

# SAVEM

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Inc.



## SAVEM NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016, Vol 5 No 1

As we approach the **2016/17 fire season**, we should recall that 2015 was the year of two major fires - **Sampson Flat and Pinery**. Both very different events: at Sampson Flat SAVEM was in-field for nearly eight weeks, and at Pinery, we were activated for two. Sampson Flat was very much a wildlife event, while at Pinery, livestock vastly outnumbered other species, and SAVEM supported PIRSA as much as deploying to our specific taskings. Sampson Flat was characterised by hilly, well vegetated country, and Pinery was a fierce, fast crop fire, with harvest underway and crops dry and standing well over a metre high. Many people commented Pinery was "Wangary revisited". Our Logistics manager sits on the Local Recovery Committee for the Pinery fire – part of our role is to engage with and contribute positively to the politics of Emergency Management.

**FUNDING AND FIELD RESOURCES:** These two big 2015 events within 10 months of each other put pressure on many agencies, and during 2016 SAVEM has worked hard to equip ourselves for similar large events. We have been fortunate to receive grants and assistance from the Federal & State funded Natural Disaster Resilience Program, Adelaide Hills Toyota, Westpac group, the National Australia Bank and the Hackett Foundation. The Hilux, the horse float, hospital supplies and the field hospital are possible because of this funding: we sincerely thank our sponsors and supporters.

**FIREGROUND SAFETY DVD** was launched at the 2016 Level 1 and Exercise training weekend. The DVD was made possible by funding from SGIC and SAVEM, with support from the CFS and Simon Malcolm Productions. SAVEM Nurse Coordinator, Carol Haley, is the "face" of the DVD, and it will shortly be uploaded on to the website by our superb volunteer webmaster, Jan. It will be used at all training events, and we encourage everyone to watch it more than once prior to fire season.

**TRAINING AND THE 2016 EXERCISE *Hurry Up and Wait*** another very successful training weekend on 27 & 28 August. Special thanks to Dr Nancy Bombardieri, our training officer, and to guest trainers Bob Kearney and Geoff Capper, for volunteering their exceptional training ability. Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Dr Duncan McFetridge, also joined us on Saturday. It was pleasing to see new faces and a diverse and valuable skill set present in the room, including a large contingent from Fauna Rescue. As an organiser, one of the "trade-offs" is not having the opportunity to speak to everyone at the event. Thankyou to SAVEM IMT for their support and commitment, and to the group working with Nancy in Planning and training, helping to achieve our goal of continual improvement (Photos next page).



TOP: the Hilux

LEFT: the horse float and Logistics trailer

BELOW: the 9m x 6m Covertex field hospital



### AGRICULTURE & ANIMAL SERVICES FUNCTIONAL SERVICE (AASFS) PARTICIPATING AGENCY (PA) FORUM

SAVEM joined the other PA's at Primary Industries and Regions SA's PA Forum in August. This is a crucial meeting for the PA's to discuss issues with PIRSA, our AAS FS leader, prior to fire season. Two more pre-season meetings are planned, one for SAVEM, RSPCA & the Animal Welfare League (AWL), and one for SAVEM and Fauna Rescue. These discussions are essential to maximise our collaborative efforts during an event.

**CONFERENCES, PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:** Dr Claire Moore and Nurse coordinator Carol Haley have given several presentations to CFS brigades and community groups. In May, the Coordinator presented at the Australian Veterinary Assn. national conference in Adelaide, and gave a poster at the Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC Research Advisory Forum. More research will be published in coming months.

**THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS A LIFE OF PURPOSE** (Stuart Ellis, CEO AFAC)



Bob Kearney at the Level 1



Exercise Hurry Up and Wait! Photo: Sara Martin



Both SAVEM vehicles have rooftop ID

**SAVEM VALUES**

Bob Kearney and the Coordinator discussed SAVEM values at the Level 1 workshop. These are:

- Safety
- Respect
- Punctuality and timeliness
- Dignity – everybody counts, or nobody counts
- Value our volunteers – when working within our values

**FYI – SOME INTERESTING LINKS**

1. ABC Landline, *Pinery Fires: From the Ashes*

<http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2016/s4419409.htm>

2. Bushfire & Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre: Southern Australia Seasonal Bushfire Outlook 2016, Bushfire potential for coming fire season

[www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/019](http://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/019)

3. On the BNHCRC website, the MAiD project:

<http://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2016/managing-animals-disasters-newsletter>

**WHERE TO FROM HERE?** Please remember to watch the SAVEM website, [www.savem.org.au](http://www.savem.org.au)

for news, training notices and other announcements, and register on-line for the newsletter. More training workshops are planned, though they do require funding, either from successful grant applications, or by charging a fee to cover costs. We do hope to add more on-line training modules in the near future.

**SAVEM Photo ID cards:** Remember these are essential to join a response – no ID, no access to fireground. You will need to send a “passport” style electronic photo & emergency off-fireground contact phone number. Thanks to PIRSA for this providing this resource, and to Sara for taking photos at the Exercise.

*Hurry Up and Wait!*