



It is that busy time of the year again, with Christmas less than 10 days away, Christmas parties, presentation nights and graduation ceremonies to attend, as well as the involvement in our own SES Units – all good fun.

I always enjoy this time of the year especially when reflecting on the past year and thinking about what matters most to us; our families, our friends, our emergency service colleagues, the many supporters and the communities that we serve.

This time last year the Northcliffe (O'Sullivan), Lower Hotham and Esperance fires were not on the horizon. The efforts put into the response to these disasters by the Bush fire fighters, SES responders, Fire and Rescue personnel and DFES staff was incredible.

The SES experienced a very quiet winter this year with very little requests for assistance. The BoM expects that we will have an El Niño summer which shifts the odds towards fewer cyclones and a later first cyclone coastal crossing.

However the state is once again faced with a possible busy fire season and all services are preparing for what could be another busy year for all Volunteer and Staff Emergency Responders.

In reflecting on the past year a number of achievements by the SESVA Committee and SES Volunteers come to mind;

- Delivery and extensive use of the BHPB-SESVA buses for transport of Fire And Emergency Service Responders in many fires and other responses,
- Submissions to the Office of the Auditor General and the Enquiry on involvement of the SES Volunteers in the state response to the O'Sullivan and Lower Hotham fires,
- Strong input and involvement in the SES Royal Show display as part of the DFES display,
- Participation and support of the WoW day display at Bicton,
- Support and active involvement in assisting the Volunteer Fuel Card come to fruition,
- Compilation of data for the last three years for the Volunteer Opinion Survey,
- Involved in the 2015 DFES Volunteers Conference - Volunteer satisfaction rating greater than 80%,
- Implementation of the Woolworths Small Equipment Grants to SES Units,
- Assisted in the shooting of the Bunnings Video and Poster for the 2016 Great Aussie day BBQ,
- Actively working with DFES staff including the Chief Superintendents, Director for Media & Corporate Communications, Deputy Commissioners and Commissioner on many issues for improvement to the delivery of service to the key stakeholders – Volunteers and Community.

We all know that there are often disasters at this time of the year, however, even though the SES Volunteers traditionally take a break over Christmas, they have a high level of preparedness and networks in place to respond immediately, if an emergency event happens.

I also acknowledge the role and support by the Volunteer Emergency Service Responders families, friends and many supporters that makes it all possible throughout the tough times of emergency events.

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.

Gordon Hall
SESVA President
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