

29.09.2014
Mr A. Boyd
President
Toyota Land Care Club of Australia
PO Box 2
Bankstown, NSW. 1855



Dear Andrew

On behalf of the NSW State Emergency Service, Windellama Unit, may I may I take this opportunity to again say "thank you" to you and the Toyota Landcruiser Club of Australia. Your recent assistance in making available your training facility at Willowglen, is truly appreciated. Thanks to you, we were able to train and assess six more SES members in Four Wheel Drive Operations. The candidates included Swiftwater Rescue Technicians, Flood-boat Operators and Storm Response volunteers.

As we have discussed, the NSW State Emergency Service is the Combat Agency directly responsible for supporting our community in the event of Floods, Storms and Tsunami. Across much of rural and regional NSW, the SES is also the principle Rescue service, providing the cornerstone Road Crash Rescue, Vertical Rescue & Alpine Rescue outside the major Metropolitan areas and Flood Rescue services across the entire State.

In communities such as Windellama where Ambulance services can be over an hour away, the SES Community First Response unit also provides a highly trained, truly life-saving service, often resuscitating and stabilising casualties until air or ground based medevac services arrive. Providing these services safely and effectively, requires the highest level of commitment to training and professional development. While the SES is a Registered Training Organisation, it is 'staffed' by a small number of paid personnel and over 9000 Volunteers. Most 'give up' 40 -50 nights a year for ongoing training and typically 8-12 weekends a year, in addition to the time they invest on active service during incidents.

It is in that context that you might understand just how invaluable it was to be able to use your Willowglen facility for our local area volunteers. Not only is the facility ideally suited for virtually every aspect of the course, its proximity to the homes of our members meant that they didn't need to take time off work to travel. Similarly, they were able to get home at a reasonable hour on Sunday night and spend at least some time with their families. These factors are very important to many volunteers.

You, more than most people will also appreciate that emergency services volunteers who are charged with the responsibility of driving under Operational conditions, need both on road and off-road driving competency. Attaining that skill is made much easier when we receive the level of support you have provided.

You may also be interested to know that subsequent to the training undertaken at Willowglen, two course participants undertook the successful rescue of two casualties from a vehicle trapped in flood waters near Crookwell. The benefits to our community are already proven and significant. It would be wonderful if you could consider allowing us to come back occasionally.

Thank you,

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Kinder', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Graham K Kinder
Unit Controller