



Welcome to the first news brief of Michael's research group, Emergency Volunteers Project (EVP). Research work started in earnest from the second quarter of this year and we are finally in a position to communicate current initiatives and progress.

Dr Michael Jones is the Research Leader for the Bushfire Natural Hazards CRC (BNHCRC) research project, "Improving the retention and engagement of volunteers in emergency services" which is part of the "sustainable volunteering" cluster of the BNHCRC research theme, "resilient people, infrastructure and institutions".

There are four streams of research in the EVP project:

1. Volunteer expectations and experiences in emergency services. This is a research project by PhD candidate Bill Calcutt.
2. Redesigning leadership-self-determination theory and emotional intelligence. A program developed by a multidisciplinary team of University of Wollongong academics. Research is conducted by doctoral students Vivien Forner and Nick Popov.
3. Gender balance research study.
4. An examination of emergency management cadetship programs.



University of Wollongong LDP team.

Left to right: Dr Joakim Eidenfalk, Vivien Forner, Nick Popov, Dr Senevi Kiridena, Dr Dominique Parrish and Dr Michael Jones

Leadership Development Program

The LDP was developed with financial assistance of a University of Wollongong Global Challenges Seed Grant and BNHCRC Grant. Based on the self-determination theory and emotional intelligence, the inaugural course hosted 35 leaders from the NSW emergency



services.

The program consists of two training days and an online component plus surveys for leaders and their direct reports.

The launch took place on Friday 19 September and was attended by Professor Tim Marchant, acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, University of Wollongong; The Hon. Gareth Ward MP, Member for Kiama; Major-General Brian (Hori) Howard AO, MC, ESM (Ret'd), AEMVF; Greg Newton, Assistant Commissioner NSW SES and Bronwyn Jones,

Director of Membership and Strategic Services NSW RFS. The first training day, held at UoW was on the Saturday following the launch and was well received by the participants. The final training day will be held at the Sydney Business School, Circular Quay in November. Analysis of this experimentally-designed program will be carried out after the program

closes. It is hoped that additional validity post-analysis will bolster the general appeal of the LDP for wider end-user interest and appeal, with the aim of national adoption and dissemination. Please direct enquiries about the program to mjones@uow.edu.au.

Gender balance

In June, research assistant Hui-Ling Wang, Dr Yoke Berry and Dr Michael Jones were invited to the Roundtable Discussion "Economic Impact on Women in Disaster Affected Areas in Australia" at Parliament House. The event organised by the National Rural Women's Coalition and Economic Security 4 Women gave the researchers an opportunity to listen to the many different presenters and network extensively.

The research team is currently preparing field enquiries into this area of study. The goal of this research is to understand what phenomena are active in shaping attitudes and perceptions around gender in emergency services.

Cadetship program

Michael travelled to Perth in August by invitation of the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services to visit several brigades and units which have a successful cadetship program. He interviewed a cross-section of emergency service organisations who each engage their youth in different, yet equally successful ways.



Michael and Hui-Ling at Parliament House



Bill and Michael attended the AFAC conference in Wellington last month where they both displayed a research poster. In addition, Michael presented the paper "Cultural Collisions-The problems of sustaining a volunteer workforce in the NSW SES". He has since met with the NSW SES to discuss the recommendations offered in his paper. The two returned with new ideas, contacts and extra appreciation for the emergency services.



Bill and Yoke

EVP Project Leader
Dr Michael Jones
School of Management, Operations and Marketing, Faculty of Business
University of Wollongong NSW 2522
mjones@uow.edu.au
www.uowblogs.com/evp

Text & design by Dr Yoke Berry, EVP Project Manager. yoke@uow.edu.au