



Meeting Summary 14 November 2008 (No. 10)

- A list of Disaster Preparedness Cooperatives in Australia is as complete as possible. Groups in each state and territory have been identified and contact details provided in most cases. It was agreed that this list should be reviewed every 6 months and would not be provided on the website. The list will be made available to BSA pillar organisation executives.
- A list of Asia-Pacific organisations active in cultural heritage or emergency response remains embryonic. Currently only national Blue Shield Committees under construction are on the list. Each pillar organisation is encouraged to add its pillar connections to the list.
- A follow-up meeting with Mr Morris Bradley of Emergency Management Australia (EMA) regarding the feasibility of a joint EMA / BSA symposium highlighted the need for a tight proposal to take this idea forward. Mr Sweet (ICOM), Mr Lueth (ICA) and Ms Birtley (Secretariat) represented the BSA at this meeting.
- The EMA meeting also clarified the degree to which EMA itself is able to help BSA achieve its objectives. The BSA Committee agreed to alter its strategy to achieve support for cultural heritage in disaster scenarios. Letters requesting briefings to the Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Chief of the Australian Defence Force and the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs will be individually crafted, not copied. This task is of high priority.
- The Committee agreed that completion of the 2 year BSA Forward Plan is a priority task. A teleconference in mid-December will be held to allow pillar groups to review the task list and nominate areas of activity for their pillar organisation. A face-to-face meeting of the Committee from 9 February 2009 was also foreshadowed. Pillar organisations will be asked to endorse the BSA Forward Plan.
- The draft Operating Guidelines have been revised to cover 'all types of emergency', rather than only natural disasters and armed conflict. Discussion of the 'steering group' concept within the draft Guidelines led to the suggestion that these groups be involved for project work only.
- The Committee supported a proposal to provide disaster bins to winners of the annual Community Heritage Grants Program. BSA to prepare a proposal and seek sponsorship for this proposal to coincide with promotion for the 2009 rounds of CHG and the BSA MayDay Campaign (9 March 2009).