

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Awards Night 2018

Traditionally the SES Awards night has been held annually and generally attracts 250 SES Volunteers, their partners and guests.

It is the premier event for many SES Volunteers who like to discard their orange attire for the night, get dressed up and have a great time at the SES Awards Night – many party on into the small hours!

It was originally organised by a team consisting of an SES staff member and SES Volunteers. At some time in the past DFES took over the organising of the awards night and carried it on through the years.

**This year** DFES is the host of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Conference. DFES have advised this Association that they could not have a Volunteers Conference in the same format as previous years.

They advised that we could have an awards night function however, for this year it would have to be combined with the other services.

**We were advised** in April that our **numbers would be limited to 100 plus the finalists** and special guests totalling no more than 120 Volunteers (That is 120 places in total – volunteers and partners).

In past years there have been approximately 250 volunteers and partners who attend the awards night.

The allocation of 120 places does not cater for SES Volunteers and their partners based on attendances at previous awards nights.

**The Association was not satisfied** with this outcome and as there was insufficient time to organise any alternative, we went back to DFES to negotiate a better deal.

A further 30 seats were offered free of charge and another 100 seats at \$135.90 each have been offered.

Although the first 130 seats are free, the committee has decided to share the cost across all seats. This smoothing has resulted in all attendees paying the same amount of \$50 each to attend the Awards Night.

Details on how to purchase seats will be advised via the SESVA website, facebook page, SESVA App and an email to SES units by the end of June.

*Gordon Hall* ESM  
President

## FRIDGES IN VEHICLES

Recently the SES Volunteer Association had a meeting with the Commissioner, and during the meeting we raised our concerns about the lack of portable fridges in some SES vehicles, and the effect this had on SES Volunteers, especially in the north of the state.

We have been advised the Commissioner has approved the purchase and fitting of a number of portable fridges in SES vehicles, where an appropriate need has been identified.

Our thanks go to Chief Superintendent Gary Kennedy for acting swiftly and organising portable fridges to be installed in selected SES vehicles in the north.

## VERTICAL RESCUE

We have been informed of a rumour that DFES have asked rangers from Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) to take over the vertical rescue role at Karijini and other parks, and DPAW have refused to do so.

We raised this matter with the Commissioner recently, and he informed us in no uncertain manner that he had no knowledge of this, and had no plans for this to occur.

Once again it appears to be a baseless rumour, which could have affected and upset many SES Volunteers.

Thank you to the Local manager who brought this to our attention, so we could clarify and dispel the rumour.

## SES CHIEF OFFICER

Over the years, the role of the SES Volunteers has changed dramatically, where today the SES is a first response service for Cyclone, Storm, Flood, Earthquake and Tsunami. Where designated, the SES Volunteers are responders to road crash rescue, vertical rescue, cliff rescue, search for lost persons, and provide a support function to local government and DFES in relation to bushfires.

So we can all see the evolution over the years and we must keep working to ensure the SES remains a service.

The SES Volunteers Association is in discussions with the Minister for Emergency services and the FES Commissioner to bring an SES structure with its own Chief Officer back into the organisation. We are hopeful of a result in the future.

## WEAR ORANGE WEDNESDAY – WOW DAY

The 2000 State Emergency Service (SES) Volunteers across the state of Western Australia celebrated WOW Day 2018, on 23 May 2018.

More than 280 SES Volunteers from the Perth metropolitan area gathered at the Gosnells SES Unit's Emergency Operations Centre to celebrate this special day for SES Volunteers.

Wearing Orange on Wednesday (WOW Day) is to recognise, celebrate and thank SES Volunteers for their great volunteering work in the community.

A highlight of the evening was a talk by Mr Will Golsby, the General Manager Corporate affairs for RAC, who announced a donation of \$100,000 to SES for the purpose of buying Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) for all SES units.

This medical equipment is to provide additional support to our operational roles.

## LAUNCH OF VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

On Saturday 19 May Commissioner Klemm launched the new Volunteer Resources titled; "Supporting New Volunteers" and "Managing Volunteers in the Emergency Services".

The resource kits include guides on Receiving and Using Feedback, Influencing Volunteers, Knowledge Sharing etc.

### **All very useful information.**

In attendance were a number of SES Volunteers, VFRS Volunteers, Bushfire Volunteers and Fire District Officers and some DFES staff.

The presenters, from UWA, did an excellent job in displaying their research, findings and resources to assist Volunteers and DFES Staff.

This is a big step in the right direction to assist the emergency responders in supporting new Volunteers and retention of existing Volunteers.

There is still a lot of work to be done in the areas of "Managing Upwards" and "How to capture and retain the interest of the younger people".

Jen Pidgeon and her team are to be applauded for their efforts in bringing these projects to delivered status.

For further information or copies of these valuable resources use this link:

<https://extranet.dfes.wa.gov.au/sites/volunteers/members/Pages/VolunteerManagement.aspx>

## THE HAAP

### (HONOURS AND AWARDS PANEL FOR COMMONWEALTH AWARDS)

The makeup of this panel, which assess ESMs etc, has been a point of contention for a number of years by some Associations.

The SESVA Awards Coordinator has advised that on a number of occasions he has, after due diligence has been completed, **put forward an SES Volunteer for an award and nothing has come out the other end.** Either a nominee should be endorsed or more information called for.

The current committee has a representative from; DFES MCC, DFES DC Capability, DFES DC Operations, SLSWA, UFU, WAPOL, DPAW, a VFRS staff member representing all Volunteers and an Independent member.

### **There are no volunteers on this committee.**

**The SESVA, after much discussion with DFES, have proposed that the committee be restructured to have people who have an understanding and empathy with Volunteers and in particular a Volunteer from the relevant Service.**

The SESVA will continue working with DFES to reach an acceptable outcome.

## LGGS PROGRESS

The SES Volunteers Association recently had a meeting with the "LGGS Team".

The meeting was the start of a new dialogue between the "Team" and the SESVA, and progressed well.

Regular meetings have now been set up ( a first after many years trying) and already some major items/ideas are being looked at.

This is a very positive start which we hope will lead to a simplification/improvement in how the ESL funds are administered for SES Units.

Watch this space for more information as things progress.

## 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 Bella at the office, and let her know your details.

**From your SESVA team**