



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations go to Belmont SES Volunteer Sarah Hamilton, who is a finalist in the WA Division of the 2019 Resilient Australia Awards, for her work in community awareness with the Scouts/SES Badge.

Well done Sarah and well done to SES Volunteer Jane Hamilton and the members of the Belmont SES unit for their support of Sarah and this initiative.

The WAFES Conference is well into the planning stages and will be held at the PCEC on the 7/8 of September.

This is the annual event where two SES Volunteers from each unit, nominated by their SES unit, can attend to listen to keynote speakers and find out the latest information for Volunteer Emergency Service Responders.

DFES has advised that on the Friday of the Conference the Minister will be having a special forum with a number of Emergency Services Volunteers where they will have the opportunity to put forward the issues that they believe need addressing by the Minister or DFES.

The Association is becoming concerned that the Duxton Forum was held eight months ago and the SES Volunteers are still awaiting the outcomes of the issues raised.

*Gordon Hall* ESM  
President

## FROM YOUR TEAM AT THE SESVA

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### **eACADEMY 2.0**

Work is progressing on the website for the new eAcademy 2.0 and training streams.

It is hoped to release the new training streams in the next few months.

Watch this space for more information as it becomes available.

### **NAME BADGES**

After further discussion with DFES it has been confirmed SES cloth name tags ( PPC name tags) will have the word "UNIT" on them, and the last name of the member is optional..

Just ensure you clearly mark the order if you wish to have the last name included.

### **AIR OBSERVER REVIEW**

The DFES Commissioner has received written notification from the General Manager Response at AMSA that they are currently undertaking an assessment of future Air Search Observer requirements across the country.

In the interim, AMSA are suspending delivery of all courses for new Air Search Observers with effect from July 1,2019.

For those already holding a nationally recognised qualification delivered by AMSA, they will continue to conduct currency training in accordance with the usual arrangements.

AMSA will provide further advice of the outcomes of their needs assessment and the proposed way forward once known.



## DUXTON FORUM ISSUES

We have been advised by DFES the following issues, raised at the Duxton Forum, have been transferred to the various Working Groups as shown.

**Administration Workload** - The Administration work load just continually increases for Volunteers.

*Working Group – Reduce Admin workload and Process Optimisation*

**Falling SES Volunteer numbers** - The number SES Volunteers is falling at a dramatic rate – approx 5 years ago 2500, now 1888. Many older, skilled Volunteers are leaving for various reasons

*Working Group – SES Branding and Recruitment*

**Communication Structure** - Support/Change the structure so the volunteers do not have to give a narrative and context for all SES issues to DFES staff (Staff above DO)

*Working Group – Role Clarity, Collaboration and Comms Effectiveness*

**LM Regional Conferences** - There has been a decline in regions holding annual Volunteer Local Manager Forums

*Working Group – Role Clarity, Collaboration and Comms Effectiveness*

**AHIMS (WebEOC RFA) processes and system enhancements** - Eliminate the requirement for volunteers to update two systems.

*Working Group - Reduce Admin workload and Process Optimisation*

**Administration Differences** - An issue which has been around and discussed on and off for over 6 years is the inconsistency between regions in administering an SES Unit.

*Working Group – Role Clarity, Collaboration and Comms Effectiveness*

**No Regional Volunteer attraction/retention support** - The Regional Office does not provide any support for attraction or retention of SES Volunteers

*Working Group – SES Branding and Recruitment Support*

## NDRC

We have been advised by DFES this years National Disaster Rescue Challenge is now being organised by the DFES South West Region.

## ANKLE GAITERS

Ankle Gaiters will soon be added to the Stewart and Heaton list for purchase by SES units, once a couple of pairs are confirmed as suitable by SES volunteers.

Ankle Gaiters were purchased many years ago by SES units for use in search to reduce the risk of snake strike and sharp/thorny bush piercing protective clothing.

The gaiters were held as a Unit Issue Item rather than an Individual Issue Item.

Larger Units will be able to purchase 25 sets while medium size Unit can order up 15 sets or, for smaller Units, up to 10 sets.

SES volunteers involved in recent land searches had complained of small infection sites on their legs where thorns pierced their protective clothing and the tiny tips then broke off in the flesh.

The matter was raised at the May meeting of the SES Volunteers Advisory Committee and approved by Operations Command in June.

## OEP FOR SWORD

Many Units and Volunteers were not aware that the SES Units at SWORD do not receive the OEP.

The SES Volunteer Association raised this anomaly with DFES and we are pleased to report the 2018/19 payment will be made to SWORD SES Units.

Doctrine and Policy are being reviewed and amended so that future years OEP will also be available to these Units - as it is to all other SES Units.

## HOW TO KEEP INFORMED

Don't forget we have a website which keeps you informed of what is happening across the state in SES land.

We also have "the App".

And also, if you would like our newsletters, other relevant information etc forwarded direct to your email, just contact the SESVA office ([sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au)), and advise your details.