



from THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to all our SES volunteers, families, friends, and employers.

I can confidently start this newsletter with a clear, WOW!

Whilst we have had our ever-important opportunities to meet and discuss what is happening in our SES state-based activities, it's rewarding to also understand what's happening in other states and territories.

It's a national strength with the SES Volunteer services, that when you examine our community roles, we are all preparing for a busy high-threat period. The storms, floods, cyclones, and fires are all a reality for us.

In WA, we are preparing by undertaking currency drills for possible bushfire burnovers. Getting up to speed with our flood boats and the lengthy time out of the water, with some issues with AMSA. We're preparing for deployments around the state and Australia to help communities recover from hazard impacts.

Whilst we all play a part at local level, remember that our families enable the actions we take by being there when we are away. The flexibility that is shown by a great network of employers allows for absences in your workplaces, so we can support communities.

Somewhere in the time continuum, it does become our time to look for assistance. It was a pleasure to attend the Emergency Service Volunteers Hardship Scheme AGM recently. Please remember that in our services, you are not alone. The link for the scheme is: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/ses-volunteers/volunteers-support/emergency-services-volunteers-hardship-assistance-scheme/>

I also had the pleasure of attending Aviation Support Team training over the first weekend of November. Another task and skills to maintain a focus on community safety for SES Volunteers.

I once again say to you, thank you for being who you are and for what you do. Just remember that volunteers are the largest emergency services workforce in Western Australia. Be proud of yourself, as many others are proud of you.

Kind Regards,

Greg Cook, President, SES Volunteers Association

The National SESVA – change of chairperson

On behalf of the SESVA committee in WA and broader volunteer community, we congratulate Greg Cook on his appointment as chair of the National SES Volunteers Association Ltd (NSESVA) and we also extend our deepest gratitude to retiring chair, Gordon Hall ESM, for his service, sacrifice, and the transformative role he played in positioning the NSESVA for continued success.

Gordon is a Mandurah SES volunteer whose enduring commitment, resilience through challenging times, and unwavering dedication to rebuilding and strengthening the NSESVA have left an indelible legacy.

He has retired from the position of chair of the NSESVA, marking the close of a significant chapter in the organisation's leadership journey. As a key member of the executive team, Gordon's leadership helped guide the Association through periods of uncertainty, fostering a culture of perseverance and renewal that continues to shape its future.

About the National SESVA. In the late 2000s, planning for a national body began, culminating in a pivotal 2012 meeting at the AFAC Conference. A Working Group was formed in 2013 and the NSESVA was registered in May 2015 as a not-for-profit company, expanding to include all states and territories by 2018. Learn more [here](#).





SESVA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY—23 OCTOBER 2025



New committee members

Following consultation with the regions and seeking expressions of interest, the following volunteers were appointed to serve on the Management Committee until the next SESVA election in 2026:

- 3rd Vice President – Ross Jones, Geraldton-Greenough SES
- Southwest region management Committee member, Megan Reynolds, Mandurah SES
- Pilbara region management Committee member, Barry Harrison, Hedland SES

New business items included:

- **A draft SESVA Strategic Plan** has previously been workshopped by the committee and will be circulated for consultation in December, with formal adoption scheduled for February 2026.
- **A Website Planning and Advisory Group** was approved to be established to oversee and facilitate the continuous improvement, security, and strategic development of the SESVA website. This will include the development of a business continuity plan.
- **WA raffle proceeds** must be used for collective volunteer benefit. With this at the forefront, ideas how to best allocate the proceeds will be gathered as part of the strategic planning process.
- **The Association will need to embrace AI tools** to enhance administration, however this remains pending governance policy development being explored by a discussion group.
- **SESVA approved using Adobe Studio** to improve communications and design output, with a monthly subscription to be reviewed after six months.

Fit-For-Role update

WA is the only state or territory that has not accepted the FFR impost on the SES Volunteers.

In October, the Association responded to the DFES Commissioner's letter which asked the Association to reconsider its position. In the response to the Commissioner, we clarified the position of the Association and corrected some misunderstandings. In particular, that the decision **not** to participate in the FFR program was not made by Association but reflects the views of the majority of SES Units across WA.

The planned 18 October meeting to discuss the FFR programme was postponed because DFES is yet to formalise their position. Until official direction is received, there remains a pause on the broader rollout of FFR until formal sign-off from DFES Deputy Commissioner, Operations. Significant uncertainty still exists about many aspects of the FFR programme, such as:

- scope
- administration
- injury/liability
- who will supervise tests
- access to DFES Wellness Branch resources
- whether FFR would apply only to deployable volunteers or all members.

Legislative Working Group update

The Association believes that the closest release of the draft legislation for comment will be sometime within the four-year term of the current government. DFES claim to be advanced but there is no evidence to support this at this time. Some updated Q&A's will soon be available for committee members to share with members units.

Flood Boat update

We've heard that there is going to be a review of the suitability of flood boats for SES in WA—stay tuned for more information.





Welcome Committee Members



Welcome to a new face on the committee, Barry Harrison, and returning faces—Megan and Ross.

Barry Harrison

Hedland SES

Pilbara region

Barry Harrison is a highly experienced emergency services leader with over a decade of service across NSW and WA. He led Marine Rescue NSW (Merimbula) for seven years before joining Dampier VMR and later Karratha SES, where he served as Media Manager during major cyclone responses. Since 2022, he's been Deputy Manager at Port Hedland SES, continuing media duties and supporting operations during Cyclones Ilsa and Zelia. Barry also contributes to sector advocacy through the Minister's Volunteer Advisory Committee. Outside emergency services, he supports Indigenous communities as Engagement & Facility Manager at Mirnutharntu Maya Aboriginal Hostel, focusing on education, employment, and housing programs.

Megan Reynolds

Mandurah SES

Southwest region

Megan is a passionate and dedicated leader with seven years of service at Mandurah SES where she has served as Deputy Team Leader. During his time she also represented the North Coastal (Metro) units on the SESVA committee for almost two years. Her expertise spans search and rescue operations, complemented by her role as a Training Assessor for Land Search Team Member and USAR. Beyond SES, Megan leads Foodbank Peel Region, managing a dynamic team of over 50 volunteers and staff. She also contributes strategically as a Board member of the Peel Volunteer Resource Centre. A devoted mother of two, she actively engages in her children's school community, all supported by her husband's steadfast encourage

Ross Jones

Geraldton-Greenough SES

3rd Vice President

Ross has been a dedicated SES volunteer in Western Australia since 1987, beginning as a cadet with Mandurah SES and serving across multiple SES units statewide. Alongside a 38-year career with WA Police, Ross has held key SES leadership roles including Team Leader, Trainer, Rescue Section Leader, and is currently Local Manager, Geraldton-Greenough SES. He has actively contributed to committees and advisory groups, advocating for volunteer representation and improved SES infrastructure. Ross aims to enhance communication between SES units and stakeholders, promote SES training and resources, and strengthen SES's command structure within DFES to better support volunteers across metropolitan and regional areas.

JOIN THE SESVA CONTENT CREATION TEAM!

Are you passionate about storytelling, design, or sharing impactful content?

SESVA is forming a new **Content Creation Team** — and we want YOU.

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help bring SES stories, news, and educational materials to life across

- Social Media
- Newsletters
- Our Website



WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

Volunteers with experience using tools like:

- Canva
- Adobe Express
- CapCut Or similar creative apps

If you enjoy creating engaging visuals, short videos, or informative posts - we'd love to hear from you!

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Collaborate online with other volunteers to produce monthly content featuring:

- SES news and updates
- Educational materials and training tips
- Volunteer stories and community impact

FLEXIBLE & REMOTE

You can be based anywhere in WA and work remotely with the team. This is a great opportunity to contribute creatively, build your portfolio, and connect with like-minded volunteers.

INTERESTED?

Contact Allen Gale:

sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au 0419 935 497





Our Refreshed Image



SES Volunteer Association Postcards

Three different postcards are now available to provide more information about the role of the SESVA.

The postcards are for our members—Regional Representatives will hand these out when visiting SES units.



**“I’m Ben.
I’m a mechanic.
And an SES volunteer.”**

We’ve got you, Ben.



Young volunteers are our future.

The experience they gain makes a real difference, for them and the community.

We’ve got you.

- SESVA provides development opportunities for young volunteers.
- SESVA supports initiatives to guide the next generation of leaders.
- SESVA promotes young-volunteer participation.

We’re investing in youth – for a stronger, smarter, and more sustainable SES.



Scan to learn more
or visit www.ses-wa.asn.au




**“I’m Elini.
I’m a mum.
And an SES volunteer.”**

We’ve got you, Elini.



We’re here when you need us.

The SESVA exists to support, represent and strengthen Western Australia’s SES volunteers.

We’ve got you.

- SESVA advocates for your voice.
- SESVA mediates when things get tough.
- SESVA connects across units, regions, and opportunities.
- SESVA opens doors others can’t through government access.

You give your time. We give you support.



Scan to learn more
or visit www.ses-wa.asn.au




**“I’m Malakai.
I work for the WA
government. And I’m
an SES volunteer.”**

We’ve got you, Malakai.



Need to talk? We’re here to listen.

Being part of the SES is rewarding, but sometimes challenging.

We’ve got you.

- SESVA has regional representatives.
- SESVA has experienced members.
- SESVA has access to state and national networks.
- SESVA provides assistance, referrals and volunteer support services.

You’re there for the community. We’re here for you.



Scan to learn more
or visit www.ses-wa.asn.au




SESVA Website attacked in October – now restored

Our website was seriously compromised in early October when hackers were able to seriously infect the site with malware, which is short for Malicious software and refers to any software designed by cybercriminals to intentionally cause damage or disruption to a computer, server, client, or computer network.

Even with all the protection that we have in place for the Association website, a hacker was able to infect the site. The malware was most likely a redirect virus that was directing users to a gambling site.

Our website host was unable to remove all of the malware which meant a backup version was used to restore the website on 27 October with only a small amount of information needing to be updated.

Issues still remain with the reliability of the SESVA website, which means a major redevelopment of the site may need to be undertaken in the immediate future.

This is a timely reminder for us all to ensure we continue to protect our computer systems from viruses:

- Never download files from untrustworthy websites.
- Avoid email attachments from unknown senders.
- Install a reputable antivirus program and run regular scans.
- Update your operating system and software regularly.
- Be cautious when downloading free programs, as they may come bundled with viruses.

Please contact Allen sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au if you have any issues locating information on the website:

[SES Volunteer's Association of Western Australia Incorporated – "Together we can" – "Together we will"](#)

CYBER SAFETY TIP

Safe cyber habits – BANKING

1. Opt for strong, unique online banking passwords and update them frequently.
2. Install software updates regularly to keep your device secure.
3. Be cautious accessing your online banking when using public WiFi as these networks can attract cybercriminals.



WA & TAS Raffle Support SES volunteers—buy your tickets [HERE!](#)



The Bernie McNamara SES Young Emerging Leaders (YEL) Program is run by the WA SESVA to develop young volunteers in WA.

It is directly aligned with the National SESVA YEL Program and provides an opportunity for two young WA volunteers to participate in the national memorial service and leadership events in Canberra. One spot is automatically awarded to the winner of the annual WA Fire and Emergency Services SES Youth Achievement Award. The other is selected via an application process overseen by a panel from the SESVA of WA.

SES volunteers aged 18 to 30 years are invited to apply by 30 November

Read what 2024 SES Youth Achievement Award winner, Jack Watson of the Tom Price SES, had to say after returning from Canberra in May 2025:

Just got back from an unforgettable trip to Canberra as part of the Young Emerging Leaders (YEL) program. We had the absolute honour of forming a guard of honour at the AFAC National Memorial Service — an incredibly moving experience...

...but the absolute highlight? Connecting with other YELs from across the country. Hearing everyone's stories, learning about the differences in how we operate across states and territories, and having real, open discussions about the challenges we face — it was inspiring, eye-opening, and genuinely one of the best experiences I've had.

Program activities

The specific schedule of activities varies each year but typically includes:

- Participate in the AFAC National Memorial Service in Canberra.
- A chance to meet the Governor General and the Commissioners of emergency services from other areas.
- Tours of key national organisations, such as Parliament House, Geoscience Australia, and the National Emergency Management Agency.

Application process

To be considered, an applicant must:

- be a registered SES volunteer in WA aged between 18 and 30 years as at 30 November 2025.
- submit a **supporting reference from the Local Manager** of the applicants SES unit.
- submit a completed [application form](#) to the SESVA Secretary providing information about themselves on the form, including community and leadership involvement, as well as leadership aspirations and how they see themselves as a leader in 5 years. The form can also be requested by email sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Selection Process

The selection panel is made up of independent people, chaired by a SESVA committee member.

Timing

- 30 November 2025: closing date for applications.
- 15 December 2025: announcement of the selected candidate(s) for the YEL program 2026.
- 2026: 4 or 5 days at end April/start May—AFAC National Memorial Service, Canberra—dates TBC.



NOTE: A separate email has been sent to Local Managers to pass on to unit members.

Young Emerging Leaders in Canberra—2025.

CYCLONE SEASON

BoM says it will no longer publish a tropical cyclone seasonal outlook



Strong winds hit Port Hedland during Tropical Cyclone Zelia in Feb'25

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has announced it will discontinue its tropical cyclone seasonal outlook, citing the model's declining reliability amid climate change.

Once useful for forecasting seasonal cyclone activity, the statistical approach no longer holds predictive value due to shifting climate patterns. A BoM source explained that while the outlook was of interest, it lacked practical relevance for emergency preparedness, as even a single cyclone can cause extensive damage regardless of seasonal predictions.

Forecasting the exact development location of cyclones remains beyond current capabilities. Northern WA

communities need to stay vigilant throughout the cyclone season, which runs from 1st November to 30 April, and monitor updates from both the BoM and DFES.

Although many cyclones don't make landfall, the risk of severe impact from just one event remains high. The upcoming wet season is expected to be warmer than usual, increasing the likelihood of heatwaves, while rainfall is predicted to be average.

Early preparation is important in order to reduce risk, and familiarity with the updated national warning system, which now aligns WA with other states, will ensure consistent alerts for interstate travellers. Northern WA communities are urged to take practical steps to prepare for cyclones, including securing loose items around homes and assembling emergency kits with essentials like radios, torches, medications, and sufficient supplies for five days. Also to use the [Emergency WA website](#) and app to stay informed throughout the season.



DFES Youth Programs Awards – Nominations Closing Soon!

Do you know a cadet, instructor or unit making a real difference in youth emergency services?

The **DFES Youth Programs Awards** celebrate outstanding contributions to youth engagement across emergency service cadet programs.

Nominations are open for individuals and units involved in:

- School-based Emergency Services Cadet Corps (ESCC)
- Brigades, Groups and Units (BGU)
- Youth in Emergency Services (YES)

Award Categories Include:

- Cadet, Instructor & Unit Achievement Awards (ESCC & BGU)
- Host School & Unit Support Awards

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE
Monday 10 November!**

Visit the **Volunteer Hub** to learn more, check eligibility, and download nomination forms: <https://www.volunteerhub.dfes.wa.gov.au>

Questions? Contact **DFES Youth Programs Team**
youthprograms@dfes.wa.gov.au Phone: (08) 9395 9300

Together, we're building the future of emergency services across WA.



Changes to incorporated association legislation

Changes to the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA) will provide greater efficiency and flexibility for the more than 60 incorporated SES units in WA. Key changes now in effect are:

- **Technology enabled meetings:** Unless association rules (i.e. unit Constitution) state otherwise, SES units can now hold meetings using technology (such as video conferencing). This makes it easier for members to participate and vote, and help groups engage with people with valuable skills regardless of location;
- **Fixed term appointments:** If association rules permit, units can appoint auditors and reviewers for between two and five years. This eliminates the need for annual appointments;
- **Improved appeal rights:** Until now, only existing unit members could appeal expulsion decisions of their unit committee. Now, expelled members have better access to apply to the State Administrative Tribunal for review of their expulsion. This does not preclude the proper exercise of conflict resolution at the unit level;
- **New rule requirement:** Associations need to specify in their rules who is responsible for lodgement of documents with Consumer Protection. This clarifies who is responsible. There is a \$1,000 penalty for getting this wrong.

Consumer Protection is reviewing systems, recourses and publications to reflect the changes. New guidance materials will be released to help support associations in understanding and implementing the reforms. Further updates will be provided as these resources become available.

SES units should consider the impact these legislative changes may have on their Unit Constitution. If assistance is required, do not hesitate to contact the SES Volunteers Association at sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

We're Looking for YOUR SES Unit's News!



SESVA wants to celebrate the dedication, hard work and achievements of our member SES Units and Volunteers.

The Newsletter has a wide circulation that includes SES volunteers, politicians, interested Local Government Councillors and CEOs, DFES staff, other Emergency Service Associations and various community organisations.

Send your articles and great images to:
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Next deadline 25th November.



Mics & Sirens is the official podcast of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

The second season has just launched, taken listeners beyond Western Australia with exclusive access to international experts sharing the latest developments and innovations in fire and emergency services.

You can listen on [Spotify](#) or [Apple Podcasts](#), or watch on [YouTube](#).

DFES is keen to receive ideas from volunteers—and to hear your feedback about Season 1. The short feedback survey can be found [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Sat 08 Nov Kimberley Volunteer Leaders Forum
Mon 10 Nov Youth Programs Awards nominations close
Sat 22 Nov Pingelly 40th Anniversary
Tue 25 Nov Summer Newsletter submissions due
Sat 29 Nov Youth in Emergency Services Challenge
Fri 30 Nov Young Emerging Leaders applications close

Wed 03 Dec **SESVA Summer Newsletter** published
Mon 15 Dec Young Emerging Leaders for 2026 announced
Thu 18 Dec SESVA Management Committee meeting

REMINDER!

Send your T-Shirt orders to
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au
THIS WEEK!

(Over 100 requested so the order is definitely going in.)



People have enquired about a cap.

Similar style to the one above—Black with orange trim—but with **SES SEARCH AND RESCUE** - same as on the back of the T-shirt.

\$25 each. If you are interested please let your Local Manager know.

Unit Managers to submit orders by 24 November.

If we receive 100+ requests combined we will place an order.

Exclusively for SES Volunteers.



The SES Volunteers Association of WA Inc.

acknowledges the funding from the

Department of Fire and Emergency Services of WA

USEFUL LINKS

[Raffle—Buy tickets and support SESVA](#)

[NSESVA Yearbook 2024.pdf](#)

[Home | DFES Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#)

[State Emergency Management Committee](#)

[Home - Volunteering WA](#)

