



A Christmas message from the Presidents desk...

SESVA

Gordon Hall
SES Volunteers Association



Christmas is just about upon us again, with less than 14 days to go.

Once again I sit here and reflect on the year we, as SES Volunteers had.

This year became very busy, with the most time taken up by support to other services. The most notable being the Waroona bush fires, where the number of hours and distance in support of this operation exceeded those of other operations in recent times.

There were SES Volunteers sent to South Australia as part of a deployment to assist that state during the recent major storm. The Volunteers rallied together very quickly for this cause and if they were not deployed to South Australia, they filled the gaps left in the state during the absence of those Volunteers.

Back in this state we once again had a quiet winter as the weather patterns for Western Australia were fairly neutral.

Looking back on the past year, the SES Volunteers Association were very busy and had a number of achievements including;

- Written submission to the Waroona Fire Special Inquiry,
- Three members attending and delivering at a special hearing into the Waroona Fires,
- Participation and support of the WoW day display at Murdoch University,
- When requested, provided support and guidance to a number of SES Units,
- Supported the final rollout of the Volunteer Fuel Card,
- Actively involved in national SES matters through the National SES Volunteers Association,

- Compilation of data for the last four years for the Volunteer Opinion Survey,
- Involved in the 2016 DFES Volunteers Conference which proved to have the highest Volunteer satisfaction of all DFES Conferences,
- Negotiated the 2017 Bunnings great Aussie BBQ for involvement of SES units, where selected by their local store,
- Presented a number of 40th year plaques to SES units,
- Working with Government for a better future emergency services model,
- Continual work with DFES leadership to assist in improvements for the SES Volunteers.

Further to the above, the Association Committee has been working on a future funding model for the SES Volunteers Association, which will assist in the support and betterment of the SES Volunteers. This is a long term strategy and more will be circulated in 2017.

It is the spirit and true altruism of the SES Volunteers, with the support of their families and many supporters, that assists in making a safer community for all. It is through this that we see Emergency Service Volunteers working tirelessly in providing their community with a much needed response and rescue service network during all emergency events.

In closing, and **on behalf of the SES Volunteers Association Committee**, I would like to extend our best wishes for the festive season, to all the Volunteers and Staff involved in the emergency services, your families and many supporters and to thank you for your continuing support to your community.



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