



SESVA

from the Presidents desk...

Gordon Hall
SES Volunteers Association



September 2016

Overview

This newsletter is being released on the fifteenth anniversary of the attack on the twin towers in New York. We live in interesting times and the role of the SES Volunteers was born out of the Civil Defence.

This weekend we have launched the first edition of the WA SES history and hopefully many of the gaps will be filled over the coming year.

This newsletter also touches on the AFAC conference in Brisbane, some of the SES vehicles on display as well as an update on a couple of presentations at the WA FES Volunteers Conference.

AFAC

(Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council)

AFAC this year was held in Brisbane and was a very worthy event. There were over 1400 attendees and many trade exhibitors.

The presentations were many and varied and included many scientific papers. The gap between the science and the practitioners in some areas is still very wide.

All sessions were very interesting, however, one of the outstanding sessions was by DFES's Karen Roberts and Heidi Mippy which was about engaging Aboriginal communities. This session was unique in its presentation and very quickly captured the audience's interest and included the presentation of three message sticks to members of the audience.

There were a number of SES vehicles from other states on display which really showed how SES vehicles can be provided in a simple and very practical way for use during SES responses.

The pictures on the left show some configurations being used in a number of the SES units in the eastern states, including pods on the back of a cab chassis.





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WA Volunteers Conference

The WA Conference is in full swing and hopefully a lot is learnt by the Volunteers.

This year we built a knowledge booth so that we could have a DFES training person, Matt Reimer, in attendance on the Saturday so SES Volunteers could talk to someone who could empathise with them.

There was also an SES Volunteer in the knowledge booth who could answer questions on the SES Administration Guide as well as incorporated bodies. If this was successful and assisted the SES Volunteers then we can consider it again next year.

EAcademy

The SESVA is working closely with DFES on this however we still need more emails outlining the issues that Volunteers are having with this system

Insurance

DFES have outlined the insurance situation within their doctrine, however DFES also advise that loss or damage to personal property (excluding money and jewellery) belonging to SES volunteers used in connection with DFES business and is not otherwise insured, is covered by DFES's Property Cover held with RiskCover. All DFES personnel and volunteers must take all reasonable precautions to prevent loss or damage. Volunteers are expected to use the volunteer unit's assets in the first instance where possible.

Please email any issues on these matters to the SESVA Secretary.

Inconsistency across Regions

The Association still receives information that shows that there is inconsistency across the state in a number of areas. In some cases within the same region. It is wrong that this Association needs to spend a great deal of time resolving these issues for the SES Volunteers when DFES should be consistent across all regions.

Admin Guide

The SES Administration Guide was launched this weekend. There has been a lot of hard work by an SES Volunteer and a DFES DO in writing and consulting on this guide. The intention is for it to be owned by Operations Command and be of use as a reference for all SES Units. Please feedback to the Association your comments.

WA SES History

The WA SES History was launched this weekend as an ebook, edition 1. If more information comes forward to fill the many gaps, then it is hoped that the second edition will be a paper copy. Please forward all further documents and information to the SESVA Office at sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Incorporated bodies

A presentation on this matter and the new act was delivered on Saturday. It is my belief that SES Units need to be incorporated to provide protection of the members in a number of areas and to comply with fund raising rules administered by the ACNC. If further information is required please feel free to contact the Association.

SES Volunteers who have passed away

This newsletter will always acknowledge those SES Volunteers who have passed away if sufficient information is provided to the SESVA by the Local Manager of Unit.

Award Winners

Congratulations to all Award finalists and Award Winners announced last night. The work done by all nominees was of a high standard and well recognised.

In closing I hope that all SES Volunteers attending the conference have found it worthwhile.

Gordon Hall
SESVA President

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