our ability to continue to cooperate and incorporate other agencies in our structure or become part of their structure will continue to lead to the best possible outcomes for Queensland communities.

Finally, as this is the last magazine for the year, I would like to thank all staff and volunteers for their outstanding efforts through the past year. And wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Lee A Johnson AFSM MIFireE**  
**QFRS Commissioner**



First Step graduate, Leon Love enjoys the SES breakfast at Shaw Park with five-year-old Taia McIntosh.

## New partnership is one for the future



I was away for the recent SES Week celebrations, but understand there were many successful events and deserving award recipients throughout the week.

While I would like to congratulate the winning individuals, their families and the winning units, this year's SES Week should also be recognised for the signing of a significant partnership between NRMA Insurance and SES.

The three-year partnership between NRMA Insurance and Queensland SES is the most significant sponsorship agreement, not only for the SES but the Department of Emergency Services.

It's quite fitting considering that SES personnel are "ordinary people doing extraordinary things".

I believe this partnership will be successful because both NRMA Insurance and SES have many shared goals and objectives.

For example, both organisations have a shared vision for community preparedness against natural events.

According to NRMA Insurance more than one in four of the home claims they process each year are storm-related and 19 of the 20 most costly insured events in Australia have been weather related – half of those have been hail storms.

Therefore both organisations will be working together, long term, to increase storm preparedness messages, to encourage the community to take steps against damage and loss.

The agreement will provide SES with access to additional resources which complement those items and resources already provided as part of our on-going commitment to risk mitigation.

While this partnership will provide additional funding to increase community awareness for storm

preparation and safety, it will also assist to continue to develop key events like SES Week and the SES State Rescue competition.

These events provide a great opportunity for personnel to showcase their skills, for the community to learn more about what the SES does and to encourage them to participate in one of the most essential and personally satisfying volunteering services in our state.

This agreement is a positive note to end what has been another successful year for EMQ and SES. I'd like to wish all staff, volunteers and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I look forward the challenges ahead in 2008.

**Frank Pagano AFSM**  
**Executive Director EMQ**



Gregory Scott, Northern Group SES and young supporter Liam Kellehear



Minister Roberts speaking during launch



NRMA maroon tarp on roof

# NRMA Insurance launch - a party atmosphere

SES WEEK 2008

There was a party atmosphere at the November launch of the new SES and NRMA Insurance partnership.

One end of an entire suburban street joined the celebration as SES members busied themselves conducting displays of storm season preparedness.

Under clear summer skies, roofs were tarped in NRMA Insurance maroon tarps, trees trimmed, gutters cleared and swathes of orange balloons were carried off by excited neighbourhood children.

The SES crews cleaned up as residents partied around them and enjoyed the media throng. Warana Street in The Gap, Brisbane became the centre of attention for the morning.

From the front lawn of number 7, Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts announced the new partnership.

Mr Roberts said it was fitting the launch coincided with the start of SES week and the theme of Ordinary People doing Extraordinary things.

"It is extremely pleasing that the outstanding work done by the SES has been recognised by the corporate community.

"Successful partnerships develop as a result of shared goals and objectives, so I'm delighted to partner with a 'blue chip' organisation like NRMA Insurance that understands and is aligned with our vision, mission and strategy for community safety," said Mr Roberts.

NRMA Insurance State Manager Brett Robinson also spoke of the common



SES tarping roof with NRMA Insurance maroon tarp

ground during his enthusiastic endorsement of the partnership.

"More than one in four of the home claims we respond to each year are storm related," he said.

"Looking after the communities in which we work and live is part of our job at NRMA Insurance - we are as much about prevention and protection as we are about policies.

"So it makes sense for us to align with the SES - one of the most trusted brands in our community - to help protect the Queensland way of life."

Acting Local Controller Brisbane City Unit, Darren Webster gave an account of the reasons he joined the SES, speaking about working together as a team with the community.

He saw the NRMA Insurance partnership as an extension of this team and community connection.

"This partnership can only mean good things for the SES," said Darren.

Photos by Andy Christie

# A week to remember

Photos by Mike Marston.



## Photos by Mike Marston.

According to writer Ben Elton SES Week 2007 was a “tangerine dream”.

November 10 to 18 was a week to remember for all Queensland SES volunteers – a week of celebration, recognition and a chance for the community to say “thanks”.

And they did just that on Wear Orange to Work Day, a chance for everyone to show their support for the SES on Wednesday 14, November.

The orange mania was at its highest at Shaw Park in Brisbane as part of an outdoor broadcast with the Triple M Radio Station – an event captured beautifully by writer Ben Elton who visited on the day and wrote an ode to the men and women in orange titled *The Tangerine dream*.

More than 30 volunteers from the Brisbane region displayed equipment and chatted to members of the public about what it was like to be an SES member and some told their stories over the radio waves.

The week was also a time for church services and award ceremonies.

Each of the seven regions recognised its volunteer of the year, unit of the year, operational response of the year and volunteers’ long-term contributions. The regional winners then travelled

to the cliffs of Kangaroo Point at the Riverlife Adventure Centre, where the week culminated with the announcement of the State Award winners.

This year’s State Member of the Year allowed members the opportunity to honour and remember former Gayndah Local Controller, the late Don Kenny.

Don died in August 2007.

One of his most recent exercises had been in December 2006 where he excused himself from a wedding to help drive the clean-up in Cooroy and Noosa region after it was lashed by severe storms.

His wife Alison and their children were on hand to accept the Minister’s Cup from Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts.

Kolan Shire SES Unit received the Director-General’s shield for Unit of the Year while Maryborough SES received the Executive Director’s Shield for Operational Response of the Year.

SES and EMQ Deputy Executive Director Bruce Grady thanked everyone involved in SES Week celebrations.

“SES Week is a great opportunity for all Queenslanders to recognise the thousands of SES volunteers who work tirelessly to help their communities in times of need,” Mr Grady said.



Alison Kenny received the Minister’s Cup on behalf of her late husband Don Kenny who was named SES Member of the Year for 2007.

Region	Member of the Year	Unit of the Year	Operational Response of the Year
Far Northern	Daniel Mosby	Yorke	Poruma
Northern	Kieren Wright	Hinckinbrook	Burdekin/Giru
Central	Jack Russo	Emerald	Whitsunday/Mackay
North Coast	Don Kenny	Kolan Shire	Maryborough
South West	Brynwyn Sullivan	Bendemere	-
South East	Kevin Ruthenberg	Beaudesert	Logan City/Beaudesert
Brisbane	Kevin Cannell	Kilcoy	Caboolture



SES volunteers celebrate Wear Orange to Work Day at a community breakfast with Triple M's The Cage.



Regional Member of the Year winners.



SES and EMQ Deputy Director Bruce Grady and Minister for Emergency Services Neil Roberts with Operational Response of the Year winners Maryborough.

SES Unit of the Year winners Kolan Shire celebrate with Department of Emergency Services Director-General Jim McGowan and Minister for Emergency Services Neil Roberts.

# Fallen Firefighters remembered



*The sea of blue uniforms at the Brisbane region service at St Brigid's Church.*



*Coordinator Far Northern Region Commemorative Service John Lindsay and firefighter Graham Russo.*



*Current and retired firefighters pay their respects to their fallen comrades.*



*Flag Bearers for Far Northern Region Commemorative Service - Scott Marsh, Graham Russo and Paul Dilea.*



*Assistant Commissioner Brisbane Region Ian Mitchell lays a wreath to commemorate fallen firefighters.*

## By Gemma Marks

Queensland firefighters again paused for a minute's silence for the Annual Firefighters Commemorative Service in October, to pay tribute to all firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty.

The 10th of the 10th is the National Day of Remembrance for firefighters. It enables members of QFRS, family, friends and the community to pay their respects to fallen firefighters at commemorative services around the country.

The Brisbane region held a commemorative service at St Brigid's Church in Red Hill at 10 am. Services were held concurrently at Rockhampton Townsville & Toowoomba Fire Stations and St Joseph's Catholic Church in Atherton. And stations flew their flags at half-mast.

Popular Kenmore Station Officer Michael Gundry, who died earlier this year from a work-related injury, was the 46th firefighter to be added to the Honour Roll.

The service featured the ringing of the original Ithaca Fire Station bell which was used to call firefighters to the station.

Following the service, wreaths were transported from St Brigid's Church to the memorial statue of James Thomas

Mooney on the corner of Queen and Creek Streets in Brisbane City, where they are laid annually.

"This Day of Remembrance serves to remind all firefighters, their families and the community, about the very real dangers of the job," said Deputy Commissioner Iain MacKenzie.

"It ensures we continue to remember the 46 Queensland firefighters who lost their lives while on duty since Brisbane City volunteer firefighter James Thomas Mooney lost his life in March 1877.

"Firefighters do a tremendous job protecting the public. To do this takes training, teamwork and bravery, as well as the support of loved ones.

"To the families, thank you for giving us such fine people. Thank you for supporting them and encouraging them in their occupation.

"The Day of Remembrance is also an opportunity to remember the retired firefighters who have passed away in the previous year.

"We all owe it to these people to never forget them, their contribution, their families and their workmates."

# QAS and China build stronger training links

By Jonathon Hall

Following a recent trip to Tianjin, China QAS continues to grow and strengthen its working relationship with the Chinese.

The blossoming relationship has resulted in the development of a joint training facility in Tianjin.

Senior Communications Educator Sheree Canning and Project Manager Richard Galeano recently returned from the city of Tianjin where they presented a new course for Chinese emergency medical dispatchers.

The trip was fully funded by the Chinese and followed a visit to Brisbane earlier this year by a representative from the Tianjin Emergency Centre.

The Chinese Vice Minister for Health performed the official opening attended by more than 74 people from 50 districts across the country.

Mr Galeano said the course covered the systems QAS has in place across Queensland.

“We discussed a range of areas including dispatching systems, operational health and safety, code of conduct and staff support.

“The feedback we got from Tianjin participants and staff was great and they thought our material was exceptional.”

Cultural differences aside, Mr Galeano said he was struck by just how differently business is done in China.

“Tianjin is a city of 11.5 million people and they only get 2,000 calls a day and only do 290 cases a day,” he said.

“Queensland gets 1,200 emergency calls a day but we have a much smaller population.

“I’d put that difference down to the fact China has a user pays ambulance system.”

The Chinese government has been very supportive of the QAS training opportunities.

“The fact the Vice Minister for Health



Presenting safety messages at a Kindergarten in Tianjin.



Richard and Sheree inspect an ambulance in Beijing.



Course attendees with the Vice Minister of health (front row centre).

opened this course shows the significance they place on this training partnership.

“Not long after the course, following feedback from the Vice Minister, the Chinese Minister for Health visited Tianjin and spent two days there to see what they are doing and what they had learned,” Mr Galeano said.

It was Ms Canning’s second visit to China and she said the course highlights the standard of QAS service as a leader in the Asia-Pacific region.

“In China they have many different ways of doing things and multiple dispatching systems so they were very interested in standardising practice across the board,” she said.

“We hope this will help build stronger

links between QAS and China and they may take elements of this course and implement it there.”

During their time in Tianjin the QAS staff also visited a local kindergarten to teach the children about safety.

“That was a highlight of the trip, teaching this group of five-year-olds,” Ms Canning said.

“We talked to them about ringing ‘120’ (the Chinese emergency number) in case of an emergency & knowing their address and phone number.”

A second course is planned for 2008.

The QAS team also spent a day in Beijing to discuss the potential involvement of Queensland paramedics in preparations for the Beijing Olympics.

# Skin rash sparks major emergency response



Paramedics transported three students to hospital with skin irritations. Photo courtesy of Brisbane Times.

Queensland's emergency services worked together transporting children to hospital following a substance scare at Stretton State School recently.

The QAS received a Triple Zero (000) call from the school, on Brisbane's south side, at 10:10am on November 22.

The caller reported at least three Grade 2 children were rapidly developing rashes and skin welts.

Upon arrival, QAS contacted the QFRS requesting the attendance of the Scientific Unit after paramedics suggested symptoms may be in reaction to the presence of an unknown substance.

At this stage there were reports that as many as 55 children may be affected.

Paramedics monitored the students and staff while the premises was locked down by police and fire officers until scientific officers were satisfied there were no immediate dangers.

Three students and a teacher were transported to hospital as a precaution while parents were allowed to take their children home for the rest of the day.

QFRS decontaminated 13 students using the school's shower facilities and all 55 students were fitted with information bracelets with an emergency contact number to assist family and medical staff in case of further reaction.

Further testing found low levels of terpenes, a naturally occurring product which is given off by pine bark, present in a classroom.

A common reaction to contact with terpenes is the presentation of a skin rash similar to rashes found following interaction with grass clippings.

## Another KJM success



KJM Patron's Research Grant sponsor Medtronic's Dave Gilbert (left) savours the moment with winning recipients Scott Harris and Matt Green.

The 2007 Kenneth James McPherson (KJM) Education and Research Foundation Symposium and Gala Dinner have again proved to be a huge success.

This year's theme Patients, Paramedics and Progress was reflected in the content of the symposium, as guest speakers focused on the latest technologies and treatments.

Highlights included a range of presentations relating to telemedicine. Telemedicine is the delivery of health services used in remote locations using a range of communication techniques, such as email, videoconferencing and the Internet.

These presentations demonstrated that a doctor and patient no longer need to be physically in the same room to assist patients, which has obvious benefits in rural and regional Australia.

Attendees enjoyed a wealth of entertainment at the Gala Dinner, held at the Royal on the Park. This included a

traditional welcome, performances from Queensland Pipes and Drums and the Royal Military Band plus, of course, the KJM Awards Presentation.

This year's award winners include:

- Patron's Research Grant (sponsored by Physio Control) – Ian Unverzagt, Darrin Burgess, Dave Wharton and James Thompson.
- QAS Research and Development Grant (sponsored by Spectrum Data Systems International) – Scott Harris & Matt Green.
- QAS Professional Development Grant (sponsored by SAI Global) – John Hinder.
- QAS Outstanding Student Paramedic Graduate of the Year Award (sponsored by the LHMU) – Michele Dalton.

For more information on KJM or to make a donation please contact Althea Cleland on 3247 8368 or visit <http://www.ambulance.qld.gov.au/about/kjmf/default.asp>.

# Done and dusted

## Schoolies over for another year

Thousands of school leavers packed the beach each night.  
Photo courtesy of Gold Coast Bulletin



The QAS tent at Schoolies Week

### Jonathon Hall

The fences are gone and the beach is again empty sand as the Gold Coast marked the end of Schoolies' Week for another year.

The QAS was on hand to ensure all 45,000 school leavers remained safe. QAS Regional Special Operations coordinator Cary Strong was in the thick of it each night as he supervised his fourth Schoolies.

"Overall this year's crowd was very happy and polite; we had no dramas.

"Every year we're received exceptionally well, the school-leavers know we're there to assist them if they get into trouble and to support them."

Paramedics at the Ambulance Treatment Centre (ATC) within the Schoolies precinct at Surfers Paradise treated 675 patients during the 10 days of celebrations.

"We attended to 350 cases for minor bumps and scrapes and 150 alcohol-related cases," Mr Strong said.

"The first Saturday night is always the busiest and then it seems to get quieter as the week progresses before another spike on the second Saturday."



SES volunteers assist paramedics to move a patient. Photo courtesy of Gold Coast Bulletin

Each night a team of 14 paramedics conducted roving patrols and manned the ATC with Queensland Health staff.

Up to 60 SES volunteers were also on duty each night patrolling the Schoolies' precinct and helping staff the four 'recharge zones'.

The SES teams also assisted with the transfer of injured Schoolies to the ATC.

Schoolies is 10 days of constant work but Mr strong said there is never a shortage of willing staff.

"Our officers enjoy the event as it is a different environment; they are not at a station responding in vehicles, they get a lot of variety. "We already have people signing up for next year."

Schoolies presents a big logistical exercise for QAS every year.

"We have to consider everything including the welfare side. The SES provides a big catering truck so we can keep our staff fed.

"Then there is all the patient care equipment we need including everything from drug modules and first aid kits to portable stretchers.

"Basically whatever we have in an ambulance you will find in the ATC."

With Schoolies over for another year Mr Strong thanked everyone who helped out.

"It was an excellent effort from all involved and I would like to offer sincere thanks for the efforts of all who took part."

Gold Coast crews will have little time to rest with the region now preparing for an influx of revellers for New Year's Eve.