



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Your SES Association wishes you a Happy New Year.

For many Units it has indeed been a busy start to the year. We have seen the SES involved in Search, Road Crash Rescue and Fire Support roles across Western Australia.

I hope looking at the role of the SES in WA, you can all be proud of the ongoing dedication of our volunteers.

Volunteering, because of the issues that have been raised Federally is beginning to evolve politically.

All emergency service organisations across Australia have been united in the Volunteer ethos of not being paid and this message is being delivered to our political leaders.

Discussions are happening however, that when the circumstances such as the fire emergencies that are occurring in Victoria and New South Wales happen, then Volunteers have an entitlement to have some expenses reimbursed.

In Western Australia, the Emergency Services already have a hardship scheme in place to support Emergency Volunteers.

I am impressed with our leadership in WA, that a proportion of the donations that are being offered to DFES will be added to the schemes funding.

The Association also had discussions in regards to the set up of an Emergency Services Legacy similar to the Police and Defence Force Legacies to assist members into the future should the circumstance arise.

Please be on the look out for bogus charity collectors that are taking the opportunity to falsely collect monies for the fires.

If you see or hear of the practice, please let the Association or DFES know.

So in summary, since December, it has been very busy for many of us and I thank you so much. I was so proud to represent the SES Association at the recent Premier meeting know the strong presence we continue to have in the emergency services.

Greg Cook
President

FROM YOUR TEAM AT THE SESVA

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OFFERS TO VOLUNTEERS

As you will have noticed if you are registered for our emails, follow us on the web or on facebook, or use our APP, we have been sending out details of offers being made to SES Volunteers and Emergency Service Volunteers by various organisations.

We advise of the offers as soon as they have been confirmed.

If you wish to receive email notification of offers, please register with us - please contact Bella.

SOUTH COASTAL REPRESENTATIVE

As we have advised previously, we have vacancies for the South Coastal & South East Representative positions.

It is very pleasing to be able to advise we have had 2 candidates apply for the South Coastal position.

Unfortunately with only one vacancy in the Region, only one person could be successful, and we are pleased to advise that Alison Kew is the new South Coastal Representative.

We still have a vacancy in the South East Region, so if you are interested please contact the secretary at sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au



SES HISTORICAL ITEMS

The SES Volunteers Association is endeavouring to locate any items which reflect our SES history.

It is intended to use any items we receive to boost our display at our Belmont office.

If you or your Unit have any items which are suitable for our historical display, we would be only too pleased to hear about them.

Our SES history is important, and unfortunately with time things get lost/disappear and/or thrown out.

We want to preserve as much of our history as we can.

Please contact Bella at the office if you have any items you feel might be able to assist with our display.

SES VOLUNTEER RECORDS

It has been brought to the SES Volunteers Association attention that the details recorded for some SES Volunteers are very inaccurate.

Thanks to the release of the new Volunteer Hub, SES Volunteers can now for the first time, easily check the details DFES have recorded for them.

From reports sent to the SES Volunteers Association, in quite a few cases these details are extremely inaccurate.

We have been advised that if you wish to correct the details you should contact your Local Manager, who will then contact his/her DFES DO, who will then verify the data submitted and if they feel it is correct, request the relevant person in DFES to change the records.

Once again, more work for Volunteers.

The SESVA believe DFES should be contacting Volunteers and verifying the information they have recorded for Volunteers, and thus simplifying the process and reducing the work load on SES Volunteers..

MEMORABILIA

Don't forget the SESVA has a range of items that can help with recruitment and promotion of your Unit.

Just contact Bella at the SESVA office.

HEALTH FUND

As a member of the SES you're eligible to join Emergency Services Health Fund.

Emergency Services Health can possibly pay out much more in benefits than most funds because they don't answer to shareholders - they are a mutual fund - and SES Volunteers and their close relations are eligible to join.

If you are interested, give them a call or go on the web to obtain a no obligation benefit comparison.

Call 1300 703 703 or visit

<https://ourcover.eshealth.com.au/ses-wa-2/>

Emergency Services Health honour waiting periods already served with your previous insurer, and have a 30 day cooling off period.

VOLUNTEER PAYMENT

If you have a comment/opinion you would like to share with us regarding the Government plan on Volunteer payments, please email the SESVA Secretary

UNIFORM

At present samples of the proposed new uniforms - both blue and grey - are being displayed in each region.

The sample uniforms are being moved between Units so members can see them.

Hopefully a final decision on colour will be made soon.

Also, DFES are now changing the uniform of DFES Staff from the blue to a black coloured uniform.

We should be seeing the new DFES Staff uniform appearing shortly.

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), and advise your details.