

Saturday, 10 May 2008

NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR MILLICENT SES UNIT

Emergency Services Minister Carmel Zollo has officially opened a new **\$511,000** State Emergency Services headquarters at Millicent in the State's South-East.

The new building, on the existing SES site includes training facilities, offices, three vehicle bays, a meeting area and a staff welfare area.

“This government is committed to supporting our Emergency Services volunteers and we continue to work to provide them with comfortable, functional facilities,” Mrs Zollo says.

Before work got underway last year, the Millicent SES Unit (formerly the Wattle Range Council SES) was housed at the same site, but in a Council-owned building.

“A new name, to better reflect the primary town that supports the unit, and now brand new premises signify a period of significant change,” says Mrs Zollo.

“And I hope the relationship that the Millicent Unit has forged with the local community will continue to grow.”

The Millicent SES Unit has 14 active volunteers and covers a vast area - from the boundaries of Mount Gambier to Kingston and north to Penola.

In the past calendar year the Unit responded to 72 rescue incidents, ranging from Search and Rescue operations through to Wind and Storm damage locally, in other areas of the state and also through the provision of members to support the South Australian deployment to New South Wales.

Members have also provided fire support activities both locally with CFS and also during the bushfires late last year on Kangaroo Island.

“Their willingness to not only help their immediate communities, but to also go much further afield to help others in need is also very typical of these dedicated volunteers.

“It's important for us to keep thanking our volunteers and I am happy to have presented a number of certificates and awards today.”

Mrs Zollo and SES Chief Officer, Stuart Macleod presented:

- Meritorious Service Certificates;
- Training Certificates;
- Foundation Member Certificates of Appreciation; and
- Millicent Unit Assistance Appreciation Awards.

“I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of the government and the people of South Australia to the past and present Unit Managers for their leadership, and also to both the foundation members of this Unit and our volunteers for their dedication,” Mrs Zollo says.

“These are outstanding people who give freely of their time to help keep their communities safe.”