



Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 2018

DELEGATE HANDBOOK

The rise of resilience: From the individual to the global
Enhancing recovery by supporting community resilience

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RUNNING CONCURRENTLY WITH **AFAC18 POWERED BY INTERSCHUTZ**

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Foreword



The Department of Home Affairs through Emergency Management Australia and the National Resilience Taskforce is pleased to support the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience and the 2018 Australian Disaster Resilience Conference.

It's almost ten years since the concept of shared responsibility for disaster resilience emerged in the policy vernacular – governments, organisations and individuals working together to prepare for, respond to or recover from disasters. Undoubtedly, communities have understood this idea for much longer, but the last decade has been key to bridging the divide between local experience and national strategy.

This inaugural Australian Disaster Resilience Conference is a significant milestone on our collective path. It's not every day we have access to such a diverse group of researchers and practitioners. We should seize this opportunity together, celebrating our achievements and generating the momentum we need to do more. We have grown, but so has the risk of more severe disaster events – we must press on to develop and sustain resilience thinking and practice into every facet of our daily lives.

We know that resilience is built on authentic partnerships. Different perspectives take us out of well-worn approaches and stimulate our creativity.

So much of this program reflects truly inspiring partnerships that we can all take something away from. Emergency service agencies partnering with our educators to build resilience in our young people. Government listening to the needs of rural communities and primary producers. The integration of leading research with Traditional Owner knowledge to gain insights into our environment. I encourage you to ask questions from both speakers and delegates, opening your mind to fresh opportunities for collaboration in your context.

In this changing environment, we owe it to our communities and our organisations to manage our resources wisely. The ability to measure both success and setback to enhance program design is critical. One of the themes that this conference will explore is what a national resilience index could look like, as well as examples of evaluation on the ground. Measuring resilience is challenging, but technological shifts and new methodologies present opportunities to communicate, plan, monitor and demonstrate impact differently.

Welcome to Perth. Take advantage of the opportunities to network, share good practice and broaden your thinking. I trust you will take home new ideas to benefit you and your communities, and I look forward to hearing your stories.

Mark Crosweller AFSM

**First Assistant Secretary
National Resilience Taskforce
Department of Home Affairs**

Welcome to the conference



The experience of a disaster is deeply personal; each community will be affected in different ways. Similarly, disaster resilience – the ability to withstand and

bounce back from more frequent, severe disaster events – isn't a one-size-fits-all.

Each community has its own strengths and vulnerabilities. However, we know that in all communities, we must collaborate. All sectors have a responsibility and a capacity to build resilience – governments, NGOs and not-for-profits, the private sector and local businesses, schools and academia, community groups.

And for this reason, we are so pleased to welcome you all to Perth – policymakers and program managers, researchers and practitioners, volunteers, educators, community leaders. How rare it is that we find ourselves all in the same room, and yet how important.

I encourage you to seize the opportunity to broaden your networks and your thinking during the conference. Develop your understanding from leading research. Engage in discussion and debate. Explore the AFAC18 Trade Exhibition. Meet speakers and browse the posters in the AIDR-hosted Knowledge Centre.

The conversations that take place at this conference and the partnerships that emerge from it will shape the national discourse around resilience in the coming years. On behalf of the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience, I welcome you to the inaugural Australian Disaster Resilience Conference.

Stuart Ellis AM

CEO

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

Running concurrently with



AFAC18 powered by INTERSCHUTZ is Australasia's leading emergency management conference and exhibition. The Australian Disaster Resilience Conference is running concurrently with AFAC18; the two conferences share keynote presentations and official ceremonies.

AFAC18 powered by INTERSCHUTZ is a joint venture between AFAC and Deutsche Messe. The conference program is co-produced with the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre.

In collaboration with



The Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative (MUDRI) harnesses internationally recognised strengths of the well-established research units within the Monash University Accident Research Centre and the rich expertise across the wider university. MUDRI reflects a multidisciplinary team with industry and academic experience in emergency public health, anthropology, evaluations, sociology, emergency management, social science and disaster risk reduction.

About the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) develops, maintains and shares knowledge and learning to support a disaster resilient

Australia. Building on extensive knowledge and experience in Australia and internationally, we work with government, communities, NGOs, not-for-profits, research organisations, education partners and the private sector to enhance disaster resilience through innovative thinking, professional development and knowledge sharing.

AIDR's approach to managing disaster resilience knowledge centres on building capability – going beyond the 'know-what' to facilitate the 'know-how.' This reflects AIDR's renewed focus on knowledge management and professional development; together, these functions guide all AIDR contributions to the disaster resilience sector. Consciously developing and sharing knowledge and professional development in tandem allows AIDR to build knowledge based on practical experience and research. This approach also supports AIDR to work holistically with a range of stakeholders, who are both contributors and beneficiaries of knowledge. AIDR will continue to be informed by a diverse network in the management of knowledge, promoting trust and a culture of shared learning, reflection and analysis.

AIDR's professional development program promotes the investment of individuals and organisations across Australia in creating healthy, safe, connected communities that are resilient in the face of disasters. The program informs and empowers individuals across the entire sector – from volunteers to management teams, representatives of government, the private sector, first response agencies and humanitarian organisations – through learning opportunities that help to progress their contribution to resilience.

AIDR is supported by its partners: the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, AFAC, the Australian Red Cross and the Bushfire & Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre.

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

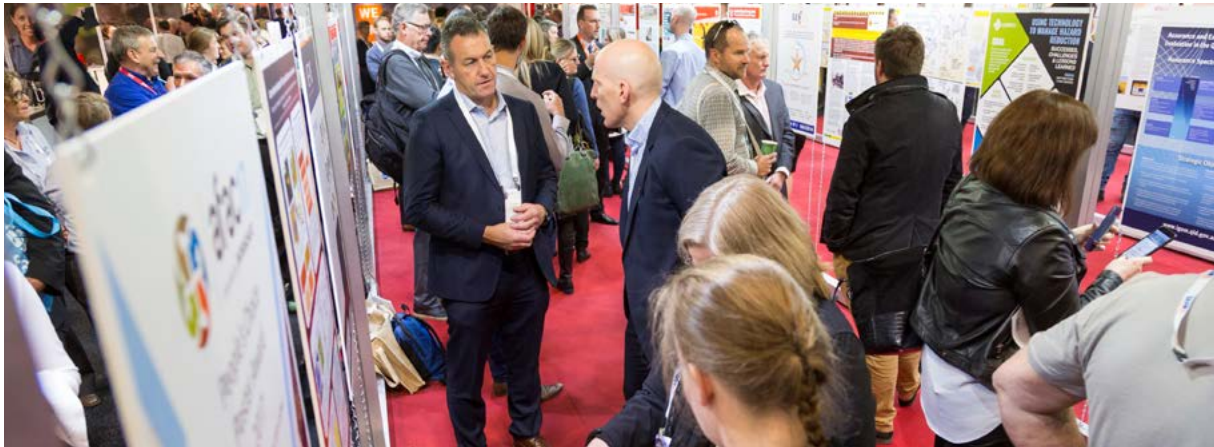


the
power of
humanity



bushfire&natural
HAZARDS CRC

AFAC18 powered by INTERSCHUTZ Trade Exhibition



Australian Disaster Resilience Conference delegates have full access to the AFAC18 powered by INTERSCHUTZ Trade Exhibition.

Delegates are encouraged to network, gain insight from speakers and view posters at the AIDR-hosted Knowledge Centre.

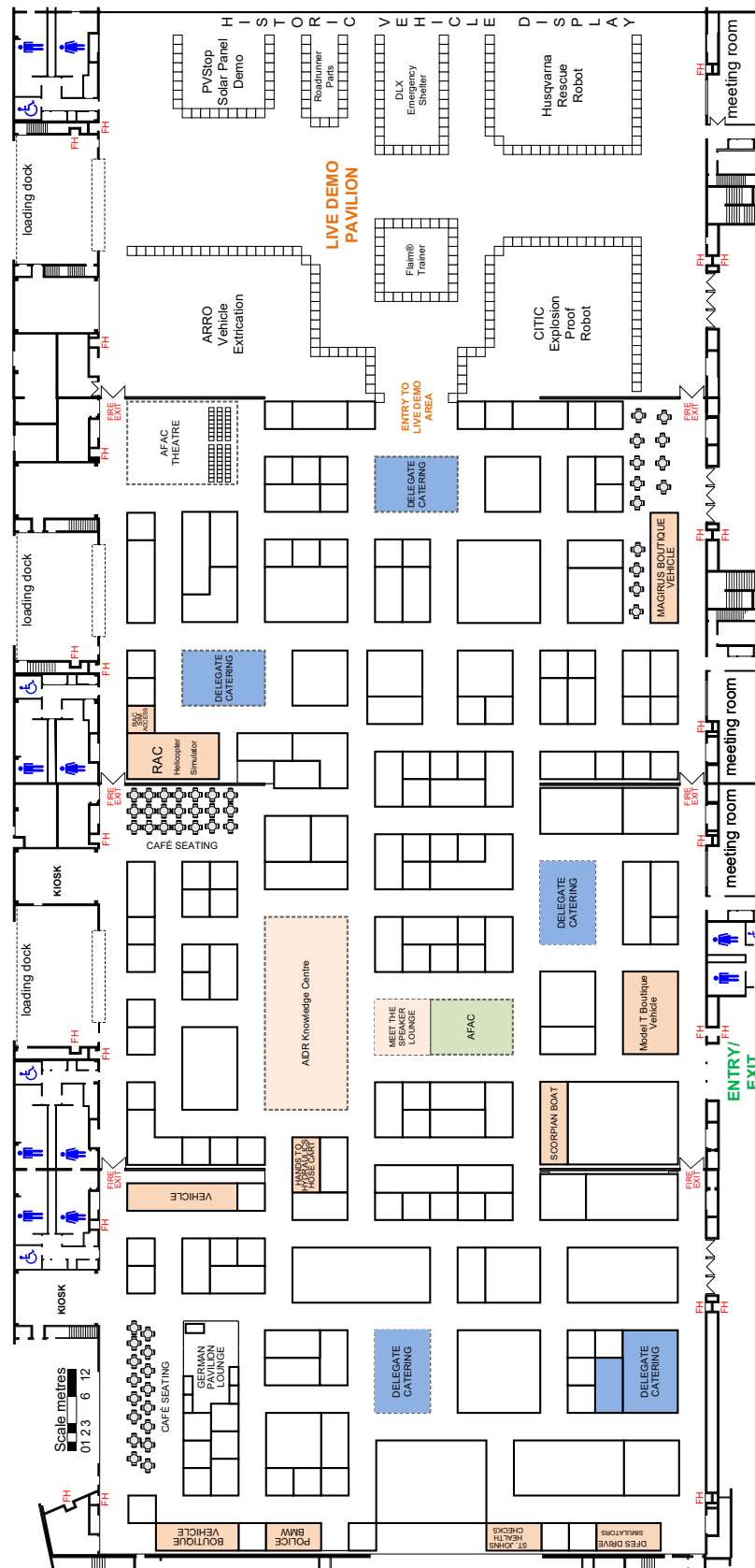
As part of the exhibition, delegates are also invited to learn from presentations on the Expo Stage. Delivered by guest speakers and exhibitors, presentations will equip attendees to put knowledge into practice across a range of salient topics. Themes include technology and innovation; resilience and preparedness; diversity and development; and community and engagement.

Refer to the program available in the Trade Exhibition for the full schedule of presentations.

Exhibitors

- Communication solutions for times of crisis, states of emergency and disasters
- Leading accredited training organisations
- Detection and surveillance systems
- Search and rescue technology solutions
- Emergency, rescue and public safety vehicles and equipment
- Rapid deployment shelter systems

Trade Exhibition map



Proceedings - Day One

THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

	Opening and keynotes, shared with AFAC18 (Riverside Theatre)
8.00am	Opening Ceremony
8.30am	Keynote: Craig Fugate Seven deadly sins of emergency management <i>former Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (United States)</i>
9.15am	Keynote: Eric Yap Transforming emergency response through innovation <i>Commissioner, Singapore Civil Defence Force</i>
10.00am	Keynote: Mark Crosweller AFSM Resilience and vulnerability: two sides of the coin <i>First Assistant Secretary, National Resilience Taskforce, Department of Home Affairs</i>
10.45am	Morning tea (Powered by INTERSCHUTZ Exhibition)
	New directions in resilience thinking (River View Room 5) Chair: TBA <i>Emergency Management Australia</i>
11.45am	Towards a disaster resilient Australia Stuart Ellis AM <i>Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience</i>
12.15pm	Building community resilience to meet future challenges Ronnie Faggotter <i>Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, South Australia</i> Linda Black <i>South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute</i>
12.45pm	Lunch (Powered by INTERSCHUTZ Exhibition)
	Measuring and assessing disaster resilience (River View Room 5) Chair: Suellen Flint <i>Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Western Australia</i>
1.45pm	Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index Dr Melissa Parsons <i>University of New England and Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC</i>
2.15pm	Local community and emergency organisational connectedness as a measure of disaster resilience Associate Professor Valerie Ingham <i>Charles Sturt University</i>
2.45pm	Program evaluation, preparedness and resilience – Examples from Western Australia Dr Rachel Armstrong <i>Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Western Australia</i>
3.15pm	Afternoon tea (Powered by INTERSCHUTZ Exhibition)
	Enhancing recovery through greater community resilience (River View Room 5) Chair: Erin Fuery <i>Australian Red Cross</i>
3.45pm	Current issues facing disaster recovery Kate Brady <i>Australian Red Cross</i>
4.15pm	Local empowerment and information management in a recovery context Graeme Milligan <i>Queensland Reconstruction Authority</i>
4.45pm	Strengthening resilience of primary producers, primary industries and farming communities Justine Drew <i>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, South Australia</i>
5.15pm - 6.15pm	Networking function featuring the Western Australia Resilient Australia Awards Ceremony (Southern Foyer)

Proceedings - Day Two

FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

	Disaster resilience strategy and policy (River View Room 5) Chair: Amanda Lamont <i>Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience</i>
8.30am	Australian Vulnerability Profile: Enhancing national preparedness for severe to catastrophic events Monica Osuchowski <i>Emergency Management Australia, Department of Home Affairs</i>
9.15am	Co-designing a disaster resilience strategy for South Australia Miriam Lumb <i>South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM)</i> Monica Ritz <i>Department of the Premier and Cabinet, South Australia</i>
10.00am	Morning tea (Powered by INTERSCHUTZ Exhibition)
	Education (River View Room 5) Chair: Brigid Little <i>Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience</i>
11.00am	Interactive Q&A session hosted by Dr Briony Towers, RMIT and Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC, featuring: Emergency resilience in the minds of students Tony Jarrett <i>New South Wales Rural Fire Service</i> Child-centred disaster resilience education in north-west Australia Linley Brown <i>Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Western Australia</i> Strathewen-Arthurs Creek bushfire education partnership Jane Hayward <i>Strathewen Primary School</i>
	Activities and case studies (River View Room 5) Chair: Noreen Krusel <i>Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience</i>
12.00pm	An Indigenous experience of disaster resilience, recovery and leadership Dr Margaret Moreton <i>Leva Consulting</i> and Phil Rist <i>Nywaigi Traditional Owner</i>
1.00pm	Disaster storytelling – Bridging the divide and building community resilience Sandra Whight <i>Tasmania Fire Service</i>
1.30pm	Lunch (Powered by INTERSCHUTZ Exhibition)
	Human behaviour to animals (River View Room 5) Chair: Dr Melissa Parsons <i>University of New England and Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC</i>
2.30pm	Strengthening resilience and recovery through better emergency preparedness and planning for animals Dr Megan McCarthy <i>Macquarie University and Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC</i>
3.00pm	Animal welfare in emergencies Amanda Nardi-Wallace <i>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia</i>
	Future state: Creating a disaster resilient Australia (River View Room 5) Chair: Amanda Leck <i>Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience</i>
3.30pm	Interactive forum facilitated by Andrew Huffer
4.30pm	Closing Ceremony, shared with AFAC18 (Riverside Theatre)

Conference abstracts

Seven deadly sins of emergency management

🕒 8:30AM, THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 **Craig Fugate – former Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (U.S.)**

Why do we see very similar issues raised in most after-action reviews following disasters?

This presentation looks at seven areas that lead to failed outcomes during disasters. Based on over 30 years managing disaster responses at the local, state, and federal levels, the presentation looks at common themes, observations, and lessons learned by the presenter.

The goal of the presentation is for audience members to challenge their assumptions on how to prepare their communities for disaster.



CRAIG FUGATE

W. Craig Fugate served as President Barack Obama's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator from May 2009 to January 2017. Previously, he served as Florida Governor Jeb Bush's Emergency Management Director from 2001-2009.

Craig led FEMA through multiple record-breaking disaster years and oversaw the Federal Government's response to major events such as the Joplin and Moore Tornadoes, Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Matthew, and the 2016 Louisiana flooding. Craig set a clear and compelling vision, mission, and priorities for FEMA and relentlessly drove the agency to achieve better outcomes for survivors. FEMA's effectiveness in dealing with more than 500 Presidentially-declared major disasters and emergencies under Craig's leadership restored the faith of the American people in the Federal Government's ability to respond to disasters.

During his time as Emergency Management Director for Governor Jeb Bush, Craig was widely praised for his management of the devastating effects of the 2004 and 2005 Florida hurricane seasons (Charley, Frances, Ivan, Jeanne, Dennis, Katrina, and Wilma).

Transforming emergency response through innovation

🕒 9:15AM, THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 **Eric Yap – Commissioner, Singapore Civil Defence Force**

In today's ever-evolving operating landscape, the life-saving community must plan ahead and stay future-ready, to better respond to the challenges ahead. Singapore is a small city-state with a densely built-up environment. It's also one of the world's leading energy and chemical industry hubs, and has one of the world's busiest land checkpoints. Key factors affecting emergency response, such as the threat of terrorism, increasing urbanisation, emergence of new safety risks, and increasing public expectations, all have an impact on operational response.

This presentation delves into the impetus and tools underlying the transformation journey of the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) to better address the demands of current and future operating landscapes. The SCDF takes a three-pronged approach in this transformation journey:

- leveraging technology and innovation;
- building a robust fire safety regime; and
- envisaging to build "A Nation of Lifesavers" by 2025

The mainstays of this journey comprises the use of technology and innovation as well as a basic paradigm shift in the relationship between the SCDF and the community. This approach positions the SCDF to better manage future challenges and is also adaptable to meet the needs of the future.



ERIC YAP

Eric was appointed by the Government to be the Commissioner of the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) in February 2012. In his 24 years of service, he has helmed a variety of key appointments such as SCDF's Director of Operations, Division Commander and Fire Station Commander.

Earlier in his career (1995-97), Eric spent three years as an Assistant Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), developing national crisis preparedness policies and programmes. In 2008, he returned to MHA as the Senior Director of the Homefront Security Division. He was then responsible for developing national security strategies and managing the implementation of security measures and capability development for response to any crisis situation across the Government.

Prior to his present appointment, Eric was the Senior Director of Emergency Services in SCDF between 2010 and 2011. That office oversaw all aspects (covering policy development, training and operations) of emergency services provision in Singapore.

Eric graduated in 1993 with a BA degree (First Class Hons). In 2000, he was appointed as a Foreign Fellow under the US Fulbright Program. Eric graduated with an MA degree from Emerson College, Boston, USA, in 2001. He is also a graduate of Stanford University's Executive Program (2009) through Graduate School of Business.

Eric was conferred the Republic's State honours of the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) and (Silver) by the President in 2004 and 2012 respectively.

Resilience and vulnerability – two sides of the same coin

🕒 10:00AM, THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 **Mark Crosweller AFSM – First Assistant Secretary, National Resilience Taskforce, Department of Home Affairs**



MARK CROSWELLER AFSM

Mark Crosweller has been recently appointed as the Head of the National Resilience Taskforce; he was formerly Director-General of the Emergency Management Australia Division of the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs.

He is now responsible for leading on national resilience policy advice and was formerly responsible for the coordination of Australia's response to crises, including disasters, and to terrorist or security-related incidents both domestically and internationally. As Director-General he was responsible for briefing the Prime Minister and Cabinet in all aspects of disaster management.

Mark has 34 years of operational experience including as a firefighter, as well as 20 years in senior executive leadership and strategic management. During this period he has led major strategic reform at the national, state, territory and local government levels in governance, strategy, policy, operations and capability.

Mark is currently researching the ethical premise of leading people through the adversity and loss of disasters for his PhD. Mark was awarded the Commissioner's Commendation for Service in May 1999, the National Medal for Distinguished Service in June 2000 and the Australian Fire Service medal in June 2003.

Towards a disaster resilient Australia

🕒 11:45AM, THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 **Stuart Ellis AM – CEO, Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience and AFAC**

In the context of a changing climate, we're facing more frequent, more severe disaster events. It's more important than ever that we invest in disaster resilience – building the capacity of our communities to withstand and bounce back from the increasing destructive disasters they will face.

The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) works with a broad stakeholder group – governments, NGOs, emergency service agencies, community groups and the private sector – to develop, maintain and share resilience knowledge, and build capability through professional development. AIDR's programs and services are increasingly oriented towards outcomes that support the sector to put leading research into practice.

This presentation will outline AIDR's contribution to disaster resilience in Australia through a range of programs and services, including its flagship publications – the Handbook Collection and the Australian Journal of Emergency Management; a range of education and professional development programs delivered nationally; and curated resources made freely accessible online.

AIDR is supported by its partners: the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, AFAC, the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre and the Australian Red Cross.



STUART ELLIS AM

Stuart Ellis AM is CEO of the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) and AFAC.

Stuart is an experienced leader in the emergency management industry. Following a distinguished 22-year career in the Australian Army, he was appointed CEO/Chief Officer of the South Australian Country Fire Service for five years. In 2002, Stuart established a consultancy company and has been involved in over 20 operational reviews, including the Canberra bushfires, the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission and the Christchurch earthquake. He is passionate about improving the professional standing of fire and emergency personnel and has a focus on progressing an industry-wide, integrated approach to emergency management.

Building community resilience to meet future challenges

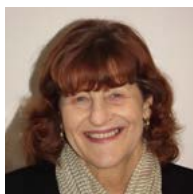
🕒 12:15PM, THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 **Ronnie Faggotter** – Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, South Australia
👤 **Linda Black** – South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute

The State Recovery Office within the South Australian Department of Community and Social Inclusion and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) Wellbeing and Resilience Centre have joined forces to deliver a community-based Resilience Skills Training Program for residents who have lived through a bushfire.

Since 2015, the SAHMRI Wellbeing and Resilience Centre has created a global reputation for its evidence-based practice in leading a society-wide implementation of wellbeing and resilience measurement; tailoring programs with the express purpose of supporting individuals to better manage their mental health and wellbeing. The joint project worked with Pinery residents from the northern region of South Australia and applied social resilience theory as described by Maguire and Hagen. It is based on the premise that building resilience can be more effective, both for individuals and the community in which they live, by using a social resilience approach in the training program. The Resilience Skills Training Program teaches ten skills framed around the PERMA wellbeing domains (positive emotion, engagement, relationships, meaning and accomplishment). These skills have their roots in various evidence-based psychological treatment methods such as cognitive behaviour therapy and motivational interviewing. The training equips participants with a toolkit of practical resilience skills that they can begin to use immediately.

This session will present the preliminary findings of delivering this resilience skills program in the Pinery community. It will also explore the theme of future-proofing our societies by concurrently developing individual and community resilience, so that future challenges can be dealt with more effectively. Our joint goal is to develop individual, community and state capacity to be better placed to prepare for mental health challenges that arise from disaster experiences.



RONNIE FAGGOTTER

Ronnie Faggotter is the Director of the State Recovery Office (SRO) within the South Australian Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ronnie worked within public housing for over twenty years in a broad range of roles before being seconded to manage the State Recovery Centre, established following the Wangary Bushfire on the Eyre Peninsula in January 2005. The SRO was established shortly thereafter to support long-term recovery efforts on Eyre Peninsula as well as to establish state plans, policies and procedures relating to recovery.

Her key focus at the SRO has been increasing the state's disaster recovery capacity and the resilience of communities. Ronnie is involved in state and national Emergency Management Committees. Since January 2005 she has also been involved in a number of events including the Virginia Floods, Kangaroo Island Bushfires, the Sampson Flat Bushfire and Pinery Fire in 2015.



LINDA BLACK

Linda has worked in senior roles as a clinical and organisational psychologist, in a range of organisations within the public and private sectors for over 20 years.

In London she combined her psychology, management and research interests, working on the set up of a mental health/physical health integration program with King's Health Partners, an academic health science centre in Central London.

In Adelaide she has worked with the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute Wellbeing and Research Centre, focusing on translational research in the area of psychological health and wellbeing.

The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index

🕒 1:45PM, THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 Dr Melissa Parsons – University of New England and Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC

The Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index (ANDRI) is Australia's first national-scale standardised snapshot of disaster resilience. The ANDRI has a hierarchical design based on eight themes: social character; economic capital, infrastructure and planning; emergency services; community capital; information and engagement; governance, policy and leadership; and social and community engagement.

This session will present the findings of the assessment as strengths and opportunities for disaster resilience in Australian communities. For example, in most of Victoria and coastal New South Wales, disaster resilience is enhanced through strong community capital (cohesion, connectedness and coordination for mutual benefit). Across Australia, disaster resilience is enhanced in many areas by strong infrastructure and planning (the capacity to prepare for natural hazards using land-use planning, mitigation or disaster planning), while restricted in other areas by a lower capacity for land-use or disaster planning.

Remoteness is also a key driver of disaster resilience. Remote and sparsely populated communities have less capacity for disaster resilience than populated communities, because of lower economic capital, lower per capita access to emergency services, lower community capital and less well-developed resources for planning for hazards.

The ANDRI state of disaster resilience results highlight potential focal areas for national, state and local policy and program development to enhance disaster resilience.



DR MELISSA PARSONS

Dr Melissa Parsons is a senior lecturer at the University of New England (Armidale) with broad-ranging and interdisciplinary research interests in social-ecological systems, disaster resilience, resilience assessment, large flood disturbances and river ecology and management. Melissa works at the interface between theoretical and applied science, examining the ways that concepts such as resilience can be applied to deliver management and policy outcomes.

Melissa currently leads the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC project to develop an Australian Natural Disaster Resilience Index. Other projects she is involved with examine attitudes towards natural hazards, the psychology of driving behaviour in floods, social capital in disaster recovery, citizens' juries for community engagement and emergency management in the university sector.

Local community and emergency organisational connectedness as an indicator of disaster resilience

🕒 2:15PM, THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 Associate Professor Valerie Ingham – Charles Sturt University

Both the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience and the Community Engagement Framework Handbook place a strong focus on shared responsibility; directing local community and emergency service organisations to cooperate in building local disaster resilience. How does this work in practice, and how is the consequent resilience to be measured?

A research partnership between Charles Sturt University (CSU), Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC), and two neighbourhood centres received ethical approval from CSU in 2014 to research community connections within the Blue Mountains. The project employed a participatory action framework and involved a survey facilitated by BMCC, and interviews and focus groups with community members, including vulnerable people and their carers as well as community leaders.

This presentation explores the community leader interviews and focuses on organisational connectedness prior to and after the October 2013 fires in the Blue Mountains. The findings from the leader interviews – regarding connecting community and emergency service organisations for disaster preparedness – have been reported in other articles; in this presentation, we go one step further to examine the concept that the strength of organisational connectedness within a community may provide a measure of a community's disaster resilience.

We will explore whether the strength of community organisational connectedness is a function of previous disaster experience. We triangulate our findings with other recent disaster experience in various Australasian communities reported through inquiries, research articles and lessons learned documentation. We conclude by considering whether, rather than measuring a community's resilience through a household-by-household or postcode basis (as we did previously), the strength of a community's resilience could be measured by determining the degree of connectedness between local community organisations and services.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR VALERIE INGHAM

Associate Professor Valerie Ingham lectures in emergency management at Charles Sturt University. She is a founding member of the Disaster and Community Resilience Research Group; her research interests include community resilience, disaster recovery and the tertiary education of emergency managers and fire investigators.

Over the last few years, her research has focused on highlighting the importance of local community organisations in building community connections for disaster resilience, with a focus on Bangladeshi and Australian communities.

Program evaluation, preparedness and resilience – Examples from Western Australia

🕒 2:45PM, THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 **Dr Rachel Armstrong – Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Western Australia**

The Western Australian Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) Community Preparedness Directorate (CPD) has recently developed a monitoring and evaluation framework to support consistent evaluation and improvement of its preparedness programs. The framework identifies five intended outcomes that CPD programs contribute to, and an overarching program theory that clarifies how preparedness programs intend to effect change. The outcomes and approach are aligned to the DFES strategic priorities and the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

Although there is good practitioner knowledge on how to engage with communities to improve disaster preparedness, the outcomes of community engagement activities and their contribution to disaster resilience can be difficult to measure. Improved preparedness requires behaviour change, and this can take a long time to occur. Individuals and communities have different needs, and different levels of readiness to engage in disaster preparedness and therefore require a tailored rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

To improve the relevance and reach of our programs, DFES works with local volunteers and stakeholders. This localised, partnership-based approach can make it difficult to collect consistent data about how programs are impacting communities. Overcoming these challenges and evaluating preparedness programs is essential to demonstrate results and to build knowledge of how best to design and implement programs that make a difference in the future.

This presentation will draw on examples from DFES preparedness programs, and program evaluation, to show how the programs seek to influence disaster resilience and how their contribution to disaster resilience can be measured.



DR RACHEL ARMSTRONG

Rachel Armstrong is an evaluation and strategy analyst in the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) Community Preparedness Directorate in Western Australia. Her work focuses on assessing the contribution of DFES community engagement programs to preparedness and resilience outcomes.

Rachel has a PhD in policy studies. She spent two years as a post-doctoral researcher in the area of community engagement and sustainability, prior to joining the public service to work in environmental policy and programs in 2011.

National Recovery Workshop – Current issues facing disaster recovery

🕒 3:45PM, THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 Kate Brady – Australian Red Cross

In August 2017, the Australian Red Cross held the National Recovery Workshop in partnership with the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR). The workshop brought 80 people from around Australia together for two days in Melbourne. Participants included representatives from disaster-affected communities, government, academia, community organisations, emergency response agencies and the private sector.

The objective of the workshop was to undertake discussion and debate to refresh the Australian recovery agenda. Several high-level challenges and recommendations were identified at the workshop, which speak to the future direction of disaster recovery in Australia.

Challenges identified:

- The formal recovery system and impacted communities need to be better connected.
- Existing evidence is not consistently used in recovery policy and practice.
- Recovery planning needs to be based on community consultation and inclusion prior to disaster events.
- Recovery needs to be better integrated with preparedness, response and broader resilience efforts.
- A nationally consistent approach to lessons management would improve recovery policy and practice.

Recommendations:

- Resourcing should be available and identified for pre-disaster recovery planning.
- Training in community development approaches should be identified and available for emergency managers.
- Recovery funding systems should be more flexible and needs driven.
- Future recovery funding should be evidence-based.
- Funding should be made available for recovery research which has practice-driven outputs.
- The Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) needs to invest a larger portion of its available funds to recovery-focused research.
- Recovery research should be prioritised by jurisdictions, including through the CRC.
- The recovery workforce needs to be able to have access to evidence-based professional development, training and resources.
- AIDR should investigate recovery lessons-sharing forums.
- States should advocate for recovery to be incorporated into emergency management exercises.



KATE BRADY

Kate Brady is the National Recovery Adviser for Australian Red Cross Emergency Services, where she is responsible for coordinating the development of all recovery services and activities undertaken around the country. In this role, Kate has worked on disaster recovery efforts in every state and territory in Australia, and with the New Zealand Red Cross to support the Canterbury earthquake recovery efforts.

She is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Melbourne, looking at the things that help most during recovery from the perspectives of disaster-affected people.

Prior to her role in the national team, Kate headed up the Red Cross Victorian Bushfire Recovery team, developed to support community recovery following the 2009 Victorian bushfires. In 2010, Kate was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to look at long-term recovery in the United States, United Kingdom and China. Prior to joining Red Cross, she worked with young people in protective care and in various roles for the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance and the United Nations International Labour Organisation in Geneva.

Local empowerment and information management in a recovery context

🕒 4:15PM, THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 **Graeme Milligan – Queensland Reconstruction Authority**

The agency responsible for recovery and resilience policy in Australia's most disaster-impacted state, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has learnt valuable lessons in promoting a locally-led approach to recovery. Our experience of events like Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in 2017 has refined those lessons.

To harness our experience, we have developed six key areas of focus with two elements in common: local empowerment and accurate information. Disaster-impacted communities face complex issues, and the key to supporting them in recovery and resilience building is the management and use of accurate information.

Graeme Milligan will demonstrate how QRA works with communities to develop Local Recovery Plans, and how empowerment and accurate information are critical components in their success. Local Recovery Plans enable communities to make the most of their assets, resources and people to chart a resilient path forward.

Local recovery planning is complemented by QRA's Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2017, developed in consultation with a range of recovery and resilience experts from across the state. Local communities can harness this work to explore the best information, advice and solutions on recovery and resilience.

Both local recovery planning and the strategy are highly dependent on accurate information; as such, the QRA has developed data management systems that document disaster damage and track recovery operations. Through collecting and analysing data, QRA supports local communities to make informed decisions.

Data analysis also enables QRA to identify trends and patterns that link communities struggling to recover. Similar communities are encouraged to collaborate, to recognise barriers and develop strategies to overcome them. Through this combination of local empowerment and information management, QRA is working to help local communities make Queensland the most disaster-resilient state in Australia.



GRAEME MILLIGAN

Graeme Milligan is the Acting General Manager of the Resilience and Recovery Team at the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. Graeme has over 30 years' experience in senior government roles specialising in water resources, environmental management and disaster resilience.

Since 2011, Graeme has led a series of projects to strengthen the flood resilience of Queensland communities, including the Queensland Flood Mapping program which provided 12,000 flood mapping products for 172 flood-prone communities. Most recently, Graeme has led his team to pilot a new regional collaboration approach to strengthen local resilience through the Burnett Catchment Flood Resilience Strategy, which is now being piloted in a further five locations across the state ahead of state-wide implementation.

Other team achievements include the release of Queensland's largest flood study, the Brisbane River Catchment Flood Study in May 2017, and implementation of a best practice approach to the management of the flood warning gauge network across Queensland.

Strengthening resilience of primary producers, primary industries and farming communities

🕒 4:45PM, THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 Justine Drew – Primary Industries and Regional Development, South Australia

Primary Industries and Regional Development South Australia (PIRSA) is a state government economic development agency assisting primary industries and regions to grow and innovate. Our focus is on a collaborative approach with primary producers, where community and industry-led initiatives deliver the most successful outcomes. PIRSA also supports primary producers and primary industries in emergency response, relief and recovery, in collaboration with other government and non-government agencies.

The frequency and severity of adverse events in South Australia is increasing; so is the demand for support to primary producers, farming communities and primary industries in recovering from these events. In response, PIRSA has developed the Adverse Events Recovery Framework for Primary Production that promotes a community-led approach in preparing for and implementing recovery activities that severely affect primary industries.

Previous approaches to strengthening agricultural resilience have concentrated on family farm businesses via a series of training modules that develop technical and business skills; such as a successful property management planning program in the 1990s. Analysis of recent events in South Australia, such as the Pinery and Sherwood fires and Gawler River flood, has highlighted differences between the levels of pre-event community resilience that influence aspects of recovery. A number of economic development opportunities have also emerged because of these events, contributing to community and industry resilience. This has prompted PIRSA to consider how future agricultural programs can incorporate elements of personal resilience to underpin business resilience activities.

This presentation will outline how PIRSA has been applying community-led principles in recovery and modern resilience approaches in the agricultural sector. Case studies from recent South Australian events will demonstrate the key points.



JUSTINE DREW

Justine Drew is a Team Leader in Rural Solutions South Australia, the regional delivery arm of Primary Industries and Regional Development South Australia (PIRSA). She has 20 years' experience working with regional communities on a range of land management topics.

Justine is part of a team that has recently re-established a disaster recovery function within PIRSA and has had a role in leading agricultural recovery in recent events such as the Pinery fire, the Gawler River Flood and the Riverland hailstorm. Justine and her colleagues apply their extension skills within a community-led recovery framework to help primary producers and primary industries recover from events that severely affect agricultural production and profitability.

Australian Vulnerability Profile: Enhancing national preparedness for severe to catastrophic events

🕒 8:30AM, FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 **Monica Osuchowski** – Emergency Management Australia, Department of Home Affairs

Hazards that shock, that are beyond our experience and that test our limits are increasingly occurring across Australia. Sudden shocks place significant stress on all aspects of society and the economy. As our dependency on access to interconnected systems increases, any damage or disruption to these systems will impact our lives; affecting our sense of suffering, grief or loss – mentally, physically or emotionally.

While it is not possible to prevent natural hazards from occurring, a better understanding of the drivers of disasters – and working together to determine where and how we can be better prepared as a nation – is central to minimising harm and upholding public trust and confidence. Identifying what matters to people, engaging more deeply with values, places and people's experiences, and better communicating the complexity of the past, present and future in disaster risk reduction can help us make better decisions and build our resilience. Enhancing preparedness in this context necessitates a change in thinking about the problems contributing to disasters and the creation of new forms of knowledge to support decision making.

In collaboration with the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee, Emergency Management Australia instigated the Australian Vulnerability Profile (AVP) project to deconstruct and narrate what makes Australians vulnerable when severe to catastrophic events impact what people and society value. Recognising that all levels of government, industry, academia, communities and households have a role to play in reducing disaster risk and the impact of disasters, the AVP approach was co-designed with CSIRO to ground the project in social science methods, and co-developed in collaboration with a range of project partners and stakeholders across Australia. The AVP contributes new official, national knowledge to inform the development of strategic policies, adaptive strategies and national capabilities for dealing with disasters and improving national preparedness.



MONICA OSUCHOWSKI

Monica Osuchowski recently joined the National Resilience Taskforce within the Department of Home Affairs. She has worked in the disaster management sector since 2004 and played a lead role in integrating science and research into policy and operations in various roles with Geoscience Australia and Emergency Management Australia.

Monica has a Masters in natural hazards and disasters and has led the development of strategic vision for Geoscience Australia's support of disaster management at the national level and coordinated interagency capability and geospatial support during major emergencies.

Monica enjoys tackling complex, intractable problems. She developed a successful approach for defining the severity of disasters and is currently managing the Australian Vulnerability Profile project, devised to answer: what makes Australia vulnerable to disaster when catastrophic events impact what people value?

Co-designing a disaster resilience strategy for South Australia

🕒 9:15AM, FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 Miriam Lumb – South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM)
👤 Monica Ritz – Department of the Premier and Cabinet, South Australia

Disaster resilience means something different to us all. It crosses organisational boundaries and sectors such as emergency services, health, climate change, infrastructure and business. It's bigger than government; all of society has a role to play. Acknowledging this complexity, SAFECOM (South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission) partnered with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to apply a user-centred design (UCD) approach to the development of a disaster resilience strategy for South Australia.

Rather than telling people what to do, the resulting solutions are from the people, for the people. The UCD approach placed the needs, wants, and limitations of South Australians at the centre of the process. User research engaged over 500 people across government, not-for profits, the private sector and regional areas to obtain a deep understanding and their pain points in this space. The research findings identified key themes which drove the identification of 44 potential solutions. These will be continuously refined by looking at viability and cost/benefits, and working with all groups across the sector.

The resulting co-designed solutions will feed into the disaster resilience strategy and will form an initial roadmap to resilience for South Australia; with a strong emphasis on how government, business, the non-government sector and individuals can work together to positively contribute to building the disaster resilience of South Australian communities.

Miriam Lumb and Monica Ritz will share the challenges of applying a UCD approach within the government landscape, and some of the surprising and not so surprising outcomes that have formed a roadmap for the state to continue building and supporting the resilience of its people.



MIRIAM LUMB

In her current role at the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM), Miriam works to facilitate a greater focus on resilience across the emergency management sector. She is currently developing a disaster resilience strategy for South Australia, applying user-centred design methodology to engage communities, business and all levels of government in the development of the strategy.

Miriam spent six years in emergency services with Red Cross in Australia and the Philippines; following Super Typhoon Haiyan, she worked in an operational capacity and on community resilience initiatives. She has worked for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, managing the Smarttraveller public information campaign and supporting crisis response.

Miriam has a Masters in social change and development, specialising in organisational leadership and capacity building. She has a strong commitment to creating positive and lasting behaviour change through the participation of community and other sectors in addressing complex problems.



MONICA RITZ

Monica's background is firmly fixed in project management with extensive experience using Prince2, Agile and user-centred design (UCD). She has worked for household brands such as BBC, Formula 1, Red Bull Racing and Vodafone, in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Since returning to Adelaide in 2012, Monica has worked for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, supporting internal business units and external departments to engage their customers with regards to products, policy or strategy transformation. Monica has also delivered successful products using UCD/Agile for Housing SA and the Department of Transport and Infrastructure.

Emergency resilience in the hands and minds of students – Developing resilience through collaboration and quality educational challenges

🕒 11:00AM, FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 Tony Jarrett – New South Wales Rural Fire Service

St Ives North Public School is located in a high-bushfire-risk, urban-interface area in Sydney adjacent to the Ku-ring-gai National Park. In 2016, a team of Years 5 & 6 teachers at the school developed Project FireStorm in 2016. This exciting, innovative and award-winning project addressed the educational goals of the K-6 New South Wales syllabus for the Australian Curriculum with an emphasis on Geography, as well as incorporating STEM subjects: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The project supported an integrated approach to teaching and learning about bushfires using problem-based learning strategies.

Project FireStorm involved staff and students from Stage 3, Department of Education consultants in Mathematics and Science, the Ku-ring-gai Rural Fire Brigade volunteers, and staff from the New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Community Engagement Unit. The open-ended nature of Project FireStorm allowed students to engage deeply in 'project-based learning' around a real-life, authentic local problem. That problem was expressed as a 'driving question': How can the community of St Ives North Public School prepare for, survive and recover from a catastrophic bushfire? The inquiry learning aspects of the project highlighted the capacity and capability for young people to rigorously investigate the impact of bushfires on people and places, identify problems and issues, and propose solutions.

NSW RFS now better understands the educational value of inquiry learning and the strong connection that can be made to teacher-led disaster resilience education. SINPS are now mentoring other schools in aspects of STEM activity; particularly on implementing Project Firestorm localised to school and student needs. NSW RFS is actively scaling up Project Firestorm in schools by building the capacity of members to support students and teachers with this Stage 3 bushfire unit. NSW RFS is also scaling up the lessons learnt through the project through a Schools Engagement Strategy, supporting resources and professional development opportunities.



TONY JARRETT

Tony spent nearly 20 years at Penrith City Council in western Sydney. During that time, Tony managed a number of management and administration support functions including Council meetings, elections, neighbourhood facilities and cemetery operations.

After leaving Penrith Council in 2007, Tony joined the New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS), working mostly in the Community Engagement Team; supporting District volunteers and staff to engage their residents, groups and communities to reduce the impact of bushfire. Most recently Tony has been working with NSW RFS members and education sector stakeholders to develop and implement the NSW RFS School Communities Engagement Strategy. Tony continues to be an active NSW RFS volunteer firefighter.

Child-centred disaster resilience education in the north-west of Australia

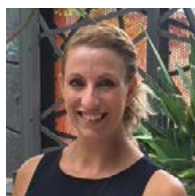
🕒 11:00AM, FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 Linley Brown – Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Western Australia

Child-centred disaster resilience education is recognised as a priority in the Australian Government's National Strategy for Disaster Resilience, with research indicating that children play a vital role in managing and reducing disaster risks. In early 2014, the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) initiated a three-year applied research project, 'Building best practice in child-centred disaster risk reduction' to help address this priority. As an end-user of this research project, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), has been utilising the findings and guiding tools of the research project in the development of new disaster resilience education programs for Western Australian schools.

One such program is North-West Bushfire Patrol, a school education program for the north-west region of Australia. Released to schools in February 2018, this program aims to raise students' awareness and perceptions of risk to bushfire and its consequences; further developing a range of skills to help them respond to bushfire when it occurs. This program is unique in that it seeks to address bushfire education in a manner that is geographically and culturally appropriate for this area of our state. The development phase focused on ensuring the program was particularly relevant and suitable for remote Aboriginal schools of the north-west region.

This presentation will address how DFES used the latest research from the CRC in the development of the North -West Bushfire Patrol with particular reference to 'Disaster Resilience Education: A Practice framework for Australian Emergency Management Agencies.' The initial implementation phase of the new school education program will be discussed, challenges and successes highlighted, and early program results presented with the aim to share lessons learnt and recommendations for future disaster resilience education programs.



LINLEY BROWN

Linley Brown is the Youth Strategy Research and Development Coordinator at the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) in Western Australia. After completing a science undergraduate degree, Linley went on to complete a post-graduate degree in education, which saw her work as a high school science teacher in both Australia and the United Kingdom. After gaining experience working in a classroom setting, she moved into the role of a specialist education provider, working for a number

of government organisations providing schools and teachers with curriculum support and training.

Given her passion for education and experience working on bushfires for the former Department of Parks and Wildlife, moving to DFES in early 2017 was a natural fit; she has enjoyed working to improve disaster resilience within school communities.

Linley is currently studying a Masters in strategic communications; her study fits well with her current role at DFES where she is required to plan, implement, market and evaluate community education strategies as part of the DFES School Aged Education Program.

Strathewen-Arthurs Creek Bushfire Education Partnership – Learning to love where we live once again

🕒 11:00AM, FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 Jane Hayward AM – Strathewen Primary School, Department of Education, Victoria

Following the Black Saturday bushfires, our young people displayed heightened anxiety and distress as the fire season approached. Dealing with the impact of trauma, grief and loss, the children faced many challenges. The school had a major role to play in building resilience and equipping students with skills to manage life in a high-fire-risk area.

The award-winning Bushfire Partnership evolved when local Country Fire Authority (CFA) volunteer Lisal O'Brien connected with Jamie McKenzie, who was leading the CFA Survive and Thrive pilot program. Discussions began with the teaching Principal, Jane Hayward, at Strathewen Primary and the program commenced in 2016.

Driven by need, the primary focus was to aid in recovery, reduce distress and build resilience by empowering students with knowledge. Investigating fire behaviour, students look closely at local topography and fuel loading. They work on understanding the Fire Danger Rating System and explore their responsibilities in relation to living in a bushfire risk area.

Student engagement in the project has been incredible; students have formed connections with CFA volunteers and experts in emergency management. Having created a movie and a picture storybook to share information on bushfire preparedness, students drive the program, providing a true sense of ownership.

Families, the wider community and emergency services are also involved; participating in 'community helper' days, working with students and attending presentation events. Local communities have formed strong, new connections, as a direct result of the program.

The outcomes to date have exceeded expectations; the longevity of the program is paramount. With student involvement, Dr Briony Towers from RMIT and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre has evaluated the program. Students have presented their projects to local and wider audiences and their book and film are being used as teaching tools in schools. The partnership is an outstanding program model and an example of a community working together to support resilience education.



JANE HAYWARD AM

With almost 30 years of teaching in Victorian primary schools behind her, Jane is passionate about education and the small school setting. Her focus on student welfare and wellbeing underpins all that she does. She has been the teaching Principal at the small, rural school in Strathewen since 2007.

The school community suffered incredible loss in the Black Saturday bushfires of 2009 with high loss of human life. She has rebuilt her school and led her school community through some very challenging times. Out of necessity, Jane has explored many ways to strengthen community, whilst building resilience, promoting wellbeing and fostering opportunities for self-expression and personal growth with students.

Working closely with local Country Fire Authority volunteer Lisal O'Brien, Jane has been involved in the development and implementation of the Strathewen-Arthurs Creek Bushfire Awareness Partnership since 2016. Now in its third year, the program has been recognised with several awards and commendations.

Jane was presented with the National Excellence in Teaching Award in 2010 and was recognised with a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2012, for services to the Strathewen community.

An Indigenous experience of disaster resilience, recovery and leadership

🕒 12:00PM, FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 Dr Margaret Moreton – Leva Consulting
👤 Phil Rist – Nywaigi Traditional Owner

This armchair conversation between Dr Margaret Moreton and Girringun Aboriginal Corporation Executive Officer Phil Rist provides an opportunity for audience members to hear from a respected Indigenous leader about the issues of community resilience and recovery. It also provides them with the opportunity to participate in a conversation about the core issues of community resilience and recovery.

Phil is a widely respected Indigenous leader who has led the establishment and strengthening of the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation, based in Cardwell, Queensland. Phil will share the challenges and opportunities that arose for him and his community in the wake of Cyclone Yasi in 2011. He will describe the disaster recovery process and the role of his community, particularly young Indigenous men and women, in the broader community recovery process across the region.

The session will explore:

- community leadership
- community vulnerabilities and assets
- community recovery and resilience
- external support and assistance
- the long-term view.

Audience members will be encouraged to ask questions, contributing to the conversation and ensuring that the issues that matter most to them are included in the session.



DR MARGARET MORETON

Margaret Moreton works to strengthen community resilience, through emergency planning and preparation, and community recovery and renewal. She supports communities to identify, understand and strengthen their assets and to develop or galvanize the necessary resilience to face and then emerge from natural disasters such as fires, flood and cyclones, and for other crises and challenges.

Her consultancy practice brings together 30 years of experience within government, much of that in senior leadership roles; her work with local government, the non-government sector, and community groups; and her research and expertise in relation to community resilience and disaster recovery in Australia. Margaret has interviewed over 120 community leaders and members about their lived experiences of fire, flood or cyclone. She has also interviewed high-profile leaders of disaster recovery in Australia including Sir Peter Cosgrove, Anna Bligh, Christine Nixon and Richard Wilson.

Margaret has been published in the *Australian Journal of Emergency Management*. She is a member of a number of key emergency management groups and bodies including the ACT (Ministerial) Bushfire Council.



PHIL RIST

Phil Rist is a Traditional Owner from the Nywaigi people. He has extensive experience in cultural, land and water management. Phil is the Executive Officer and a founding member of the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation based in Cardwell, North Queensland.

Phil chairs the Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and the Indigenous Arts Centre Alliance. He is the Deputy Chairperson on the North Queensland Land Council. An Aboriginal Traditional Owner Representative Director, Phil sits on the board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority and the North Queensland Tropics Board.

Phil was the first Indigenous Marine Park Inspector, employed for seven years with the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service. He eventually became Ranger-in-Charge of the then Northern Section of Lumholtz National Park; he was later instrumental in the change of the park's name to Girringun National Park. Phil is the first Indigenous Governor appointed by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Australia Board.

Disaster storytelling – Bridging the divide and building community resilience

🕒 1:00PM, FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 Sandra Whight – Tasmania Fire Service

Challenged to build resilient communities as a national priority, it is important we find ways to engage communities that is meaningful. Bombarding people with information has a limited reach; storytelling and sharing of real life experiences has been found to have a great impact.

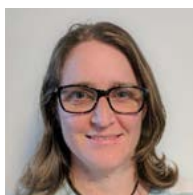
Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods is the Tasmania Fire Service's community engagement program. The team of community development officers engage stakeholders in targeted high-bushfire-risk areas; collaborating to develop activities with residents building bushfire resilience.

During the 2014-15 engagement program, many residents spontaneously shared their experiences of the 1967 Black Tuesday fires at meetings; recalling the historic bushfire event as if it had just happened. The Tasmanian community was severely impacted by the fires; 62 lives were lost, 900 people were injured and over 7,500 people became homeless. It was observed that these stories had a significant impact socially, environmentally and historically.

In 2017, with the Black Tuesday 50-year anniversary looming, a collaborative 'share your story' participatory engagement project was undertaken. A video booth toured the state for 13 months, recording over 400 stories, and a '67 Bushfires Storymap was subsequently created.

The team utilised the sharing of these personal stories of local disaster history as peer education; the information shared by survivors had more impact changing behaviour than advice provided by 'the agencies.' The 1967 Bushfires Share Your Story project is an example of an innovative community collaborative approach to building resilience – a new way to engage families, neighbourhoods and broader communities.

Through an approach like this we get much greater community buy-in; subsequently it is easier for our messages to be heard and understood within their community context. Presenting the collected stories is now one of many resource tools used to engage and inform people to share responsibility towards bushfire preparedness.



SANDRA WHIGHT

Sandra has over 20 years' experience in the industry, coming from a land management background. She joined the Tasmania Fire Service in 2013, and is a passionate advocate for prevention and mitigation programs.

Sandra's work focuses on the challenges facing the sector driven by a changing climate, and the need to find new and creative ways to prepare ourselves and the community.

“If he is the only thing I drive away with – that’s fine by me”: Strengthening resilience and recovery through better emergency preparedness and planning for animals

🕒 2:30PM, FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 Dr Megan McCarthy – Macquarie University and Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC

Limited literature exists in emergency management research on the impacts of animal death, or extended separation from companion animals, on the recovery of owners after disaster events and emergencies. In the areas of mental health and anthrozoology, studies conducted with disaster survivors have revealed that separation from, and loss of, a pet are strongly associated with psychopathology.

During research conducted as part of the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre Managing Animals in Disasters (MAiD) project, anecdotal evidence strongly supported these findings, with people impacted by disaster reporting that the death of their animal/s caused stress, prolonged sadness, guilt, and impacts on daily functioning. Given this evidence, we posit that planning for animals in emergencies, and maintaining the bond people have with their animals, directly and positively impacts recovery trajectories.

In this presentation, we will review the evidence for protecting animals to improve human recovery. We will discuss this alongside findings of a survey conducted with 330 animal-owning residents of the Blue Mountains, New South Wales – a high-risk, bushfire-prone area. Although over 70 per cent of respondents had considered their animals in their emergency planning, most planning activity was restricted to thinking about and discussing *what* to do. Up to half did not have a plan for *where* they would take all their animals if they evacuated.

Many respondents kept multiple animals of different species, meaning a lack of clear planning could lead to indecision or evacuation inertia in emergency situations and the potential for animals to be left behind. Many respondents who had experienced bushfire recommended that planning for animals be undertaken within the community; including the involvement of neighbours, family, and local veterinarians. In this context, we will consider the role of community in emergency preparedness for animals and reflect on the implications for community resilience and recovery.



DR MEGAN MCCARTHY

Megan is an anthropologist with an interest in human-animal relationships. She recently completed a PhD examining animal welfare and the roles of cats and dogs in people’s lives in Thailand.

Megan was a researcher on the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre project Managing Animals in Disasters (MAiD): improving preparedness, response, and resilience through individual and organisational collaboration.

Animal welfare in emergencies: Benefits and challenges of integrating animal welfare into emergency management for disaster resilience

🕒 3:00PM, FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 **Amanda Nardi-Wallace** – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia

The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience recognises the need for coordinated and cooperative approaches to withstanding and recovering from disasters. Recent post-incident reports have identified the need for improved consideration of animal welfare in emergencies. Disasters requiring an emergency response, such as fires, floods, cyclones and earthquakes, have the potential to affect animals. Previous incidents have identified that a lack of adequate planning for animals and their welfare in emergencies can result in poor last-minute decisions; these have resulted in dangerous and even fatal consequences for both animals and their owners and carers.

In Western Australia, fatalities occurred in the Esperance Fires in 2015 while carers were attempting to move a horse to a safe location. In 2016, the 'Reframing Rural Fire Management: Report of the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire' continued to identify challenges faced by owners/carers and animal welfare responders integrating into the response and recovery from the Waroona Fire. While the responsibility for an animal's welfare remains with the person in charge of the animal, better planning and coordination can contribute to improved human, industry and community outcomes. Attempts to incorporate animal welfare into emergency management in Western Australia have been ongoing since at least 2013.

In 2018, the State Emergency Animal Welfare Plan will be finalised. The appointment of a State Animal Welfare Emergency Coordinator aims to progress the integration of animal welfare in the Western Australian emergency management structure and improve community resilience of animal welfare for disaster events.



AMANDA NARDI-WALLACE

Amanda is the State Animal Welfare Emergency Coordinator with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in Western Australia. She has over 13 years' experience with the Western Australia State Government, and private industries within the natural resource and emergency management sectors.

Amanda spent six years with the HMA for Marine Oil Pollution and Marine Transport Emergencies (Department of Transport), preparing emergency management and contingency plans, procedures and tools. She has a Bachelor of Science (marine and environmental) and trained at the former Australian Emergency Management Institute in Mount Macedon.

Future state: Creating a disaster resilient Australia

🕒 3:30PM, FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

👤 Andrew Huffer – Andrew Huffer Associates

The first Australian Disaster Resilience Conference comes at a key juncture for the emergency management and disaster resilience sector. The establishment of the National Resilience Taskforce signifies the rise of resilience in the national policy discourse. On the ground, our collaborative efforts to build resilience in communities are gaining traction.

This interactive session will capitalise on the breadth of knowledge and experience gathered by this conference. Participants will discuss salient themes and issues, synthesising ideas to influence thought and practice nationally.



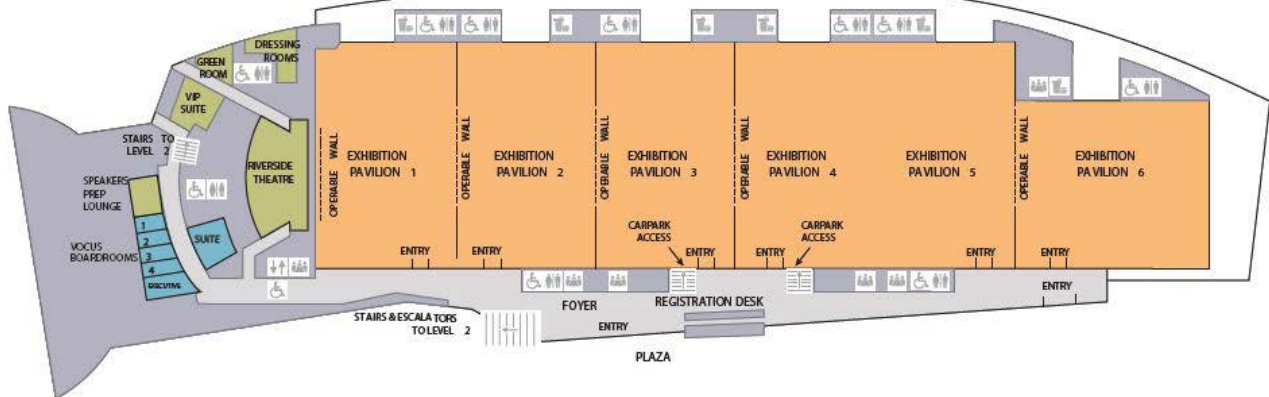
ANDREW HUFFER

Andrew is an experienced facilitator and stakeholder engagement consultant with 23 years' facilitation experience and over 17 years in business.

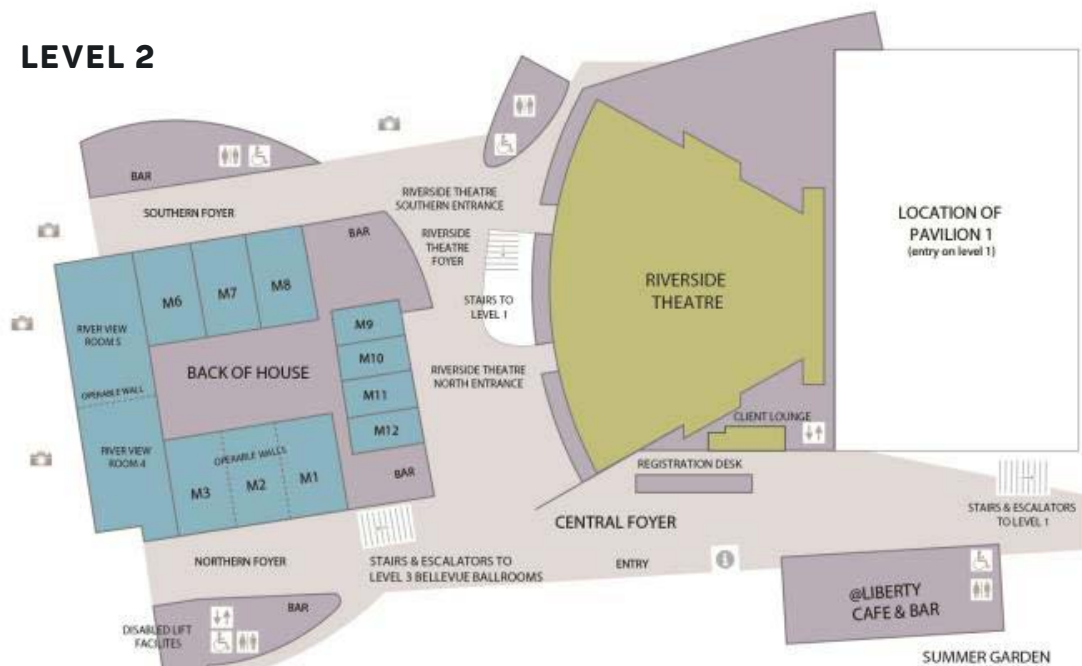
Andrew has a practical approach to facilitation, community engagement and professional development. He has developed and delivered tried and proven programs based on his own professional expertise and experience, in a range of sectors right across Australia and overseas.

Venue map

LEVEL 1



LEVEL 2



General information

VENUE

Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
21 Mounts Bay Road, Perth WA 6000

TRADE EXHIBITION OPENING HOURS

Wednesday September 5: 1:00pm to 6:00pm

Thursday September 6: 8:00am to 5:00pm

Friday September 7: 8:00am to 3:30pm

REGISTRATION DESK

The Conference Registration Desk is located on Level 2 of the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

CLOAKROOM

Cloakroom facilities are located beside the Conference Registration Desk on Level 2 of the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

NAME BADGES

Delegates are required to wear their badges to all conference and catering sessions. Uniformed security will be manning the doors of the Exhibition and conference room, and badges are required to gain access.

To aid in the collection of contact details for exhibitors, each name badge has been printed with a unique barcode. Some exhibitors will have scanners which can record the contact information of visitors to their stand. Exhibitors will ask for permission before badges are scanned.

NETWORKING FUNCTION

Delegates are invited to a networking function following the close of proceedings on Thursday at 5:15pm. The function will feature the Western Australian Resilient Australia Awards ceremony.

SMOKING

Smoking is not permitted in the venue.

INSURANCE

The hosts and organisers are not responsible for personal accidents, any travel costs, or the loss of private property and will not be liable for any claims. Delegates requiring insurance should make their own arrangements.

WIFI

Access to the free wireless internet service is available throughout the venue via the main PCEC internet portal page. Once your 60 minute session has expired, you will be redirected back to the portal page where you are welcome to access the free wireless internet service again.

1. Connect to the PCEC_Wireless network.
2. Open an internet browser which will then be redirected to the PCEC portal page.
3. Accept the terms and conditions by ticking the box under the 'Select Plan' button.
4. Click on the 'Select Plan' button and you will be redirected to a page where you can select either a free 60 minutes by clicking 'Select' or a free 90 minutes by clicking 'Login with Facebook.'
5. Once the time limit has been reached, you will be redirected back to the portal page where you are welcome to connect again.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Keep up-to-date with the latest conference news on Twitter by following @AIDR_News.

Inspired by a session? Want to share something thought-provoking that a speaker said with other delegates? Did a panel session spark your imagination? Let us know what you think using the hashtag #ADRC2018.

Please ensure any tweets or other content shared on social media is respectful of speakers and other delegates.

MOBILE PHONES

Please ensure your mobile phone is turned to silent during any session you attend.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions of the speakers do not reflect the opinions or position of AFAC, AIDR, the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC or Hannover Fairs Australia.



Round Four of the Emergency Management Volunteer Scholarships Program opens on 3 September.

The Emergency Management Volunteer Scholarships recognise the key role played by volunteers in the emergency services. The scholarships support emergency service volunteers to access accredited vocational and higher education, developing key skills and leadership capability.

Volunteers may receive up to \$12,000 for completing vocational education and training and up to \$25,000 for higher education.

The Emergency Management Volunteer Scholarships are funded by the Australian Government and managed by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience.

For more information visit www.aidr.org.au/scholarships



Upskill with the Volunteer Leadership Program in 2019

The Volunteer Leadership Program (VLP) is a dynamic residential program, delivered across three days for emergency management volunteers with aspirations to support their organisation's leadership.

The VLP is a challenging and rewarding experience aimed at providing the foundations for capability and confidence in leadership. The program introduces practical leadership frameworks using interactive activities led by engaging and experienced facilitators.

The VLP is delivered by the Australian Red Cross on behalf of AIDR and is supported by members of the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum.

VLPs take place across Australia throughout the year, in every jurisdiction. The 2019 delivery schedule will be released online later in September.

For more information, visit www.aidr.org.au/vlp