



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to you all.

I can say with so much respect to you all, the past month has been a busy one for many SES Volunteers.

From the President's position, it has been challenging and yet exciting being introduced to many cross agency working groups.

The great benefit of our involvement in so many groups is to provide a strong SES Volunteer message and enjoy bringing praise back from our partnering agencies.

It's not praise for being a volunteer, its praise for being great at the various tasks we undertake. Whether in a lead or support function, we need to take on the observations of others to continue our capability.

An example was during a recent Search and Rescue Advisory Group meeting where Senior Police were highly respectful to all the capability and technical skills that had been observed during recent search operations across the State.

Again strong recognition for SES volunteers by the Minister and Commissioner during the launch function on Friday 22 November at the Cockburn Emergency Services Complex.

It is such a wonderful experience for me in being an SES Volunteer since 1996.

The excitement has still not left me and I sincerely hope that this also enriches part of your life, now and well into the future.

Here's the best to you leading to Christmas and New Year.

Stay safe one and all; including all our families.

Greg Cook
President

FROM YOUR TEAM AT THE SESVA

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HOW TO KEEP INFORMED

Don't forget we have a website which keeps you informed of what is happening across the state in SES land.

We also have "the App".

And also, if you would like our newsletters, other relevant information etc forwarded direct to your email, just contact the SESVA office (sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au), and advise your details.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

All Volunteer Associations were invited to a workshop meeting at DFES on the afternoon of 26 November.

This critical discussion was a part of an organisation wide consultation process to better learn about Volunteer needs now and into the future.

More importantly, it's how to address some very important personnel development gaps for volunteers and staff.

This time we are told we all have a good chance of being heard and the directions being planned ensure that the volunteers have options into the future.

Like all things, we give things a chance and sincerely hope that the actions and words are matched with the enthusiasm that has been given during this workshop.

We hope this will lead to supporting better training outcomes and delivery methods that take options to a new level and our Volunteers to a happier Volunteer career.



VOLUNTEER EMPLOYER RECOGNITION AWARDS

Employers celebrated for their support of WA's emergency services

- Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards 2019 celebrates employers of emergency services volunteers from across the State
- Awards recognise employers paying staff for volunteer training, and donations of materials, skills and funds
- Almost 80 businesses, organisations and self-employed volunteers recognised at awards

Employers who play a vital role in keeping the community safe by supporting the State's emergency services have been recognised on 26/11/19 at the 2019 Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards.

The awards, in their 11th year, celebrate the invaluable contribution employers make by supporting emergency services volunteers to respond to incidents day and night.

This year 79 employers and self-employed volunteers from across WA received awards that reflected their sacrifices and donations: 38 in the gold category, 29 in silver and 12 in bronze.

PRIDE PARADE

SES Volunteers prepare to serve at the Pride Parade on Saturday 30 Nov 2019

A group of SES Volunteers are again putting the community first by volunteering to be marshals at the Pride Parade in Northbridge on Saturday 30 November.

A meeting to brief the volunteers was held at the Stirling SES Unit commencing at 18:00. The great thing about the briefing is that it was also broadcast to those that could not make into the unit by Zoom.

Apparently over two thousand participants are involved in this year's 30 Anniversary Parade.

There will no end to the variety of sights and sounds through Northbridge during this festival.

MEMORABILIA

Don't forget the SESVA has a range of items that can help with recruitment and promotion of your Unit.

Just contact Bella at the SESVA office.

ISSUE DISCUSSIONS

Discussions of the many and varied issues from SES Volunteers continue with DFES Chief Superintendents.

The SES Volunteers Association President and Secretary had a fruitful meeting with the DFES Operational Chiefs on Friday 22 November.

A lengthy list of outstanding and unresolved issues was again discussed.

The day before the meeting, a consolidated issue list was presented to the President by DFES.

This proved to be beneficial as it allowed some priorities to be allocated to the issues in an attempt to gain some much needed movement. It was noted that many issues had not progressed for many months.

The SES VA Secretary again was meticulous in analysing the issues register and we now are corresponding with DFES about the **76 items that appear to have been over looked** when the consolidated list was presented to the President.

That's the benefit to all in having a warm working relationship and an agreement that no issue is to be left unresolved.

We all need to remember that to close out an issue raised; it must end with the originator.



Everyone at the SESVA wishes you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Our next newsletter will be the February edition, when everyone returns to the fray.

Please stay safe and have a great break.

