



From the President – Celebrating Success

Dear Members,

I am delighted to share some exciting updates and upcoming events with you.

Success of the AFAC Conference

The Association is thrilled to report that the recent AFAC Conference was a tremendous success. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our team and participants, the event was engaging, insightful, and inspiring. It provided a valuable platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and strengthening our SES community. Your support and enthusiasm made this achievement possible, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the future.

Upcoming Fit for Role Statewide Hookup

In October, we will host a statewide "Fit for Role" hookup via Teams. This session is designed to ensure all members are aligned with strategic objectives and equipped with the latest updates and resources. The Fit for Role project has been referred to the DC Waters to confirm scope and parameters prior to the discussion.

Please tentatively mark your calendars for **Saturday, 18 October at 9:00 am** and stay tuned for further details. Your participation is vital to our continued SES success.

Karratha 40th Anniversary

It was a great pleasure and honour to attend the Karratha 40th Anniversary on **Saturday, 20 September** at the Red Earth Arts Precinct. The event offered an opportunity to renew old friendships and forge new ones.

Many members were recognised by MC and Local Manager, Rob Graham, with special mention of Trevor Patton, the immediate past Local Manager, who served in that role for 18 years and has contributed 40 years of service to Karratha SES—just shy of being a foundation member.



Association AGM

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 13 September at 9:00 am in person at Leake Street, Belmont, and online via Teams.

This important gathering allowed us to review achievements, outline future plans, and recognise the dedication of our members. Thank you to all committee members, particularly those who have stood down, and a warm welcome to our new committee members. Thank you to all SES volunteers for your ongoing commitment and support. Together, we are making great strides and shaping a bright future for our association.

Warm Regards,

Greg Cook

President, SES Volunteers Association

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Leveraging Our Past, Seizing Our Future



The theme of the SESVA modernisation program, “Leveraging the past. Seizing the future”, is about building on our rich history, not discarding it. As the sources remind us:

“Your brand and reputation are what others say about you when you’re not in the room.”

This modernisation isn't about throwing away our past; it's about using it as a springboard to tell the powerful story of our volunteers.

We are thrilled to share more about what this means for the entire SESVA community.

Refreshed Image

This image refresh is more than just a new look; it's a total refresh of what we say, how we say it, and how it all looks – intending to attract, motivate, and retain members **now and into the future.**

Modern, Simple and Meaningful Logo

A new logo with a human touch. The new ‘V’ shape, combined with the orange check, reflects **volunteers, unity, and movement** while keeping the focus on the volunteers who are the hero, not the new logo.



A Fresh, Unified Identity

The refresh is more than just a new logo. It’s an evolution of how we present ourselves — with clarity, consistency and heart built on a foundation of service, dedication, and community.

Together, we’ll continue shaping an image that reflects the incredible impact of SES volunteers across WA.

If you have any questions, please contact Allen Gale.

Mobile 0419 935 497

Email sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au





The Annual General Meeting

Saturday 13 September at Belmont



Another successful AGM has come and gone, thanks to our team who worked tirelessly to ensure both in-person and online participation from all corners of the State. A huge thank you to everyone involved for your participation and commitment. This year there was the addition of electoral ballots to be announced and several special resolutions to be voted on.

Newly elected members

Reidan Ford, Kalgoorlie-Boulder SES

Lilian Oh, Bayswater SES

Andrew Bray, Canning-South Perth SES

Goldfields-Midlands Region

North Coastal (Metro) Region

South East (Metro) Region

Re-elected member

Ziggy Belczowski, SWORD SES and Mandurah SES

South Coastal (Metro) Region

Retiring elected members

Trevor Patton, Karratha SES

Ros McConchie, Bunbury SES

Marty Seward, Serpentine-Jarrahdale SES

Pilbara Region

South West Region

South East (Metro) Region

Expired appointments

Phil Scanlan, Belmont-Victoria Park SES

Megan Reynolds, Mandurah SES

Ross Jones, Geraldton-Greenough SES

North East (Metro) Region

North Coastal (Metro) Region

Kimberley Region



The AGM was chaired by Greg Cook

Congratulations to all the SES volunteers who are taking on the important committee roles and representing their respective regions.

The following positions remain vacant – expressions of interest can be sent to Secretary Allen Gale

Email sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

| Position | Comments | Term Expires |
|------------|---|--------------|
| Kimberley | Vacant – expressions of interest sought | AGM 2027 |
| South West | Vacant – expressions of interest sought | AGM 2027 |
| North East | Vacant – expressions of interest sought | AGM 2026 |



AGM attendees at Belmont





Changes to the SESVA Constitution



The following Special Resolutions, for which prior notification was given, were considered at the 13 September AGM:

1. Change of name – remove the apostrophe

A motion was moved: That the name of the Association be changed from:

“SES Volunteer’s Association of Western Australia Incorporated”

to: *“SES Volunteers Association of Western Australia Incorporated”*

The motion was accepted by the more than three quarters of member delegates.

2. Addition of a Vice President position

A motion was moved: That the constitution of the SES Volunteers Association of WA Incorporated be amended to include the role of a Third Vice President.

The motion was accepted by more than three quarters of member delegates.

Expressions of Interest have been called for this new position – to be received by 19 October

3. Elected regional representatives to be members of a unit affiliated with the region they are elected to represent

An amended motion was moved: That the constitution of the SES Volunteers Association of WA Incorporated be amended to require that Committee members who are Regional Representatives shall be SES Volunteers who are members of an affiliated unit located within the region they are elected to represent. In the event that no nomination is made for a region, then the management committee may appoint a person to the role, to be formalised upon endorsement by the member units of the relevant region.

The amended motion was accepted by more than three quarters of member delegates.

4. Only one committee nomination to be submitted

A motion was moved: That the constitution of the SES Volunteers Association of WA Incorporated be amended to ensure that nominees for election to the Committee may only nominate for one vacant position.

The motion failed to receive acceptance by three quarters of member delegates.





21 AUGUST 2025 SESVA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY



Notable correspondence received

Letter from the Commissioner regarding implementation of Fit-For-Role (FFR).

Notification of DFES grant for 2025/26, confirming a 3-year term.

Letter of thanks from Romy Masarei, for the Association's support of husband Craig following his passing in June. Craig provided invaluable moral, legal and legislation advice and guidance to the committee over the past three years.

Media & PR Strategy Sub-Committee Update - reported progress on merchandise and promotional materials for the W-AFAC conference. Ongoing work includes a style guide development, website updates, social media policy, Young Emerging Leaders Policy development and establishing a Content Creation group.

Legislation Working Group - reported that government feedback suggests draft legislation may be introduced within the current parliamentary term (next four years). No further progress at this stage.

AGM Special Resolutions - Proposed resolutions were endorsed for presentation at the AGM 13 September.

Replacement SESVA Bus Project - Working group established to consider options for replacing or expanding the bus fleet. Terms of Reference were presented and accepted.

SESVA Content Creation Team – Expressions of interest will be sought from enthusiastic volunteers to help the SESVA bring SES stories, news, and educational materials to life across social media, newsletters, and the website.

TC Seroja Premier's Citation - SESVA will submit a proposal to Government and the FES Commissioner for the creation of a Citation to recognise contributions of volunteers and staff who were involved in the 2021 TC Seroja response/recovery operation.

Fit-For-Role (FFR) – The SESVA will respond to the FES Commissioner's letter clarifying inaccuracies and the Association's role in consulting units. Member units will be invited to attend an online forum for further discussion following consultation with National SESVA representatives about FFR rollout in other jurisdictions and the findings will be shared at the forum.

Administration Officer Recruitment - Recruitment process update was provided advising the new Admin Officer would be commencing soon. (EDITORS NOTE: Linda Daniels commenced 2 September).

Acknowledgements – Retiring members Trevor Patton, Karratha SES, and Marty Seward, Serpentine-Jarrahdale SES, were thanked for their service.

Next Committee Meeting – scheduled for Thursday, 23 October





Bernie McNamara

SES Young Emerging Leaders Program

The winner of the annual WA Fire and Emergency Services SES Young Person Award wins the privilege of participating in the **AFAC National Memorial Service**, held each year in Canberra at the National Emergency Services Memorial.

Young SES volunteers 18 to 30 years can apply now

A second young WA SES volunteer can participate in the National Memorial Service as part of the *Bernie McNamara SES Young Emerging Leaders (YEL) Program* that has been established to support the development of young SES volunteers in WA.

The program is aligned with the National SES Volunteers Association YEL Program, where young volunteers from all Australian jurisdictions join together at the Memorial Service in Canberra in late April or early May. They also get the chance to meet the Governor General and the Commissioners of emergency services from the other jurisdictions.

SELECTION PROCESS

Young SES WA volunteers 18 to 30 years of age can apply now by submitting a YEL Program Application form for consideration by a selection panel appointed by the SESVA Management Committee.

Selection will be achievement-based using a fair and transparent process managed by the SESVA of WA. The selection panel is made up of independent people, chaired by a Management Committee member.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applicants are asked to provide information about themselves, including community initiatives, programs or groups, and describe their involvement and any leadership roles they have been active in. They'll also be asked about their leadership aspirations and how they see themselves as a leader in 5 years.
- A supporting reference from the Local Manager of the applicant's SES unit must accompany the application.

TIMINGS

- 30 November 2025 closing date for receipt of applications
- 15 December 2025 announcement of the selected candidate(s) for the YEL program 2026
- 1st week in May 2025 AFAC National Memorial Service, Canberra

APPLY NOW

Download the application form from the SESVA website [HERE](#)

Apply by 30 November to the SESVA Secretary, sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

New Faces on the Committee—meet Andrew, Lilian and Reidan

Reidan Ford, Kalgoorlie-Boulder SES, Goldfields-Midlands region

Reidan is a dedicated family man with a wife and three daughters, and has over 20 years of experience in the transport and mining industries. He has proudly served with the SES for two years and currently fills the role of Training and Transport Manager at Kalgoorlie-Boulder SES. Supporting the community in times of need is deeply rewarding, and he actively promotes SES volunteering at local events.

Reidan recently coordinated the retrofit of one of the unit trailers with a local mine site, improving their response capability. He remains committed to giving his time to help others and is proud to be part of this valuable organisation.



Lilian Oh, Bayswater SES, North Coastal region

Lillian is an active SES member with strong experience in emergency management and public sector leadership. Currently Deputy Local Manager at Bayswater SES, she previously held senior roles at DFES, including Manager Strategic Advisory Services and Executive Manager supporting WA's Strategic Emergency Management Committee. She has deployed to events such as Tropical Cyclone Seroja and led DFES Pre-Formed Teams.

Formerly a Director in the WA Government, she has worked across WA, QLD, VIC and Commonwealth agencies, focusing on strategy, governance and reform. A dedicated volunteer, she currently serves as Deputy Chairperson of Community Legal WA alongside extensive community and advocacy work.

Andrew Bray, Canning-South Perth SES, South East (Metro) region

Andrew joined the Canning/South Perth SES Unit in February 1998 and has since responded to numerous callouts, including storm and water damage, ceiling collapses, vehicle-versus-building incidents, land and air searches, and bushfire support operations.

Throughout his service, he has held various leadership and administrative roles, including Team Leader, Training Manager, Deputy Manager, and served for seven years as Local Manager. He currently serves as Section Leader for Stores and Transport. Andrew is also a qualified Trainer and Assessor in Land Search Team Member, USAR (Category 1), Field Radio Operator, and Net Control Operator.

A new face in the office—meet new Admin Officer – Linda Daniels



We're very pleased to welcome Linda Daniels as our new Administration Officer. Linda comes to us from her role as Executive Officer at the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, where she supported one of WA's most iconic long-distance trails and worked closely with volunteers, members, and community partners.

With a genuine love for connecting with people and keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes, Linda is excited to bring her skills and energy to our Association. She enjoys helping teams achieve their goals and making sure members feel supported and valued. Great to have you onboard, Linda.

Expression of Interest

Join the SESVA Content Creation Team



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

The SES Volunteers Association (SESVA) is forming a new Content Creation Team

We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help bring SES stories, news, and educational materials to life across social media, newsletters, and our website.

Who We're Looking For

Volunteers with experience using tools like:

Canva CapCut Adobe Express Or similar apps/software

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

What You'll Do

As part of the team, you'll 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?

Submit your expression of interest with **your name, your unit** and **your contact details** to Allen Gale:

Email sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

Mobile 0419 935 497

**Let's work together to showcase the incredible work
of SES volunteers across Western Australia!**



SESVA Raffle update



WA & TAS Raffle Support the Cause and buy your tickets [HERE!](#)

Raffle 08 is now open and will be drawn on 29 November 2025— don't miss out on a chance to win a \$1500 Coles Myer Gift Card.

Thank you to everyone that has supported the SESVA raffle in WA so far—the proceeds are increasing and the SESVA is now able to fund some beneficial activities for SES volunteers in WA.

Spread the word and encourage people to buy tickets online [Buy tickets and support the National SESVA](#) or by calling **1300 804 562**. Winners are contacted by phone, mail or email with the raffle results published in The Australian and on the National SESVA website nationalesvaraffle.org.au the following business day after the draw.

The funds raised in WA once expenses are taken into account, stay in WA and are used primarily to connect SES volunteers with people, programs and education for the benefit of SES volunteers where there is no private gain for the individuals.

New T-Shirts!

Order through your unit

These T-shirts are exclusively for SES Volunteers.

If you would like one, please let your Local Manager know.

We need a minimum of 100 orders (from all the Units combined) to place an order.





WAFES Awards—Gala Dinner 2025



The 2025 WAFES Awards finalists are joined onstage by Emergency Services Minister Paul Papalia and Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm AFSM

Winners of the 2025 WA Fire and Emergency Service Awards were announced at the gala dinner on Friday, 29 August at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Congratulations to all finalists and winners across the 15 categories.

The awards honour and acknowledge the achievements of volunteers, career firefighters and DFES staff throughout WA who have shown exceptional dedication to duty over the 12 months leading up to the judging of the awards in early 2025.

2025 SES Award Winners



Peter Keillor Award

Connie Reed, Newman SES

Connie joined the Gale Dinner remotely from the Carawine Gorge near Marble Bar in the Pilbara where she had been visiting Western Desert communities, building connections and improving wet season preparedness and community resilience.

Her leadership, organisational skills and commitment to outreach have strengthened the Newman SES unit's capability and built trust across the Pilbara region.



SES Young Person of the Year Award

Joshua Yates, Margaret River SES

Rising from cadet to storm team leader, Josh leads training exercises and mock operations to prepare others for real emergencies. Josh has responded to numerous callouts, including the Bunbury storm and a recovery task force deployed to Queensland after Cyclone Alfred. He is a vital contributor and emerging leader in the emergency services community.



SES Team Achievement Award

Esperance SES

Of the incidents Esperance SES responded to over the past 12 months, one was particularly arduous. The recovery of a fisherman who had fallen off a cliff 130 km from Esperance required a great amount of skill due to rising tides and heavy swell. Using advanced vertical rescue techniques, they battled slippery rocks and waves for hours. Their perseverance ensured the man was returned to his family so they could grieve in a traditional culturally sensitive manner.





On the 20th of September Karratha State Emergency Service celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a gala event held at the Red Earth Arts Precinct. This saw current and former members gather along with volunteers from across the Pilbara to recognise this significant milestone and the contribution to the safety of the people of Karratha and the wider Pilbara community.

Karratha SES was founded late in 1984 where it operated out of the Karratha police station and trained at the Karratha Senior Highschool grounds, with the communications unit operating out of a borrowed room from the water authority.

The iconic building we still operate out of was conceived and put together back in 1987 and was ready for use in 1988. The building will live on in the commemorative coin that we had struck for the anniversary.

Karratha SES has had an eventful existence with operations extending across the Pilbara and wider Western Australian community as well as members deployed across Australia to assist in NSW and QLD.

Significant events include STC Bobby (1995), STC Vance (1999), TC George (2007), TS Christine with a Tornado and a land Search all running simultaneously (2013),

STC Veronica (2019), STC Damien (2020), STC Seroja (2021). Searches at De Gray River (2010), The "Returner" Trawler Search Dampier (2015), Noreena Downs (2020). Countless road crashes and fire support operations.

The people who have made up Karratha SES are a great bunch whose efforts have been recognised at the highest levels.

Some of the significant recognition:

- 1989 Ministers Trophy "Most Proficient Unit"
- 1999 FESA Special Commendation (STC Vance)
- 2007 Winners FESA SES Team Award
- 2010 Finalists DFES SES Team Award (RCR Team)
- 2010 Perer Keilor Award (Trevor Patton)
- 2013 Finalists DFES SES Team Award (TC Rusty)
- 2014 Winners DFES SES Team Award along with Roebourne (TC Christine)
- 2016 Peter Keilor Award (Keith Squibb)
- 2021 City of Karratha Community Group of the Year (TC Damien Response)
- 3 Members recognised by the City of Karratha as Citizens of the Year during the Australia Day Awards and 1 Special Commendation
- 1 Finalist in the WA Citizen of the Year (Rob Graham)

Cont:

Karratha 40 Year Anniversary - AWARDS

The night saw the recognition of service totalling 200 years across 12 individuals. All except for 6 or 7 years of this service was completed in Karratha. This is an outstanding achievement for a small, transient town such as Karratha. Those whose service was recognised were:

5 Year DFES SES Long Service Pin

Asela Ranasinghe
Kabarú "Millie" Inguie
Nick Sargeant

10 Year DFES SES Long Service Medal

Marie Waterstrom

15 Year DFES SES Long Service Clasp + 15 Year National Service Medal

Rosie Mines
Matt Eardley
Vicki Connoley
Rob Graham

20 Year DFES SES Long Service Clasp

Donna Walker

25 Year National Service Clasp

Damien Muller

30 Year DFES SES Long Service Clasp

Jo Waterstrom-Muller

40 Year DFES SES Long Service Clasp

Trevor Patton

In honour of Trevor Patton's 40 years of service to the unit, as well as his 18 years as Local Manager, the units Local Manager Award was retired on the night and a new award "**The Trevor Patton**" Local Managers Award was inaugurated and presented to Trevor along with a framed set of SES patches that cover the different designs over the past 40 years.

Karratha SES also has a **Members Choice Award**. This is for a unit member who stands out in the eyes of their peers and;

- Goes out to their way to help others
- You notice when they are not around
- Are a real team player; and
- Someone that is always helpful and friendly

This year for the second year in a row the award went to Nick Sargeant who despite being FIFO and not living in Karratha is a regular at our training bringing a wealth of knowledge and a great enthusiasm for sharing it with others.

A big thanks to Greg Cook who attended to represent the SES Volunteers Association and present us with an Anniversary plaque which will take pride of place in our unit.



Photos from top to bottom:

Trevor Patton's 40 Year Service.

L to R: Chief Superintendent Country North Andy Wright, Trevor Patton ESM, Rob Graham (Karratha SES LM)

Trevor Patton awarded inaugural Trevor Patton Local Managers Award

L to R: Chief Superintendent Country North Andy Wright, Trevor Patton ESM, Rob Graham

Karratha SES Members Choice Award

L to R: Chief Superintendent Country North Andy Wright, Nick Sargeant, Rob Graham (Karratha SES LM)

VA Plaque being Presented

L to R: Rob Graham (Karratha SES LM), Greg Cook (President SESVA)

SESVA honours SES volunteer David Beard

It was time to celebrate the volunteers achievements at the Rockingham-Kwinana SES 2025 AGM on Friday 26 September. Dave Beard was presented with his 35-year clasp for the National Medal, recognising his enduring commitment and length of service. SESVA President Greg Cook announced that a special plaque is being presented to Dave to acknowledge his outstanding service as Vice President of the SESVA from 2009 to 2016.

“In 2019, Dave was awarded Life Membership of the SESVA in WA,” Greg added.

“We continue to honour and celebrate our committee members, especially those before us; thank you Dave.”



SESVA life Member Dave Beard is flanked by Ziggy Belcowski (left) and Greg Cook.



Canine SES Unit Celebration

A good night was enjoyed by all at our annual dinner and awards night at the Guildford hotel.

Sadly we said goodbye to our DO Mike Teraci who has been a fantastic support over the past 5 years. We look forward to Glenn Hall returning as our DO. Glenn was our DO in the early years.

Mike handed out the superintendent awards and some 5 year service awards. We gifted an SES teddy to Marco and Sey's first born, a baby boy, Leonardo. Mike also thanked Jules for her support and Peta for all the help she has given us.

Kalamunda SES Awards



Unit catering member, Jo Kalnis and LM Warwick Martindale



Kalamunda SES Service Award recipient and DFES DO Todd Pender



Warren Taylor received his 10 Year Meritorious Service Medal from DFES DO Todd Pender



Kalamunda SES LM Warwick Martindale, volunteer Don Smailes (Life Member) and DFES DO Todd Pender.



AWARDS & CELEBRATIONS



SWORD SES Celebrates 10 Years of Service and Strength

On August 16th, the SWORD State Emergency Service Unit marked a major milestone—its 10th anniversary as a gazetted SES unit. The celebration was a joyful evening of recognition, reflection, and camaraderie, honouring the incredible journey and achievements of the unit and its members.

Awards were presented to several dedicated volunteers:

- Sabrina Horan – 10 years of service
- Chris Muir – 5 years of service
- Janet Duncan – 5 years of service
- John Marshall – Life Membership
- Pam Chomdee – Outstanding Service to SWORD and DFES

The evening was made even more special thanks to the Salvation Army catering team, whose delicious meals are always appreciated.

Assistant Commissioner Peter Sutton AFSM delivered a powerful speech, reflecting on SWORD’s evolution from humble beginnings in 2014 to becoming a cornerstone of SES logistics across Western Australia. Starting with just six members and minimal equipment in a shed at the Academy, SWORD has grown into a highly capable unit with around 40 skilled members and over \$6 million in assets—including trucks, forklifts and remote caches.

SWORD’s operational footprint is impressive:

- 26 days supporting TC Saroja
- 23 days on TC Ellie
- Major deployments during the Fitzroy Floods and Exmouth solar eclipse
- 4.5 weeks on the Eyre Highway burn program, 1,886 km from Perth

Their expertise spans logistics, aviation support, camp management, power generation, and more—earning trust from DBCA, DFES Aviation, and other agencies. As Peter Sutton aptly put it, “If there’s ever a real-life apocalypse, I know where I’m pitching my tent.”

Congratulations to SWORD SES on a decade of excellence, and thank you to all who have contributed to its success.

Ziggy Belczowski

Management Committee Member, South Coastal Area

Photos from Top to Bottom:

- **Sabrina Horan** – 10 years of service
- **Chris Muir** – 5 years of service
- **John Marshall** – Life Membership
- **Ron Davies** Local Manager and **Sabrina Horan** cutting the cake
- **Pam Chomdee** – Outstanding Service to SWORD and DFES
- **Janet Duncan** – 5 years of service
- **Salvos catering team** for the night



Toodyay SES 10th Anniversary

On July 27, the Toodyay SES marked a major milestone — 10 years of community service—with a celebratory lunch attended by volunteers, supporters, and distinguished guests.

The Journey of Toodyay SES - Local Manager Jeff Venn reflected on the unit's origins. What began as an idea to form a Volunteer Emergency Service (VES) evolved into the establishment of the Toodyay SES on February 28, 2015. With the completion of the Morangup Fire Brigade station, DFES saw an opportunity—and the community seized it.

Jeff, then captain of the Morangup Fire Brigade, stepped into the role of inaugural Local Manager, with Kim Maddrell as Deputy Manager. Together, they recruited the first members, including Anthony and Lorraine and Michael Perich, laying the foundation for what would become a strong and capable team.

From a single truck and a handful of volunteers, the unit grew steadily, supported by dedicated individuals like Phil Hawes, who helped secure vital equipment, and ongoing support from Rob and Ebony.

Milestones and Memories—Over the years, the unit has faced challenges and celebrated triumphs. Jeff recalled memorable moments, including Gail Twomey's transformation from storm-course skeptic to rooftop climber —an inspiring example of courage and growth.

Skilled members like Valdy, Kimbo, and Don brought invaluable building expertise, while leadership transitions—from DO's Colin Brown to Matt Reimer, Ros Clevely, and now Ash Smith—have continued to strengthen the unit.



DFES DO Ash Smith, Dawn Creusot, Damien Pumphrey and Jeff Venn

Awards and Recognition

Several members were honoured for their long-standing service:

10-Year Unit Awards

- Jeff Venn
- Kim Maddrell
- Anthony Perich
- Michael Perich
- Kim Hosking
- Steve Gamble

10-Year Medal

- Anthony Perich
- Jayden Daniels

Bush Fire 20-Year Clasps

- Mark Briggs
- Judy Briggs

Outstanding Service Award 2025

This was presented to Dawn Creusot, whose unwavering dedication, willingness to help, and active participation in training, operations, and community events exemplify the spirit of Toodyay SES.

Looking Ahead

As Jeff Venn concluded, "It's been a genuine pleasure to watch this unit evolve—from a handful of volunteers with a truck to the strong, capable team we are today. The camaraderie, commitment, and community spirit have never wavered.

"To every past and present member, supporter, and family—thank you. Your contributions have shaped the Toodyay SES into what it is today."

Here's to 10 years of service—and to many more to





Australian Honours

Last chance to nominate this year

Don't miss this opportunity to recognise a volunteer for their distinguished service.

Nominations for the 2026 King's Birthday Honours for the Emergency Services Medal and Bravery Decorations close 17 October.

Emergency Services Medal (ESM)

The Emergency Services Medal (ESM) recognises distinguished service by paid and volunteer members of emergency services across Australia, and people who are involved in emergency management, training or education.

This award acknowledges distinguished service by members of:

- State Emergency Service organisations
- volunteer emergency organisations.

Bravery Decorations

The Australian Bravery Decorations recognise acts of bravery by members of the community who selflessly put themselves in jeopardy to protect the lives or property of others.

Nominations may be made for a brave act by an Australian citizen in Australia or overseas, or for a citizen of another country carrying out a brave act in the interest of Australia. Australian Bravery Decorations may be made posthumously.

NOMINATE NOW

[Australian Honours Service Medals | DFES Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#)

Did you know?

Website change—new logo pop-up!

Next time you log in to the website of the SESVA, a pop-up will reveal the new logo. It is triggered on the home page once per session; if you navigate back to the homepage in the same session, it won't pop up.



SESVA committee members pictured enjoying themselves at the 2025 Awards and Gala Dinner, from L-R:

Back Row—Ross Jones, Ziggy Belczowski, Allen Gale.

Front—Robbie Palmer, Megan Reynolds, Les Hayter

SESVA at the AFAC Exhibition



The SESVA stand at the recent AFAC Conference was a tremendous success.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our team and participants, the event was engaging, insightful, and inspiring. It provided a valuable platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and strengthening our SES community.

Your support and enthusiasm made this achievement possible, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the future.



Mt Barker SES host first regional exercise in the Porongurup Ranges

Mount Barker SES Volunteers planned and executed a practice rescue from the scenic Castle Rock climb as part of a regional exercise scenario, on Saturday 23 of August.

The operation involved participation from three different SES teams including volunteers from Esperance SES and Albany SES.

St. John's Ambulance community paramedic and volunteers also attended the scenario along with Vice President Alan Hawke from the SES Volunteer Association. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions rangers also participated.

Esperance SES Deputy Manager Michaela Maloney said the experience was valuable for building connections and improving rescue skills.

“From first timers to veterans, every volunteer gained valuable experience in this special DFES combined services exercise, showcasing teamwork and dedication to get the job done,” she said.

“Training and learning skills strengthen our ability to respond quickly and effectively in an emergency.

“It’s interesting to see the equipment used and made especially for these types of callouts,” Ms Maloney said.

Albany SES needed 20 volunteers for the vertical rescue component of the scenario, just to carry all the equipment necessary in a casualty recovery.

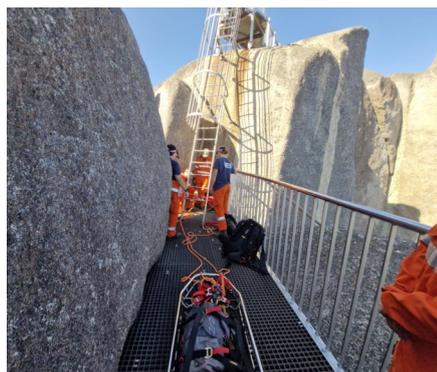
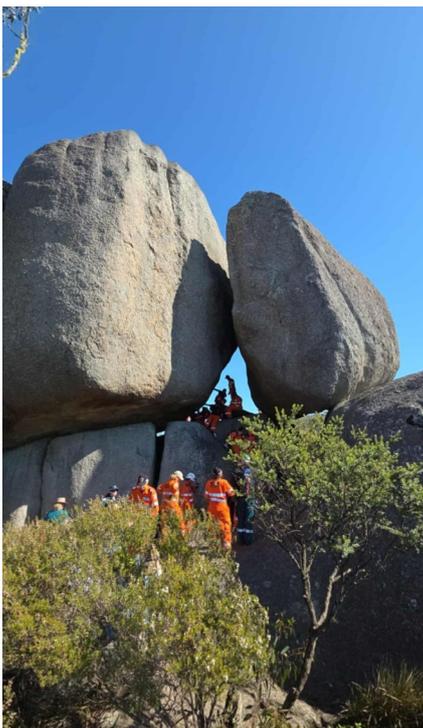
The scenario involved the rescue of a simulated hiker, played by Mount Barker SES dummy named Fred, who had been injured and become trapped while climbing Castle Rock.

Paramedics went first to stabilise the simulated injuries and the different teams assembled and hiked the four-kilometre trail to bring Fred back down to the safety of the car park.

This was the first time Mount Baker SES has hosted a regional exercise in the Great Southern region and Local Manager Kirsten Beidatsch plans to run many more in the future.

“Regional exercises are a very important way for members of different SES units and also from other emergency service organisations, to collaborate, build camaraderie, and learn about how each other operates in an emergency situation,” Ms Beidatsch said.

“I’m hoping it’s something will be able to spread through the region to allow other units to exhibit their unique capabilities and particular landscapes and operational methods, but when it’s Mount Barker’s turn again, we are happy to host other regional exercises in the future.”



The spectacular Castle Rock provided a challenging and scenic location for the practice rescue session.



Mid-West Gascoyne SES Volunteers Sharpen Skills in Regional Exercise at Yuna

In August, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) – State Emergency Service (SES) held its Mid-West Gascoyne Regional Exercise in Yuna, located within the Shire of Chapman Valley, about 50 kilometres from Geraldton.

SES volunteers from across the region gathered to participate in a comprehensive training exercise designed to test and refine their operational capabilities. The scenario-based training focused on land search and vertical rescue operations, with the Incident Control Vehicle and crew playing a central role in coordination and communications.

The exercise commenced on Saturday with a simulated search for a missing microlight aircraft and two missing persons. Volunteers began by conducting vehicle searches in areas of high probability. Following a report from a member of the public, the search shifted to farmland near Nanson. Within a few hours, the missing individuals were successfully located, provided with first aid, and transported for handover to medical personnel.

On Sunday, the focus turned to vertical rescue. SES teams carried out a mock rescue of a manikin from height at the CBH facility in Yuna. Vertical rescue-trained members ascended to the platform and employed a rope system to safely lower the manikin to the ground, demonstrating precision and teamwork.

Regional exercises like this one are vital for SES volunteers, offering hands-on opportunities to apply the skills they develop during weekly training nights and weekend courses. These events also foster collaboration and readiness across units.

The Geraldton-Greenough SES trains weekly on Monday nights. If you're interested in volunteering in Geraldton, please contact Kyle at ggsesmembership@node1.com.au. For those looking to volunteer in other towns, visit dfes.vol.org.au to find your local unit.

Special thanks to DFES, the Shire of Chapman Valley, CBH, and the Cooper Family of Nanson for their support in making this exercise a success.

Ross Jones, Management Committee Member, Kimberley

Photos from Top to Bottom:

- Day 1 Land Search – deploying the troops.
- CBH grain silo rescue.
- Tamara with Frederika preparing to lower to the ground.
- Searching the farm land.
- Fred and Fred Jnr located safe and well. Managed to have a campfire to keep warm overnight.
- Casualty transfer to roadside.



Building Future Leaders in Tom Price: the Emergency Services Cadet Corps

In Tom Price, the Emergency Services Cadet Corps (TPESCC) continues to provide young people with valuable skills in leadership, teamwork, and emergency response—thanks to the steady guidance of Unit Leader Nicole Kelly.

Nicole, who is also a Tom Price SES Volunteer, has played a key role in shaping the cadet program, helping young people gain practical experience and confidence. Her work in 2024 included leading the state cadet leadership camp at Karijini National Park, where she coordinated logistics, delivered training, and worked with Aboriginal elders to ensure cultural protocols were respected. This inclusive approach has encouraged greater participation from Aboriginal youth and strengthened community ties.

Nicole also supported cadets during the Cape to Cape Track expedition, mentoring a group through the 126 km journey. Her focus on resilience and personal growth helped participants overcome challenges and build lasting



Top Right: 2024 - Senior Cadet Leadership Camp - Karijini .

Middle: Nicole Kelly with two of the cadets.

Right: First Aid Training.

Merredin SES Volunteers meet the Governor



Local Manager Danielle Parkin and Treasurer Rachael Watson meet WA Governor, the Honourable Christopher Dawson AC.

The Governor and Mrs Dawson are Patrons of the SES Volunteers Association of WA.

On 4 September, the Shire of Merredin hosted a community reception to recognise the incredible volunteers who support so many across the community.

From emergency services to the CWA, the event brought together individuals and groups who dedicate their time, energy, and passion to making Merredin a stronger, safer, and more connected community.

Held at the historic Cummings Theatre, the afternoon was a gathering of representatives including those from SES, St John’s Ambulance, Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, the CWA, local schools, WA Police, and Merredin Shire.

Speaking at the event, the WA Governor, the Honourable Christopher Dawson AC, thanked the volunteers for their tireless dedication to their community, and spoke about the value of regional towns like Merredin. Mrs Dawson added her thanks and also spoke about growing up in a regional area. Shire President Donna Crook also took the opportunity to thank the volunteers and highlighted the impact they have on the Shire.



Safety and Process Updates.

Operational Fleet and Facilities Feedback

SES volunteers are the end user of equipment and facilities that are provided by DFES. Whilst it is not easy for volunteer involvement in the project design stage, it is encouraging that volunteers have a say about equipment in use now.

The Asset Management (AM) team has launched a new feedback form designed to gather the input of volunteers and identify issues on current operational fleet; equipment on fleet and personal protective clothing (PPC), and facilities.

Asset Management inform that the intent of this feedback form is to:

- Help shape the Next Generation of Operational Fleet
- Inform future facility planning and design briefs
- Identify trends and collect insights from first-hand experience.

Feedback, positive or negative, is welcome. So, here is your chance to make a difference.

Fill in the form [HERE](#) or scan the QR code.



The form will step you through questions depending on your responses including what is the issue or comment you have and suggestions for improvement.

Did you know?

Driver training lesson eligible LGGS expenditure!

For many years, the Local Government Grant Scheme has allowed for reimbursement of the costs associated with volunteers obtaining an appropriate class of motor drivers licence (LR, MR, HR) to maintain Brigade/Unit capability. This excludes the costs of volunteers obtaining an initial C-class licence.

From 1 July 2023, this also covers the cost of one lesson prior to the test and the test itself.

Insurance cover – Personal items

We hear from volunteers that personal items lost on operations are not covered by DFES or that volunteer insurance claims are declined.

Volunteers and unit management are reminded that private property lost or damaged when used for SES-related activities may be covered. Helpful references are:

- Directive 5.05 SES Unit Administration, clause 39.
- SAP 1.01.F Personal property at DFES workplaces (clause 1).
- SES Unit Administration Guide (October 2017 Edition 1). Chapter 15 also directs volunteers to the Volunteer Portal for claims.

However there is contrary advice in SAP 5.05.B – SES Members in which clause 12 provides that ‘generally’, private mobile phones and communication devices are not covered by insurance.

Despite SAP 5.05.B mentioned above, the Volunteer Hub provides that cover is provided for loss of or damage to personal property (excluding money and jewellery) belonging to a volunteer used in connection with the business of DFES and which is not otherwise insured. Property Cover is provided for “volunteer property used in connection with DFES business purpose”.

“Prescription glasses and prescription sunglasses for volunteers are covered however the loss or damage must occur during operational hours of work in connection with DFES business.”

An eClaims Property online form needs to be completed with a quote and other supporting documents such as images. The eClaims Property form is accessible on the Volunteer Hub. eClaims are managed by the Insurance Commission of WA. It is recommended that volunteers seek assistance of their unit management when lodging an insurance claim.

The decision to decline a claim is a matter for the Insurance Commission of WA, not DFES staff. If any volunteer has their claim refused, please contact the SESVA Secretary by email to sesva-secretary@ses-

Prevention of Unacceptable Behaviour at Work

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) reminds us that it is committed to fostering an inclusive, respectful, healthy and safe work environment.

As part of this commitment, it aims to minimise the risk of unacceptable behaviours such as bullying, harassment and all forms of unlawful discrimination

Nevertheless, SESVA is aware of increasing numbers of incidents of unacceptable behaviour, particularly harassment and bullying. Specific details are hard to pin down because of confidentiality and because many complaints are resolved with the affected volunteer(s) leaving the unit whether or not any formal complaint was lodged.

Volunteer leaders will benefit from reflecting on new General Circular 129/2025 *Prevention of Unacceptable Behaviour at Work* and associated DFES policy statements.

The DFES policy on Prevention of Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination at Work has been revised and reissued as Prevention of Unacceptable Behaviour at Work.

Another helpful place for guidance is DFES Policy078 Management of Interpersonal Conflict and Unacceptable Behaviour Complaints Policy.

Unit leaders are also reminded that their first point of call is their unit constitution, which is required to have provisions in relation to dispute resolution. More information can be found in the Dept of Commerce publication INC: A Guide For Incorporated Associations In Western Australia (<https://www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au/inc-guide>).

In closing, don't be too proud to ask for help. Disputes easily become emotionally charged and it takes knowledge and skill to navigate what can quickly become perilous discussions. Engage with independent and skilled advocates at an early stage.

And, be kind to one another.

For enquiries, contact the SESVA secretary by email sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au.



Scams are everywhere, targeting people from all walks of life and costing Australians billions of dollars each year.

Whether it's fake emails, unexpected phone calls or online schemes, scammers always find new ways to gain your trust and steal your money or personal information. But 3 small steps can help keep us all safe from scammers.

STOP.

- Always take a moment before giving your money or personal information to anyone.
- Scammers will create a sense of urgency to pressure you into acting quickly.
- Don't rush to make decisions about money or sharing personal details.

CHECK.

- Make sure the person or organisation you're dealing with is real.
- Scammers pretend to be from organisations you know and trust.
- Always verify who you're really dealing with before taking any action.

PROTECT.

- Act quickly if something feels wrong.
- The sooner you take action, the better you can protect yourself and others from scammers.

Learn more at scamwatch.gov.au

Northam District SES Recognised for Swift Storm Response in Bakers Hill

On Sunday, 14th September, volunteers from the Northam District State Emergency Service Unit responded to a storm damage incident in Bakers Hill — just one of several jobs handled by the team that day.

A local resident, affected by the severe weather, shared a heartfelt thanks and photos on the Bakers Hill Community Facebook page. The team trimmed and removed a fallen tree, cleared the debris from the patio area, and made the damaged roof safe by removing loose tin and checking for any further sheet movement or structural concerns.

Acting Local Manager Lin Booth noted, "The incredible thing about this job was the homeowner going onto the community page and singing our praises about how good we were. It really shows the difference we're making — and it's great recognition for our volunteers."

This kind of positive feedback not only boosts morale among volunteers but demonstrates the growing strength of the Northam and Districts SES Unit. Well done to everyone involved — your dedication continues to make a real impact in our communities.

Photos by homeowner, prior to SES attendance



North Metro SES units respond as Tornado rips through City Beach



A freak tornado left an incredible trail of destruction in City Beach on 23 July. SES Volunteers from Wanneroo-Joondalup SES, Stirling SES, Bayswater SES, Bassendean SES and Swan SES, as well as Town of Cambridge staff, were quick to arrive and assist the community.

The storm caused major damage to multimillion-dollar homes, tearing roofs off and leaving trees strewn across the road and fences down. Properties on multiple streets were affected, with some left uninhabitable.



Northshore SES Local Manager, Nick Elliott, said that the unit received more than 25 calls for assistance, with a couple of streets bearing the brunt of the damage.

"Our priority was to make the area safe, and then to prevent to the best of our abilities, further damage and/or property loss" said Nick.

"Debris, including roof sheeting, solar panels, fence panels and trees, littered the local area."

*Top photos courtesy PerthNow;
Bottom Photo courtesy Northshore SES*

The wild weather struck late on Wednesday afternoon. City Beach was the worst hit, however, other nearby suburbs were also affected.





Rescheduled - free event at Elizabeth Quay

Due to August's inclement weather, the Sirens on the Swan event was postponed.

**NEW DATE -
Sunday, 2 November 2025,
10:30am to 2.00pm**

The rescheduled event will be packed with action and fun for the whole family:

- Explore impressive vehicles and vessels from all DFES volunteer and career services, meet the fluffiest SES members and test your skills with the DFES virtual firefighting experience.
- Tackle fun activities like giant ropes and ladders.
- Experience live demonstrations throughout the day, including a dramatic RAC Rescue helicopter hoist from the Swan River as well as vertical, marine and road crash rescues and more.
- Fuel up at a variety of food trucks serving up tasty treats.

**Use the link below to find out more and
get in touch to volunteer.**

[Sirens on the Swan -
Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#)



**LION
HEART**
CAMP FOR KIDS

Supporting Grieving Families: Lionheart's Grief Pathway

Lionheart Camp for Kids is Western Australia's only dedicated grief support organisation for children, teens, and their families.

Their flagship initiative, *Raw to Roar: Lionheart's Grief Pathway*, is a comprehensive, two-year support program designed to walk alongside families from the earliest days of loss through to long-term healing.

This unique pathway begins with a one-on-one connection to a Grief Coach, who provides tailored support, resources, and compassionate guidance. Whether the loss is recent or anticipated due to serious illness, families are supported through memory-making, school and workplace conversations, and understanding the emotional needs of grieving children.

Over time, families are gently introduced to Lionheart's broader programs, including the New Families Camp, peer-based events, and community gatherings that foster resilience and connection.

Importantly, **Lionheart's services are free of charge.** The program is also being evaluated in partnership with Curtin University to ensure it reflects best practices in child bereavement care.

Want to Share This Resource?

SES Units can request posters, brochures, and further information to help spread awareness of this vital service.

To do so, please contact Lionheart directly :

lionheartcampforkids.com.au

info@lionheartcampforkids.com.au

0481 199 758



UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Submit your articles and photos to:
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Fri 03 Oct **SESVA Spring Newsletter** published
Sat 04 Oct Metro Pre-Season Forum
06-10 Oct Senior Cadet Leadership Camp, Broome
Tue 21 Oct SESVA Monthly Update submissions due
Fri 07 Nov **SESVA Monthly Update** published
Sat 08 Nov Kimberley Volunteer Leaders Forum

Tue 25 Nov Summer Newsletter submissions due
Fri 30 Nov Bernie McNamara YEL applications close
Sat 29 Nov Youth in Emergency Services Challenge
Fri 05 Dec **SESVA Summer Newsletter** published



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

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

The SESVA 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 especially some great images to:

sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Deadline to submit your article for the **November Monthly Update** is Tuesday 25th October.

If you have any queries, please contact SESVA Secretary Allen Gale on 0419 935 497



The SES Volunteers Association of WA Inc.

acknowledges the funding from the

Department of Fire and Emergency Services of WA

USEFUL LINKS

[SES Volunteer's Association of Western Australia Incorporated – One Association – Many Values](#)

[Buy tickets and support the National SESVA](#)

[NSESVA Yearbook 2024.pdf](#)

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

[State Emergency Management Committee](#)

[Home - Volunteering WA](#)