

LATEST NEWS



Read about what we have been
up to recently in our latest
Newsletter.



AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe by email to sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

From the President

Welcome to you all, August already!

The pace of our work in the SES Association has again taken a step up. I trust the results of the hours and hours our volunteers have contributed continue to positively impact SES members and our communities.

There are many times that the fruits of our work are not readily evident but with all of your help, we do feel the love in the longer term. In saying this, I happily acknowledge the motivation to continue at high standards. Some of this was more than evident in a recent meeting with Minister Dawson and the DFES Commissioner.

Our SES service to the community is respected and welcomed at so many levels of society. Some wise words for us now in the coming months as an SES Volunteer:

- Always be ready. Anticipate, don't react.
- You've got what it takes but it will take everything you've got.
- Be humble when you are victorious.
- Your Character is more important than how good you are.
- Communication is critical to succeed.
- You play how you practice, and train well.
- Celebrate the wins but learn from the losses. Debrief well.
- Being disciplined pays off.
- You are part of something bigger than yourself.
- Believe in yourself and your service.
- Teamwork is the best work.

To all volunteers, more information on the Consolidated Emergency Services Legislation and Fit for Role will be coming to your unit in August. Talk well and decide wisely for the long term of the SES.

Greg Cook
President



NOMINATIONS ARE SOUGHT FOR THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS KING'S BIRTHDAY 2025



Nominations can be submitted **online** prior to **Monday 14 October 2023** to be considered for the King's Birthday 2025 Honours List. For further information send an email to rewards@dfes.wa.gov.au



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from the SECRETARY'S desk

Email Allen Gale for more information sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au



Management Committee

New Member

Welcome to Phil Scanlan, SES Cockburn, who is representing the North East region units.

As a Director within State Government, Phil has been a member of the District and Local EM Committees in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

Phil's SES experience includes deployments to Kalbarri for TC Seroja and interstate for major floods. Among his various roles with Karratha and Cockburn SES, Phil has assisted with media enhancements and held the position of PR Officer.

Phil is enthusiastic and focused on volunteering projects that promote volunteer well being and foster a positive culture. Phil is eager to make a positive contribution to the SESVA Management Committee.



Call for units to submit a Member Delegate form for the SESVA AGM

The 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 8th September 2024 at Crown Burswood, in the new AGM Venue **Botanical Room 1**, downstairs from the WAFES Conference rooms entry.

A Member Delegate form is required from member SES Units to be able to vote and must be submitted no later than Saturday 7th September.

Use this link to the SESVA website for more information

[2024 Agenda and Member Delegate form](#)

Committee Elections will not be necessary prior to the AGM this year

as no more than one nomination was received for any region.

An opportunity to hear updates and ask questions will be facilitated immediately following the AGM.



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SUMMARY OF SESVA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – 25th JULY 2024

Legislation Working Group - Group members had meetings with the Minister and the Commissioner in July. They were warmly received, and discussions were fruitful. Hard copy versions of the Proposed Emergency Services Act 2024 Position Paper have now been distributed to SES units, selected DFES staff, state and federal politicians, selected Government Departments, Local Government and selected community groups. It is likely that the draft bill may be released later this year for consultation.

NSESVA Raffle - The third raffle commenced on 3 June and will be drawn 30th August, however the sales of tickets were very slow in July. The committee agreed to encourage SES units to promote the SESVA Raffle and request units to provide timely advice of significant incidents and events that showcase the exceptional work of the SES volunteers to the SESVA representatives. This type of information has been proven to attract the attention of the public who are then more likely to purchase Raffle tickets and also donate.

SES 65th Anniversary 1959-2024 - A Family Day being held Saturday 12th October 2024 from 10am at Jarrahdale Oval with overnight camping available. The SESVA are supporting the event which is being organised by a working group and DFES has also agreed to support the event. More information is on page 18.

Fitness For Role - the FFR report from the March online meeting hosted by the SESVA had 14 questions for DFES to respond to. The Association has received a draft response and Management Committee members will be involved in discussing with the SES units their position on the further development of the SES Volunteer Association's position on behalf of members units.

Women's Operational PPC sizes

An issue has been raised about the lack of suitable sizing/cuts for the 2-piece uniform tops for women sizing/cut for women's operational uniforms. They do not fit well and often need to be upsized significantly due to poor fit around the chest. SES volunteers 'live' in their operational uniforms and having the correct sizing is crucial for their comfort and performance. The Management Committee agreed to ask units "are there issues with uniforms for female members?"

Capital Expenditure for SES Units Working Group

Due to the lack of capital expenditure to meet the core needs of vehicles, facilities, watercraft, and newly developing resources for SES units in WA, the Management Committee agreed to form a working group to liaise with SES units and, through the DFES Executive, establish support, funding, and purchase of identified items to meet the future needs of SES units in WA. Expressions of Interest from current three Local Managers as working group members will be sought.



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Pictured on 17th July after meeting with the SESVA Legislation Working Group is the Minister for Emergency Services :

L-R: SESVA Legal Consultant Craig Masarei, SESVA Treasurer Robbie Palmer, SESVA Vice President (North) Leonie Briggs, SESVA President Greg Cook, Minister Stephen Dawson MLC, SESVA Secretary Allen Gale and SESVA Vice President (South) Alan Hawke

SESVA Newsletter – some SES volunteers are missing out!

DID YOU KNOW.....not all SES volunteers get to read the Newsletter every month!

EASY FIX.....share the Newsletter by email with others who aren't yet subscribed.

READER INCREASE.....**print** and **post** on the unit notice board.

While DFES has all the SES volunteer email addresses, they are unable to provide them to the SESVA.

To receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, simply subscribe by email to sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

SESVA Newsletter - we want to hear from you!

You are a Newsletter reader! The SESVA wants your feedback to retain your support and improve the SESVA Newsletter readers experience.

Your feedback can be emailed to sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au using the **who what when why how** format. Alternatively call/text you feedback to Bella 0499 619 287.

Some considerations for discussion and feedback for improving the Newsletter readers experience:

Presentation style – e.g. A4 colour PDF file? images and descriptions with links? Both?

Content – what subjects e.g. training, incidents, unit events, volunteer awards etc

Frequency – how often e.g. monthly? quarterly? half yearly?

Method – hard copy? soft copy? both? Delivered by email, Social media? Accessed from website?

Size – how many pages? One article to a page? Multiple articles o a page?

Others?



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SCOREBOARD

Yes....we're on the right track!

We want feedback that we can use as a basis for improvement....information about your reaction to the performance of the SESVA, the services offered and initiatives such as the Newsletter.

Thank you to the SES unit leader who is standing down soon as Local Manager for this feedback:

"I'd like to say thank you to all the Western Australian SESVA team. In my time as manager, it's become very apparent the level of dedication and hard work you all put in that sometimes goes unnoticed, and especially to <name> for taking up the mantle of Regional Representative."

Met with the Minister for Emergency Services, Stephen Dawson MLC

The SESVA of WA through its Legislation Working Group has submitted a Proposed Emergency Services Act 2024 Position Paper on behalf of its member SES units to the Government and DFES. Discussions with the Government commenced on Tuesday 17 July at the office of Minister Dawson and his senior policy advisor, Matt Dixon. Additional consultation is being planned for.

Met with Commissioner Klemm

A meeting was held with the DFES Commissioner on Monday 22 July to discuss the Proposed Emergency Services Act 2024 position paper, the continuation of support for the SESVA buses and funding for the SES Exercise Program.

Met with Assistant Commissioner – Country Operations

A meeting was held with the DFES Assistant Commissioner, Gary Gifford, to discuss SES volunteer requirements and resourcing concerns.

Representation on the DFES Operational Efficiency Payments Review Group by SESVA Secretary Allen Gale

DFES consultation with volunteer association representatives on the review of the OEP payment system to BGUs.

Representation on the WAFES Conference and Awards Gala Dinner Committee by SESVA President Greg Cook and SESVA Secretary Allen Gale

DFES consultation with volunteer association representatives on upcoming WAFES Conference and Awards function.

Representation on the DFES Local Government Capital Grants Committee by SESVA Vice President Alan Hawke

DFES consultation with volunteer association and Local Government representatives in relation to the distribution of Capital Grant funds sourced from the Emergency Services Levy.

Representation on the DFES SES Service Awards judging panel by two SESVA President Greg Cook and SESVA South West representative Ros McConchie

A record number of nominations were received. Well done SES volunteers.



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SES volunteers

**We need your help to promote the Raffles so more tickets are sold.
Tell others about the Raffle and share the information below!**

SES units - by sharing timely advice to the SESVA of significant incidents and events that showcase the exceptional work of the SES volunteers, the info can be used to attract the attention of the public and gain their support when requested to purchase Raffle tickets.

WA-TAS Raffle No. 3

The raffle commenced 3rd June and will be drawn 30th August 2024.

Let your WA family, friends, and colleagues know that they can purchase a \$2 ticket now to support SES volunteers in WA and receive a chance to **win a \$5,000 Coles-Myer gift.**

Simply share the phone number and website link below:

National SESVA call centre **1300 804 562**

[Buy tickets and support the National SESVA \(nationalsesvaraffle.org.au\)](http://nationalsesvaraffle.org.au)

The funds raised in WA once expenses are taken into account stay in WA, meaning the Volunteer Association in WA, with the support of the National SESVA can fund opportunities that **benefit SES volunteers in WA**. Already an SES volunteer has had their travel costs paid from Raffle proceeds to attend *young emerging leaders* events in Canberra.

DFES provides adequate funding to enable the SESVA to represent the views and interests of SES Volunteers. Funds raised through the raffles will be used primarily to connect SES volunteers with people, programs and education that will help them achieve their objectives, including but not limited to the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| • Access to training and development | • Sponsorships for volunteers |
| • Access to a welfare fund | • Volunteer resources support service |
| • Grants for volunteers' services | • Facilities for use by volunteers and their families |



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AUSTRALIAN WARNING SYSTEM

WA's new warning system for bushfire, cyclone, storm and flood

Western Australia has adopted the AWS for cyclone, storm, flood and bushfire, meaning all four hazards will use the same warning levels of Advice, Watch and Act and Emergency Warning. Warnings will also feature an action statement providing a clear and concise call to action to help the community stay safe.

On July 15 the Minister launched a new advertising campaign to help educate the community on the changes to all four hazards.

The main focus for the next few months will be in the north west of WA to help ensure the community there is prepared for the significant changes to cyclone warnings.

There have been numerous conversations with SES volunteers across the State, particularly in the Pilbara and Kimberley about the changes, which while significant, the benefits provided through the de-escalation process have proven popular.

DFES has launched a new tab on Emergency WA www.emergency.wa.gov.au/aws which provides an over view of the changes. Copy this link into your browser.

Updates will be rolled out to the AWS page on the Volunteer Hub.

Now there's a simple warning
system for natural disasters



ADVICE



WATCH
AND ACT



EMERGENCY
WARNING

BUSHFIRE



ADVICE



WATCH
AND ACT



EMERGENCY
WARNING

CYCLONE



ADVICE



WATCH
AND ACT



EMERGENCY
WARNING

FLOOD



ADVICE



WATCH
AND ACT



EMERGENCY
WARNING

STORM



ADVICE



WATCH
AND ACT



EMERGENCY
WARNING

Will you require training?

Yes, you are encouraged to complete the training available on eAcademy.

What do I need to do?

All emergency services personnel can access the AWS training available on eAcademy.

Read more overleaf....



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eAcademy Courses Available



It is particularly important that if you are in a position responsible for issuing alerts and warnings or perform a role involved in the management of public information, that you understand these changes.

The roles may include but are not limited to: Incident Controller, Public Information Officer, Information and Warnings Officer, Media Liaison Officer and/or Community Liaison Officer

An awareness campaign across television, radio, print, online and social media will ensure Western Australians are aware of these important changes helping the community better understand AWS warning levels, colours and action statements.

AUSTRALIAN WARNING SYSTEM

WA's new warning system for bushfire, cyclone, storm and flood



AUSTRALIAN WARNING SYSTEM (AWS) AWARENESS

Available for an unlimited time

- An overview of the Australian Warning System and how it is applied in Western Australia.
- Delivered as a self-paced awareness module and available to all emergency services personnel from DFES and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)

APPLYING THE AUSTRALIAN WARNING SYSTEM (AWS)

Available for an unlimited time

- A scenario-based module based on Level One incidents to assist decision-makers successfully determine an appropriate AWS warning level and action statement for incidents relevant to their position.

HOW TO ENROL

1. Go to the Volunteer Hub homepage
2. Scroll down to My Systems
3. Select eAcademy
4. Select menu item 'Training Catalogue and Resources'
5. Search for the course name Australian Warning System (AWS) Awareness or 'Applying the Australian Warning System (AWS)'
6. Select appropriate course.

The on-line modules are also available to external stakeholders through MobiliseMe. Those wishing to undertake this training are asked to contact the DFES Public Information team.

Email: statepublicinfo@dfes.wa.gov.au

A handy toolkit is available to help emergency services volunteers communicate the first phase of AWS changes to colleagues, stakeholders and the community.



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Call for EOIs —YOUTH Volunteering Videos



Are you a young volunteer (aged 14-30) with a creative flair? Here's an opportunity to showcase your volunteering, state-wide with Volunteering WA!

Volunteering WA is running an exciting social media campaign to promote youth volunteering—and you could be part of it.

To participate, simply record a few videos of your volunteering activities on your phone and send them through to Volunteering WA via **WeTransfer** or email at communications@volunteeringwa.org.au

The team will then edit the clips into your very own video on the Volunteering WA social media channels! If you're based in metro WA, Volunteering WA may even be able to come to you and film—simply get in touch via email at communications@volunteeringwa.org.au

For those wanting to record videos themselves and send them through, they're asking for:

- 1 x introduction to camera ("Hi, my name is XX and this is the day in the life of a SES volunteer"... or something similar);
- 1 x video explaining what they like about their volunteer role; and
- At least 4 x clips of volunteering footage.

We're flexible though – if volunteers want to film a different style of video, they're more than welcome. If you have any questions, please let me know. I'm happy to discuss on the phone.

Deadline for submissions is 31 August.

Krista Mullally – Marketing & Communications Coordinator

E: krista@volunteeringwa.org.au

M: 0468 750 672



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SES TRAINING NIGHT ACTIVITIES?

I write this article with the sincere desire of triggering some
action from our SES training gurus around this huge state of WA.

Les Hayter ESM
Margaret River SES Training Manager
SESVA representative for LSW Region

Planned, inclusive and engaging training night activities are essential to keeping newer and older members enthusiastic, current and interactive. We often recruit new community members into our Units, but unless we can show genuine interest in their ongoing development and offer activities that test and extend current skills/knowledge, we will lose their interest to attend regularly. This is especially true for Units south of the 26th parallel with winter chill and raining cats-n-dogs outside.

What am I offering and how will it work?

Some SES Units may still have a copy of the orange covered 'Continuation Training File' issued to all Units back in 2006-7 by the SES Training Section at Forrestfield Training Centre (now the DFES Training Academy).

I want to offer my services to collate whatever members can offer into something that resembles what was captured from across Australia when SES had a national body to collect and collate these training activities, also known as 'Acti-cards'. While funding is no longer guaranteed to have them typed up, I have the desire and means to get it up and running again. To achieve this I will need help from you, the SES Volunteer members actually involved in organising and running effective training, to tell me about the amazing activities that keep members coming back for more! I have already written up 20 or more activities I have seen run or been told about and I aim to get a group within the current structure of the SESVA to support this project.

What I need from you is the following (it doesn't need to be "war and peace" but some basic, understandable information) which anyone running your activity will need to successfully use the activity in their training program.

Key aspect of your activity – To build, to rescue, to search, to send and receive, etc

Skill Area - Is it General Rescue, Road Crash Rescue, Navigation, etc.

Timings – Time Setting-it up, running the activity, pack up & debriefing.

Resources – Equipment and Human (co-ordinator/s, team size with TL, Casualties).

Safety Precautions – Risks & Hazards - maybe a Risk Assessment Plan?

Activity Outcome – what it achieves (Builds a team, Leadership, Comms, etc.)

Handy Hints – Anything that can be 'varied' to make it more challenging, dynamic.

ADDED VALUE: Any **photographs** of the activity in action / **activity title!**

To get your ideas to me send an email or text message or give me a call.

If I need further information I may need to contact you to get the right understanding.

I look forward to seeing and hearing about your excellent training ideas in the near future!

email: les.hayter@bigpond.com mobile: 0455 243 602



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WHAT DO YOU CALL ROGAINING IN THE METRO AREA? METROGAINE OF COURSE!



Recently members from Northshore, Bassendean, Swan and Wanneroo-Joondalup State Emergency Service Units and even visitors from Kalbarri (pictured above) joined forces to conduct a navigation exercise where SES volunteers put their skills to the test, aiming to cover as much ground as possible in their allotted time.

The **Metrogaine** event has been running at Bayswater SES since 2014. The exercise requires participants to use GPS, phones, maps and compasses and their watches for time and step counts.

Coloured stakes or flags were originally used as check points, but theft was a problem. In 2016 we switched to using Wi-Fi beacons, which are small, battery powered and easily hidden but can be detected from about 5m away.

Participants receive a list of coordinates and a map. They have 25 minutes to plot the coordinates, plan their route and program the GPS.

Rogaining is a long distance cross-country orienteering activity in which teams of 2 to 5 members visit as many check points as possible.

Teams travel entirely on foot navigating by map and compass between checkpoints.

A feature of Rogaining is the opportunity for night navigation and the extra challenges it involves. When teams get to the locations, they pull out their phones and search for Wi-Fi networks that start with the word 'Metrogaine'. The next word is the secret code that proves they've successfully navigated to their position.

It takes a lot of effort to plot the points and lay out the course. We include other units to give as many people the chance to learn from it as possible.

Good navigation means playing every card in the deck. It's important that our crews can use a combination of paper maps, compasses as well as their phones and GPS units.

This is the 11th year the unit has been running the **Bayswater Metrogaine**. It's always exciting to see how people plan their routes and navigate around the course. This is the closest we can get to the type of navigation our crews will do in a real search situation.



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VESPIIA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE 2024

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The VESPIIA Awards for Excellence are a key component of VESPIIA's commitment to champion best practice service delivery to Veterans, Emergency Services, Police and their families. The Awards recognise the outstanding initiatives and innovative efforts of staff, volunteers, and allied organisations. The Awards celebrate the hard work and successes across the year, providing an opportunity for acknowledgement by peers.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Individual

- // Volunteer of the year
- // Staffer of the year
- // Academic of the year
- // Student of the year

Organisation & Team

- // Best Strategic Partnership
- // Supplier Team of the year
- // Allied Team of the year
- // Organisation of the year
- // New kid on the block

Program

- // Transition Program of the year
- // Social Program of the year
- // Volunteer Program of the year
- // Impact on a shoestring
- // Impact through events
- // Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program of the Year

More information on VESPIIA and how to enter the Awards is available via the following link:
[Vespiia Awards Kit](#)

The importance of blood donations
is unparalleled.
Remarkably 1 in 3 individuals will re-
quire blood at some point in their
lives.

[Book your donation today](#)

**Emergency Services
Lifeblood Challenge
Blood Drive
Ends
31st August 2024**



**Every
drop
counts**



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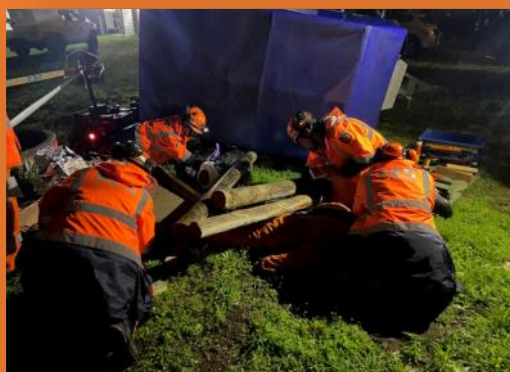


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National Disaster Rescue Challenge (NDRC) SYDNEY 27—29 September 2024

Training is in full swing as the WA team
prepares for the Challenge



WA Team comprises SES volunteers from Metropolitan units:

Mark Geary – Gosnells SES

Cherese Green Gosnells SES

Megan Davies Gosnells SES

Ming Lim Canning-South Perth SES

Kettesse Hansen—Canning-South Perth SES

Melissa Baker— Canning-South Perth SES

Warren Taylor—Kalamunda SES

The team will be accompanied by :

WA Evaluator representative – Rob Smart – Wanneroo Joondalup SES

Team Manager is Todd Pender—DO Metro South East.



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John says:

**“Action now can prevent
disasters in the future, plan
to do your bowel cancer
screening test!”**

**Bunbury SES volunteer, John, is calling for
eligible Western Australians to reduce
their bowel cancer risk by completing the
free bowel cancer screening test.**

When John first received the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program test kit in the mail, he did the test because it seemed like a sensible thing to do. And because it was simple and easy, when his next scheduled kit arrived, he didn't hesitate to do the test again. On his second time completing the kit, the screening test result came back positive, and John followed up the result with his GP. This led to John having a colonoscopy, where a number of polyps were found. Polyps can progress into cancer. Two months later John underwent a procedure to remove numerous polyps, including a neoplastic tubular adenoma. Thankfully, this was successful, and he was able to catch the growth early before it progressed to bowel cancer.

John considers himself lucky for discovering the polyps early, otherwise he might not be here today to share his story. Since his own close call ten years ago, John has been spreading the word to colleagues, friends, and

family, encouraging them to do their bowel cancer screening kit, and to not find excuses or put it off.

“Even if you do need a colonoscopy because of receiving a positive result from the screening test, it's performed under light anesthesia. I felt no pain and was finished up by lunchtime. For yourself, your partner, your family, just get the screening test done” says John.

“The test is quick, simple and you can complete it in the comfort of your own home”.

Cancer Council WA would like to thank John for sharing his story and supporting others in his community to help reduce their risk of bowel cancer.



Over 90%

of bowel cancer cases
can be **successfully treated**
if detected early.



To find out more about the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program or to order a free replacement kit, scan the QR code, go to cancerscreening.gov.au/bowel or call **1800 627 701** for more information.



If you would like to collaborate with Cancer Council WA to support your community and the participation in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program please get in touch with us at bowel@cancerwa.asn.au or call 13 11 20 and speak to one of our cancer nurses.



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AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

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The role of Scamwatch

- Scamwatch is run by the ACCC.
- Provides advice to consumers and small businesses about how to recognise, avoid and report scams.
- Works with other consumer protection agencies to promote scams awareness.
- Scamwatch does not give legal advice or investigate individual cases, but it keep data about broad scam trends and works to disrupt scams.
- This year so far*, Scamwatch has received around 230,000 reports with over \$225 million in losses.
- Some of the ways Scamwatch disrupts scams: intelligence sharing, consumer education, website takedowns.

Latest scam trends



- Phishing: Scamwatch has been receiving a lot of reports about phishing scams. A driving factor is the inundation of 'flubot' scams.
- Malware scams that infect your phone using a dodgy link. Can steal your contacts and banking info.
- Have you received a message like this? Scamwatch has received over 18,000 reports with almost \$11,000 in losses to these scams since August.*

Cont'd over page.....



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have you received a flubot message? examples of flubot texts

How flubot scams work



- 1 Phone owner gets a text message containing a php link
- 2 Clicks link and is invited to install software
- 3 Phone becomes infected with malware
- 4 Infected phone's contacts are added to central list of Flubot text recipients
- 5 Flubot can steal banking, contact and personal info from infected device



If your phone is infected, clean it with a factory reset after saving sensitive information

Your order will be delivered by DHL tomorrow between 11:26 and 14:26.
Track progress
https://aackrishna-giri.in/c.php?j1lx4xz_ym9w

Your package is about to be delivered, track here:
https://protect--your--assets.com/click.php?6lQpu2x7jw_5u0ywzd

ARRIVAL TODAY: your Amazon package. More info at <https://emgh-sssp.com/5/?sy88f1tc6>

What you can do about scams

Reporting scams and where to get help

- Report to Scamwatch - <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/report-a-scam>
- If you have lost money to a scam, contact your bank or financial institution as soon as possible - the Australian Banking Association provides a summary of steps for consumers when making a complaint to their bank. If you are not satisfied by the response from your bank, you can make a complaint to the Australian Financial Complaints Authority.
- If you have lost personal information and you are concerned your identity may be compromised, you can contact IDCARE for free support on 1800 595 160.
- Consider contacting the platform on which you were scammed to report the scam - <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/get-help/where-to-get-help#report-scams-to-facebook-services>
- If you or someone you know is experiencing anxiety, emotional concerns or distress about scams, contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 24 or Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636.



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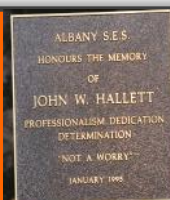
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My Unit..

ALBANY SES

Submitted by Gary Logan



The Albany State Emergency Service was established in 1982, when the Regional SES Coordinator at the time, Mr John Umney, approached the local Army Reserve Unit Cadre Staff Wo2 D Cook with an idea that some of the Reserve members could put their skills to use in serving the community, with Wo2 Cook being the first unofficial Albany SES Local Manager. From there several Reserve Members joined the newly formed Albany SES Unit bringing with them a wealth of experience.

In the initial years the roles of Search and Storm were put to good use and Albany SES was given the additional role of Cliff and Cave Rescue, a skill that has been used a great degree on the coast and around the Region.

The Albany SES Unit started with its headquarters in a two story house close to the centre of town on Albany Hwy. This was very restricted as there was not much room to conduct Unit Training. Some of the training was conducted at the Albany Army Reserve Unit.



Over the years there have been several Local Managers Rene Vermuelen, John Hallet, Andy Roberts, Murray Clark, Ron Panting, Joanne Weekes, Tim Dalwood, Sheryn Prior, Nigel De Snoo, Kate Russell, Robert Boyes and Nathan Anderson.

Over the time Ron Panting was the longest serving Local Manager with around 13 years in the role. Ron also received the Peter Keillor Award for achievement, excellence and enthusiasm as a Volunteer.

As the Membership increased the Unit moved to an old Girl Guides building with additional sheds for vehicles, trailers and equipment. This facility served us well for 27 years. John Hallet was instrumental in getting this off the ground (the plaque in the *My Unit* above heading honours John's memory).

A new dedicated purpose built facility was opened in November 2022. This facility will give the Unit the room and amenities to conduct training and operations, well into the future.



Over the years there has been a steady stream of very dedicated volunteers that epitomise the ethos of 'We Serve' in the Albany community.



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SES VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

**SES celebrating 65
years of service in WA
1959 - 2024**



Together we can - Together we will

www.ses-wa.asn.au

Family Day—12th October 2024 10 am to 3 pm Jarrahdale Oval, Jarrahdale

An invitation has been sent to Local Managers along with an Information Pack to celebrate 65 years of the State Emergency Service in Western Australia. A registration form is included in the pack along with a T-Shirt order form.

A working group consisting of Kerry Watts, Pingelly SES, Cherese Green, Gosnells SES and Greg Cook, Gosnells SES, are planning the event. Make contact about the event by email SES65years@outlook.com

The Family Day is open to all Current and Past volunteers and families... 'that without family we would not have any volunteers'.

Units are invited to showcase their unit history within their own gazebo. Be sure to pass on the event details to life members and past members.

An "Official" ceremony will be held at 11 am and the rest of the day will be about looking at all the participating SES units' history and mingling with other volunteers and the public. Current volunteers will be supplied lunch. There will also be several food vans there on the day, or bring a picnic lunch.



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SES

a Proud Heritage

Regional News

SOUTH WEST REGION

REGIONAL EXERCISE Cambray Canter – 25-26 September 1993

The thick forest North of Nannup, bisected by a disused railway track, was the scene for the second South West Regional Exercise for 1993.

The exercise comprised of a series of Basic Skills tests planned and staffed by Busselton and Nannup Units with the Regional Field Headquarters acting as exercise controllers.

Imagine a wagon wheel – Exercise Control as the hub and spokes out to the test areas. While waiting to move out to these venues, teams were subjected to a system of quizzes written on a host of different Basic Skills subjects, devised by Gordon Edwards of Busselton.

Teams were dispatched to the test venues given only the Grid Reference. Once the test was completed, teams were required to either head back to the control area or were sent on to other tests. The



The Donnybrook team debriefs assisted by Joe Northover of Collie

following tests were set up:

- 2 x Communications sites each offering different tests

- 2 x First Aid sites each offering different tests

- 2 x Observation Skills sites offering different tests

- 1 x Rescue site

Teams were required to navigate to and from tests using compass and maps and in some cases maps were removed and they had to rely on sketch maps and compass bearings to get them there.

Results were noted and given to Coordinators who were then able to analyse the standard of training in their units having been judged by outsiders.

The Saturday prior to the exercise was given to exercise preparation and a Coordinators Conference. Fortunately the weather held good and the host unit managed an excellent barbecue on Saturday night and received well deserved accolades from all who attended.



South West Regional Coordinators' Conference goes bush

Excerpt from the Western Alert
Summer 1993



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