



SES

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE - KALBARRI

MAY 2015

Operation in April :- Sandstone Search for missing prospectors.



Friday 3rd April - Deployed team to search area (approximately 30km from Sandstone - population around 50). Prospecting couple had been missing for a couple of weeks, their main camp had been located after their dog had been found several kilometers away. Teams from Kalbarri, Geraldton, Morowa, Carnarvon, Kalgoorlie and Metropolitan areas, joined teams of police in searching a large area (approximately 5km by 5km). The search ground was littered with shafts and tunnels, DFES with DOT divers searched in some of the deeper water filled shafts. The initial search was suspended after 2 days after no clear indication was found.

Tuesday 7th April - Search resumed with second team deployed (a distance of around 700km to the search ground with 2 vehicles). The area was searched in more detail looking for signs of the missing couple. A deceased male person was found in a tunnel but was initially thought not to be directly related to the two missing people.



May 2015 Scheduled Activities

Date	Time	Activity	Organiser(s)
Weekend 2nd/3rd		Regional Air Observers Course Geraldton	Ado DeKleer
Monday 11th	18:45	Bull Ring challenge—first aid and variety of activities	SteveC
Monday 25th	18:45	Navigation, Search Patterns, procedures and Exercise	SteveC
Continuing		Work on New Outdoor Classroom project	Mac

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Kalbarri SES May report (continued).

Friday 10th April - A third team was deployed by air to replace the second SES deployment team. Each morning and evening the Wapol (Search hazard manager) search ground controller provided latest briefings and search teams were added to with many Wapol officers under SES (search combat agency) team leader control.

Further shafts were found during the second searches making a total of around 50, each of which had to be investigated. There were many small and very large racing goanna lizards poking their heads out of their man made homes (the dangerous large ones were circumvented carefully - they did not liked being disturbed - the flies were more friendly).

After each mornings search tasks the teams returned to the search area control base for cool drinks and sandwiches. The evening meals were more organized by this time and accommodation in 'donga's' although basic and in short supply was provided to all searchers. A few had to commute to Mt Magnet each day.

When search teams were augmented with many police in the last two days, it was clear that the 'SES orange' was of clear benefit as the dull blue overalls of police, without 'hi-viz' waistcoats, became almost lost in bush shadows. So the SES volunteers had to be spread out amongst the wapol officers, so that the search lines could remain visible.

The search was suspended and the third team returned to Kalbarri by vehicles on Monday 13th April. (DNA tests on the male deceased person was later confirmed that he was one of the missing prospectors.).

Training and other activities :-

13th & 27th April :- Regular training activities included map reading, radio communications and 'out there' scenarios to test and practice lessons learnt and revised.

SES/VFRS Outdoor Classroom Project is underway with concrete footings put in, the 'kit form' delivered (with shortages) and should be completed within the next weeks. [Mac Holt]

