

SAAScene



SAAS says goodbye
to one of its own



Government
of South Australia
SA Health



SA
Ambulance
Service

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Pulse
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Find the latest edition of SAAScene and Pulse, as well as all back issues, on SAASnet.

Contributions, including articles and photographs, are welcome from all SAAS staff. Please ensure you have received approval from your line manager before submitting.

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Cover Pic: More than 150 operational staff formed a guard of honour for Russell's final journey.



It's been a very difficult period for the SAAS family, with the untimely and tragic death of one of our own, ICP Russell Liston. Russell was a good ambo – a truly outstanding clinician, a highly respected educator and a much loved friend and colleague.

As a community, we were honoured to be able to facilitate a full Service funeral for Russell, in line with his family's wishes. In what was a very moving and overwhelming experience, with over 150 uniformed operation staff forming a guard of honour for Russell's last journey, I consider this farewell reflective of the enormous contribution Russell made not only to SAAS, but to the lives of many South Australians.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the incredible support you showed as a community - to Russell, to his family and to each other. My hat goes off to you and the way you have all coped despite these very sad circumstances.

Now, on a positive note, I'm thrilled (but not surprised) to report that for the fourth year straight, paramedics have been voted by Reader's Digest as Australia's most trusted profession.

To top it off, our very own Joe Magliaro has been quoted in the article, commending paramedics for their emotional resilience, adaptability and capacity to work in a team. Joe has said *"It's about the ability to articulate themselves with people from all walks of life.... Having worked with ambos for 16 years as a doctor of psychology, I see what they do and what they do is an exceptional job."*

An exceptional job - I couldn't agree more. And, from a SAAS point of view, credit must go to you for your contribution to this national reputation.

In more good news, the brand new Orroroo and Booleroo Centre ambulance stations were officially opened on 19 June. What's most exciting about this is that for the first time, the ambulance officers who dedicate their time to these two communities now have purpose-built facilities to call their own.

Saying goodbye is never easy

Both stations were officially opened by Mr Leon Bignell MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, who praised our local volunteers as 'the lifeblood of their communities'. I was happy to be able to attend the ceremonies, along with Keith Driscoll, to see the drastic improvement in the facilities that the local crews can now utilise. Have a look at page 6 for more details about what these facilities have to offer.

In what is a relatively recent development, our SDMs now have access to the SA Health Organisational Business Intelligence (OBI) Dashboard. What this means is that they're now able to determine trends which reflect when a given hospital is reaching capacity, and direct the flow of patients accordingly. In this month's SitRep on page 3, SDM Steve Tasker talks in more detail about the benefits this has created for our on-road crews.

Finally, on the subject of the State Budget for 2011- 12, it has been announced that the total operating expenditure for the Health Portfolio is \$4.63 billion – with an additional \$161 million over four years in operating and investing expenditure.

In what represents a 119% increase in spending since 2002, \$4.715 billion will be spent across all government agencies on health services and functions. The capital expenditure of \$497.8 million is also a record for SA Health.

So the good news for SAAS? The 2011-12 Budget incorporates investment in SA's infrastructure, which includes building a new ambulance station at Mount Gambier. But on the other, more difficult side of things, SA Health is required to reduce the number of its executive/director positions to contribute to saving requirements. Sadly as a result, the position of Regional Finance Director, held by John Ats, was disestablished as at 1 July.

John has been with SAAS since 2008, and part of the Workforce Division since January 2010. He has contributed much to the ongoing success of both organisations and we're certainly sorry to see him go. Thanks for your hard work John, and all the best.

Ray Green
Chief Executive Officer

In memory of

Russell Liston

13 January 1977 - 1 June 2011





Sitting around a table with some of the people who knew Russell Liston best, the tremendous impact he had on so many people within SAAS is unmistakable.

Amidst warm laughter whilst reminiscing about the good times, his colleagues speak of Russell's infectious smile, his adventurous, fun-loving outlook, his compassion and vocal support for all things living, his love of fitness, his kindness and respect, and the time he always made for those around him.

Russell was a good ambo. As an

Intensive Care Paramedic and Clinical Educator, Russell's skilled, professional care made an enormous difference to the lives of countless South Australians.

Described as his own harshest critic, it would surely overwhelm Russell to know of the influence his exceptional clinical skills and knowledge have had on his colleagues. This will be reflected in the ongoing practice of those who worked with him to positively impact the lives of SAAS's patients for years to come.

Even in passing - a tribute to the man

he was - Russell continued to give life and hope to others by donating his organs to people who needed them most.

Russell is now at peace. But, his legacy will live on in the very fabric of SAAS. As a community, we will continue to do the job that Russell loved so much, with happy memories always in our hearts.

Russell: goodbye from all who knew you, worked with you, were mentored and taught by you. Thank you for the way you brightened our lives.

