



June 2014

I visited the 9/11 memorial in New York today and it was very moving. I first came here soon after the Twin Towers were attacked and it was very emotional then, with people walking away from the walk bridge nearby, visually upset. Today, it had an eerie feeling and reminds me of the danger all emergency responders face in their roles, whether they are Volunteers or Career staff.

I have a vision that all SES Volunteers, their families, friends and supporters, will be able to visit a place of reflection where they can remember the hard, and at times dangerous, work that SES Volunteers do in rescuing people in danger and protecting their communities from the effects of natural hazards – just like the firies now have in Kings Park.

Next year the Association will need to engage some people of influence, such as MPs and Ministers, to assist making this happen so the SES Volunteers can also be remembered for putting their lives at risk and supporting their community.

This will need to include recognition of James Regan who, in 2004, was drowned when rescuing an injured tourist in the Karijini National Park.

The Combined Legislation Concept Paper

The SESVA recently conducted an information session at the Metro Inn in Perth on the review of the legislation. There was a follow up for country Volunteers the following week.

There has been some very intense interest and it is now up to SES Volunteers to give their input on DFES preferred options and on their own preferred options

Remember this is the future of your community emergency response by SES responders and needs your input.

The SESVA will be making a submission in July based on the feedback that is being received.

The Chief Superintendents

I led a team of three (Phillip Petersen, Lin Booth and myself) to meet and go through some strategic matters with the three Operations Command Chief Superintendents - Kennedy, Cox and Johnson.

This was a non-stop four hour session which covered the roles of the SES and a number of strategic issues which are affecting the Volunteers and the effective delivery of a service to their community.

At lot of the issues are based around a lack of understanding of what the SES does and why, the outcomes of enquiries and poor communication.

The three Chiefs are to be commended for their understanding and subsequent action on a number of the issues.



The SESVA is following closely the progress and assisting the Chiefs as required.

The ESL/LGGS Manual

When the ESL came into being, over ten years ago, there was a special committee set up which included a Volunteer and staff member for each Service committee. This was abolished a number of years later and DFES then made their decisions.

It was recently brought to the attention of the SESVA that SES Units are now restricted, dependent upon the number of registered members in the Unit, to a maximum of 3 mobile phones, 2 pagers and 3 computers.

There has never been any consultation with the SESVA or SES Volunteers on changes to this manual. There was also no communication until earlier this year when a particular SES Unit needed its mobile phones replaced.

The SESVA has written to the DFES Commissioner requesting a hold be placed on removal of any of the excess items until a full review, in consultation with the SESVA, is completed and agreed.

Goldfields Challenge

This is a fantastic event conducted each year and the feedback I have received is that it was once again a great success and enjoyed by all.

Congratulations to all competing teams as this is what it is all about - assimilating your training into the field and practicing your networking skills.

Results just through advise that Bayswater was 1st, Stirling 2nd and Kalamunda 3rd.

Other awards to Tim Lambert, Jen Chalmers and Swan.

SES State Rescue Competition

Planning in preparation for this event, by Les Hayter and his team, is well advanced and negotiations with the venue owner should be completed in July.

This event will be held annually from November 2015 onwards and will be based on one team from each of the DFES regions.

The SESVA Journal

The journal should be completed and in the mail late next week – so please have a good look and we are always happy to receive feedback.



Proudly Supported by BHP BILLITON

The SESVA has signed a contract with BHP for the supply of 8 small buses, at pre-determined locations, for the use of the SES Units.

The buses will be owned by the SESVA with an MOU being signed for their use by the pre-determined SES Units.

This is a great achievement by the SESVA and the Committee is very thankful for BHP Billiton's initiative in supporting the SES.

The buses will have an SES specific livery so they are easily recognised and at the same time assist in the retention of the SES as a National Brand.

Travel on DFES Business

One of the strategic issues that we recently discussed with the Chiefs was about SES units that were denied payment by DFES for costs incurred during an operation – private vehicle and equipment use.

We have now had it confirmed by DFES that any SES member who uses his vehicle for approved DFES travel, is covered both personally and his vehicle is also covered under DFES insurance policies.

Volunteer Leadership Program – AEMI

Congratulations go to Karina Saunders, SESVA Sub-Committee member and Wanneroo Unit SES member in her selection to attend the above course at the Australian Emergency Management Institute (AEMI).

Changing it Up – AEMVF

Congratulations also go to Melusha Robson, CSU, for her selection in the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum (AEMVF) program and subsequent selection to present at an International event.

Fantastic achievement by these two persons.

Cheers

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