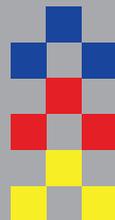


# ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Accounts For Financial Year End 30 June 2010



**EMERGENCY  
SERVICES  
FOUNDATION**



# BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

**Laurie Lavelle AM**  
Chairman

**John Warburton**  
Treasurer/Secretary

**Mick Bourke**  
Country Fire Authority

**Greg Sassella**  
Ambulance Victoria

**Shane Wright AFSM**  
(Acting CEO)  
Metropolitan Fire  
and Emergency Services Board

**Kieran Walshe APM**  
Victoria Police

**Mary Barry**  
Victoria State Emergency Service

**Peter Lester**  
Director

**Jeanne Pratt AC**  
Director

**Neil Soullier OAM**  
Director

**Catherine Dunlop**  
Director

**Secretariat**  
**Jenny Davis**  
Administrative Secretary



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VICTORIA POLICE



# THE ESF WAS CREATED TO:

- provide financial relief to Victorian emergency services workers and their families in the event that a worker has been injured or killed in the line of duty, and
- support research into issues of importance to the emergency services and the community.

# THE EMERGENCY SERVICES FOUNDATION

The Emergency Services Foundation (ESF) is a charitable trust established to provide financial relief to Victorian emergency services workers and their immediate families, in cases where a worker has been injured or killed in line of duty. A secondary, but increasingly fundamental role of the ESF is to fund research into issues of importance to the emergency services through the allocation of scholarships.

The origins of the ESF can be found in the Ash Wednesday bushfires of 1983, after which a public appeal was launched to provide financial assistance to affected emergency service workers. Recognising the need to provide a source of ongoing support for those who suffer

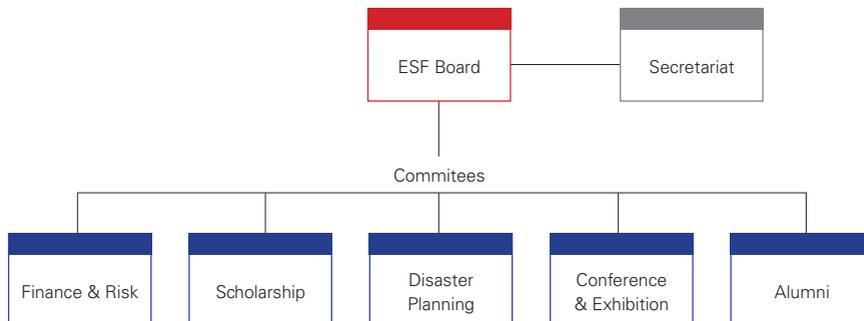
hardship as a result of the death of a family member or injuries sustained in the line of duty, the appeal's sponsors agreed to use the residual funds to institute the ESF trust.

Since its inception in 1987, several Victorian emergency service workers have received financial benefits from the ESF and families of deceased workers have been provided with financial support. In addition, the ESF's Scholarship Scheme has awarded in excess of 80 scholarships, enabling members of the Victorian emergency services to pursue a diverse range of research activities. The ESF Alumni provides a network of these scholarship recipients, enabling knowledge sharing and a continuing commitment to the work of the ESF.

# HOW THE ESF WORKS

The work of the ESF is conducted by the Board of Management through a group of subject-based committees and sub-committees.

# HOW THE ESF IS STRUCTURED



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2010 proved to be another demanding year for the Victorian emergency services with their interaction with the Victorian Bushfires Commission drawing on the time and energy of many Emergency Service Foundation (ESF) members. Despite the challenges this period has presented, member services are to be commended for the positive manner in which they have responded to the Commission's findings particularly as they relate to improving the state's emergency response capability and community safety preparedness.

The heavy rainfall that resulted in widespread flooding throughout the state in September also proved to be a significant setback in a community that is continuing to heal; with the support extended by our SES colleagues being pivotal to the community's capacity to effectively respond and recover.

Against this backdrop, the ESF's role in providing a platform from which members, representing the full diversity of Victoria's emergency services, can network and explore the unique research and study opportunities the ESF enables - continues to be vital. To this end both the Alumni and the Scholarship Committee have had another busy and extremely productive year. The Alumni conducted four information sessions which attracted the participation of over 100 potential candidates – a six-fold increase over the numbers attending last year's sessions. Similarly, the Alumni's efforts to promote the work of the ESF generally and the benefits of the Scholarship Program, in particular, continue to gather momentum with the committee securing a substantial increase in sponsorship for the Alumni-hosted dinner held during the

2010 Emergency Management Conference held mid-year. The generosity of these sponsors enabled the event to generate a profit for the first time which will, in turn, allow Alumni members to build on their event program in 2011.

Last year I reported that Victorian Minister for Emergency Services had approved a grant to fund the expansion of the Scholarship Scheme. I am pleased to advise that during the year the Minister announced that the government would provide additional assistance to enable the ESF to provide scholarships specifically for members of the volunteer community. As a result of this support the Scholarship Committee has been able to award six scholarships to volunteers drawn from a diverse range of agencies.

Five Emergency Services Foundation scholarships were awarded to permanent staff members of agencies including the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard and Lifesaving Victoria, as well as larger emergency service agencies such as the Victoria Police, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Metropolitan Fire Brigades. This represents a major achievement for the ESF. The Board is grateful for the support of government and is keen to build on this success in 2011 by focussing on increasing volunteer participation in both the Scholarship Scheme and the annual Emergency Management Conference. Forging links with representatives of the new Victorian government will also be a priority in 2011.

The ESF's efforts to help facilitate emergency service engagement with the broader community continued this year through ongoing support for initiatives such as the vocational mentoring

program managed in partnership by the MFB and MacKillop Family Services. This program enables young people from indigenous and multicultural backgrounds to learn about the role of the fire-fighter through a one-on-one mentoring experience. The ESF's sponsorship of a stage in the inaugural Pedal for Prostate charity ride around the Australia provided another opportunity to contribute to a highly worthwhile community service initiative.

Earlier in the year, the Board agreed to sponsor a significant applied research project to be undertaken by students from the US-based Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). Through its Global Perspectives Program, the WPI has had long association with Victorian government and not-for-profit agencies and its student teams have earned praise for their research on a diverse range of problems at the interface of science, technology and the community. The ESF-sponsored project will aim to evaluate the health and wellbeing of both career and volunteer personnel across the Victorian emergency services sector. Drawing on the breadth of research already undertaken in this area, the project will be the only holistic review of the health and wellbeing of Victorian emergency service workers ever undertaken.

Central to the ESF's work in the 2011 will be the ongoing implementation of the strategies identified in our newly developed communications strategy. This will see the ESF continuing to encourage the participation of permanent and volunteer emergency service personnel in ESF activities through tools such as a targeted "postcard" which will allow scholarship candidates to

register their interest for scholarships with minimal effort and an advertising campaign that will focus on volunteer, emergency service and emergency-related publications, as well as existing vehicles such as the ESF's online newsletter and website.

Our success in 2010 rests squarely with the members of the Board, our committees and the ESF's Administrative Secretary, Jenny Davis – all of whom have given so generously of their time in what has been a trying year. I would like to thank Deputy Commissioner Kieran Walsh, delegate of the Chief Commissioner Victoria Police, Graham Fountain, former CEO of the MFB and Bruce Esplin, former Victorian Emergency Services Commissioner for their valuable contributions. I would also like to welcome Shane Wright - who will continue in his current role as Chair of the ESF's Scholarship Committee while also representing the MFB on the Board in his capacity of acting CEO - and Catherine Dunlop from Maddocks Lawyers, who has joined the Board. Catherine brings with her particular expertise in emergency management law and will I am sure make a strong contribution to the work of the ESF into the future.



**LG Lavelle AM**  
Chairman

## DISASTER & RELIEF

During 2010 the ESF remained ready to deliver on its fundamental objective of providing financial relief to the families of emergency services workers injured or killed while on duty through the auspices of the Disaster and Relief Committee.

This financial assistance takes the form of an immediate cash payment to the worker or their family. During the year this amount was significantly increased to \$10,000. The intent of this payment is to provide workers and families with sufficient funds to meet initial financial demands during what is a period of shock and distress - additional funds being made available where a need is identified. A letter of sympathy, the financial payment and a floral tribute is delivered by the ESF Chairman, or deputy, on behalf of the Board at the earliest possible date. An obituary notice is also placed on behalf of the ESF in the Melbourne Herald Sun as appropriate.

The ESF is relieved that, for the first time since its establishment, there were no calls upon it this year to provide financial relief.

### **Emergency fundraising**

Although, to date, the ESF has been able to draw on its existing financial reserves to fund the relief program this may not be possible in the case of a large-scale event. To ensure the ESF's capacity to raise additional revenue at short notice, arrangements are in place to leverage off the public appeal mechanism of a high profile Victorian charitable organisation. This approach will enable the ESF to continue to support those in need and in doing so help secure the long term future of the organisation.

# ESF SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The ESF Scholarship Scheme enables fellowships and grants to be made to members of the Victorian emergency services undertaking advanced studies on emergency service topics in Australia or overseas. The Scholarship Committee administers the Scheme on behalf of the Board.

After reviewing a group of high quality applications, the Scholarship Committee awarded five scholarships to the following recipients who, in canvassing a diverse range of topics, will add significantly to the knowledge base of the Victorian emergency services:

- **Tom Lowe**  
Department of Sustainability and Environment, Topic – *Building community capacity to live with fire*
- **Jonathan Payne**  
Victoria Police, Topic – *Management of the OH&S of emergency service employees in uncontrolled environments and best practice in mitigation*
- **Ron Sheppard**  
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, Topic – *Risk management in recreational boating*
- **Dalal Smiley**  
Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Topic – *Achieving diversity in emergency services through positive action programs*
- **Nigel Taylor**  
Life Saving Victoria, Topic – *Water safety for communities*

With the generous support of the Victorian Government the ESF was also able to establish a 'volunteer' stream this year with scholarships being awarded to the following volunteers:

- **Adam Barnett, CFA**
- **Geoff Dunmore, VICSES**
- **Rubyah Haouchar, VICSES**
- **Rosie Keane, Ambulance Victoria**
- **Rohan Thornton, CFA**
- **Graeme Winterton,**  
Victorian Council of Churches.

The Scholarship Committee continues to work closely with the Alumni in promoting the benefits of participation in the ESF Scholarship Scheme and the work of the ESF generally. The 2011 scholarship program was launched in September with an information evening hosted by the Alumni on the Committee's behalf. The session attracted an unprecedented level of interest and provided prospective scholarship candidates with a greater understanding of the key selection criteria and strategies to enhance the quality of their application, together with an opportunity to establish ongoing contacts among the Alumni.

The Alumni provided each scholarship recipient with an information pack which includes a travel diary and other useful information to help them get the most from their experience. Both the Scholarship Committee and the Alumni are grateful for QBE's provision of travel insurance at a reduced cost, for our scholars.

*“Addressing water safety issues requires action on a number of fronts. These actions then need to be refined on the basis of an ever changing external environment. With the support of the ESF scholarship program I was able to spend some quality time with the German and UK life saving organisations. Given the timing of the trip, the opportunity was also taken to attend the world life saving conference in Egypt....it is amazing how many...issues were canvassed because of the opportunity to have the face to face interactions with like minded people. As a result we will look to adjusting a number of existing practises over the next twelve months.”*

*Nigel Taylor  
Chief Executive Officer  
Life Saving Victoria*

*“Community resilience’ describes the ability of a community to adapt to the impacts of almost any change or disruption; whether it is bushfire, flooding, epidemic or economic stresses. It is therefore important that fire agencies develop approaches to community resilience-building which utilise the best available knowledge and experience from this wide array of hazard management knowledge and research. By allowing me to step outside of my normal work environment, the ESF Scholarship has given me the opportunity to take a fresh look at a subject which I, and others around me, grapple with almost every day.”*

*Tom Lowe  
Social Researcher  
Department of Sustainability & Environment*

*"The ESF Scholarship...enabled me to gain firsthand knowledge, and to meet the people directly involved in the education of recreational boaties in the USA, Canada and UK. I was able to discuss ideas with all levels of the US Coast Guard, the US National Transportation Safety Board, the Canadian Coast Guard, the International Maritime Rescue Federation and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute among others. All these contacts offered ongoing support for my ideas on risk management and were intrigued at our ability to implement some regulations they have been trying to do for some time"*

*Ron Sheppard  
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association*

*"The scholarship was a brilliant professional opportunity to augment my current research into 'occupational health and safety of emergency service employees in uncontrolled environments', and to exchange ideas with the Police Service Northern Ireland, the Metropolitan Police Service (London), and the London Ambulance Service]. In addition to the planned research, serendipitous discovery was just as significant, which would not have occurred unless the Foundation had allowed me to physically attend at the various organisations. The experience was extremely valuable and has allowed me to positively influence change within the Victoria Police training environment. I recommend the scholarship to anyone as an outstanding professional opportunity."*

*Jonathan Payne  
Victoria Police*

# THE ALUMNI

*The ESF Alumni was established in order to capture the knowledge and experience of those people who have been awarded ESF Scholarships and to disseminate that information across the emergency services and beyond.*

By staging information nights, taking an active role in the annual Emergency Services Conference and managing the ESF's Knowledge Bank, the Alumni continued in its pivotal role this year of:

- encouraging emergency workers from across the broad spectrum of emergency management agencies to apply for scholarships
- assisting scholarship candidates in the preparation of their applications
- supporting successful candidates in gaining the most out of their scholarship for themselves, their organisation and their community, and
- ensuring that learning's from scholarships are shared with the broader emergency services community.

## Information nights

Two information nights held during the year were attended by over 100 prospective scholarship candidates – a record number to date. Not only have the information nights yielded benefits in terms of promoting the ESF and the educational opportunities it enables, but they have also resulted in a vast improvement in the number and quality of applications in recent years.

With the introduction of state government funding for volunteer scholarships, additional information nights were conducted and more will be staged in decentralised locations in the future.

## Emergency Services Conference

Once again, the Alumni had a booth at the 2010 Emergency Services Conference which attracted the interest of many of the emergency workers in attendance. A number of past scholarship recipients also gave presentations at the conference.

Considered by many to be a highlight of the conference, the Alumni-sponsored dinner was the most successful yet. With the generous support of our sponsors, the dinner made sufficient profit for the Alumni to be able to fund further events and support ESF throughout the coming year.

## Knowledge Bank

Throughout the year the Alumni continued its search for the reports of past scholarship recipients to enable their experience to be shared by others. A total of 31 reports are now available on the ESF website.

## Looking to the future

With just over 80 scholarships awarded since the late 1980's, building a dynamic Alumni continues to be an ongoing challenge for the ESF. Recent increases in the number of scholarships being awarded annually, particularly the introduction of the volunteer stream, and our granting of free membership to all new scholarship recipients should address this problem over time.

# 2010 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The theme of 'Community Resilience' for this year's Emergency Management Conference (EMC) proved highly effective. It was a successful conference which benefitted from the participation of a range of quality speakers who examined and explored the theme from a diverse range of perspectives. Although the delegate numbers were slightly lower than last year, exhibitor numbers were steady and the event provided a great result for the ESF with 95% of delegates expressing satisfaction with the conference in an online survey.

The welcome address given by the Victorian Minister for Emergency Services, Bob Cameron was followed by 2 keynote addresses, the first from Patrick Meier, Director, Crisis Mapping and News Media, Ushahidi – USA (a non-profit tech company that specialises in developing free and open source software for information collection, visualisation and interactive mapping) who spoke on the use of 'crowd sourcing' via the internet in crises. The second from Professor Ed Blakely, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Sydney who discussed his experience in leading the New Orleans reconstruction team in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Presentations from seven international speakers were complemented by high calibre presentations from local speakers on topics such as bushfire recovery efforts post-Black Saturday and on emergency warnings.

Once again, the *Diversity in Emergency Services* stream was very strong with several overseas presenters and a high quality program that added enormous value to the overall

conference program. The Diversity Workshop held on the day after EMC was well attended and discussed resilience and the recovery process after the Black Saturday fires.

This year's Conference Dinner, hosted by the Alumni, was a great success with over 120 people in attendance. The Alumni successfully attracted significant sponsorship to subsidise the ticket price and provide a surplus.

In developing the theme for 2011, the committee synthesised the suggestions from the 2010 delegates given via the online survey and agreed on the theme of 'Working Together Better'. The conference will be staged from 12-14 July 2011 at the Sebel Albert Park.

# FINANCIALS & GOVERNANCE

It is pleasing to note that the ESF had a successful year recording a net surplus of \$52,730 (compared to a \$159,363 loss in 2009), representing a return to a positive investment result in the post-Global Finance Crisis environment. Of this surplus \$31,421 (2009 \$66,923 loss) was attributable to Tynan/Eyre Memorial Fund.

The ESF funded scholarships in the year amounting to \$57,322, (2009 \$18,232) and made personal assistance payments of \$2,500 paid in the 2009 calendar year (2009 \$7,500). An amount of \$22,650 was also made available for scholarships from the administered Tynan/Eyre Memorial Fund.

For the first time, the Victorian State Government provided \$50,000 to be made available to volunteer workers in emergency services agencies to undertake overseas study tours, with the entire amount committed prior to 30 June 2010 with no reduction for administrative costs.

Abridged accounts for the financial year ended 30 June 2010 have been included in this year's annual report. A full set of audited accounts are available upon request.

The ESF's ongoing administrative costs continued to be funded by another successful annual conference, contributions from the state's major emergency service agencies and funds raised through the work of the Alumni. As in previous years, the ESF has been strongly supported through both 'in kind' and cash donations from member agencies and stakeholders. We also thank WHK Howarth for providing audit services on a nominal cost basis.

The Board is committed to good governance and risk management practices and ensures that it complies with all statutory and other obligations. While all members of the Board serve on a voluntary basis, it takes care to ensure that Board membership is diverse and appropriately skilled. Membership of the Board is drawn from our supporting agencies and the community at large. At the direction of the Board, specialist committees are in place to ensure that key areas of interest and work are properly managed.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Investment income from managed funds	121,812	-
Proceeds from Conference	35,923	33,682
Administration contribution	17,875	17,875
Bank interest	-	16
GST & imputed credit refunds	5,204	6,158
Donations	-	5,000
Alumni dinner	5,131	-
Alumni membership fees	400	250
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>186,345</b>	<b>62,981</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Loss on managed fund investments <sup>^</sup>	-	139,160
Scholarships*	79,972	29,032
Personal assistance payments	2,500	7,500
Executive assistant payments	40,200	34,380
Audit fees	1,210	1,100
Other expenses	9,733	11,172
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>133,615</b>	<b>222,344</b>
<b>Profit (Loss) for year</b>	<b>52,730</b>	<b>(159,363)</b>

<sup>^</sup>Managed fund investment income includes funds managed on behalf of the Tynan-Eyre Memorial Fund. \$51,926 (2009) \$ 58,663 loss.  
\* Tynan-Eyre Memorial Fund scholarships \$22,650 (2009) \$10,800

This is an abridged version of the accounts of the Foundation which are audited by WHK Day Neilson. A copy of the full audited accounts is available on request to the Foundation or by going to the Foundation's web site at [www.esf.com.au](http://www.esf.com.au)

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash assets	44,091	9,333
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>44,091</b>	<b>9,333</b>
<b>Non current assets</b>		
Managed fund investments^	1,112,671	1,030,859
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,156,762</b>	<b>1,040,192</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Income received in advance	63,000	-
Payables	3,240	2,400
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>2,075</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,090,522</b>	<b>1,037,792</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated funds	1,090,522	1,037,792
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>1,090,522</b>	<b>1,037,792</b>

^ Managed fund investments include funds managed on behalf of the Tynan-Eyre Memorial Fund. \$ 471,670 (2009) \$436,744

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# ESF COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**Peter Lester**  
Chair  
Disaster and Relief Committee



**Shane Wright**  
Chair  
Scholarship Committee



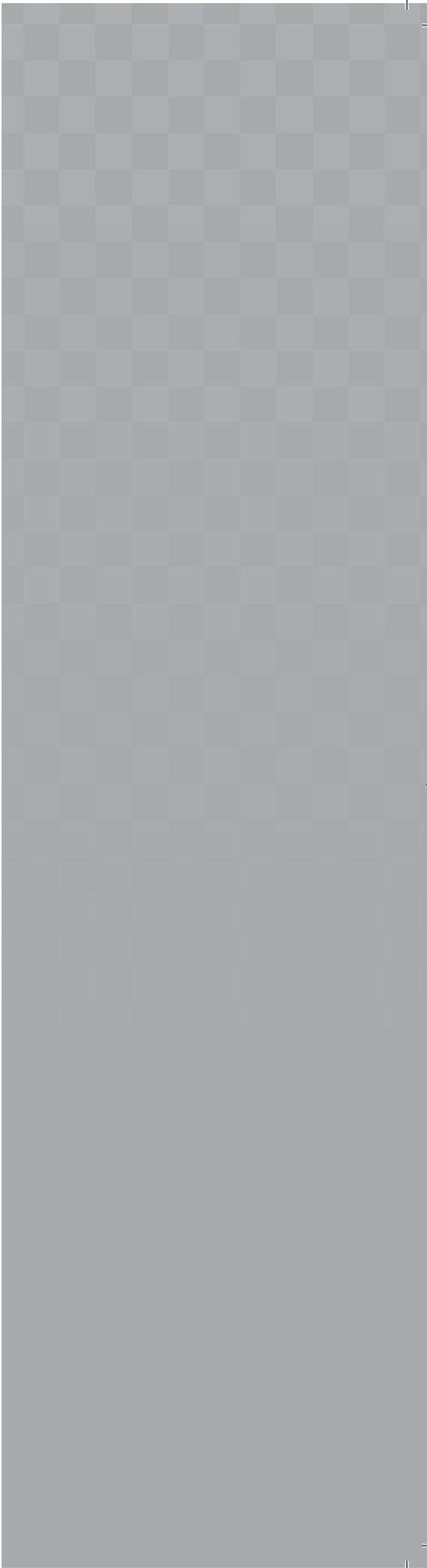
**Keith Adamson**  
President  
Alumni Committee



**Mark Swiney**  
Chair  
Conference Committee



**John Warburton**  
Treasurer / Secretary  
Finance & Risk Committee





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