

# AJEM BOOK REVIEW

*Communities living with hazards*

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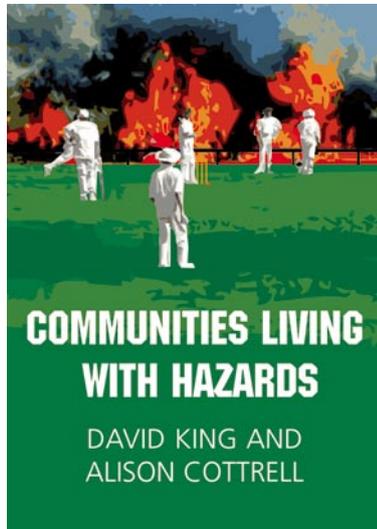
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**Published by:**

**The Centre for Disaster Studies,  
James Cook University**

**ISBN No: 0 86443 752 8**



The terms 'community' and 'vulnerability' are widely used in the contemporary emergency management literature. Indeed, it seems likely that every issue of this Journal over the past twenty years has contained some consideration of either or both concepts.

This lengthy monograph, produced to mark the 25th anniversary of the Centre for Disaster Studies at James Cook University, is a valuable contribution to the ongoing consideration of these central

themes, especially given its focus on the more remote regions of Australia's north.

Whilst each of the eleven papers contributed by staff or researchers at the Centre address various aspects of community and vulnerability, there is a refreshing diversity of perspective and approach across the volume. The case studies reported on consider the range

of hazards typically encountered across northern Australia including tropical cyclones, bushfires, floods and droughts. One paper considers the vulnerability of tourist-dependent communities to those relatively easy-to-forecast natural hazards, as well as the unpredictable hazard including tsunami and terrorism. The subject communities range from Aboriginal outstations and 'dinner camps', to major regional cities such as Cairns, and on to the international tourist centres of Bali and Thailand.

Each of the papers demonstrates the enormous value of undertaking careful, scientifically-based, post-event studies. The insights gained in such studies are invaluable to those emergency managers who accept that their role goes well beyond the traditional PPRR model.

If there is a weakness in the papers, it is their very limited recognition of the more comprehensive emergency risk management process as distinct from the PPRR model.