



We've got you.

SES Volunteers Association of WA

SESVA

**SUMMER 2025
NEWSLETTER**

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

If we could gift box a thank you, we would.



**To our members, the volunteers, their families
and supporters, Merry Christmas. And thank you.**

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from THE PRESIDENT



Dear SES Volunteers, Association Members and Friends,

As we come to the close of another remarkable year, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each of you. Your dedication, support, and continued engagement have been the driving force behind our shared achievements and personal growth.

This Christmas season, may your homes be filled with peace, joy, and the company of those you cherish most.

As we welcome the New Year, I wish you renewed inspiration, good health, and success in all your endeavours.

To the volunteers; thank you for being an essential part of our community. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the coming year, 2026.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kind Regards,

Greg Cook

President, SES Volunteers Association



Wishing all SES Volunteers a happy and safe International Volunteers Day

5 December 2025

SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc.) Treasurer Role – EOIs Invited

The SESVA is seeking Expressions of Interest for the voluntary Executive Committee position

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the financial stewardship of the Association.

Estimated time commitment:

6–10 hours per month (some seasonal variation).

Key responsibilities include:

- Managing financial records, reports, and statements;
- Handling receipts and authorised payments;
- Ensuring compliance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (financial aspects);
- Supporting audit/review processes;
- Following financial practices as outlined in Section 47 of the SESVA Constitution.

HOW TO EXPRESS INTEREST

If you're interested in contributing to the leadership and good governance of the SESVA, please submit the following:

- **Your Name**
- **SES Unit**
- **Current SES Role**
- **Brief Summary** (max. 300 words) outlining your relevant experience and motivation.

Submit via Email:

Greg Cook – sesva.president@ses-wa.com.au

Closing Date: 31st December 2025



Pingelly mural pays tribute to emergency services volunteers



WOW... A tribute that hits you right in the heart.

Local artist Jerome Davenport has created something truly special on the walls of a Pingelly SES unit building. The *Giants Among Us* mural captures the courage, strength and determination of our emergency service volunteers and the compassion that drives them to help others.

It's a heartfelt thank-you to the SES, Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Bush Fire Brigade and St John Ambulance crews who show up for their communities every day, and to the families and locals who stand proudly behind them.

Young Emerging Leaders Program

Applications are being considered for the Bernie McNamara SES Young Emerging Leaders (YEL) Program run by the WA SESVA to develop young SES volunteers in WA.

Selection Process

A panel made up of independent people and chaired by a SESVA committee member will meet in early December to select an applicant to accompany Josh Yates, Margaret River SES.

The two young WA volunteers will participate in the AFAC National Memorial Service and leadership events in Canberra in 2026. Josh is automatically selected after winning the 2025 WA Fire and Emergency Services SES Young Person Award.

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.

Announcement

The selected applicant for the YEL program 2026 will be announced on Monday 15 December 2025.



IMPORTANT UPDATE on the SES Fit For Role program

In our November update it was reported that we were awaiting DFES to formalise their position and that significant uncertainty still existed about many aspects of the FFR program.

The SESVA can now report that a SES Fit For Role DEPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM (DRP) is to be established.

Read the DFES Commissioners letter addressed to the SESVA President (here) and, on the following page, the key points as the SESVA understands the status of the Fit For Role for SES volunteers and the SESVA's advice to DFES.

Mr Greg Cook
President
SES Volunteers Association Inc
PO Box 3218
BELMONT WA 6104

Email: sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Dear Mr

NATIONAL STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE (SES) FIT FOR ROLE IMPLEMENTATION

Thank you for your correspondence dated 23 October 2025, which clarified the State Emergency Service Volunteer Associations (SESVA) role in the SES Fit for Role program and acknowledged the current position of SES Units.

DFES values the feedback provided by the SES Units, however the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) SES Operations Group intends to formally adopt the SES Fit for Role framework for future interstate deployments. Accordingly, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is committed to establishing a Fit for Role program that supports host state requirements for those SES volunteers that choose to nominate to be included on the DFES Interstate Deployment Register.

DFES has a responsibility to ensure volunteers are safe and capable of undertaking assigned tasks when deployed. A review of likely incident types will guide the assessments chosen for the departments SES Fit for Role Deployment Readiness Program (DRP), with our aim to minimise the impact on volunteers while ensuring they are confident in their ability to perform the required tasks safely.

The SES Fit for Role DRP will align with key interstate deployment requirements, predominantly focusing on tasks and roles associated with severe weather events such as storms, cyclones, and floods. Assessments will reflect these operational contexts and challenges volunteers face working in hot and demanding conditions.

The SES has always embraced the ethos that there is a role for everyone and while a volunteer may not meet criteria in one area, this does not preclude participation in other important deployment roles.

To ensure the successful implementation of the SES Fit for Role DRP, DFES will establish a working group to develop suitable program assessments, and a communication and engagement plan. The working group will include SES volunteers and SES District Officers who have previously contributed to the development of this national project. District Officers will also play a key role in supporting Unit Managers and volunteers throughout the process, ensuring consistent messaging and practical guidance at the local level.

DFES looks forward to continuing constructive engagement with the SESVA and SES Units to deliver this program effectively.

Yours sincerely

DARREN KLEMM AFSM
COMMISSIONER

 November 2025





UPDATE on the FIT FOR ROLE program....continued...

Starting **1 July 2026**, SES volunteers will need to satisfactorily complete a **Fit for Role assessment** before being considered for deployment for interstate incidents. This is a **national requirement**—no SES jurisdiction can deploy volunteers without it.

KEY POINTS

What's involved?

Up to nine tests may be used to confirm fitness for role. Benchmarks are low, so the impact on volunteers and unit administration is expected to be minimal.

Current status:

- A Natural Hazards DO has been appointed to lead the DFES implementation of Fit For Role (FFR).
- A working group will be established to develop suitable program assessments, and a communication and engagement plan.

DFES intent

- District Officers to play a key role in supporting Unit Managers and volunteers throughout the process.
- Consistent messaging and practical guidance at the local level.

SESVA's advice to DFES:

- Clear top-down support and communication
- Consistent application across regions
- Defined responsibilities for implementation
- Logistical and training support

WHY IT MATTERS

DFES has assured SESVA that this policy applies **only to SES volunteers for interstate deployment**, but there is concern it could set a precedent for broader application. SESVA looks forward to constructive engagement in the implementation of the program. No volunteer is to be

STAY TUNED FOR MORE UPDATES

Questions? Contact your DO or email sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au for more information.



IMPORTANT UPDATE on FLOOD BOAT CAPABILITY



In our November update it was reported that we'd heard that there is going to be a review of the suitability of flood boats for SES in WA.

DFES has met with the Association to discuss the review and seek input.

We are able to report that DFES is now reviewing the status of its flood boat capability across the state. This review will include the size and maneuverability within the defined operational environment. The report will provide an opportunity to look at the 'where to next' for flood capability.

RAFFLE #9
DRAWN: 27 FEBRUARY 2026

FIRST PRIZE
\$1,500*
COLES MYER GIFT CARD*

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

Raffle #9 is now open and will be drawn on 27 February 2026 — you could 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.

Suggestions on how the funds raised can be used for the benefit of SES volunteers are welcomed; contact your SESVA regional representative or send an email to sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

RESULTS: Raffle #8 The lucky winner was Judith Jarvis from Tasmania. Ticket Number: 25080011041.

Helitak Ground Support training for metro SES volunteers

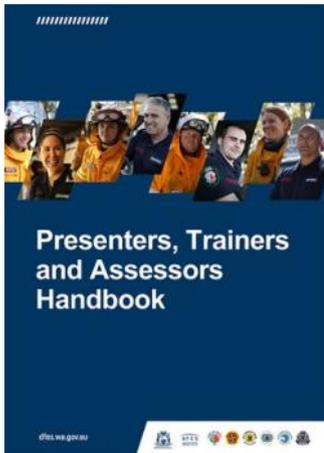
On the weekend of 8 and 9 November, volunteers from metro SES units joined together at the DFES Aviation Facility to have two members from each unit trained and endorsed. They then returned to their respective units ready to deliver Helitak Ground Support. This also allowed attendees to have a good look around the air fleet, as well as meeting some of the pilots and the supporting staff.

In preparation for the day, the volunteers who attended had to:

- Ensure they had completed the online Aviation Safety Fundamentals module.
- Arrive with full PPE as required, including safety glasses and gloves (appropriate hearing protection was provided for the training).
- Ensure their hat is a brim hat with a chin strap and toggle.



NEW HANDBOOK for PRESENTERS, TRAINERS & ASSESSORS



DFES SAP 6.01.H has been fully reviewed and updated and as a consequence of this update, a handbook has been developed to provide support and guidance to new, existing, and future volunteers and staff delivering essential training within DFES.

What's new

SAP 6.01.H has been renamed to Presenters, Trainers and Assessors (formerly Trainer Assessor Endorsement) and has been amalgamated with the following SAPs:

- SAP 6.01.J – Trainer Assessor Professional Development
- SAP 6.01.O – Direct Supervision.

The new Presenters, Trainers and Assessors Handbook (the Handbook) complements SAP 6.01.H, offering role-specific information, clear expectations, and helpful insights into endorsement processes and ongoing responsibilities.

Designed as a digital resource, the Handbook is available through eAcademy and the [Training Toolbox](#). This format ensures the content remains current and responsive to updates, providing consistent access to the latest information.

What do I need

All volunteers involved in presenting, training and assessing are encouraged to review the Handbook and associated resources in the [Training Toolbox](#).

More information

Read [Operational Circular 69/2025 - Updated SAP 6.01.H - Presenters, Trainers and Assessors, and new Handbook](#).

For further information, contact the Trainer Assessor Development Coordinator, Sharon Cocking.

Email: tasupport@dfes.wa.gov.au



“Every Contribution Matters” Celebrating International Volunteer Day 5 December 2025



SESVA proudly joins DFES and organisations across Western Australia in celebrating **International Volunteer Day** on **5 December 2025**. This global event honours the incredible contributions of volunteers who strengthen our communities and help keep Western Australians safe.

This year's theme, **“Every Contribution Matters,”** reminds us that every act of volunteering—big or small—creates positive change. Volunteers remain the backbone of emergency services, inspiring collaboration and building resilience across our State.

Training Matters

David MacLean, A/District Officer, Training Development Support & Compliance for SES and Marine Rescue, has submitted an update for SES volunteers:

Height Safety

We have begun “Upskilling” the current Roof Safety System Builder Trainer/Assessors. In the four weeks from late October, almost 60 trainer/assessors have attended the workshops and received the new Ladder Safety System and Roof Safety System kits for their units.

The workshops will continue for the next month, giving trainers time to properly familiarise themselves with the equipment before the new training products are released early next year.

Basic General Rescue

Updates to Basic General Rescue were being published in the last week of November, with improvements to NUCOMs, closer ties to USAR Cat-1 and a more refined assessment process.

Land Search

Changes to Land Search Team Leader are due very soon, with an on-line theory element, tidying up of the information and more relevant assessment criteria.

Chainsaw

We are trying again on the chainsaw currency knowledge assessment. It has been a bit of a challenge to keep the question bank that people seem to like but not have to redo the whole assessment when we make one mistake. That is being refined now and should be resolved by the time Academy staff come back from the Christmas break.

Bushfire Support

SES volunteers supporting bushfires are now being asked to complete an online Bushfire Fundamentals course, rather than that face-to-face Bushfire Safety Awareness. A Burnover blanket training session will be introduced soon, covering a bit of theory on bushfire incident control, as well as the blanket drill.



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:

-    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!

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

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





Strengthening Ties: Kimberley Emergency Services Leaders Forum

SESVA Executive Committee members Leonie Briggs and Robert Palmer were pleased to attend the DFES Kimberley Region Volunteer Emergency Services Leaders Forum, held on 8–9 November 2025. The event brought together volunteer leaders from across the Kimberley, spanning communities from Bidadanga to Wyndham.

The Forum provided an invaluable opportunity for leaders from all DFES emergency services to connect, share knowledge, engage with the Department, and offer meaningful feedback on the needs and priorities of their Brigades, Groups, and Units (BGUs).

A highlight of the weekend was the mentoring workshop on Sunday, where volunteers exchanged experiences, learned from one another, and developed practical action plans to take back to their BGUs. Participants praised the strong networking and collaboration between services and towns, noting how beneficial it was to engage with peers facing similar challenges across the Kimberley.

Each BGU in the region was invited to send two volunteer representatives, with attendees from the following services:

- Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
- Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades
- State Emergency Service
- Volunteer Fire & Emergency Services
- Volunteer Marine Rescue

SES Volunteers in attendance included:

- Conchita Milburn – Broome SES
- Max Pedlar – Broome SES
- Greg Wilson – Derby SES
- Melanie Guerini – Derby SES
- Matt Rosher – Kununurra SES
- Rachael Macey – Kununurra SES



From L to R: Melanie Guerini, Conchita Milburne, Greg Wilson, Leonie Briggs, Robbie Palmer, Rachael Macey and Matt Rosher.



Max Pedlar from Broome SES presenting.

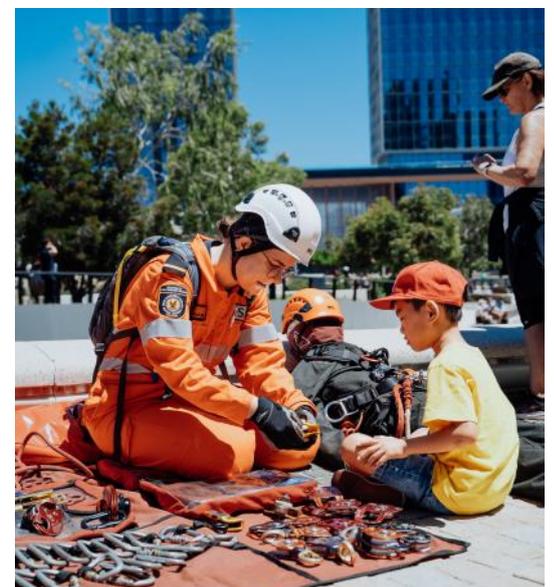
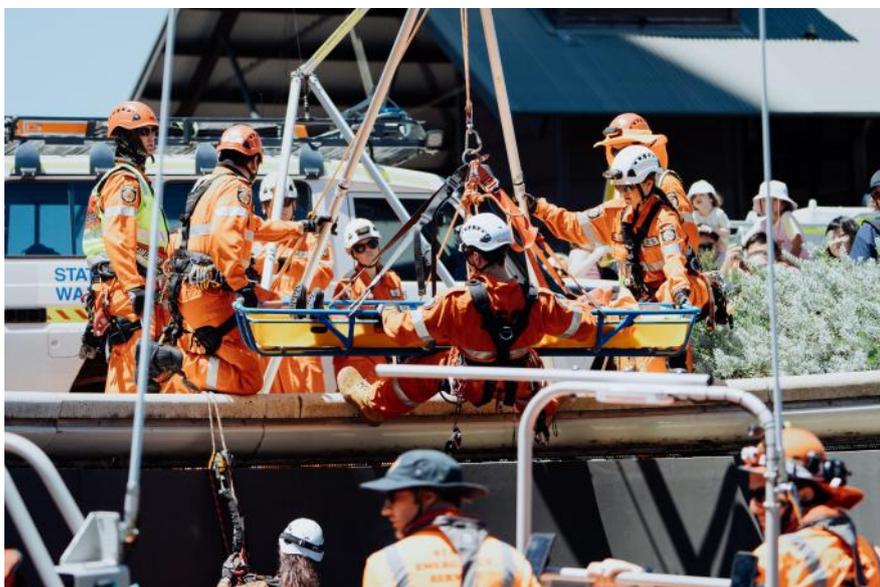
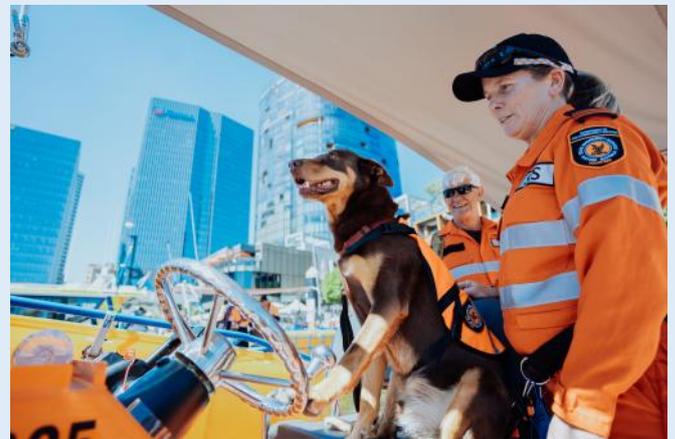


After a last-minute change of date due to poor weather, the DFES Sirens on the Swan event finally came to life at Elizabeth Quay on Sunday 2 November.

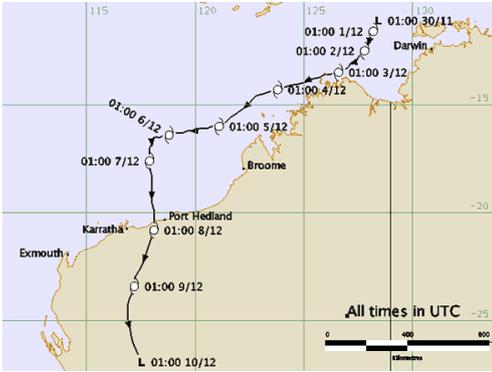
The collaboration of hundreds of DFES volunteers and staff saw the family fun day welcome a crowd of over 10,000 smiling faces, excited to learn about and celebrate all the ways our people protect our community.

Families got to explore SES vessels and vehicles, meet search and rescue dogs, and view vertical rescue demonstrations. The event was an enormous success, with plenty of praise and positive feedback shared across social media by those who attended.

Watch the wrap-up video on the [DFES Facebook page](#).



50 years since Tropical Cyclone Joan battered Port Hedland

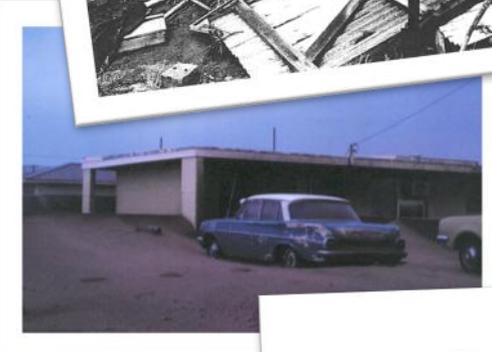
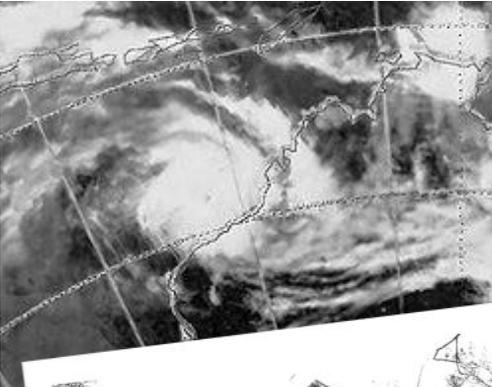


This December, the resilient town of Hedland marks 50 years since Tropical Cyclone Joan, a Category 5 Tropical Cyclone, smashed the town. The winds and rain peaked on 7 December.

Fortunately no lives were lost, but the damage was extensive costing an estimated US\$31 million (1975 values).

The South Hedland Library and the Port Hedland Visitor Centre are displaying stories, newspaper articles and rare photos that demonstrate both how far the town has come, but also the importance of preparing now for a cyclone.

Thank you to our Hedland Libraries local history team for providing these images.



Roebourne SES 2025 Service Dinner



On 11 October, we gathered for our 2025 Service Dinner—an evening dedicated to celebrating the incredible milestones and achievements of our volunteers. It was a night filled with laughter, good food, and even better company—a true reflection of the spirit and camaraderie that makes our team so special.

Congratulations to everyone who received their awards and recognition for their ongoing commitment and dedication. A special congratulations to those who received their medals for their commitment to the community, with four members reaching five years, one member at seven years, and one at fifteen years—which is particularly noteworthy given we only have a team of ten.

A huge thank you to the Wickham Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service for so generously allowing us to use your base and helping make the night such a memorable success. And another huge thank you to those who helped out with setting up our dinner.



New home for Stirling SES opened

The vision for a dedicated facility for Stirling SES has finally become a reality - providing these incredible volunteers with a new home.

City of Stirling Mayor, Mark Irwin, Emergency Services Minister Paul Papalia CSC MLA, DFES Commissioner Darren Klemm and Balcatta MLA David Michael joined SES volunteers and DFES staff at the official opening of the building in Osborne Park on Wednesday 26 October.

Stirling SES is one of the busiest units in the State and this new facility will make an enormous difference to the work SES volunteers perform in our community.

The City of Stirling purchased the 2,000sqm property and delivered the renovations in partnership with the State Government which invested \$2.7mil into this project together with a funding boost from City of Stirling.

Right: Mayor Mark Irwin, DFES Commissioner Darren Klemm, Stirling SES Rescue Team Leader Peter Davis, Minister Emergency Services Paul Papalia SCS MLA and DFES Superintendent Metropolitan North Coastal Andrew Duckworth.



Pingelly SES Celebrates 40 Years of Service

Congratulations to the Pingelly State Emergency Service Unit, whose volunteers marked their 40th anniversary on 22 November 2025 at the Pingelly SES headquarters.

The celebration brought together special guests along with past and present members, who enjoyed a presentation showcasing the unit's history, current activities, and equipment—both old and new.

Distinguished guests included:

- Ms Klasey Hirst, MLC, representing Lotterywest
- Mrs Jackie McBurney, President of the Shire of Pingelly
- Mr Craig Smith, DFES Superintendent, Upper Great Southern Region

Alan Hawke, SESVA Vice President South, presented a commemorative plaque to the unit in recognition of four decades of dedicated service.

During the formal proceedings, members received long service medals, awards, and service clasps.



A highlight of the event was a special presentation to the unit's inaugural Local Manager, Mr William (Bill) Mulroney ESM, who remains an active member today.

Following the formalities, attendees enjoyed fellowship over lunch and sampled a specially made anniversary cake. A commemorative book detailing the history of Pingelly SES was also published for the occasion.

The success of this milestone event is a credit to the manager and members of Pingelly SES, whose resourcefulness and many hours of preparation made it truly memorable.



Pingelly SES volunteers and special guests celebrate 40 years of dedicated service at the unit headquarters.

Rockingham-Kwinana SES 2025 AGM



David Beard was presented with a plaque to acknowledge his Life Membership of the SESVA that was awarded him in 2019 after serving as Vice President (2009–2016).

On Friday 21 November, we held our Annual General Meeting, a time to celebrate the achievements of our members and recognise their dedication to serving our community.

Award Winners

- Bob Polson “Oops Award” – Andrew Tu’Itupou
- Kris Hurst Award – Trevor Teale
- George Earnshaw Award – Tom Cronin
- Mike Wadley Award – Vikki (sadly not in attendance)

A very special congratulations goes to our SES unit Life Member, David Beard, who was honored by SESVA President Greg Cook in front of his peers for his exceptional contribution as SESVA Vice President from 2009 to 2016. David, who was made a Life Member of the SESVA in 2019, was presented with a distinguished wall plaque to hang in his home.

And lastly a congratulations to David who was presented with his 35-year clasp for the National Medal, recognising a quarter-century of commitment and service.



MSC DO Todd Pender presenting the ‘George Earnshaw Member of the Year’ Award to Tom Cronin for outstanding performance and leadership.



Andrew Tu’Itupou received the ‘Bob Poulson Oops’ Award for ‘redesigning’ the GRU pod door.



MSC DO Todd Pender presenting the ‘Kris Hurst’ Award to Trevor Teale for outstanding mentorship and comradery to team mates.

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, 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

SES Canine Unit Update

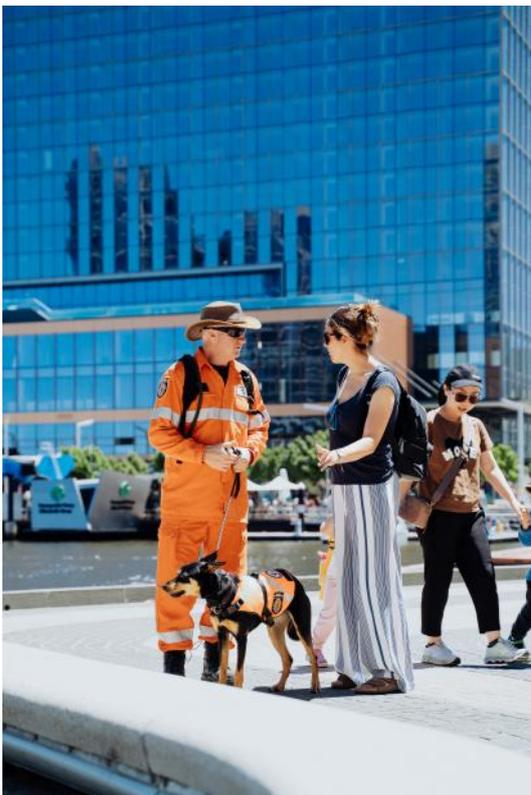


In November, we were pleased to host the South Australian SES Canine Unit, including their District Officer Wayne, Unit Manager Rebecca, and Deputy Jasmin. The weekend was packed with sharing training techniques, exchanging notes, and strengthening interstate connections.

We also spent an evening socializing to build relationships in a relaxed setting. This collaboration was a valuable learning experience for all, and an important step toward achieving uniform training standards across Australia.

Our Canine Unit had a fantastic presence at the **DFES Sirens on the Swan Community Day**, showcasing three of our amazing dogs: Rusty (Red Kelpie), Basil (Beagle), and Zee (Kelpie).

It was a huge day with everything Fire and Emergency on display. We enjoyed meeting so many interested community members and explaining the vital role our dogs play in search and rescue operations.



Want to Learn More or Get Involved?

The SES Canine Unit assists WA Police in searches for lost and missing persons across Western Australia. If you'd like to volunteer, become part of the team, or simply learn more, please contact:

WA SES K9 Unit

Email: sesdogs@outlook.com

Phone: 0459 387 243

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SESDogsWA>



Top left and above: Sharing training notes and making connections with the SA SES Canine Unit.

Left: Showcasing our amazing dogs at the DFES-Sirens on the Swan event.

Pedal Power: Two Rocks SES Bike Team Hits the Trails!



For a couple of years, the shiny bikes on an equally shiny trailer in our shed were the unit's best-kept secret.

Purchased for Land Search and Rescue (LSAR), they hadn't seen daylight—until Tim, soon to be our inaugural Bike Team Leader, asked the question we were all thinking: *“What are those for, and can we use them?”*

Fast forward to September 2024: three members signed up for the LSAR Bike Course run by the Bayswater SES Bike Team. Cue excitement! With training complete and Tim at the helm, the wheels were officially in motion. A few more joined, and suddenly we had a full-fledged bike team ready to roll.



Of course, it wasn't all smooth riding. Ever tried pedaling in full orange and steel caps? Not exactly Tour de France. We had to get creative with gear to look official yet stay comfortable.

Interest grew, and another three members hit the course—one went over the handlebars during braking and the obstacle course! It was hectic, but we all passed with flying colours (and bruised egos).

Tim and Mark supported the Bayswater course leader, cheering us on and helping run the course. That teamwork tradition continues, now led by Rosie and Mark.

The bikes are a star attraction at SES open days and recruitment events—nothing draws a crowd like a shiny set of wheels!

Our unit keeps growing, with three more members recently completing the LSAR bike course. We've added bike team drills to LSAR nights and monthly servicing to V-power checks.

Honestly, we could rival a McLaren pit crew with brake swaps and tyre changes.

SES Olympics event idea, anyone?

Beyond training, the Bike Team has supported major events and fundraisers, including Up All Night, Run for a Reason, and the rain-soaked 2025 MACA 500, which raised a record-breaking \$10,104,999 for cancer research.



Our role? Hydration, first aid, traffic control, mechanical fixes, and running 'tail-end Charlie' to ensure every participant finishes safely.

Off duty, we're out on social rides—sharing skills, lending bikes, swapping stories, and enjoying a post-ride cuppa. From road bikes to kid sidecars and old faithfuls, our mix of expertise and enthusiasm makes every ride memorable.

Most importantly, the Bike Team boosts our LSAR capability. We can conduct rapid reconnaissance in bushland and coastal areas, peek over fences during suburban searches, and tackle trails with ease—helping us reach people faster.

We're still waiting on official Team Two Rocks uniforms, so keep an eye out for us—the crew with the biggest smiles, mud splattered and bugs in our teeth!

Long transmission, over.



Open Day draws visitors for Kalamunda



Saturday 15 November saw Kalamunda SES and Kalamunda Volunteer Bushfire Brigade held a combined Open Day at their co-located premises.

The event drew enthusiastic visitors and offered a behind the scenes look at Kalamunda SES with unit and vehicle inspections, live demonstrations and hands on activities – from sandbagging practice to simulated rescues on the mule stretcher.

Kids could try on a uniform while adults chatted with volunteers about storm response, searches and rescues all while enjoying a famous Kalamunda Sausage Sizzle. The day wasn't just about showcasing equipment and expertise, it was about building community ties and reminding everyone that SES are here to assist and are always ready to respond.

Mount Barker SES at Seniors Expo

On Thursday, 12 November, Mount Barker State Emergency Service volunteers attended the Seniors Expo at the Mount Barker Community Resource Centre as part of Seniors Week celebrations.

The team operated an information stall, sharing practical advice on emergency preparedness and awareness with local seniors. Volunteers handed out Information packs and answered questions on how to stay ready and what steps to take during an emergency.

Mount Barker SES is committed to raising awareness and supporting all members of the community whenever possible. We hope the information provided was helpful and will assist residents should an emergency occur.



Mount Barker SES volunteers share vital emergency preparedness tips with seniors.

SES promotional Products

Various promotional items are available for SES Units to use in conjunction with community engagement activities such as open days, BBQs, and other events.

For more information download the flyer.



Gnowangerup SES: Serving Community, Saving Lives



Dedicated Volunteers at the Heart of Service

The Gnowangerup State Emergency Service (SES) is powered by 26 committed members, including 10 active volunteers and 5 cadets who represent the future of emergency response in the region.

Responding When It Matters

In 2025, the unit has attended:

- 6 Road Crash Rescues
- 5 Storm Emergencies
- 12 Stirling Range Rescues

Each callout reflects the team's unwavering commitment to community safety.

Thousands of Hours Given Freely

The volunteers contributed:

- Training: 2,124 hours
- Callouts: 623 hours
- Community Support: 536 hours
- Public Awareness: 329 hours

These figures highlight the extraordinary dedication of individuals who serve without expectation of payment—driven purely by a desire to help.

Strong Partnerships Save Lives

Gnowangerup SES works closely with local Police, Ambulance services, and neighboring SES units in Albany, Mt Barker, and Denmark. These partnerships ensure rapid, coordinated responses during emergencies. The team also acknowledges the exceptional support provided by St John Special Operations paramedics, whose expertise has been critical during complex rescues.

Challenges in the Stirling Range

The Stirling Range remains the most demanding environment for the unit. With the Ridge Walk growing in popularity, hikers are venturing deeper into the range, often requiring 5–7 hours of trekking just to reach a casualty.

Some rescues extend into a second day, depending on terrain and conditions. While the rescue helicopter is frequently requested, strong winds at the summit often prevent aerial extractions, leaving ground crews to complete the mission.

On several occasions, Gnowangerup SES has worked alongside Special Operations paramedics from St John, whose professionalism and skill have been invaluable.



A Reminder to the Community

Many visitors underestimate:

- The energy required to climb
- Risks of dehydration and poor preparation
- Temperature changes between the car park and summit

Planning ahead can save lives. Carry extra water, food, and clothing. Start early, check weather conditions, and always tell someone your plans.



Volunteers - Not Paid

Despite wearing uniforms, SES members are unpaid volunteers. Their reward is knowing they've made a difference—and the gratitude they receive from those they help.

"Volunteering is the ultimate act of optimism—because every hour given makes someone's tomorrow safer."

Thank you

Gnowangerup SES thanks every volunteer, partner agency, and community member for their support. Their dedication and teamwork make every rescue possible. Here's to another year of courage, commitment, and community spirit!

Call to Action for Everyone:

**Be Prepared. Stay Safe.
Spread the Word.**

Prior planning saves lives—and helps volunteers focus on emergencies that truly can't be avoided.



State Emergency Service

Volunteer Advisory Committee

COMMUNIQUE

October 2025

The State Emergency Service (SES) Volunteer Advisory Committee (the Committee) met on Thursday, 30 October 2025. This was the second meeting for 2025.

SES Training and Operations – Jarrah Dieback

Jarrah dieback is a plant disease that threatens the south-west landscape, caused by the soil-borne pathogen *Phytophthora*. It kills jarrah trees and over 40% of other native plants in south-west Western Australia, posing a risk to various fruit and horticultural species. There is no cure, and preventing its spread is crucial. The Committee discussed the difficulties of working in areas affected by dieback, especially when control measures are limited. To protect our natural landscapes, the Committee aims to improve understanding of the issue and develop practical training and resources for SES members.

Awards and Recognition – DFES and National

The Committee discussed ways to encourage more nominations for the national Emergency Services Medal and the Order of Australia Medal. These prestigious awards offer a perfect opportunity to highlight the remarkable dedication, bravery, and community spirit demonstrated by our emergency services personnel. If you know an SES member who consistently goes above and beyond, you are encouraged to nominate them. Support and guidance for preparing nominations are available through the Volunteer Liaison Officers and the Volunteer Management Support Officers.

Pre-season Preparation Messaging

The Committee looked at ways to increase pre-season severe weather safety messaging to include more information, such as:

- Specific services provided by the SES, along with greater awareness of appropriately engaging SES services.
- Increased messaging about pre-season mitigation activities and education campaigns, and supporting businesses, tenants and other owners to understand their responsibilities in impact prevention and preparing for severe weather-related damage and impact.

The Committee is eager to hear directly from SES volunteers about their thoughts and experiences with current safety messaging. Insights from the field will help shape community messaging.

For further information, feedback or comments on any of these topics, please get in touch with your nearest Committee member. Details of members can be found on the [SES Volunteer Advisory Committee](#) page on the Volunteer Hub.

The Committee will reconvene in February 2026.

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

2025

Fri 05 Dec International Volunteer Day
Mon 15 Dec Young Emerging Leaders for 2026 announced
Thu 18 Dec SESVA Management Committee meeting

2026

Wed 04 Feb **SESVA February Update** published
Thu 19 Feb SESVA Management Committee Meeting
Wed 04 Mar **SESVA Autumn Newsletter** published
7 or 8 May AFAC National Memorial Service
Wed 20 May WOW Day
Wed 10 Jun Thank a First Responder Day
18–21 Aug AFAC2026 in Melbourne

 **Merry
Christmas!**



All is want for Christmas...
is some SES merchandise!



SES Teddy Bear \$20
(Santa hats not included!)



**Dog Leash
\$20**



SES Multi tool \$69
Comes with a gift box for
that special present.



**Fortress Laptop
Backpack \$65.00**

For more inspiration—view the catalogue [here](#).

Orders must be received by Monday 15 December.



The SES Volunteers Association of WA Inc.

acknowledges the funding from the

Department of Fire and Emergency Services of WA

that supports the operation of the Association.

USEFUL LINKS

[SES Volunteer's Association of Western Australia Inc. –
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](#)