



Receive every edition of the Newsletter and the Monthly Update; subscribe by email to sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

from THE PRESIDENT

National Volunteer Week Celebrations

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, SESVA President

Left: Some of the most experienced crew members from Karratha SES en-route to the North West Cape to assist Exmouth SES and other services after TC Narelle.

Treasurer Robbie Palmer steps down from the role

The SES Volunteers Association of WA sincerely thanks Robert “Robbie” Palmer as he steps down from the role of Treasurer, a position he has held with dedication and professionalism since 2018.



A volunteer member of the Mundaring SES Unit, Robert’s SES journey is one of extraordinary dedication and resilience. Joining the SES as a wheelchair user, he achieved the remarkable milestone of walking again within a year, and went on to serve more than 25 years in roles ranging from Administrative Officer to Local Manager and Training Manager.

Throughout his service, Robert devoted countless hours—often day and night—to managing incidents, maintaining and strengthening the Mundaring Unit, building membership, and ensuring high standards of training and professionalism. He worked tirelessly to prepare and support his successor, ensuring a smooth transition and strong future for the Unit.

Despite significant physical challenges, Robert never once stood down from duty, always leading with good humour, commitment, and a smile. His leadership has left a lasting legacy of capability, community trust, and service excellence within the SES.

Robbie has brought valuable frontline insight to the Association, ensuring strong and responsible financial management in support of SES volunteers across the state. His steady approach, attention to detail, sound judgement and unforgettable wit have made a lasting contribution to the Association’s governance and stability.

While retiring from the Treasurer role, Robbie’s service to the Association continues. He will remain actively involved as a member of the Media and PR sub-committee, the leader of the SESVA Heritage working group and will continue to support the research and development of SES merchandise and PR items, helping preserve the Association’s history while supporting its visibility and engagement.

The Association extends its sincere thanks to Robbie for his outstanding service since 2018 and looks forward to his continued contribution in these important roles.

RAFFLE #10
DRAWN: 29TH MAY 2026

FIRST PRIZE

\$1,500*

COLES MYER GIFT CARD*

Support WA SES Volunteers.

Buy your tickets on the National SESVA [website](http://www.ses-wa.asn.au).



Your SESVA Management Committee Meeting Summary April 2026

The summary below does not constitute SESVA policies or resolutions unless specifically stated.

Appointment of new Treasurer

- Robbie Palmer has stood down as Treasurer with a vote of thanks and appreciation being recorded by the Committee for his long-standing and outstanding service as Treasurer.
- Martin Stein, a chartered accountant, was appointed as the new SESVA treasurer.
- Martin is a finance and corporate executive with over 20 years' of international experience.

Kimberley Region Committee member

- Nathan Donald was appointed as the new Kimberley Region Committee member.
- Nathan has extensive experience with Broome SES and Karratha SES.

Metro North East Region Committee member

- Mel Crosbie from Swan SES was appointed as the new Metro North East Region Committee member.
- Mel has strong family links to SES; both parents were long serving members at Swan SES.

SESVA Secretary Role

- The Association is now actively seeking expressions of interest for the role of Secretary. Allen has signalled his intent to stand down after this year's AGM in September. It takes time to find the right person.

SESVA Strategic Plan

- DRAFT Strategic Plan is being circulated to committee members to seek feedback from member Units by 10 May.

SESVA Raffle— use of WA proceeds

- Committee suggestions are sought on how SESVA Raffle proceeds can be best used.

WOW Day preparations

- Units Leaders have been sent WOW Day planning resources and information.
- Ribbons, posters, and other promotional items are available.
- Units need to contact Linda at sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au to request specific quantities.

SESVA buses ownership and deployment

- The eight SESVA buses are owned by the association, not DFES.
- These buses cannot be deployed without proper insurance coverage.
- There is no current MOU with DFES regarding the buses. There was an agreement on usage and insurance coverage.
- Discussion on the future of the bus program is ongoing.

SES fleet survey

- SES Volunteers Advisory Committee (VAC) questionnaire to assess SES fleet has been circulated by the SESVA to all units to gather comprehensive data.
- The survey aims to capture information on all vehicles, trailers, and flood boats.
- Units to be encouraged to participate and provide accurate data.
- The SES VAC will use the report to directly lobby the Minister and Commissioner on volunteer needs.

SESVA Executive Council meeting with the Chief Superintendents on 10 April.

Outcomes included:

- Busses MOU, to be followed-up;
- Floodboats, to be followed-up;
- Nail Guns; formal response is pending;
- Uniforms and PPC; to be followed-up;
- An agreed consultation time to allow time for effective consideration.





Introducing our new SESVA Management Committee Members

New regional representatives – Kimberley region and North East region

Two Management Committee members have been appointed to fill the Kimberley region and North East (Metro) region vacancies until the Association's next AGM; an election for both positions will be held prior to the AGM which is scheduled for 12 September with nominations being sought in June.

North East (Metro) Representative - Melanie Crosbie

“I have been a member of Swan SES since May 2021, but my connection to SES spans my entire life having grown up around the unit, so volunteering has always been a big part of my life.

In my time in SES I have had the privilege to deploy to Fitzroy Crossing, Port Hedland and Exmouth. I have taken on several different roles within Swan SES including Duty Officer, Team Leader, Community Engagement and the units Historical Records Officer. I’m especially passionate about preserving the history and legacy of our units whilst strengthening connections with the community we serve.

I am a strong advocate for volunteers, their wellbeing and making sure their voices are heard. For me, it’s not just about supporting current members, but advocating for an environment that future volunteers can step into with confidence, while honouring the legacy of those who paved the way before us.

I am committed to contributing to a culture where volunteers feel supported, respected and valued.”



Kimberley Representative - Nathan Donald

“I have been with SES in the Northwest for almost 15 years. I started my orange journey in Karratha, learning from some of the stalwarts of our generation before moving to Broome. From Vertical Rescue to Road Crash Rescue, I have done most things that we train for. During my time in Broome, I worked my way from Team Member to Training Manager, then Deputy Local Manager and finally Local Manager. During my time as LM, I learnt how to manage issues that would arise in a professional manner. I also learnt that we need to be more active in the advocacy space. Firstly, with Local Government, and the community (believe it or not there are still community members out there that don’t know we are here to help!).

Since standing down from the LM role in December 2025, I have felt that we in the Kimberley need a voice to report on the issues that affect us as Volunteers (and since I’m free from the LM role, why not!)

I look forward to assisting and representing the Volunteers of the Kimberley Region in the issues that we face (there’s too few of us up here!).”





Our new Treasurer - Martin Stein

Martin has held the positions of Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary in several ASX listed companies. In these roles, Martin has been responsible for all aspects of capital raising, financial management, shareholder liaison and corporate governance.

Prior to this, Martin held senior positions with Anvil Mining Limited as well as with PwC at its London office. Whilst with PwC, Martin provided corporate services for companies listed on the LSE, NYSE and AIM, including Colgate-Palmolive, Sony, Heinz, DHL Express and Bosch.



Martin is a childhood friend of Greg MacLean, the son of long-serving SES volunteer Jim MacLean (dec.) Martin grew up hearing stories of the SES from Jim and has always held the organisation in great regard. Recently, Martin experienced first-hand the extraordinary service of the SES when a tree fell in storms on his property, blocking the driveway. The SES did a fantastic job in removing this in no time. This inspired Martin to get involved with the SES.

Whilst Martin is terrible at chopping down trees, he is pretty handy with numbers and accounts! Martin wants to give back to the community and believes his skills as a Chartered Accountant will enable him to give back via his role as Treasurer with the SES.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Secretary – SES Volunteers Association of WA (SESVA) Voluntary Executive Council Role

SESVA is seeking a motivated and organised individual to join the Executive Council as Secretary. This key governance role supports Association communications, meetings, records management, newsletters, and the supervision of one paid staff member.

The Secretary works closely with the President and Executive Council to support and represent members of the SESVA.

Skills sought:

- Strong organisation and communication skills
- Attention to detail and reliability
- Interest in governance and volunteer advocacy
- Meeting administration experience desirable

- ✓ Make a real difference for SES volunteers
- ✓ Gain leadership and governance experience

To apply:

Submit a brief Expression of Interest outlining your skills and motivation.

Enquiries: SESVA President

☎ 0418 403 960

✉ sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au





Important Notice to SES Units:

Portable Repeater & Battery Box Recall – Action Required

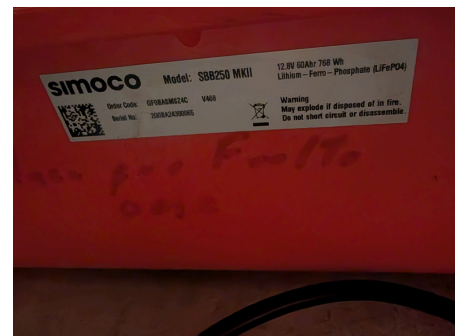
Units holding portable repeaters, battery boxes and Clark Masts are requested to check equipment, provide serial number photos, confirm storage locations, and nominate a contact to support recall and maintenance activities.

DFES has advised that SIMOCO is recalling SIMOCO SRB250 VHF and UHF portable repeaters and SBB-250 battery boxes for internal modification and equipment general refresh. To support this recall, SES units are required to take action immediately, if they haven't already done so.



What SES Units Need to Do – Action Required:

- ✓ Check all holdings for:
 - Yellow VHF and Black UHF **portable repeaters** (not trailers)
 - **Orange battery boxes**
 - Clark masts
- ✓ Photograph the silver serial number label on each item.
- ✓ Confirm the normal storage location of each item (e.g. RHQ or SES unit).
- ✓ Identify any known faults or issues with the equipment.
- ✓ Nominate a unit contact person (name, email, and phone number) to support recall coordination.
- ✓ Email the photos and details to Dave.Flint@dfes.wa.gov.au (photos alone are sufficient to identify model and quantity).



This information is required to:

- Assist with a speedy recall and return,
- Support future preventative maintenance scheduling, and
- Statewide communications resource mapping



Update on Fleet, Equipment and Uniforms

The SES Volunteers Association (SESVA) has begun discussions with the DFES Asset Management Division to improve collaboration and outcomes for volunteers. Encouraging progress is underway across fleet, uniforms and equipment, with DFES responding to the volunteer feedback received to date (per DFES General Circular 60/2026).

The following information is drawn from a report by Lilian Oh, SESVA Metro North Coastal region representative.

Fleet Improvements

Since January 2025, SES units have received:

- 38 General Rescue Units (GRUs)
- 3 General Rescue Trucks (GRTs)
 - Two additional GRTs expected later this year
 - Three additional truck chassis ordered

In response to feedback from the Natural Hazards Fleet Project Advisory Team (PAT), a trial logistics trailer has been built and delivered to SES Bridgetown and SES Moora for testing. Feedback from these units will inform the final design prior to full production.

A trial rescue trailer is due to be completed this month, and potential changes to GRT configurations are under consideration. The Natural Hazards PAT is scheduled to meet again by June to review feedback and discuss next steps.

New Volunteer Website

The new DFES volunteer website will include:

- A new online feedback form for Fleet, Equipment and Facilities (including uniforms)
- Measurement guides for Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Fitting and care instructions (initially for boots and helmets)
- Simplified access to DFES Doctrine, including Directives, SAPs and SOPs

Planned future enhancements include:

- QR codes on all uniforms linking directly to care instructions
- Expanded fitting and care guidance for PPC and uniforms
- Videos and photos to support ordering systems and training

Uniforms and PPC Updates

DFES will review the quality and suitability of boot options before the current supplier contract expires. A Women's Project Advisory Team continues to provide feedback on women's uniforms, PPC and PPE.

Following SESVA queries regarding sizing of blue shirts and lightweight PPC, Stuart and Heaton have confirmed they will honour refunds for new, unused items even if slightly outside the standard 30-day refund period.

Current ordering options:

- Standard sizes
- Custom preset options (e.g. long-fit pants)
- Made-to-measure items

Where these options remain unsuitable, units may request alterations to existing garments through DFES regional management.

Other Equipment Updates

Feedback regarding poor-quality knee pads was attributed to a temporary material shortage. DFES has advised that the original knee pads are now back in stock.

New navy wide-brim floppy (search) hats are now available. These are the same design and fabric used by other volunteer services, are foldable, and will not shrivel or pucker when washed. They are available to order online by Stores Officers.

Providing Feedback

DFES welcomes further feedback from volunteers. Providing detailed descriptions, photos and supporting evidence will assist in improving fleet, equipment and uniform outcomes.

Feedback can be submitted via www.dfes.wa.gov.au/ppc or by or using the QR code or by contacting ord@dfes.wa.gov.au for information on Project Advisory Teams.

SESVA will continue working with Asset Management and provide regular updates. Units are encouraged to share this information widely, particularly with Stores Officers.



WA Young Emerging Leaders Take Flight to Canberra

On 5 May 2026, two of Western Australia's next generation of emergency services leaders, Corey Wozencroft and Joshua Yates, travelled to Canberra at the invitation of the National SES Volunteers Association to represent WA at the National Emergency Services Memorial Service and participate in national Young Emerging Leaders (YEL) activities.

Representing WA on the National Stage

Joining SESVA President Greg Cook and Secretary Allen Gale, Corey and Joshua are attending the National Emergency Services Memorial Service on Friday, 8 May.

The annual service honours emergency services personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty, providing a powerful opportunity for reflection, respect, and national unity.

Other highlights of the visit include tours of Parliament House (old and new), the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) National Situation Room and the National War Memorial — an unforgettable experience recognising the importance of service and leadership across the nation.

Opportunities Through the Young Emerging Leaders Program

Being selected to participate in the National SES Volunteers Associations' YEL program provides rare opportunities for Corey and Josh, including:

- Representing WA with pride as part of the Guard of Honour at the 2026 AFAC National Emergency Services Memorial.
- Connecting with Young Emerging Leaders from across Australia, building strong cross-state relationships.
- Helping shape the future of volunteering through national strategy and planning discussions.
- Stepping into hands-on national leadership in an active, working forum environment.
- Strengthening professional and personal connections through shared gatherings and Canberra exploration.
- Staying connected via a communications channel to share insights, updates, and continue collaboration beyond the trip.

Investing in the People – Our Future

This Canberra experience reflects the National SESVA and the WA SESVA commitment to investing in people and empowering emerging leaders to contribute confidently at local, state, and national levels.

Meet the Leaders

Corey Wozencroft – Mandurah SES



Corey joined the SES with a strong desire to help others and make a positive difference. He thrives on the diversity of SES operations—from cyclones and fire ground assistance to storm damage response and community events—and values every opportunity to learn, adapt, and support his community.

Corey is also passionate about mentoring newer members and sharing skills across generations of volunteers.

Joshua Yates – Margaret River SES



Joshua is the current WAFES Awards SES Young Person of the Year and brings extensive experience across training coordination, multi-agency exercises, regional capability development, and major operational deployments.

Known for his maturity and strategic outlook, Joshua consistently goes above and beyond to strengthen volunteer capability and service delivery.

Points worth noting from the SES Training Advisory Group – April meeting

- **Training Product Notifications:** Ongoing updates via weekly E-academy newsletter, dashboard notifications, and IIR dashboard.
- **Currency Training:** Currency drills simplified; Training Support Officers to create one annual event with flexible member access.
- **Incident Management Training:** Progress updates provided across logistics, resources, leadership, sector command, operations, safety, and Public Information Officer products.
- **Operational Delivery:**
 - On Road Driver Training transitioning to Roadcraft (online prerequisite; offline option under consideration).
 - Emergency Driving Courses currently stalled due to staffing shortages.
- **Member Reports:** General Rescue course delivered and under review; IIRs submitted; Polaris ATU rollout progressing; Height Safety rollout monitored.
- **General Business:** Electronic IIR and LD01 processes implemented; request for broader member participation in training reviews.
- **Mental Health First Aid:** Proposal to remove from Vehicle Rescue Stream and recognise external Manual Handling First Aid training – decision pending.
- **Training Product Update Process:** Emphasis on improved communication through E-academy and regional dissemination.
- **Interim Operating Procedure 3.07 (Swiftwater Rescue) versus Flood Rescue Boat TRK:** Potential conflict identified (definitions/capability); monitoring ongoing.

Wrap up warm this Winter



SESWA
Serving the Community

Super warm fleecy Hoodie

with kangaroo front pocket.

Logo also printed on back.

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL

\$55.00

Stylish cable knit acrylic scarf

1800 x 200mm

\$20.00

Warm knitted acrylic beanie

with roll up cuff

\$20.00

Combo Special

Buy a Scarf & Beanie for \$30 +pp

Email sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au or call 0499 619 287.

WOW Day 2026: What DFES and SESVA are doing to celebrate our SES volunteers

Wear Orange Wednesday (WOW Day) is our chance to shine a light on the incredible people who make the State Emergency Service what it is—our volunteers.

It's a simple idea with a big impact: wear orange, share a thank you, and help your local community recognise the commitment SES members bring before, during and after emergencies.

For WOW Day 2026, DFES and the SES Volunteers Association of Western Australia (SESVA) are backing a range of activities to help units and communities get involved across WA.

DFES activities and communications

DFES is coordinating a mix of media, workplace and community-facing activations in the lead-up to, and on, WOW Day 2026. Activities currently planned include:

- Proactive media across radio and print in regional WA in the lead up to WOW Day
- Illuminating buildings and lighting displays in orange across Perth metropolitan and regional WA
- Letter to newsrooms requesting presenters wear orange in their bulletins
- Channel 10 live cross from Cockburn SES WOW Day Challenge
- Raising flags at the DFES Cockburn Central office
- Sharing WOW Day messages and ready-to-use digital content to help units spread the word and celebrate their people online.

SESVA activities and communications

- SESVA is sending ribbons, posters and information to all State politicians to encourage wider recognition of SES volunteers and the work you do for your communities.
- A Campaign Information Pack and supporting resources you can use to promote WOW Day locally is available on our website.
- WOW Day packs have been distributed to 20 Units.
- SESVA Executive and Management Committee members will be out and about supporting activities hosted by SES units across the metro area and regions.

Events currently on the radar include:

- Cockburn SES WOW Day Challenge 2026
- Community engagement events in Australind, Mandurah and Melville
- Unit events in Bassendean, Nannup, Serpentine-Jarrahdale and Kalamunda

Whether you're part of an SES unit, a local business, a school or a member of the public, a simple gesture—wearing orange, sharing a message of thanks, or supporting a local unit event—helps highlight the vital role SES volunteers play across Western Australia.



UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Thu 07 May	VAC Meeting	Thu 23 July	SESVA Management Committee mtg
Fri 08 May	AFAC National Memorial Service	Thu 30 July	VAC Meeting
Sat 16 May	Armadale SES Open Day	18 - 21 Aug	AFAC2026 in Melbourne
Mon 18 May	Melville SES 50 th Anniversary dinner	22 -23 Aug	Midwest-Goldfields Forum (venue TBC)
18 - 24 May	National Volunteer Week	04 - 05 Sep	WAFES Conference & Awards
Wed 20 May	WOW Day	Sat 12 Sep	SESVA AGM
Thu 28 May	SESVA Management Committee mtg	Thu 24 Sep	SESVA Management Committee mtg
Wed 10 Jun	Thank a First Responder Day	Thu 26 Nov	SESVA Management Committee mtg
Sat 13 June	Goldfields-Midlands All Service Volunteer Leadership Development Forum, Northam	Sat 05 Dec	International Volunteer Day

Thank a First Responder Day 10 June 2026

For SES volunteers and units, Thank a First Responder Day is an opportunity to thank not only our own members, but also the wider emergency services family we work alongside at incidents across Western Australia.

Whether it's a quick thank-you at training, a post on social media, a morning tea, or a message of appreciation to partner agencies, even small gestures help show that the effort and commitment of first responders is recognised and valued.

SES units and volunteers looking for ideas are encouraged to check out Fortem's Thank a First Responder Day resources, which include simple ways to get involved and promote the day locally: <https://fortemaustralia.org.au/thank-a-first-responder-day/>

However you choose to mark the day, taking a moment to say thanks helps strengthen the connections that support strong, safe and resilient communities

NEW—SES Teddy Bear

complete with soft helmet.

\$20 + p/p



Download the SESVA
merchandise catalogue



USEFUL LINKS

[SES Volunteer's Association of WA \(SESVA WA\)](#)

[SESVA Facebook page](#)

[Buy tickets in the WA / TAS SESVA Raffle](#)

[NSESVA Yearbook 2025.pdf](#)

[DFES Volunteer Hub](#)

[State Emergency Management Committee](#)

[Home - Volunteering WA](#)



The SES Volunteers Association of WA Inc.

acknowledges the funding from the

Department of Fire and Emergency Services of WA

