



WA Lights up for WOW Day

RAC Arena and Pinjarra Bridge were just two of around 60 locations around Western Australia to shine Orange to say #ThankYouSES Volunteers on the 20th May.



This stunning mural at Serpentine Jarrahdale SES unit was unveiled on WOW Day.

A once plain wall has been turned into something really special for the community.

Read more on page 10.

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Winter starts with a bang—WOW in more ways than one!

What a WA Day long weekend it was for many SES volunteers across the state. Perhaps that’s why we are called the State Emergency Service 😊



Our strength lies in the geographical and skill diversity we bring to our communities. While I respect the dedication of all emergency service volunteers, it goes without saying that I am humbled by the SES. They train—often weekly—to achieve a high level of readiness for low-likelihood, high-consequence operations that have widespread impacts on the places where we live and work.

People are our principal responsibility—those within our units and those in the broader community. It is, after all, the backbone of community-recruited, equipped, and trained volunteers that sustains our capabilities.

The long weekend storm certainly kept us busy. I was delivering off-road driving training at Mandurah SES when, of course, plans changed on Sunday to assisting with fallen trees, chainsaw operations, and structural damage repairs. It was truly rewarding to be part of a team working directly in the community. My day off on Monday saw me delivering supplies, in my role with the SES Logistics Unit, to Belmont SES. A very busy weekend indeed!

I would like to thank my wife, Pha, who did not see much of me over the weekend. We must all remember our families, partners, children, and employers when we are busy doing what we do.

WOW Day was a great experience for many. We would love to hear how you celebrated this national day—please send us a few words and photos so we can recognise what you did and where it took place. I attended the Cockburn SES event, with seven metro units in attendance. Special thanks to Alex for his efforts, and to our hosts, Cockburn SES. Thank you also to Kevin, Acting Unit Manager 😊

Lastly, and importantly, it is a great privilege to host a Local Manager Course that contributes to the professional development of future service leaders. There is much to learn, and delivering this at the right time helps ensure more prepared individuals are ready to lead and manage our volunteer service. Thank you to my co-presenters, Alan Hawke and Phil Bresser.

Enjoy the time we have together, and take care of one another.

Greg Cook

President, WA SESVA



Thank A First Responder Day is nearly here!

If you are in Perth on the day,
SES Volunteers are invited to a Morning Tea at the Fortem Wellbeing Hub.

There will be complimentary tea, coffee, cakes, and more available for you.

When: Wednesday 10th June

What time: 10am - 11.30am

Where: 484 Albany Highway, Victoria Park, 6100

Register here:

[TAFRD Morning tea | Wellbeing Hub Perth - Fortem Australia](#)



Wild May Storm Batters Perth

In late May 2026, Perth was hit by one of the most powerful storm systems seen in decades, with a deep low-pressure system bringing destructive winds exceeding 125 km/h, heavy rain, flooding, and massive coastal swells.

The storm caused widespread damage across the city and surrounding regions, ripping roofs from buildings, uprooting trees, and leaving up to 160,000 homes without power at different stages of the event.

Roads were flooded, flights were disrupted, and entire suburbs were left dealing with debris and dangerous conditions. Throughout the crisis, the SES played a critical role, responding to hundreds of calls for help—around 700 requests across the long weekend—with volunteers working tirelessly to clear fallen trees, secure damaged roofs, assist stranded residents, and support search efforts during the severe weather.

Well done to all the SES crews involved with this mammoth effort! And to those SES volunteers who remember the May '94, storm, this will bring back memories of a week long response dealing with wide spread damage across the city and surrounding regions.





Call for Nominations SES Volunteers Association Management Committee

The SES Volunteers Association (SESVA) is seeking passionate and committed members to nominate for positions on the Management Committee.

This is a valuable opportunity to contribute to the direction of SESVA, represent volunteers' interests, and help strengthen support for SES members across Western Australia.

If you are motivated to make a positive impact, bring new ideas, and support the ongoing development of the organisation, we encourage you to submit your nomination.

Get involved and help shape the future of SESVA.

Find out more on pages 24 & 25—or download the information and nomination form from the [SESVA website](#).

The AusAlert website is live

AusAlert is the Australian Government's new emergency messaging system. It will be a fast and reliable way for emergency service organisations to send targeted, near-instant warning messages to compatible mobile devices during disasters.

This will help authorities reach people quickly when it matters most, providing information to help save lives and property.

The AusAlert website has information including how AusAlert will work, community resources, and testing times and locations for the community and national tests.

Explore the website now at: www.ausalert.gov.au



SES Fit-For-Role (FFR) program

The Association reported in the April Update that SES volunteers are not likely to see any progress for another six months. Also, it appears the responsibility for FFR will primarily fall to SES volunteer Unit Managers with regional District Officers playing a key role in supporting SES volunteers.

While there is no more FFR program news to relay at this time, you may be interested in learning more about how Fit-For-Role came about (originally referred to as Fit-For-Task) by opening this link to have a read and watch some short videos.

[SES fit for task | Natural Hazards Research Australia](#)

What will the SESVA be doing?

SESVA will monitor the implementation of the FFR program and share any concerns with DFES as appropriate. The feedback of SES units is welcome at any time via a SESVA regional representative or email to the SESVA Secretary.

SESVA remains open to any invitation to collaborate on an implementation plan that works for both DFES and SES volunteers. Stay tuned for more updates

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

No WA Premier's TC Seroja Citation

The SESVA submitted a proposal to DFES in October 2025 with the Commissioner Klemm AFSM advising that DFES will not introduce a Premier's Citation at this time on 30 January and then wrote direct to the WA Premier in March this year about a **WA Premier's TC Seroja Citation** for personnel who were deployed to TC Seroja in April 2021.

Regretfully, a response was received 2nd June from Hon Minister Paul Papalia CS MLA, Emergency Services Minister, on behalf of the Premier advising that after careful consideration, the State Government will not be progressing establishment of a citation at this time.





SESVA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Summary of meeting held 28 May 2026



Treasurer Report – Martin Stein

Transition progressing positively with support from former Treasurer Robbie Palmer.

Management Committee Nominations

Call for nominations opens mid June. Closing date: **14 July 2026**.

Legislation Sub-Committee

Oversight continues under the President. Management Committee members have access to latest FAQs for informing member Units.

Media & PR Strategy (Secretary)

Work progressing via three focus groups; Style Guide, Content Creation and Website Redevelopment

SESVA Buses Working Group

Currently limited representation (one member from a Unit currently with a SESVA bus). Meeting of the Working Group scheduled for **3rd week of June**.

PAT – SES Training Program Review

Meeting scheduled for **13 June 2026**.

More members needed – if interested, contact

David.MacLean@dfes.wa.gov.au

SESVA Strategic Plan:

Executive Council to endorse at June meeting for publication.

2018 Duxton Forum -

Follow-Up with Minister and Commissioner

Establish a plan to consult member units to gain understanding of progress of the Duxton Forum Recommendations, if any, to develop a position to take to the Minister and Commissioner.

70th Anniversary Working Group

Establish a Working Group.

Seek expressions of interest as soon as possible.

Dress Uniforms:

Clarification required on appropriate uniform for various contexts.

Flood Boat & Equipment Strategy – raising issue with DFES Assistant Commissioner Assets:

Flood boat capability review completed; ongoing issues with uniform, equipment fit and supply.

Nail Gun Circular – raising issue with DFES Assistant Commissioner Assets:

DFES has standardised equipment; however, there are concerns about the process being followed.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Secretary – SES Volunteers Association of WA (SESVA)

Voluntary Executive Council Role

SESVA is seeking a motivated and organised individual to join the **Executive Council** as **Secretary**.

This key governance role supports Association communications, meetings, records management, newsletters, and the supervision of a paid staff member.

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

Skills sought:

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

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

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

Enquiries: SESVA President 0418 403 960 sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au



IMPORTANT NOTICE

SES VAC Assessment of SES Fleet – Update

SESVA continues to support the SES Volunteers Advisory Committee (VAC) in making the SES fleet assessment questionnaire available to all SES units in WA. We are pleased to report that **more than 80% of the state's 64 SES units have already responded**, providing a strong foundation for meaningful analysis. Well done SES member units!

However, full participation remains critical to ensure the data covering the entire fleet accurately reflects operational realities across all units. High-quality data is essential to **influence change**, support effective resource allocation, and advocate for improvements that directly benefit volunteers and operational outcomes.

Units that have not yet completed the questionnaire are strongly encouraged to do so by 12th June.

For further information or to have the link to the questionnaire sent to you, please contact

Ross Jones, Deputy SES VAC Chairman, at sesvac@ses-wa.asn.au

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

WA SES 70th Anniversary (2029) - Working Group MEMBERSHIP

The WA SES Volunteers Association is calling for **Expressions of Interest** from committed SES volunteers to join a dedicated **WA SES 70th Anniversary—Working Group**.

In 2029, the SES in WA will celebrate a **70 year of milestone**. Planning is underway now to ensure a well-coordinated and impactful program.

About the Role

Working Group Members will play an active role in planning and delivering a statewide anniversary program, which may include:

- State and regional commemorative events
- Volunteer recognition initiatives
- Community engagement and public awareness activities
- Development of legacy projects such as publications, digital archives or storytelling initiatives
- Supporting sponsorship and partnership engagement

Who We're Looking For

We invite Expressions of Interest from SES volunteers who are:

- Passionate about recognising SES history and achievements
- Interested in contributing to a **statewide project**
- Able to work collaboratively as part of a team

Commitment

The Working Group will operate from late 2026 through to 2029, with flexible levels of involvement depending on project needs and individual availability.

Register Your Interest

Send an email to the Secretary sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au expressing why you want to be a Working Group member and indicate what you are able to bring to the Group.

Help shape the celebration of 70 years of the SES in Western Australia.

Join the Working Group and make a difference.

Celebrating Community, Commitment and Service: WOW Day & Volunteer Week Highlights

Communities across Western Australia came together on 20 May 2026 to celebrate WOW Day, held during National Volunteer Week (18–25 May), creating a meaningful opportunity to recognise the dedication, teamwork, and community spirit of State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers.

Across the state, participants embraced the occasion with colour, energy, and connection, while taking time to acknowledge the vital role SES volunteers play in supporting and protecting their communities.

The day brought schools, local organisations, and SES units together, highlighting shared values of resilience, kindness, and service. These photos capture a strong sense of pride and unity—volunteers and community members celebrating not only WOW Day but the broader impact of volunteering. By recognising and supporting volunteers, we strengthen our communities and build lasting connections that extend well beyond a single day.

WOW Day launch at Star Swamp, North Beach on 20 May



Emergency Services Minister, Hon Paul Paplia CSC MLA, along with Commissioner Darren Klemm AFSM, joined metropolitan SES volunteers for WOW Day 2026 at Star Swamp in North Beach, City of Stirling.

The Minister engaged with SES volunteers before they performed a Search and Rescue exercise saying how proud he was to join these incredible SES volunteers for the national day of recognition—Wear Orange Wednesday.

“SES volunteers are everyday Western Australians doing extraordinary things, and today, we say thank you,” the Minister declared.



WOW Day Challenge

20 May 2026



The Metro WOW Day Challenge delivered an incredible burst of energy, teamwork, and SES spirit, with 130 enthusiastic volunteers turning out for a day of friendly competition and skill-building.

The atmosphere was buzzing as participants from Murray, Mandurah, Rockingham-Kwinana, Cockburn, Melville, Canning-South Perth, and CSU SES units came together to put their training to the test at Cockburn Central.

We were also privileged to have outstanding support from our broader emergency services community. A massive thank you goes to Baldivis ICV, South Coogee BFB, and Jandakot BFB for assisting throughout the challenge. Your contribution helped the day run smoothly and added to the collaborative spirit we're so proud of.

This year's event featured eight mixed teams battling it out across a five stand challenge, showcasing a blend of technical skill, teamwork, and quick thinking. The stands included Knots relay; Rope relay; Stretcher race; Tarp folding and Comms word search.

Competition was fierce, with teams pushing hard to beat the clock. The fastest team completed the entire course in an impressive 18.43 minutes, while the longest time recorded was 34.08 minutes, a testament to the effort, determination, and teamwork shown by all. Thank you to the participants who showed excellent safety awareness by managing their inflatable tails and moving to the back of the stretcher teams to avoid any trip hazards (ended up being a good tail to tell others afterwards).

The day was filled with laughter, learning, and plenty of friendly rivalry, making it a standout event on the SES calendar.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, competed, supported, or worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Events like this don't happen without the dedication of many hands, and your efforts made the WOW Day Challenge a memorable and meaningful celebration of what SES is all about.





*Clockwise from Left: Around 60 volunteers and family members got together for a sausage sizzle; “Mooriel the Cow” in Waroona showed her true colours; **Donna Lewin** was recognised for her outstanding contribution to community engagement; WOW Day was out of this world at Bunnings; and team members took part in the WOW Day Challenge at Cockburn Central.*

Murray SES

The week began with a relaxed family evening, bringing together around 60 members and their loved ones for a sausage sizzle—a great opportunity to connect and recognise the families supporting our volunteers.

Recognition remained a key theme, with Community Engagement Officer Donna Lewin honoured for her outstanding work in community education and engagement.

Members were active in the community, distributing WOW Day ribbons at Bunnings Greenfields and promoting emergency preparedness. Many also took part in the WOW Day Challenge, gaining hands-on experience and strengthening connections across SES units.

Celebrations continued at a regional emergency services dinner, acknowledging the collective efforts of volunteers. Adding a creative touch, “Mooriel the Cow” in Waroona was dressed in SES uniform, drawing smiles and raising awareness.



Serpentine Jarrahdale SES

Submitted by Local Manager Marty Seward

A once plain roadside wall at Serpentine-Jarrahdale SES unit has been turned into something really special for the community. We're excited to unveil our new mural, which celebrates our connection to the local area and the role SES volunteers play.



The project was made possible thanks to the 2025 State Election Funding Commitment Grant. We were pleased to have Hugh Jones MLA and Shire President Rob Coales join us for the unveiling, which was held on WOW Day with our members and families.

It was important to us to work with a local artist, and we were lucky to have Serpentine's Kayla Kennedy-Smith bring the mural to life. After lots of conversations and ideas, Kayla created a design that really captures our vision – thank you for your creativity and hard work!

A standout feature is the built-in screen, which we can update with useful info – from local events and storm or bush-fire warnings, to SES activities and even QR codes for anyone keen to join our team.

On the night, we also celebrated Jeff Walton, who received his 10-Year SES Service Medal – a fantastic achievement. Well done, Jeff!



Thanks to everyone who helped make this project happen. We hope the mural becomes a proud symbol of our community and the amazing volunteers who support it.

Top right: Hugh Jones MLA (left) and Local manager, Martin Seward with local artist Kayla Kennedy Smith.

Left: From L to R: Hugh Jones MLA, Jess Walton with his 10-Year SES Service Medal, Local Manager Marin Seward and Shire President, Rob Coales.

Mt Barker SES

Mt Barker SES proudly supported WOW Day with a community sausage sizzle held outside the Shire office.

The event proved to be a great success, raising \$200 while providing an opportunity to connect with the community. It was a busy morning, and although the team briefly ran out of bread rolls early on, SES volunteers showed their trademark resilience—quickly switching to slices of bread and keeping the barbecue going without missing a beat.

The day also delivered a fantastic outcome beyond fundraising, with three community members expressing interest in joining the SES.

Mt Barker SES extends a sincere thank you to the local community, and especially the Shire of Plantagenet, for their generous support in helping celebrate WOW Day





Melville SES Celebrates 50 Years of Service

As part of **National Volunteer Week**, the Melville State Emergency Service (SES) proudly marked a significant milestone—**50 years of dedicated volunteer service**—on Monday, 18 May 2026.

The evening brought together past and present members, supporters, and community representatives in a warm and memorable celebration of half a century of service.

Special guests included **Ms Sook Yee Lai MLA**, Acting Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, **Mr Darren Klemm AFSM**, Commissioner, Department of Fire and Emergency Services; **Her Worship the Mayor, Cr Katy Mair**, City of Melville; and **Mr Greg Cook ESM**, President, SES Volunteers Association of Western Australia.



A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a commemorative plaque by Greg Cook to **Local Manager David Belson** to acknowledge the important milestone 'In recognition of 50 years of dedicated service to the community by the SES Volunteers'.

The plaque reads is aptly named '**The Bernie McNamara 50th Anniversary Award**' in memory of Bernie, a long serving SES volunteer and staff member who was a member and great supporter of Melville SES for almost 30 years.

Over the past five decades, Melville SES has played a vital role in supporting the local community through storms, searches on land and at sea, plus other emergencies, and in times of need. The event provided an opportunity to honour the countless hours contributed by volunteers, whose commitment, professionalism, and resilience have helped protect lives and property to keep the community safe.

Attendees reflected on the unit's history, shared stories of camaraderie and challenge, and celebrated the achievements that have shaped Melville SES into the trusted organisation it is today. The evening also recognised the enduring spirit of volunteerism that continues to inspire new generations to step forward and serve.



As the unit looks to the future, this milestone serves as a reminder of the lasting difference volunteers make—not only in responding to emergencies but in strengthening the safety and resilience of the community they serve.

The SESVA congratulates all members, past and present, whose dedication over the past 50 years has

SESVA President, Greg Cook, presents the Bernie McNamara 50th Anniversary Award to Melville Local Manager David Belson.





NSW Premier's Flood Emergency Citation



The SESVA is delighted that SES volunteers in WA who deployed to NSW for the major floods in 2022/23 are being recognised by the New South Wales government and acknowledges all recipients in WA of the NSW Premier's Flood Emergency Citation.

Congratulations to each SES volunteer on being recognised for your efforts back in 2022/23 when you deployed to NSW for the massive response to major flooding.

Some of these individuals are named in the following news items from SES Units around the State.

Karratha SES

On the evening of Saturday, 23 May, members of Karratha SES attended the City of Karratha's annual Emergency Services Volunteer Awards, held at the Red Earth Arts Precinct.

The event is a valued opportunity to recognise the dedication of local volunteers who give their time—often evenings, weekends, and in challenging conditions—to support the community.

We are proud to acknowledge two of our members who reached significant service milestones:

- **Nick Sargeant** – 5 years of service
- **Damien Muller** – 30 years of service



From L to R: Nick Sargeant, Damien Muller, Jo Waterstrom-Muller and Rob Graham.

Thirty years of volunteering is an exceptional achievement. It represents decades of commitment, including countless hours spent away from family and personal commitments to serve others during emergencies and community need. Damien's contribution exemplifies the spirit of SES volunteering.

The evening also included a memorable moment for Karratha SES, with **Local Manager Rob Graham** and **Deputy Local Manager Jo Waterstrom-Muller** receiving the **NSW Premier's Flood Emergency Citation**. This honour recognised their outstanding work assisting interstate during the 2022–2023 flood response. Their efforts highlight the vital role SES volunteers play not only within their local communities but across Australia when support is needed most.

Congratulations is also extended to the **Roebourne District State Emergency Service**, who celebrated several milestones. A special mention goes to **Clint Taylor** on reaching 15 years of service.





Gosnells SES

Gosnells' Volunteer Recognition Event was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the outstanding efforts of its members.

Collectively, this incredible group represents over 145 years of service to the City of Gosnells and the wider WA community.

A huge congratulations to:

- 15 years SES & National Medal - **Cherese Green**
- 20 years SES – **Matt Pestell**
- 30 years SES – **Dyani Cobbold**
- 35 years SES & National Clasp – **Graham Fixter**
- 45 years SES & National Clasp – **Jim Ridgwell**

On the night, **Graham, Megan and Cherese** were also awarded the **NSW Premier's Flood Emergency Citation**, recognising their contribution to the 2022–2023 NSW Floods response.

We'd also like to acknowledge a few members achievements who couldn't be present on the night:

- 5 years SES – **Lincoln Dicker-Lee**
- 25 years National Clasp – **Kerry Watts**
- NSW Premier Flood Emergency Citation – **Paul Hollamby and Lincoln Dicker-Lee**

A big thank you to the City of Gosnells and **Mayor Teresa Lynes** for continuing to support and host this event each year. Their commitment to recognising volunteers does not go unnoticed.



Jim Ridgwell is recognised by the City of Gosnells and receives a National Clasp for 45 Years of Service



Bottom from L to R displaying their City of Gosnells Recognition Certificates are Cherise Green, Graham Fixter, Matt Pestell and Dyani Cobbold.

RAFFLE #11
DRAWN: 28TH AUGUST 2026

FIRST PRIZE
\$1,500*

COLES MYER GIFT CARD*

Support WA SES Volunteers.

Buy your tickets on the [National SESVA Website.](#)





TC Narelle Awards for Exmouth SES volunteers

At the 2026 Exmouth Community Volunteer and Sporting Awards held in May, the Exmouth SES unit was honoured with the **Tropical Cyclone Helping Hands Group Award** - recognition of the countless hours our volunteers put into preparing, responding to and supporting the Exmouth community during TC Narelle in April.

To top it off, Local Manager **Carl Aitken** was awarded the **TC Narelle Community Champion Award**; well-deserved recognition for someone who leads from the front, supports the team through every challenge and always puts community first.

The Exmouth SES are a very proud crew and grateful to be part of such a supportive community.



Tropical Cyclone Helping Hands Group Award, Exmouth SES volunteers, with DO David Cowdell



Winner of Exmouth's TC Narelle Community Champion Award, SES Local Manager Carl Aitken

Citations for Geraldton-Greenough SES volunteers

Geraldton-Greenough SES presented the **NSW Premier's Flood Emergency Citation** to three of its SES family during National Volunteer Week for their deployment to NSW as part of Taskforce Delta in 2022/23.

Amy Drage, Deputy LM

Joey Mihaly

Nick Pirrottina

Members took time to reflect on the fourth member from the unit that deployed to NSW, **Josh Gardner**, who sadly had passed away since.



L-R: DO Jo Bettsworth and Local Manager Ross Jones after presenting NSW Premier's Flood Emergency Citations to Deputy LM Amy Drage (left), Joey Mihaly (centre) and Nick Pirrottina



Training Together to Serve Better

In March, Wanneroo-Joondalup SES partnered with St John WA and their highly skilled Special Operations Paramedics for a complex multi-casualty training exercise.

Working side by side, the crews located, treated, and safely extricated their simulated “casualties”, Dustin and Cliff, from the simulated accident scene before transporting them to the waiting ambulance below. The exercise provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen teamwork and coordination in a realistic, high-pressure environment.

“Scenarios like this are essential in helping us stay sharp, prepared, and ready to respond when our community needs us most.” said an exercise spokesperson.



Strengthening Connections Across Agencies

In March, Melville SES had the pleasure of hosting members from the Swan Communications Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, who brought along their impressive Incident Control Vehicle (ICV).

This specialised vehicle serves as a critical communications hub during major incidents, supporting coordination between crews and ensuring vital information continues to flow when it matters most.

Melville SES volunteers had the opportunity to explore the ICV up close, gaining valuable insight into its capabilities and the important role it plays in emergency response.

This was a fantastic opportunity to build stronger connections across agencies and enhance their shared readiness to support the community.



Stirling SES Celebrates first anniversary of new HQ

Stirling SES celebrated one year of operations at its state-of-the-art \$2.7 million headquarters, marking a major milestone for local disaster resilience.

Opened in late 2025, the facility brought together emergency crews previously split across two separate buildings into a single, high-tech operations hub. Over the past 12 months, the centralised base has drastically improved response times and coordination for volunteers tackling severe storms, fallen trees, and localised flooding across the City of Stirling.

The anniversary caps off a busy first year, which recently included a massive multi-agency mock disaster exercise at the Tuart Hill Community Centre to test the hub's capabilities under simulated tornado conditions.

Local officials praise the facility for significantly strengthening community safety and better equipping volunteers for future emergencies.



Long serving Stirling SES volunteer and Master of Ceremonies, Brian Halberg, addresses the unit members and guests.



Current and former District Officers for the Stirling SES since the year 2000. L-R: Chris Kin-Maung, Glenn Hall, Graham Sears (ret) and Allen Gale (ret). Absent: Grant Pipe.



L-R: Former Stirling SES members Chris Brondsema, Chris Hudson and Jason Lansom (kneeling) with Stirling SES Local Manager Darren Arndt, Fomer LM Doug Cooper, Deputy LM Darren Wyatt, Ant Rees and Deputy LM Jenny Gamble.



SESVA Secretary Allen Gale congratulates Stirling SES Local Manager Darren Arndt.

Top Right: Long serving Stirling SES volunteer Alison Keen getting ready to share the Stirling SES new HQ 1st Anniversary 'Congratulations' cake.



SES Guest Speaker at the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Citizenship Ceremony

by Marty Seward, Local Manager, Serpentine-Jarrahdale SES

“Last week, I had the privilege of attending the Citizenship Ceremony at the Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire Civic Centre as a guest speaker.

I was originally asked to speak about volunteering and my involvement with the SES, and I was more than happy to accept. What I didn't realise at the time was that I had actually been invited to be the keynote speaker for the evening.



To say I was surprised would be an understatement. I felt incredibly honoured and humbled to be given the opportunity to speak in front of federal and state politicians, community leaders and, most importantly, our newest Australian citizens.

As someone who is passionate about volunteering and serving the community, it was a real privilege to share my experiences and talk about the impact that giving your time to help others can have—not only on the community but on your own life as well.

Watching people take the final step in their citizenship journey was a powerful reminder of how fortunate we are to live in this country and be part of such diverse and welcoming communities. Being invited to play a small part in such an important milestone for these new Australians is something I will remember for a long time. **Thank you to everyone involved for the opportunity. It was truly a special evening, and I am grateful to have been a part of it.”**

Above: Back Row: Serpentine Jarrahdale Councillors : Joel Chan, Courtney Mazzini, Hon Phil Twiss MLC, SJ Councillor Matthew Scott, Shire President Rob Coales, Hugh Jones MLA member for Darling Range, Yaz Mubarakai MLA and Martin Seward, LM Serpentine Jarrahdale SES Unit. Front Row: Serpentine Jarrahdale Junior Councillors.

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Super warm fleecy Hoodie

with kangaroo front pocket.

Logo also printed on back.

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

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Stylish cable knit acrylic scarf

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Put your scam sense to the test with our online quiz.



Give the 8 questions a go and find out how you can better protect yourself against scams.

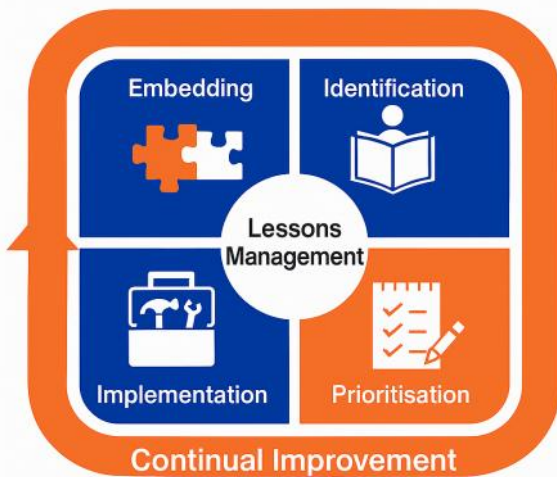
Take the quiz at scamwatch.gov.au/scam-quiz



DFES Lessons Management Process

Lessons Management provides an opportunity for everyone to share their experiences and observations.

It's always open via the Volunteer Hub so volunteers can submit observations any time, about anything.



For example, volunteers can submit observations during or after:

- an incident;
- a debrief;
- training or an exercise;
- a community event; or
- a meeting.

These observations allow decision-makers the opportunity to learn from your experiences and improve the way we serve the Western Australian community.

What is Lessons Management?

Lessons management is the process of collecting and analysing local observations and forming lessons which can be utilised throughout an organisation.

The purpose of lessons management is to identify opportunities for improvement or examples of good practice and share this information with others.

A lesson is learned when the approved change has been actioned, communicated, and is routinely practiced as the new standard.

The Observation Register

Access the Observation Register using this link via the Volunteer Hub:

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

Using a phone's camera to scan this QR code will take volunteers directly to the Observation Register.



Help to promote Lessons Management

Volunteers can also download a poster from the website to help to promote Lessons Management. Look for the PDF titled *Lessons Management Observations Register QR Code Poster*

More information

For more information about Lessons Management or the Observations Register, please contact the team in Learning and Development by email: Lessons@dfes.wa.gov.au





Recognising your existing skills

DFES acknowledges volunteers have a broad range of skills, knowledge, and experience gained from their lives outside of volunteering. To recognise the relevance to your volunteer roles, DFES provides **Recognition of Current Competency (RCC)** to volunteers.

RCC is an assessment only process, there is no training. This is similar to Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) but does not issue a national unit of competency.

Step 1 for SES volunteers will be a discussion with your Local Manager to identify the modules within your current training program that may be suitable for RCC.

Step 2 will be for you to complete the Recognition of Current Competency form which you return to your Local Manager for processing.

Step 3 will be the review of your application by your District Officer and the module entered into your eAcademy profile by your Training Support contact.

Volunteers approved for RCC can attend a scheduled course and complete only the assessment component or you can request to do the assessment at a time that suits you. Some modules are able to be bundled together.

On your successful completion of the module, you will find your eAcademy profile updated.

Read more on the Volunteer Hub at this link:

[Recognising your Existing Skills | DFES Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#)

For more information contact your Training Support Officer at the regional office or email skills.recognition@dfes.wa.gov.au

e-Academy users

If you haven't been on e-Academy for a while, then you'll find these **Quick Links** on the home page just below the Latest News to help you navigate to some of the most popular sites.

Quick Links

1. Volunteer Training Programs: Get the latest volunteer training programs.
2. Regional Training Calendars: Yearly training calendars for each region.
3. Reports: Link to Reports Viewer for your BGU training reports.
4. Initiation and Improvement Recommendation: Suggest Training Product Improvements.
5. Trainer Assessor Endorsement Application: Complete the application form to begin the process to become a Trainer Assessor.
6. Skills Recognition: One stop shop for all things training and skills recognition.



Have Your Say – Complete the DFES Volunteer Satisfaction Survey

The 2026 Annual Volunteer Satisfaction Survey is now open, and **your feedback matters**.

Take a few minutes to share your experiences and help shape the future of volunteering in WA. Whether you're new or long-serving, every response helps improve the support, training, and opportunities available to volunteers—so don't miss the chance to have your voice heard.

If you haven't already responded... click [here](#) or go to the DFES volunteer hub.





Book a Free StrokeSafe Talk



Did you know that stroke kills more women than breast cancer and more men than prostate cancer?

Despite this, many people are unaware that up to 80% of strokes can be prevented. That's why we offer free StrokeSafe talks, designed to raise awareness and teach practical steps for prevention.

Our trained volunteer speakers will share:

- How to recognise the signs of a stroke
- What to do during a stroke emergency
- How to reduce your risk of stroke

Most of our Speakers have either experienced a stroke themselves or are close to someone who has. Their stories add a unique and powerful dimension to the educational content, making each presentation impactful and memorable.

Key Information:

- Free of charge
- Trained volunteer speakers
- Personalised talks with real-life experiences
- Interactive and educational

We believe that raising awareness can save lives, and your group can play a vital role in helping prevent strokes in your community.

Requesting a StrokeSafe speaker is easy. Please submit an online request form. Once completed, we will get back to you to confirm.



Alternatively you may email: StrokeSafe@strokefoundation.org.au

Thank you for helping us make the community more strokesafe.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Association Training Advisory Group - State Emergency Service MEMBERSHIP

This is an opportunity for SES volunteers to make a difference by participating in a forum for the communication of training information between DFES and SES volunteers.

Several vacancies currently exist for membership of the Association Training Advisory Group - State Emergency Service (ATAG - SES).

The ATAG – SES is a consultative group established under the authority of DFES. The group will usually meet two (2) times per year.

Membership includes at least six SES regional representatives and one SES Volunteers Association representative.

Regional representatives are responsible for;

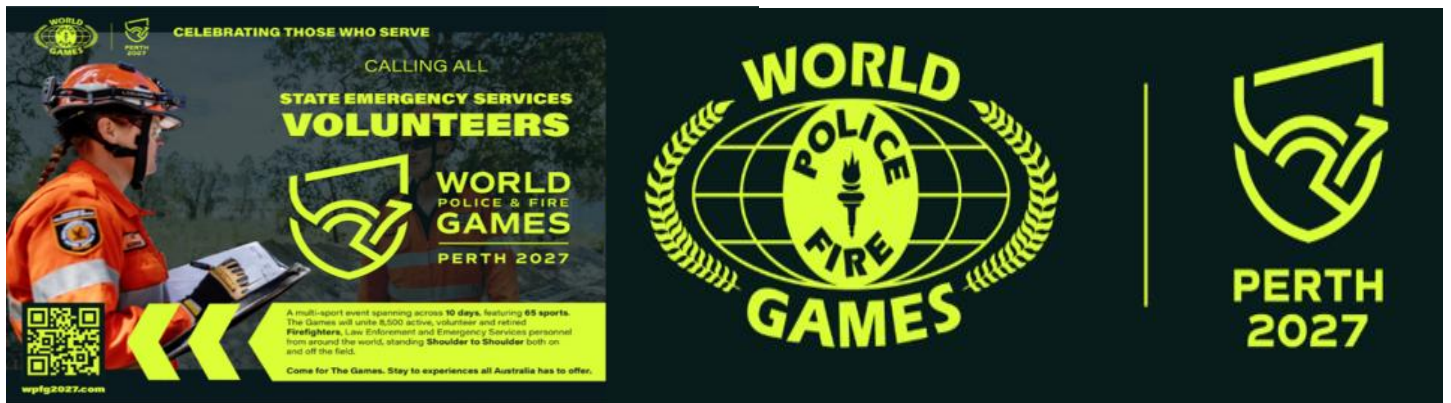
- Disseminating and communicating the minutes of the ATAG – SES to their subgroups and SES volunteers.
- Actively seeking input into deliberations of the ATAG – SES through their respective committees and networks.
- Providing a report to the ATAG – SES.

If you are you interested, send your Expression of Interest to the ATAG – SES Chair, Superintendent Operational Delivery, Matt.Wakeling@dfes.wa.gov.au





ANNOUNCEMENT



The World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) are coming to Perth in March 2027 and will be spanning 10 days of competition.

It is a biennial international multi-sport event for active, retired, and volunteer law enforcement, firefighting, and emergency services personnel.

Participants and Sports

Competitors from over 70 countries are expected to participate. The event will feature 65 sporting events across a wide range of disciplines, including athletics, swimming, martial arts, cycling, team sports, and challenge events. The Games are inclusive, welcoming active, retired, and volunteer personnel from police, fire services, corrections, customs, and emergency services.

Venues and Facilities

Events will be held across multiple venues in Perth. The Supreme Court Gardens will host the Athletes' Village, while the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre will accommodate a tradeshow and convention. A community-focused event, Super Sunday, will take place at Langley Park.

Volunteers

2027 WPFG provides a platform to showcase DFES volunteer services to WA communities and includes DFES volunteer members and corporate staff as eligible participants for the first time.

Information and Registration

Events cater for **all skill levels and all age groups** (not just elite level), so **register early** to save \$.

Scan the QR code for more information and to register.

Watch the promo video here: [Facebook](#)



AFAC National Memorial Service in Canberra

On 8 May 2026, SES Volunteers Association (SESVA) President Greg Cook and Secretary Allen Gale were honoured to attend the AFAC National Memorial Service in Canberra, joining emergency services personnel and representatives from across Australia and New Zealand in paying tribute to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Accompanying them were two outstanding participants from the SES Young Emerging Leaders (YEL) Program: **Josh Yates from Margaret River SES** and **Corey Wozencroft from Mandurah SES**.

The attendance of the young leaders reflected both the National SESVA's and the WA SESVA's commitment to fostering the next generation of leaders within the SES and providing meaningful opportunities for professional growth and national engagement. The YEL Program is delivered by the National SESVA.

The National Memorial Service, held annually, is a solemn and significant occasion that recognises the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of emergency service workers.

For Greg and Allen, the event reinforced the importance of service, leadership, and remembrance within the SES community. Their presence also highlighted SESVA's ongoing role in supporting volunteers and advocating for their contribution not just in WA, but across Australia.

The participation of SESVA representatives and YEL members at this national event underscores the organisation's commitment to honouring the past while investing in the future—ensuring that the spirit of service, resilience, and leadership continues to guide the SES for generations to come.

Read on for a perspective of the journey across to Canberra from young leader Josh Yates.



From L to R: Greg Cook, Josh Yates, Corey Wozencroft and Allen Gale.

SESVA YOUNG EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

Representing WA SES at the 2026 AFAC National Memorial Service, Canberra

Submitted by Joshua Yates, Margaret River SES



In May, I had the incredible opportunity to travel to Canberra to represent WA at the 2026 AFAC National Memorial Service as part of the Youth Guard of Honour. I was one of two young representatives from WA SES selected to attend, joining two youth members from each state and territory across Australia.

The trip lasted just under a week and was organised and funded by the National SES Volunteers Association, for which I am extremely grateful. It was a fantastic opportunity to represent WA on a national stage, meet other young SES volunteers, and learn more about how SES operates across the country.

The main purpose of the trip was to participate in the AFAC National Memorial Service, where we formed the Guard of Honour during the ceremony. It was a very special experience to be involved in a service that recognises and honours emergency services personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The ceremony itself was deeply moving, although I think most of us would agree that the freezing Canberra morning temperatures are something we won't forget anytime soon!

Cont...



One of the unexpected highlights of the trip came when we were invited at very short notice to serve as the Guard of Honour for the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on 8 May, commemorating Victory in Europe (VE) Day. Being able to take part in such a significant national ceremony was a huge honour and certainly not something any of us expected beforehand.



Beyond the ceremonies, one of the best parts of the week was getting to know the other representatives. We came from very different backgrounds, communities and SES organisations, but we all shared the same passion for volunteering and helping our communities.

Throughout the week, we spent a lot of time discussing the similarities and differences between SES units around Australia, sharing ideas, and talking about challenges and opportunities facing youth volunteers. We also got to learn about other emergency services across Australia, as many of the youth members were involved in multiple organisations in their state, such as Fire Rescue and Ambulance.



As part of our group sessions, we discussed issues such as how to recruit younger members into volunteer emergency services, as well as the confusion around scope of practice and overlap between SES and other emergency services—a topic that many felt was experienced across the country. We also got to trade stories and compare how our respective services operate, what types of jobs we attend, and the different uniforms and equipment we work with. It was a great opportunity for us all to have our say at a national level.

We also had the opportunity to explore Canberra and visit many of its national attractions. From the Australian War Memorial to Parliament House and other iconic sites, we got a great tour of the city.

The sightseeing was a lot of fun and gave us plenty of opportunities to continue building friendships and connections outside of the formal program.

For me, the trip was about much more than attending a memorial. It was a chance to represent WA SES, learn from volunteers from across Australia, and build relationships with other young people who are passionate about emergency services.

“I came away with new ideas, new friendships, and a greater appreciation for the important role youth members can play within SES.”

A huge thank you to the SESVA of WA and the National SESVA for providing and organising this opportunity. It was an experience I will remember for many years to come and one that I am incredibly grateful for.

I couldn't recommend highly enough that other young people in SES put their name forward for this experience in 2027.



*Column 1 top:
Group photo with the Governor General at the Memorial.*

*Column 1 bottom:
The YELs crammed into an elevator in Parliament House.*

*Column 2:
YELs in Old Parliament House.*

*Column 3:
YELs practicing our drill for the AFAC Memorial.*

*Previous page:
The YELs at the AFAC Memorial service, in our respective dress uniforms.*





CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS - REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, VICE PRESIDENT METRO and VICE PRESIDENT NORTH

Several Management Committee appointments will conclude at the 2026 Annual General Meeting. There is also a current vacancy on the SESVA Management Committee for the Lower South West Regional Representative.

Nominate now

Nominations are now open for both the expiring vacant positions, as outlined in the table below.

All Units are invited to nominate a member for the roles of Vice President Metro, Vice President North, or for Regional Representative positions, as applicable.

The closing date to nominate a member is Tuesday, 14 July 2026. Units must complete the nomination form, have it signed by the Unit Manager, and return it to the Secretary by the closing date. Please also include a short summary of the nominee's relevant SES experience, which may be shared with Units if voting is required.

Refer to the table on the next page for details of the regions with expiring terms, the current vacancy, and the Units within each region.

All Units are eligible to vote for Vice President positions. Voting for Regional Representative roles is limited to Units within the relevant region.

Voting

If more than one nomination is received for a position, then voting will be conducted (via email wherever possible). Please ensure your Unit completes the **Unit Contact Details** section on the nomination form and submits it via email or post.

Election Results

Election results will be announced during the 2026 Annual General Meeting: **9:00am, Saturday 12 September 2026** at the DFES Facility, 91 Leake Street, Belmont WA.

If no nominations are received for a vacant position, the Management Committee may appoint a suitable person to the role.

Regions without representation on the Management Committee may experience delays in receiving important updates, which has caused issues in the past. To ensure your region remains well-informed, please nominate a representative where a term is ending or a vacancy exists.

If you would like more information about SESVA or what's involved in serving on the Management Committee, please contact SESVA President Greg Cook ESM:

- Mobile: 0418 403 960
- Email: sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au

Allen Gale ESM

Returning Officer/Secretary

SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc.)

Email: sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au Web: www.ses-wa.asn.au



Scan to download the nomination form from the SESVA website



SESVA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

POSITIONS EXPIRING/VACATING AT THE 2026 AGM – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

SESVA Vice President Metro (new) # **2 year appointment – term expires AGM 2028**

SESVA Vice President North * **1 year appointment – term expires AGM 2027**

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kimberley Region

Broome Derby

2 year appointment - term expires AGM 2028
Kununurra

Pilbara Region

Exmouth Hedland
Newman Tom Price

1 year appointment - term expires AGM 2027
Karratha Roebourne Districts

Midwest-Gascoyne Region

Carnarvon Coastal Districts
Kalbarri Meekatharra

2 year appointment - term expires AGM 2028
Geraldton-Greenough Kalbarri
Shar Bay

Upper Great Southern Region

Boddington Narrogin

2 year appointment - term expires AGM 2028
Pingelly Wagin

Great Southern Region

Albany Denmark
Mount Barker Ravensthorpe

2 year appointment - term expires AGM 2028
Esperance Gnowangerup

Lower South West Region

Bridgetown Busselton
Margaret River Nannup

2 year appointment - term expires AGM 2028
Donnybrook Manjimup
Walpole

South West Region

Australind Bunbury
Murray

1 year appointment - term expires AGM 2027
Collie Harvey

North East (Metro) Region

Bassendean Belmont

2 year appointment - term expires AGM 2028
Mundaring Swan

North Coastal (Metro) Region

Bayswater Northshore
Wanneroo-Joondalup

2 year appointment - term expires AGM 2028
Stirling Two Rocks

Metro includes – North Coastal, North East, South East, South Coastal

* North includes – Kimberley, Pilbara, Midwest-Gascoyne, Goldfields-Midlands



Scan to download the
nomination form from
the SESVA website





State Emergency Service Volunteer Advisory Committee COMMUNIQUE

MAY 2026

The State Emergency Service (SES) Volunteer Advisory Committee (the Committee) met on Thursday, 7 May 2026, for its second meeting of the year.

VOLUNTEER FUEL CARD SCHEME

The Committee has been exploring various models to improve the distribution of the Volunteer Fuel Card Scheme. The Scheme recognises the real difference it can make in supporting and retaining volunteers, particularly in light of the rising cost of living and fuel prices.

The Scheme provides all Brigades, Groups and Units (BGUs) with an annual \$1000 fuel card. The VAC believes volunteers across the SES and other emergency services would benefit most from a model that both increases the Scheme's value and allocates funding in proportion to BGU member numbers.

While SES Units manage the Scheme in different ways, the Committee agrees it remains a practical and valued way to support volunteers for the time and commitment they give to their communities.

The next step is to consult with representatives from other volunteer services to build support for the proposal before presenting it to the Commissioner and Minister for their consideration.

SES VEHICLES, TRAILERS AND BOATS

A statewide survey sent to all SES Units is currently underway to capture the views on the condition and suitability of SES vehicles, trailers and boats. This includes local government and DFES-owned assets.

The survey also asks Units to share their satisfaction levels and provide comments on current fleet arrangements.

So far, around 66% of Units have responded, and the survey has been extended to encourage further participation. The survey responses will be collated and discussed at the next Committee meeting in July 2026.

For more information, feedback, or comments on any of these topics, please contact your nearest Committee member. Member details are available on the [SES Volunteer Advisory Committee](#) page on the Volunteer Hub.

The Committee will next meet in **July 2026**.



Vale – Des Austin, Busselton SES



It is with great sadness that we share with you the passing of Des Austin. The Busselton unit "Grandad" as he was lovingly known.

Des began his volunteering career in 1954 with Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade. Des was an advocate, a role model, a teacher and a wealth of knowledge not only in the world of Fire, but SES and Surf Life Saving.

Recognised by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in his 60th year of volunteering, Des was modest in everything he achieved and was a well respected and valuable member of our unit, where he served as Deputy Local Manager for many years and was also a valued Life Member.

There are not many people who didn't benefit from his knot tying skills, his bush craft, radio and map reading, his patience and his compassion and his ability to slip into his dress uniform at any opportunity he could!

He served his community with pride and dignity and was truly a proud member of the service.

From Busselton SES volunteers "Rest In Peace our dearest friend. Your watch has ended."

Desmond Austin 1939-2026.

The SES Volunteers Association on behalf of SES volunteers extend their deepest condolences to his family, friends and former colleagues.

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Wed 10 Jun	Thank a First Responder Day	18—21 Aug	AFAC2026 in Melbourne
Sat 13 June	Goldfields-Midlands All Service Volunteer Leadership Development Forum, Northam	22-23 Aug	Midwest-Goldfields Forum (venue TBC)
Tue 14 July	Nominations Close—SESVA Management Committee membership	04—05 Sep	WAFES Conference & Awards
Thu 23 July	SESVA Management Committee mtg	Sat 12 Sep	SESVA AGM
Thu 30 July	VAC Meeting	Thu 24 Sep	SESVA Management Committee mtg
		Thu 26 Nov	SESVA Management Committee mtg
		Sat 05 Dec	International Volunteer Day

Help us promote YOUR achievements!



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

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

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

Next deadline 22 June

NEW—SES Teddy Bear

complete with soft helmet.

\$20 + p/p



Download the SESVA merchandise catalogue



USEFUL LINKS

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

[SESVA WA Facebook Page](#)

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

[NSESVA Yearbook 2025.pdf](#)

[DFES Volunteer Hub](#)

[State Emergency Management Committee](#)

[Home - Volunteering WA](#)



The SES Volunteers Association of WA Inc.

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