

heat, and when extinguished with dirt or sand, it can retain heat up to 100 degrees for over eight hours.

When extinguished with water

however, it retains little or no heat after a period of ten minutes.

The barbecue safety slogan 'Burn Free BBQs - a recipe to keep kids safe' once again emphasises the fact that children are the most common victims of barbecue related burns.

The average age of barbecue burns' victims is just three-and-a-half.

Firefighters discussed child safety around barbecues and gave the public a safety demonstration showing what to look for to ensure their barbecues are safe to use.

In the case of a barbecue, it is often a problem with the gas bottle, people using accelerant or an inappropriate location for the barbecue that ends in people being

burnt. It only takes one second of body contact with material heated to 70 degrees for a person to receive a third degree burn.

"People using barbecues need to remember they are working with the very hazardous materials of gas and fire. It is important to make sure you have your gas cylinder professionally tested before you use it," said QFRS Commissioner Lee Johnson.

"Often people don't use their barbecue during winter and simply assume it will be fine the next time they use it, unfortunately that is not always the case. It is also important to take the time to check that your hoses and valves are secure."

"We want everyone to enjoy the holiday season burn free," he said.

Children from the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Burns Unit and their families took part in the launch, along with researchers from the burns' unit, Blazer Bear and Wonderkid from the RCH.

Channel Nine's Today Show also came out to the parklands to broadcast the QFRS safety messages across the nation.

Crossing to the launch every half hour from 5am, firefighters, burns victims and RCH doctors and nurses delivered important information about campfire and barbecue safety.

"People using barbecues need to remember they are working with the very hazardous materials of gas and fire. It is important to make sure you have your gas cylinder professionally tested before you use it."

The average age of serious campfire and barbecue burns victims is just 3.

Burn free BBQs the recipe to keep kids safe

Campfire ash & children clash

This 'sandcastle' is 300°C just below the surface

Campfires should be:

- extinguished with **WATER** not sand or dirt
- contained and controlled
- lit in clear areas away from branches and grass



Beware, hot coals hold their heat long after the fire is out.

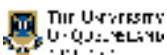
When using your barbecue:

- make sure gas cylinders have been professionally tested
- check that hoses and valves are fully secure
- avoid petrol or flammable liquids when lighting up
- be aware of the effect of rising heat on the roof above



Never leave your barbecue unattended, especially when there are children around.

Cool burns with cold running water and seek medical treatment immediately.



Campfire ash and children clash

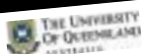
This 'sandcastle' is 300°C just below the surface

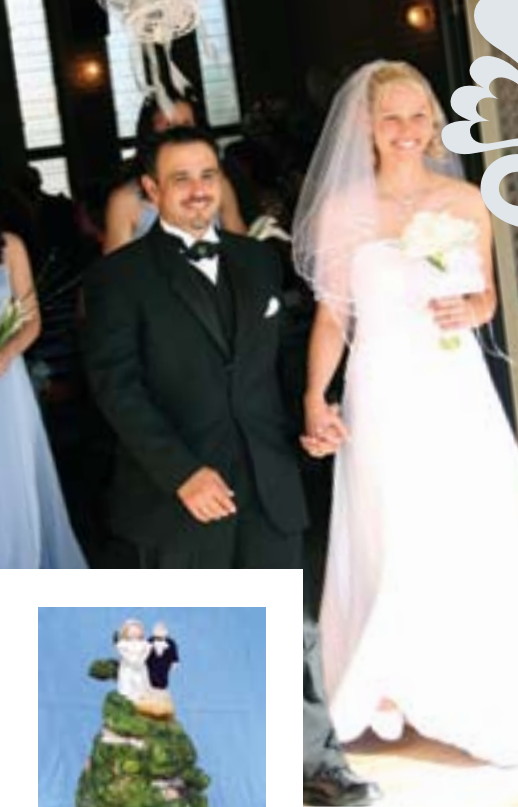
The average age of serious campfire burns victims is just 2 1/2.

The average age of serious barbecue burns victims is just 3 1/2.

Burn Free BBQs a recipe to keep kids safe

Always watch children around BBQs





Mark Bilston and Kate Avery met during an SES rescue search.

Searching for love

by Andy Christie

Kate Avery and Mark Bilston were busy searching for a missing tourist when they found each other.

After meeting during the much publicised search for missing tourist Ricardo Sirutis on Moreton Island in May 2005 Kate and Mark married in November 2007.

Kate from Redcliffe SES and Mark from Redlands SES were on the team who found Ricardo; Kate actually being the first to spot him. They had met for the first time the day before.

“Their team needed a navigation person and my older sister Sandy joined them. I joined them the next day as first aid, Mark was communications,” said Kate.

“Things just happened from there.

“After the search we kept in contact with each other, did some building together, just hung out together, then he proposed

two years to the day after we met.”

Not surprisingly, Moreton Island has loomed large in their relationship.

“Mark proposed to me on the waterfront at Redcliffe overlooking Moreton Island. He got down on his knee. It was romantic.”

The wedding cake was in the shape of Moreton Island with a bride and groom on top. On the island were Mark and Kate in SES uniforms with a little Ricardo lying down beside them next to a tree. The whole island sat on top on a big fish bowl complete with swimming fish.

“We sent Ricardo an invite to the wedding. He sent his apologies but he said he would have loved to have come.”

Kate and Mark will settle in Ormeau where Kate is a teacher and Mark works for Telstra. They both remain active SES members.



Beaudesert Shire SES members put their casualty handling and stretcher operations training into practice during a mock search and rescue exercise.

Beaudesert mock plane crash

the top floor,” Brendan said.

“We recreated a major emergency to see how members would respond.

“In a real-life situation such as this, the SES would be called in to assist police, ambulance and fire personnel and this was highlighted in the scenario brief.”

Four teams were given specific areas to search for casualties. First aid officers had to administer any necessary first aid and members had to undertake correct casualty handling techniques to load the casualty onto a stretcher and transport them down several flights of stairs.

“Each casualty had realistic make-up on to represent their injuries, as well as being tagged with their condition such as unconscious, possible spinal injuries or experiencing seizures,” Brendan said.

“To further recreate a real-life situation, members were requested on two occasions to evacuate the building due to the threat of collapse. Members had to make decisions on whether they would continue to evacuate the casualty or simply get themselves out. There were no right or wrong decisions – it was simply to see how members would react if put in that situation.”

By Lisa Martin

Beaudesert Shire SES Local Controller Brendan Guy recently decided to kill off some of his council colleagues.

In a mock scenario designed to test communication skills, team work, search capabilities and correct casualty and stretcher handling techniques, Brendan crashed a plane into his workplace.

“The scenario was that a light aircraft crashed into the council building, killing the crew, five passengers and more than 20 council staff, as well as setting fire to



Photos by Lisa Martin.

EMQ arranges Aurukun food supply

After failing to hit Queensland's east coast, Cyclone Guba turned its fury on Cape York effectively rendering the Aurukun community foodless.

Guba's trailing weather system was one factor responsible for the first re-supply operation of the season.

Aurukun community on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula sent out a call for assistance after their food supply ran low.

A combination of earlier than usual road closures due to early rains, a broken freezer unit and inaccessibility by barge due to Cyclone Guba meant the only option was to fly in supplies.

Almost three tonnes of food was loaded on to three aircraft on 20 November bound for the cut-off community.

EMQ Cairns Area Director, Wayne Hepple arranged the pallets of fresh fruit and vegetables and meat.

"This should keep the community going for about a week until other supplies can get through," said Wayne.

Aurukun Shire CEO John McHugh said the re-supply went extremely well.

"We're very appreciative of their (EMQ) efforts," John said.

Right: Grant Bell (EMQ Cairns) helps load the re-supply plane.



Shave for a cure

Earlier this year DES staff and volunteers throughout Queensland supported the Leukaemia Foundation's fundraising event, the World's Greatest Shave.

QAS Commissioner Jim Higgins presented trophies to winning DES fundraisers in Caloundra last month.

The Individual Trophy was awarded to Melissa Bayntun, a student paramedic at Bundaberg Station, who raised a total of \$2,736.00.

QAS Kingaroy Station took home the Group Trophy after staff there (in particular Wendy Patterson, David Wyatt, Nolan Jones and Travis Comello) raised a total of \$2,755.85.

Mr Higgins thanked all staff for their efforts to support the Leukaemia Foundation.



Jandowae floods

About 60 Jandowae homes were affected by flood waters following 200mm of rain in the catchment above the township in late November. SES crews worked through the night to inform residents and assist them shift property out of harm's way.



Photo by: SES Local Controller Tom Bradley

Beached Pasha brings back memories

By Craig Burrige

When the massive salvage operation to refloat the stricken Pasha Bulker off Nobby's Beach in NSW was broadcast live around Australia earlier this year, it was a sense of déjà vu for one Queensland SES volunteer.

Almost 26 years ago Caloundra SES Unit Local Controller Jim Case witnessed a similar incident when a fully loaded container ship ran aground off Bribie Island.

On 29 October 1981, the 16,000 tonne Anro Asia grounded near the northern tip of the island while entering Moreton Bay, leaking up to 100 tonnes of oil into Bribie Passage.

"She went aground about 8pm on a moonlit night with calm seas," Jim said.

"She hit the sandstone below the sand off the northern tip of Bribie Island at 15 knots with everything full astern.

"Clearly they were in trouble and they were trying to slow her down but the impact fractured the bow."

In his role as pollution officer with the council, Jim activated the SES to help in the clean up.

"It was a slow process, all done by shovel and rubbish bin and carted across by SES boat to the mainland," Jim said.

As was the situation with the Pasha Bulker, numerous attempts by tug boats to refloat the full laden ship failed, costing the

owners millions of dollars in lost revenue.

For about eight days the ship remained stuck fast in sandstone until salvage crews called in the a fleet of Chinook helicopters to lighten the load.

Jim vividly recalled the clockwork operation to fly the containers from the ship to Bulcock Beach and truck them to a holding yard.

"I remember seeing one of the containers slip from the harness and plunge into the water, I don't know if they ever recovered it."

Jim said watching the plight of the salvage crew in Newcastle had brought back some memories.

"I can understand what they had to go through," he said.

"The difficulty in getting her off, the ever-present problem of the oil spilling, and knowing that the longer the ship was there, the greater chance it might break up and leak more oil."



An aerial shot of the stricken Pasha Bulker off Nobby's Beach in 2007. Photo by Jon Hall.

The 16-tonne container ship Anro Asia ran aground on Bribie Island in 1981. Photos courtesy of Sunshine Coast Daily.



Rescuees become rescuers

By Lisa Martin

Six months after SES personnel dramatically rescued Herman and Pascale Heemskerk from within Lamington National Park they are now proud SES volunteers themselves.

The Dutch couple were in a party of seven rescued by Beaudesert Shire and Gold Coast SES after they became lost during an overnight walk in May.

"We were wet, cold and hungry. We didn't have enough food because we'd only been prepared for one day," Pascale said.

"On the second night we were lost, we heard a helicopter and I used my camera flash to signal the helicopter. They signalled us back, letting us know they had seen us.

"At 2am we heard calls and an ambulance siren. We shouted back and the SES found us and gave us blankets and food and dried our socks and shoes and eventually walked out with us."

Pascale was the first of the pair to join SES, shortly after the rescue.

"I wanted to be a part of the organisation that helped me and possibly help others in the same situation one day," Pascale said.

Herman said after hearing his wife talk about the SES, he couldn't resist signing up.

"Pascale would come home after a training night or activation and tell me all about what she had learnt and how much fun it was. After a couple of months, I decided I would join up. I'm so glad I did," Herman said.

The Heemskerks said they have relished their time in the SES, learning a variety of skills such as using a GPS, reading maps, tying knots and utilising radio communications.

"It has been great learning so many new things and meeting such a great bunch of people. It's like one big family, we all have fun – everyone's very easy going," Pascale said.



SES volunteers Herman and Pascale Heemskerk sign up as volunteers after being rescued by SES.

SES UNIT **Closeup** Cardwell Shire



Members of Cardwell and Johnstone Shire SES units during an exercise with Coastguard and police on Mourilyan Harbour.

The members of Cardwell Shire SES Unit have had their fair share of activations over the years.

The Cyclone Larry clean up, the search for a missing British backpacker and the New South Wales floods are three major activations the unit has been involved in. Local controller Kevin Gray said the majority of activations in the area included storm damage, land searches, flood boat, air observer, traffic control and medivac assistance with Queensland Ambulance Service during disaster times.

"We've had a number of floods over the years but our biggest activation was Cyclone Larry where we worked alongside the Johnstone SES," Kevin said.

The unit is made up of groups from Cardwell, Tully and Mission Beach with 29 active members and 12 reserves ranging from 18 to 75 years of age.

The Tully and Cardwell groups were first

formed in 1974 while Mission Beach started in 1985 before shutting down and reopening again in 2006.

Operation of the Mission Beach group is shared between the Cardwell Shire Unit and the neighbouring Johnstone Unit.

The shire is situated about half way between Townsville and Cairns, covering an area of 2901 km with a large area of rainforest including Mount Tyson.

Kevin said the mountain had been the scene of a massive search for British backpacker Louise Saunders who went missing in dense rainforest in 2002.

"It was a four day search that involved about 120 people. She ended up finding her way out," Kevin said.

The unit has sheds in Cardwell, on Forestry Road, on Boyett Road in Mission Beach and in Murray Street in Tully.

Kevin said the new Tully shed had been named the John Venturato Memorial

Building after Mr Venturato's passing in 2005.

"John Venturato was a member of the SES for 48 years and was Local Controller of Cardwell Shire for 22 years," Kevin said.

In 1995 Cardwell Shire was the second unit in Queensland to establish a cadet group.

The group went on to win the Henry Christie Shield the following year.

Kevin said the cadets had competed in a number of navigational challenges over the years and had always placed well.

"They've competed against SES Adult Members, other cadet groups and members of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service," he said.

"One cadet finished her training, became an assistant leader and went on to win the Inspiration Category in the Queensland Youth Alliance Awards in 2005."

Unwanted Alarms Project a winner

By Carolyn Spencer

In a significant point of recognition, the QFRS Unwanted Alarms Project won the Queensland Organisation/Change Management Category award at the recent Australian Institute of Project Management Awards night.

The QFRS responds to 21,000 unwanted alarms annually. On average, two fire appliances and eight staff respond to each unwanted alarm (84,000 hours annually). The full cost of this in 2006-07 was estimated at \$47 million.

Due to the high number of unwanted alarms in residential buildings, owner / occupiers are not treating all alarms as “real” and this complacency puts lives at risk.

The current high number of unwanted alarms is affecting QFRS’ preparedness to respond to a genuine emergency and increases the risk to firefighters and the community during emergency calls.

Despite stiff competition from vastly larger projects, the Unwanted Alarms Project won the category based on its superior interaction with both internal (QFRS) and external (industry professionals) stakeholders.

The award demonstrated the value of applying project management disciplines to well motivated and highly skilled QFRS personnel.

With the assistance and guidance of Senior Management in QFRS, the combined Management Effect/QFRS Project Team under the joint leadership of Superintendent Neil Reid and Chris Bloor have made significant progress in addressing this serious threat to public safety.

Combining the inherent strengths present in QFRS (technical proficiency, motivated employees) the project team was able to focus, direct and channel these resources to ensure that an optimal outcome could be achieved for the wider community.

As the project enters its next phase, the team looks forward to continuing its work with industry stakeholders to reduce unwanted alarms and the threat they pose to safety via complacency.

For more information on the Unwanted Alarms Project please follow the link below: http://desportal/content/Our_Organisation/QFRS/Community_Safety_and_Training/Unwanted_Alarms.jsp



QFRS Program Management Office

Officers from the QFRS Program Management Office (PMO) welcomed the recent Unwanted Alarms Project win at the Australian Institute of Project Management Awards night.

PMO officer Carolyn Spencer said this significant achievement was recognition of the benefits of employing a “project management” approach to the issue of unwanted alarms.

For several years now QFRS has been working to improve the standard of project management. To progress this goal, the PMO structure was created in 2006.

The PMO was able to provide an early, strong, start-up phase for the delivery of the Unwanted Alarms Project. Successful planning, business analysis and a structured approach led to the ultimate success of this project.

Addressing these sorts of issues can be challenging. The PMO is available to help prospective project sponsors and managers manage their projects from start to completion.

The PMO’s role is to provide a supportive project environment for prospective project sponsors and managers. Support and services include:

- › project planning
- › cost/benefit analysis
- › planning and reporting templates
- › coaching and mentoring



These and other tools have been designed to provide assistance to those with little or no project experience, as well as to more experienced users.

These methods are also aligned to the government’s preferred project management approach. The PMO was designed with a minimal impost on users in mind. It meets the essential checks and balances required for successful application of resources to projects. And its minimal form is commensurate with the organisation’s level of maturity in project management. The PMO also ensures QFRS projects meet essential administrative standards.

PMO services can be accessed via the intranet at <http://bneiso5:8080/ProjectRegister>

QFRS officer awarded for outstanding work in NSW

The exceptional standard of work carried out by an Ipswich firefighter whilst on exchange has been recognised by the New South Wales Fire Brigade.

Graeme Gehrke from Camira Fire Station has been awarded a Unit Commendation for Meritorious Service.

The award recognised Graeme's actions during a civil disturbance in Redfern on February 14, 2007 when he was working as a fire officer at Alexandria Fire Station in Sydney.

QFRS Deputy Commissioner Iain MacKenzie said the service was extremely proud of Graeme's efforts.

"Queensland firefighters embark on exchanges regularly," Mr MacKenzie said.

"While QFRS is aware of the professional, hardworking nature of our crews, it is wonderful to see that their work is being applauded by other fire brigades.

"Graeme has conducted himself in a way which we would encourage all firefighters to apply themselves whilst on exchange and I would like to



QFRS Deputy Commissioner Iain MacKenzie, Firefighter Graeme Gehrke and NSW Fire Brigade Commissioner Greg Mullins.

commend him on his award."

Graeme was presented with his award at the NSW Fire Brigade Training College

on October 25 along with other firefighters who were involved in the civil disturbance.

10 things you didn't know about...

The new SES floodboats

- 1 EMQ has purchased 10 new SES floodboats worth \$28,700 each.
- 2 The boats are a Jabiru V-nose punt model about 4.75 metres in length.
- 3 The SES has a fleet of more than 200 boats in Queensland.
- 4 The new vessels were purchased as part of EMQ's annual floodboat program which provides new equipment for SES units each year.
- 5 Each Jabiru boat comes complete with a trailer, safety equipment and a motor.
- 6 The new Jabiru's are expected to replace the older 4.6 metre Horizon models.
- 7 The floodboats will be used for a variety of roles including search and rescue operations, transport of personnel, stores and equipment.
- 8 The Jabiru's are similar to watercraft used by the New South Wales SES.
- 9 The boats are suitable for safe operations in conditions including flooded areas, inland streams and dams, and coastal areas.
- 10 Currently nine boats have been allocated to units including Richmond, Mackay, Miriam Vale, Blackall, Inglewood, Goondiwindi, Thallon, Redcliffe and Logan Village.



The new Jabiru floodboat will be used mainly for search and rescue.

**Job title**

Firefighter

Location

Yeppoon Station

Length of service

11 months

Best part of job

turning out, riding the trucks and the team environment

Last book I read

Lirael-Garth Mix

Dream Holiday

Thailand

Favourite movie

Braveheart or The Saint

Favourite music

Jack Johnson, Xavier Rudd

Ideal weekend

Beers, BBQ, mates and chicks

Congratulations to DES Kedron Park staff who raised \$546 for the recent B105 Royal Children's Hospital appeal. These contributions were in addition to the \$1500 QFRS staff raised the previous week. In total DES staff raised over \$2500 which will go towards much-needed equipment to support sick and injured Queensland children.

What a terrific effort!

Note:

Answers to December/January Clinical Challenge are in this issue on page 42.

By Cooper Born, OIC North Stradbroke Island

You are called to attend the local military training academy, for a 19-year-old male suffering from possible heat exhaustion. It is late afternoon, on a hot and humid day. The job is a code 2, distance to hospital is 25 minutes, and ICP backup is available if required.

On arrival, you are directed to the recruit in the First Aid Office and you note the following:

Pt is alert and oriented and not in any apparent distress

Airway is clear with respirations at 12 per minute

Saturations are 96%

Air entry – slight bibasilar wheeze

Pulse rate is 90 and occasionally irregular

Blood Pressure 124/66 mmHg

ECG is sinus arrhythmia

BSL is 7.6 mmol/L

Temperature is 36.3

No peripheral oedema is noted

The patient denies headache, fever, chills, haemoptysis, and shortness of breath. There is no history of trauma, or of gastrointestinal or genitourinary symptoms. Head to toe is unremarkable.

Further history reveals the following;

The patient has been performing moderate activity for the last 9 hours, including a 3 hour hike, from which the patient had just returned. He states that he consumed 2-3 canteens of water during the hike, and around 5-6 canteens of water during his previous exercise, but still felt very thirsty. An army canteen holds just under 1 litre of water.

The army medical officer states that the patient has also had a one-week history of a cough, productive of yellow sputum.

As you are examining the patient, he slides to the floor and has a generalised tonic-clonic seizure, lasting approximately two minutes.

Q1. Outline your initial and ongoing management for this patient.

Q2. How much fluid would you administer and what type of fluid?

Q3. What is your provisional diagnosis for this patient and how does it explain the resultant seizure?

Questions

- › What is your provisional diagnosis?
- › What is your management of this patient?

November's answers

- › Massive Pulmonary Embolism

Management

- › High Flow Oxygen
- › If patient GCS decreases due to severe hypoxemia it may require ETT and ventilation
- › Aspirin if the patient can swallow it in the initial stages
- › Morphine (small increments) for pain and to help relieve anxiety
- › Identifying the condition and initiating transport ASAP calling through to receiving facility as thrombolysis is an option with these patients. They may need surgical consult as persistent haemodynamic instability or hypoxia should be considered for thoracotomy or embolectomy
- › Large gauge cannula with fluid loading to maintain blood pressure
- › If persistent hypotension may require inotropic support although there is little evidence to support choice of Noradrenaline or adrenaline as inotrope of choice.

What is underlying issue with this case?

As with most patient presenting with PE, this patient has significant Ventilation/Perfusion [V/Q] mismatch. This ventilation-perfusion mismatch causes intrapulmonary shunts and reduced cardiac output therefore the respiratory consequences of PE include increased alveolar dead space, pneumoconstriction, hypoxemia, and hyperventilation.



station profile

Firefighters both past and present celebrated the 60th anniversary of Crows Nest Auxiliary Fire Station.

Crows Nest Auxiliary Station

Founded in January 1947, Crows Nest Auxiliary station has a proud history coloured with stories of camaraderie and mateship.

The South West region station services towns from Cooyar (approx 40 km north) to Geham (approx 15km to the south) and half way to Esk (approx 20 km east) and turns out to approximately 60 jobs per year.

In its inception, firefighters were paid £2 for six months training and six shillings to attend an incident.

The current Crows Nest Fire Station was built in and opened in 1963 at a cost of £1275. The appliance of the day was a 1949 model Ford V8, later replaced with a Model D Series Ford.

The station recently celebrated its 60th anniversary with past and present firefighters getting together to share stories including one about the town's worst fire which broke out on Monday 30 May, 1949.

In the early hours of the morning the fire brigade received a call out to a

fire near the National Bank. At this stage the brigade had no fire station and it was reported that firefighters "pulled their pants and coats over their pyjamas".

The heat from the fire was so intense that it scorched the upholstery and paint on a fire truck parked opposite the bank.

The Toowoomba Fire Brigade was called as backup and reported the glow from the fire could be seen at the top of Mt Kynoch. It took two hours to bring the fire under control.

During the dampening down stage, the strong room from the bank was extremely hot and could not be opened for several days.

The fire destroyed the National Bank, the Empire Hall, Commercial Hotel, Busy Bee Café, hairdresser and Billiard Saloon.

Crows Nest firefighters past and present recently celebrated 60 years of operations with a parade followed by a BBQ lunch and speeches.



The 1952 Crows Nest crew.

Station Snapshot

Location: 28 Creek St, Crows Nest
Appliances: 1x Isuzu Type Three



Paramedic Russell McNeill, Diing Achol with baby Dadet, Jackie Baty with baby Nathaniel, Student Paramedic Tom Gamble. Photo by Craig Truesdale



EMD Jon Day with Stuart and Michelle May and one day old Lennart. Photo by Jonathon Hall

Paramedics on hand when babies won't wait

By Jonathon Hall

Leah White's baby arrived at 100 km/h – literally.

When Leah – from Clifton on the Darling Downs - knew her baby was on its way on October 27 this year she called Warwick QAS.

Paramedic David Wood arrived quickly but as they headed back along the New England Highway it was obvious the baby wasn't going to wait until they reached Warwick Hospital.

For David, the emergency delivery was not a new experience.

"I have delivered quite a few babies over the years, but none at 100km/h," he said.

David was one of many QAS officers who were involved with a large number of emergency births – and for some officers it was a new and daunting experience.

On October 25, trainee Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) Jon Day – had only been in the job four weeks when he took a Triple Zero call from Stuart May.

Stuart and his wife Michelle from Paddington, Brisbane had planned to have a home birth but it was not to be.

"We could hear Stuart saying the baby was coming and he let out this big gasp

when he heard the baby cry," Jon said.

At the Communications Centre Jon celebrated with his mentor, EMD Rick Gough.

This was also Rick's first baby delivery over the phone.

"I was proud to be involved in a job which went so well and was such a positive story."

The following day Jon and Rick met Stuart and Michelle and their new baby boy Lennart.

Michelle offered glowing praise to the two EMDs.

"It was very reassuring to have that voice on the phone keeping us calm and it was great to meet them to say thank you face-to-face."

On October 30, student paramedic Aaron Hine was on his first shift when his Durack Station crew were called to a home at Calamvale.

Paramedic Tim Newman delivered a baby girl while Aaron assisted.

"Aaron did really well; he did everything I asked him to."

For Aaron it was something he won't forget.

"You hear about paramedics going years without a baby delivery and I got

one straight away. That moment will stay with me forever."

For fellow student paramedic Tom Gamble it was a case of a double surprise when he was called to two separate deliveries during a single night shift on November 9.

Tom and fellow paramedic Russell McNeil from the Centenary Station were called to the home of Diing Achol in Moorooka around midnight.

Diing was taken to hospital but Tom delivered the baby girl, named Dadet.

This was the first time both Tom and Russell had delivered a baby.

Just hours later the pair was called to a Sinnamon Park home where Jackie Baty was in labour.

Tom delivered baby Nathaniel on the bathroom floor.

"It was a great surprise to have two deliveries in one shift but it's a good feeling to be able to be there and help the families and to be part of such a personal moment," Tom said.

Between July and November this year QAS officers assisted with 66 emergency births.

This compares with a total of 140 babies in 2006/07 and 136 in 2005/06.



By Kylie McIntosh

QFRS staff is used to working in hot conditions. But the Mount Isa QFRS facility crew can experience temperatures of 60 degrees without even fighting a fire. This is the rock face temperature of the lower levels of the Mount Isa copper mine.

QFRS has a contract with Xstrata which owns and operates Mount Isa Mines, George Fisher, Handle Bar Hill and Black Star mines. These mines are all located in Mount Isa. And are both underground and open cut mines that produce copper, lead, zinc and silver. The QFRS contract has been in place for over nine years with QFRS providing a range of services to Xstrata including:

- emergency response to all surface areas
- fixed system inspections
- extinguisher servicing
- building inspections
- training & emergency related advice

These services are provided by just eight people: two administrative officers, the manager and five technicians.

The working relationship between the local DES agencies and Xstrata is a very close one according to QFRS Inspector / Contract Manager, John Bolger.

“It is a unique arrangement. We work and train together with the Mount Isa Mine Rescue team and we also call

Underground in the Isa

upon the Mine Rescue Team to assist us with fire, rescue and emergency responses if required,” John said.

Many of the services the QFRS facility crew provide occur underground. For example the day John was interviewed his team was servicing extinguishers on enormous underground dump trucks.

The main Mount Isa mine shaft is 1.5 km deep and the QFRS crew regularly travel down in ‘the cage’ [an elevator] to service mining equipment. There they are required to traverse the 700 kms of underground roads to perform their duties; the deepest part of the mine is almost 2km.

Xstrata employs around 3,800 people. To ensure staff are kept cool there are two large air-conditioning plants on site; one of which is the largest in the southern hemisphere. Xstrata also boasts two smelters and two power

stations. They also have their own oxygen plant. John said working in this environment is unique to his crew.

“We are the only QFRS staff to work underground and to own a dedicated underground vehicle.

“We are also the only crew who work this closely with private enterprise on a daily basis.

“We have a great working relationship through Xstrata’s Darren Bracey and the Xstrata Mount Isa Health and Safety team.”

Mount Isa QFRS Facility also provides similar services and training to the Xstrata owned Ernest Henry open cut copper mine in Cloncurry.

Above: Mount Isa crew start the day with a Zeroharm meeting. Left to right: Ross Jensen, Colin Sarmardin, Steve Young, John Bolger, Marty Forster, Matt McGavin & Kerry Sipos.

Bribie Island services on track to provide safe tracks

Q1. Basic cares – position to maintain airway and prevent injury, ensure airway patency and adequate oxygenation and ventilation. Attempt to stop the seizure by administering Midazolam as per CPM guidelines. Seizures secondary to hyponatremia are unlikely to respond to this therapy, but it should be administered until a definitive diagnosis and therapy are available.

Q2. The patient should have IV access established and fluid at TKVO. A bolus infusion is not indicated under QAS guidelines for this patient. The preferred IV solution for a hyponatraemic patient is 0.9% Sodium Chloride which contains 9g of NaCl per 1000mls compared to only 6g in Hartmann's Solution. Avoid giving hypotonic intravenous fluids because they may exacerbate cerebral oedema. Patients with seizures, severe confusion, coma, or signs of brainstem herniation should receive hypertonic (3%) saline to correct serum sodium level toward normal but only enough to arrest the progression of symptoms. Care must be taken not to correct sodium levels too rapidly as neurological damage may result.

Q3. This patient had a serum sodium concentration of 113mmol/L. Seizures develop when serum sodium levels fall below 125 mEq/L, especially if the decrease is rapid. Hyponatremia also causes orthostatic hypotension, headache, muscle twitching and weakness, fatigue, oliguria or anuria, cold and clammy skin, decreased skin turgor, irritability, lethargy, confusion, and stupor or coma. Excessive thirst, tachycardia, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal cramps may also occur. Severe hyponatremia may cause cyanosis and vasomotor collapse, with a thready pulse.



Bribie Island QPS A/OIC Shane Rockley, QAS Professional Development Officer, Guy Law, QAS Brisbane Northern Area Director Peter Chatman, Bribie Island QAS OIC, Pat Lynch, QLD Parks and Wildlife Service A/Ranger, Graeme Bulley, Station Officer Nev Roberts. Photos by Kylie McIntosh.

by Kylie McIntosh

If you are injured or become sick on Bribie Island you can feel safe in the knowledge that you will be rescued by at least two emergency service providers.

QAS, QFRS, Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service agencies have joined together to provide the Bribie Island Multi-Agency Response Plan (MARP). Pumicestone MP, Carryn Sullivan officially launched the plan at Woorim Beach on 6 December.

Northern Area Director Brisbane QAS, Peter Chatman said the initiative would provide a high level of safety on the island for both the public and the emergency services.

"There are a lot of four-wheel drive tracks that criss-cross all over Bribie Island.

"People don't realise how easy it is to

become disorientated on Bribie. Signs have been erected along the beach, and will soon be posted along the inland tracks to help you identify your position. These can be used to give a location if you become sick or injured and require assistance.

"MARP has been developed to ensure there is always at least two emergency vehicles on-hand to provide enhanced rescue services," Peter said.

Bribie Island QAS OIC, Pat Lynch, said MARP has been in development over the last three years. Only now has it been officially recognised as a standard operating procedure.

"The time has been worth it. We are now able to ensure a much more safe and efficient service."



Bribie Island Station Officer Nev Roberts, QPS A/OIC Shane Rockley, QLD Parks and Wildlife Service A/Ranger, Graeme Bulley, QAS Brisbane Northern Area Director Peter Chatman.



School wins storm season competition

Aspley State School Year 7 students Matt Mellors, Mia Purgaric and Jonathan Albury with SES volunteer Carrollyn Hennessy, State Member for Stafford Stirling Hinchcliffe, Principal Peter Scriven and Ken Nipperess. Photo courtesy of Quest Newspapers

by Leon Love

Aspley State School students are teaching their parents and teachers a thing or two about being prepared for storms this summer.

The primary school students recently won a 51cm television for their school after receiving first prize in a Storm Season Awareness Competition sponsored by the SES.

Students had to create a storm awareness poster, outlining how to prepare and stay safe when

severe weather hits.

SES and Emergency Management Queensland acting Director, Brisbane Region, Ken Nipperess said the judges had been extremely impressed with the initiative and quality of the students' entries.

"The students have provided us all with a timely reminder to prepare for storm season," Mr Nipperess said.

"Their depth of knowledge in preparing for a storm at this early stage in their lives is a credit to their parents and to Aspley State School's teaching staff."

Cockatoo Rescue

By Gemma Marks

A cockatoo trapped on the ledge of an Indooroopilly office building turned out to be the perfect test for a fire fighter recently.

In late October firefighters were called to a building opposite Indooroopilly Shopping Centre after workers reported a cockatoo stuck on the building's fourth floor ledge.

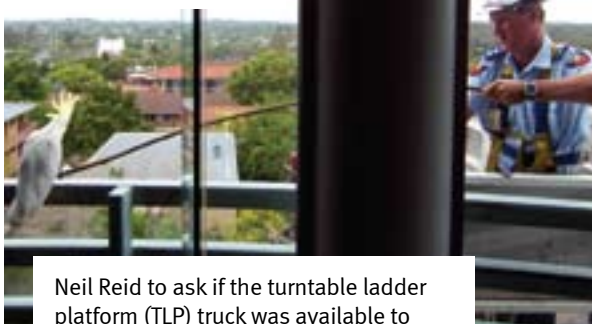
The bird was caught on a thin ledge between the window and a perspex barrier.

The precarious position meant it wasn't able to launch itself horizontally to fly and was physically unable to launch itself vertically to get free.

After the RSCPA and other animal welfare agencies said they couldn't assist due to the height of the building, a worker in the building called the local fire station.

Kenmore Station Officer Peter Lalor called Brisbane Region Superintendent

Superintendent Reid uses his new skills to successfully rescue a trapped Cockatoo.



Neil Reid to ask if the turntable ladder platform (TLP) truck was available to assist in the rescue.

The driver of the TLP was just leaving Roma St Station to complete his TLP exam, when the opportunity to complete the test in a live rescue scenario presented itself.

Superintendent Reid conducted the high-flying operation, successfully rescuing the trapped cockatoo, and the TLP driver passed his exam!

In brief

First Clasp of the Australian National Service Medal

QAS Central Region Assistant Commissioner Peter Warrener presented Officer in Charge Sean Balkin with the clasp in recognition of 10 years of dedicated service with the Royal Australian Navy and 15 years as a QAS Paramedic.



Sean Balkin (right) receives his medal from AC Peter Warrener.

Christmas spirit on the Sunshine Coast

The QAS is extremely grateful to an anonymous lady who has donated \$5,000.

She visited the North Coast Regional Office recently to make the cash donation, insisting she wouldn't give her name but added "You can call me Mary Christmas."

The lady said she was grateful for the service QAS Caloundra paramedics had provided for her husband and herself.

QAS Trains Army Medics

QAS paramedics will soon be sharing their skills with medical personnel from the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

A landmark deal will see officers from Enoggera's 2nd Health Support Battalion going on-road in Brisbane.

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