

State Emergency Service **Media Release**



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Tea Tree Gully unit wins fourth national rescue title

Tea Tree Gully State Emergency Service (SES) Unit has taken out its fourth National Disaster Rescue Competition (NDRC) after narrowly defeating a team from Port Macquarie over the weekend.

The crack team defeated the team from New South Wales by the slimmest of margins – just 12 points – at the competition, which was held in South Arm, just outside Hobart.

Tea Tree Gully amassed a total of 845 points while Port Macquarie scored 833 points. A team from Alice Springs finished third on 764 points.

Teams from each Australian state were put through their paces and judged in a series of simulated exercises over the two days designed to test their rescue and response skills.

The exercises included storm damage, sandbagging, point-to-point navigation, a steep angle rescue and a scenario where they had to protect and preserve an incident scene following a plane crash.

Team member Matt Skeldon also won the best first aider category at the championship.

Team Manager Andrew Buckle said the team had a number of members who had never competed at the national level before.

“But they trained hard, particularly in the last couple of months, and had a special team dynamic that you just can’t buy. It also helped that they get on so well together,” he added.

Apart from Andrew and Matt, the Tea Tree Gully team comprised Team Leader Leon McLean, Deputy Team Leader Travis Devine, Emily Stock, Callum Hue and Nick Turner while Ken Tung was the reserve member.

SES Deputy Chief Officer Dermot Barry, who attended the two-day event in Tasmania, said he was very proud of the South Australian teams’ efforts.

“They were very professional and skilled in what they did and showed a great deal of teamwork. Tasmania SES should also be congratulated for putting on a really fantastic and well run event,” Mr Barry said.

Tea Tree Gully earned the right to represent South Australia following its win in the State Rescue Challenge at West Lakes in May.

Tea Tree Gully has previously won the national competition in 1994, 2001 and 2011.

Note to media: Tea Tree Gully SES unit will arrive back in Adelaide this afternoon at 4.30pm on Virgin Australia flight VA231. Photographs from the competition are available to the media on request.