

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### DFES Says NO to SES Chief Officer

In the last newsletter I spoke about a Chief Officer for the SES.

In a letter to the SESVA dated 28 June (sent to the incorrect address and returned to DFES) and eventually picked up by SESVA on 11 July, **Commissioner Klemm has refused to support a Chief Officer for the SES.**

***This is very interesting, as all other States and Territories have a Chief Officer.***

These meet on a regular basis as part of the Australian Council of SES's and discuss many strategic matters of common interest, including training.

***WA is not a part of that group***, which is very disappointing.

Experience over the past years has shown that many of the issues that are brought to the Association by Volunteers and DFES, is due to a lack of understanding and empathy of the SES and the legislation that applies to the SES Volunteers, or how they should be treated.

No one individual can represent all DFES Services at both the tactical and strategic level, given the differences in Acts, Regulations, Operational Doctrine and Training.

***Please give your feedback*** and thoughts on facebook or email [sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au) so the Association committee can decide on what course/s of action to take.

#### SES Numbers falling

Who in the regions has the understanding and empathy and is addressing the rapidly falling numbers of SES Volunteers – now down to 1900 and falling?

#### AFAC

Nominations have now closed for AFAC. There is a good contingent of SES Volunteers from around the state attending.

The program is very comprehensive.

This year the WA SESVA will have a booth in the Exhibitor display area.

The exhibitor display area will be opened to the public at certain times during the AFAC conference. The times will be advised in our next newsletter.

Gordon Hall ESM  
President

### ISSUES MANAGEMENT - SES UNIT PROBLEMS

Over the past four and a half years, SES Local Managers have requested the SES Volunteers Association assist their Units with various issues they have had with DFES, issues which they could not achieve a satisfactory outcome for their Units ***after discussing the issue with their DO and/or Superintendent.***

These requests have come from every region in the state, except one - the Kimberley.

Every other region has had at least one, and in almost all regions more than one Unit, request our help.

***These requests for assistance to date total a huge number - 331 issues - that is over 6 issues per month, every month of the year for 4.5 years.***

***Nearly all of the issues should have been resolved at the Superintendent level but this was not the case.***

After we referred the issues to various officers/staff in DFES, ***301 of the issues have been resolved.***

Only a very few of the resolved issues were not what the SES Local Managers expected.

In other words, ***the issues should not have occurred in the first place.***

The total issues above does not include any meetings the SESVA have attended with Superintendents on site at various Units around the state to resolve matters.

The total issues above are just the ones we have resolved by talking to staff at Cockburn Office. If we were to include all the meetings etc we have with various committees and DFES staff, in our advocacy role to assist the SES role in Western Australia, then the number is easily over 600 - a staggering number - an average of over 11 matters each month, every month for 4,5 years.

To the best of our knowledge, no other service in DFES have the same number of concerns over the same period.

## FUTURE DRESS UNIFORM

The SES Volunteers have three levels of uniform, PPC which is orange, semi casual which is orange PPC trousers/khaki trousers and the SES Polo shirt, and the working dress consisting of khaki trousers and khaki shirt.

Khaki trousers are a discontinued item and the shirts are a limited sizes and limited stock item, the time is now right for SES Members to start thinking about what they would prefer as a permanent dress uniform.

Feedback to the SESVA representatives from the SES units about what the Volunteers feel the future dress uniform should be like is now required.

Remember the dress uniform is usually used for official business, office duties, parades and other occasions where the SES is showcased or represented.

Once we have an idea of what people would prefer, we can begin discussions with DFES about changing/upgrading/improving our uniform.

***This is your opportunity to have your say.***

***This is an important issue, so please don't procrastinate - contact your Representative NOW!!!***

## SES MERCHANDISE

A catalogue for SES merchandise is now available to download from the SESVA website:

<http://www.ses-wa.asn.au>

Also, if your SES Unit is planning a community engagement activity or local event, the SESVA may be able to assist with promotional items.

Enquiries and orders for promotional materials need to be made by the Local Manager to

[sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au)

## ELECTION

As has been previously advised, an election for Vice President of the SES Volunteers Association is currently being conducted.

Please return the voting form to the Returning Officer by the due date, or your vote will be ineligible.

Also, please ensure the form is signed by the Local Manager,/Authorised Officer to be eligible.

Please remember, only one vote per Unit.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the SES Volunteers Association is being held on the 8th September 2018, at 2 Meadow St Guildford at 10.00am.

Please ensure your Assigned Delegate Forms are returned to the Secretary by COB 4th September 2018, so your Units Member Delegate can have a vote.

Please remember only one vote per Unit.

## HACK-ED

DFES will be shortly asking for expressions of interest from volunteers to participate in Landgate's annual hack-Ed Day.

A hack-a-thon is an innovation activity in which large groups of people are brought together for a short, but intense period, to brain-storm and generate solutions for problems.

Landgate have taken this concept and developed an annual event hack-ED which involves 200 students from Metropolitan high schools.

Government departments pose a problem and participants spend 6 hours to identify solutions.

Any volunteers who nominate to attend will provide support to students in problem solving with a focus on those groups who select the emergency services problem. The emergency services problem is yet to be confirmed.

## VOLUNTEER FUEL CARD

DFES are currently preparing for the 18/19 release of the Volunteer Fuel Card.

Those BGU's that received a Fuel Card in 17/18 will not be required to reapply for the card.

DFES expect to be able to simply issue the cards to those BGUs.

Those BGU's that did not apply for a card in 17/18 will be required to go through the application process.

DFES expect the release to occur in September.

More information is to follow from DFES

## 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.

***From your SESVA team***