



This is a fantastic time of the year – and I always enjoy it!

It is a time for all of us to reflect on the year gone and focus on what matters most to us – our families, our friends, our many supporters and the communities that we serve.

As I reflect on the past year with gratitude, I look forward to the New Year with much optimism and in the full knowledge that 2014 will once again be a busy year for all of the emergency service responders, both Volunteers and DFES staff.

And it is in so many ways, that the true altruism and spirit of the Emergency Service Volunteers and Staff, that makes this time of the year so special.

Their families, friends and supporters have time to also reflect on what all Emergency Service Volunteers do so selflessly in providing their community with a much needed response and rescue service network during an emergency event.

Further to their normal emergency response role, I have witnessed in one area, SES Volunteers collecting and delivering to their local MPs' office, food and presents they have collected for distribution to those who are having a difficult time this Christmas – what an awesome community spirit.

Traditionally the SES Volunteers take a break over Christmas however, they have a high level of preparedness if an emergency event happens and networks in place to respond immediately.

History shows us that in Australia and around the world, we do get emergency events over this period and some examples of that include the Newcastle earthquake, tropical cyclone Tracy, the boxing day tsunami and even a mini-tornado in Wongan Hills. These were all events that were tragic and the SES Volunteers are ready to respond once again if anything untoward happens.

In closing, and on behalf of the SES Volunteers Association Committee, I would like to extend our best wishes for the festive season, to all the Volunteers and Staff involved in the emergency services, your families and many supporters and to thank you for your continuing support to your community.

Please have a safe and happy festive break.

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