

**Dear SES Volunteers,**

National Volunteer Week and Wear Orange Wednesday (WOW Day) are this month. I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible contributions each of you makes to our communities through your dedication and service. This year, there have been so many social media posts around Australia from the various state agencies and SES units.



**National Volunteer Week Celebrations:** During National Volunteer Week, SES Units, along with DFES, are hosting a series of events to honour our volunteers. These celebrations will include recognition ceremonies, community engagement activities, and opportunities for volunteers to share their experiences and stories. We encourage all units to participate in all WOW functions and showcase the amazing work being done across the SES.

**WOW Day for the SES nationally - Wednesday, May 20:** this is when we celebrate WOW Day! This day is dedicated to recognising the outstanding efforts of SES volunteers and the impact you have on our communities. Units and DFES organised various activities, including community outreach programs and social media campaigns to highlight the incredible work of our SES members. This day is a memorable one!

**Celebrating Milestones at SES Units:** We also want to take this opportunity to celebrate the milestones achieved by our SES units. Whether it's reaching a certain number of volunteer unit anniversaries, completing significant training programs, or successfully responding to emergency incidents, these accomplishments deserve recognition. Please share your unit's milestones and significant accomplishments with us so we can highlight them in our upcoming communications.

Don't forget the lessons from our operations this past year. Cyclones, Floods, Rescues, Searches; they have all contributed to serving people in our communities. You are held in very high regard!

**Thank you for your unwavering commitment and service.** Together, we make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Let's celebrate our achievements and continue to inspire one another.

**Greg Cook ESM, SESVA President**