



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



AUTUMN 2025 NEWSLETTER

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In 1997 THE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION IS BORN

BY CLIVE ABELL, PRESIDENT

Mid-July 1997 saw the new SES Volunteers Association of Western Australia created and WAVES became part of history.

With the new Association came a new constitution set up by lawyers to reflect today's business environment and the state-wide needs of the SES.

The interim Board of Management will be headed by Clive Abell as President and Gordon Hall as Vice President. The Association is fully supported by the SES CEO Russell Dyson and the VCC (former VAC). It is independent, and will be self funding and therefore free of any dependency and outside influence.

The constitution is set up so the Association is run by volunteers for volunteers.



In 2025 the SES Volunteers Association is working to ensure the new Emergency Services Act preserves the roles and values of the WA State Emergency Service



SES in Western Australia, helping address Climate Adaptation



FEATURES:

STORMS

WA SES Units Respond to Natural Hazards Nationwide

ALL HAZARDS DEPLOYMENT REGISTER

Deployment to interstate and International emergencies

SES IN WA: OUR FUTURE

The Legislative framework governing emergency management

WAFES AWARDS

Nominations close 9am Monday 17 March

SEARCH & LOST PERSON BEHAVIOUR

Statistical Search Strategies



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From the President

Once again, a warm hello to you.

This month, I will share some simple thoughts on the back of the release of the second SES legislation position paper to our Units, the Minister and Government, and DFES.

The Association understands that SES Volunteers may not be fully aware of the many behind-the-scenes hours members of the Executive and Committee have invested in creating our position statements.

The SES Volunteers of Western Australia provide a community level response that, in many cases, changes from one town to the next. These largely unknown contributions to the WA community need to be recognised in the WA Government's Climate Adaption Strategy.

For the SES Volunteers, recognition comes through provision of facilities, equipment and vehicles that that meet our changing needs and satisfy the demands of a modern emergency service.

Whilst it is gratifying to see that our cousins in the Fire Services have been handsomely funded through election promises, let's not forget the wider purpose.

Natural Hazards such as floods, cyclones, storms, earthquakes, and tsunamis do not happen regularly, but when they do, the very best emergency service response is immediately required for the impacted communities. Local investment in the capability of the SES is essential.

“People will talk behind your back. Don't worry. They are behind you for a reason.”

Keep your strength with positive intent; resources to aid us must come.

**Kind Regards,
Greg Cook President, SES Volunteers Association**



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



SESVA Raffle

Raffle #05 was drawn Friday 28 February 2025.

Winner of the \$1,500 Coles/Myer Gift Card - Ticket 25050016444

Tickets for Raffle Number #6 can be purchased online nationalsesvaraffle.org.au or by calling 1300 804 562.

Please ask your family, friends and SES supporters to purchase tickets.



Bernie McNamara

SES Young Emerging Leaders Program

The under 30's are the future of the SES

The Bernie McNamara SES Young Emerging Leaders (YEL) Program has been established to support the development of young SES volunteers in WA.

Well done young SES volunteers who have submitted applications for consideration by a SESVA appointed selection panel.

Only one volunteer can be selected to attend along with the 2024 winner of the SES Youth Achievement Award, Jack Watkins, Tom Price SES.

The selected applicant and Jack will participate in the National Memorial Service in Canberra on Thursday 01 May 2025 with all expenses being covered by the National SES Volunteers Association (National SESVA).

The Bernie McNamara YEL Program is aligned with the National SESVA YEL Program, in which young volunteers from all Australian jurisdictions join together at the Memorial Service each year. They also get the chance to meet the Governor-General and the Commissioners of emergency services from the other jurisdictions, among other interesting well organized activities.

TIMINGS

- 28 February 2025 applications CLOSED
- 14 March 2025 selected candidate announced for the SES YEL program 2025
- 01 May 2025 AFAC National Memorial Service, Canberra



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Our Newsletter is changing thanks to your suggestions

Readers may remember the results of the survey published in our November 2024 edition of the SESVA Newsletter. This is what survey respondents liked the most:



In response to the feedback in relation to **Frequency**, the *SESVA Newsletter* will be changing to a season linked publication for wide distribution, that is, both internal and external subscribers. A *Monthly SESVA Update* will be published for internal distribution (to member SES units and committee members) each month (except January).

**Four editions of the *SESVA Newsletter* will be published annually:
Autumn (March), Winter (June), Spring (September), Summer (December)**

Long serving volunteers may recall that the original WASES magazine “Western Alert” was a season linked publication. This provided an opportunity to provide a concise report from the President, seasonal incident related summaries and feature articles related to SES volunteers and their wellbeing, unit supplied news and special events of interest to SES volunteers and their supporters.

The *SESVA Newsletter* will continue to focus on the topics that the survey respondents were most interested in:

- SES unit news and celebrations
- SES volunteer recognition
- Events and special occasions
- Health and wellbeing information
- Looking back on SES heritage

A Monthly SESVA Update

The content of the *Monthly SESVA Update* will differ from the *SESVA Newsletter* and it will only be distributed to member SES Units and committee members each month (there is no January edition due to SES units being on summer holiday break).

The *Monthly SESVA Update* will focus on the topics of interest specifically to SES volunteers, SES units and information related to Association business, such as :

- SESVA announcements, news and committee updates
- SES training and process updates
- State and National events information
- SES volunteer initiatives and opportunities e.g. Young Emerging Leaders Program
- Links to important information sites e.g. other Associations’ news
- A link for suggestions and feedback to the SESVA



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Submit your articles and photos to the SESVA Newsletter

Respondents to the Newsletter survey conducted last year indicated that they were most interested in **SES Unit news and celebrations** more than any of the other topics.

Send your interesting photos to sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au so we can publish them in the next *SESVA Newsletter*.

Photos should preferably have SES volunteers in them although not essential, and include a caption so there is context.

Even better—include a short article with the photos if you get the chance.

Your contributions may also be shared through the SESVA website and social media platforms.

Incident photos that stand out as something that others would want to view can also be shared for publishing in the next edition of the *SESVA Newsletter* (noting that if the incident is running then IC permission may be required).

We look forward to receiving your articles and photos!

TRAINING MATTERS

The future of SES training in WA

The February edition of the *SESVA Newsletter* revealed that the SES Volunteers Association of WA was going to circulate a Discussion Paper about the future of SES training in WA.

This was sent by email to all SES Local Managers on 21 February for information and consideration.

As a follow-up Local Managers will be receiving a short questionnaire to complete on behalf of their members. This will assist the Executive and Management Committee members to understand the unit's view in relation to the current and potential future of SES training in Western Australia. A summary of the unit responses will be published in the *Monthly SESVA Update*. The SESVA is committed to representing the view of its members to DFES.

Many of the unresolved issues reported to the SESVA are related directly to SES volunteer training. It is a subject that the current Minister has indicated a particular interest in.

If you would like to talk about the Paper, please contact

Greg Cook: sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au

or

Alan Hawke: sesva.vpsouth@ses-wa.asn.au



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SESVA Management Committee—6th February meeting Summary of Key Agenda Items

Member reports

- Expressions of interest are being sought for Management Committee vacancies from SES member units in the Kimberley region and the Goldfields-Midlands regions.
- Stirling SES unit are relocating to new premises. The SESVA was instrumental in securing government funding for Stirling's new premises.

Legislation Working Group

- The paper setting out the SESVA-WA's position on behalf of the SES units on community empowerment and the future of SES in WA will be provided for approval by the Management Committee ready for distribution before end of February. The paper provides further explanation of the recommendations published in the SESVA Position Paper in May 2024 and proposes a separate command structure that was developed in consultation with WA SES units and DFES.

Media and PR Strategy sub committee

- At the sub-committee meeting held 16 January 2025 the volunteers focused on strategies related to social media policy/procedures, internal communications, stakeholder engagement, media liaison, the production of an SESVA style guide and review of SESVA branding.

Succession Planning

- President Greg Cook discussed succession planning strategies with Management Committee members and the importance of maintaining a healthy relationship with SES units to secure interest from volunteers to fill future Management Committee vacancies.

Discussion Paper—Bushfire Training for SES/VMR

- 40 SES units responded to the SESVA questionnaire on this topic with every unit agreeing to moving to the Bushfire Fundamentals course. A few units said no to the currency drill. A few units also indicated that they don't provide Bushfire Safety Awareness currency training but indicated support for the Bushfire Fundamentals course.

Discussion Paper— SES Training

- The SES Training Discussion Paper was approved by the SESVA Management Committee for distribution to SES Unit managers for their consideration and support. It is intended that the recommendations be used to gain and maintain national recognition of SES qualifications for volunteers. A questionnaire will be provided for Local Managers to provide feedback in early March.



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Our future — The SES in WA helping address Climate Adaptation

A position paper has been produced by the SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc) that sets out the Association’s position on behalf of the member SES units and working with DFES on community empowerment and the future of SES in WA. Find the [paper](#) on the SESVA website.

The paper provides further explanation of the recommendations in the [SESVA Position Paper published in May 2024](#) and proposes a separate command structure that was developed in consultation with WA SES units and DFES.

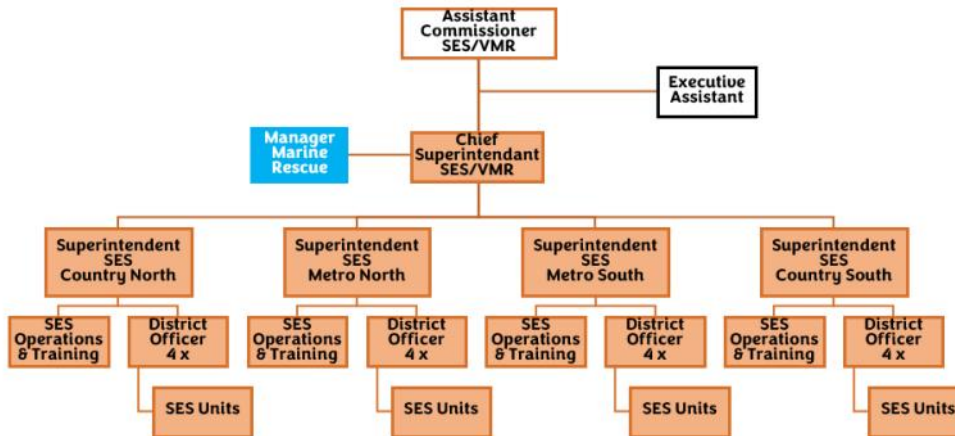


Figure 1. Preferred command structure

SESVA President Greg Cook said it is important that we take this opportunity to further explain the SESVA-WA’s position.

“The consolidation of the current emergency services legislation into one Consolidated Emergency Services (CES) Act is imminent”, he said.

“I’ve asked SES Local Managers to consider the position presented in the paper and brief their SES unit members.

“The Association is keen to collaborate with SES volunteers and SES units in the interest of enhancing the capabilities of emergency services management throughout WA and building a stronger more resilient community.”

The paper identifies challenges related to the recommendations previously presented to the WA Government and DFES to consider when drafting the CES Act and the rationale for each of these recommendations is explained.

A reinvigorated framework for empowering communities that meets the challenges of a changed environment is also presented in the paper to support the volunteers who support their communities.

Continued next page ...

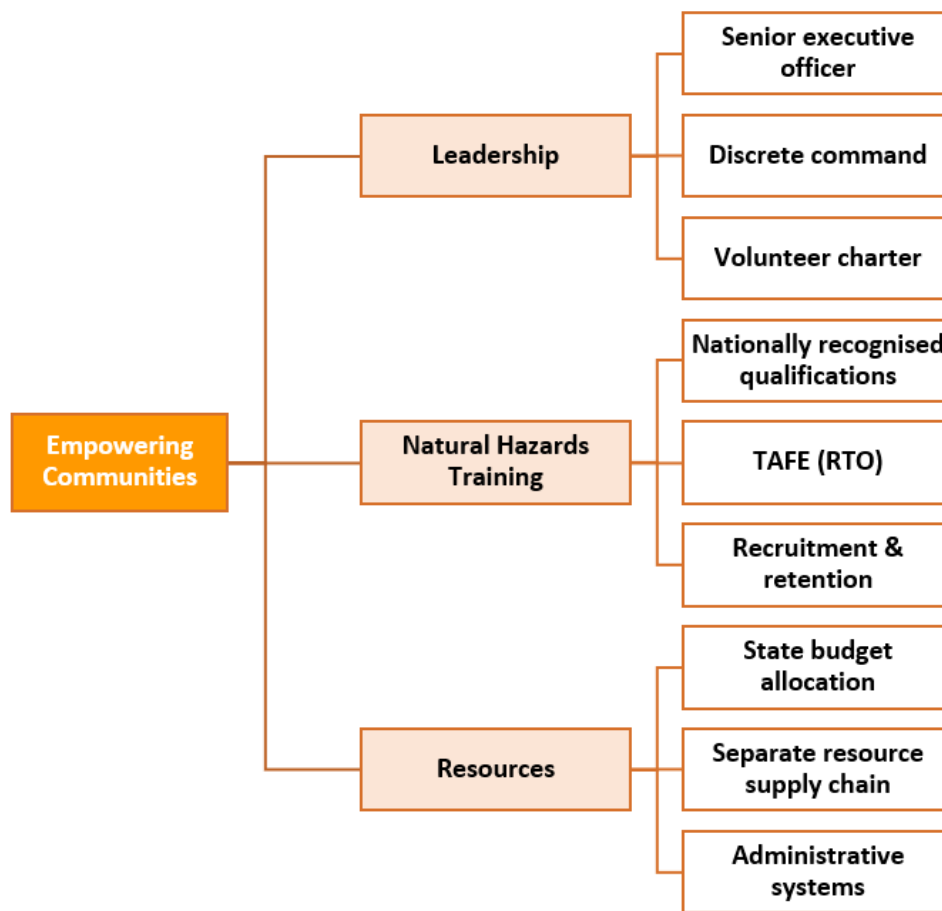


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Our future — The SES in WA helping address Climate Adaptation cont'd

Conceptual Framework for Empowering Communities



“The Association is committed to its advocacy for its member units to achieve a reversal of the erosions of the capability of the SES Units in WA due to the loss of skilled volunteers and restricted resources to deal with the economic, social, and environmental changes,” Greg confirmed.

You can email questions to Greg Cook—sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au

or

Allen Gail ESM—sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au



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SES RESPONDS TO CYCLONE ZELIA: Hedland and Armadale Units report on their deployment

As we entered 2025 in the Pilbara, we were quickly reminded of some of the more challenging aspects of living in one of Australia's most remarkable regions, North West WA. The coastline between Exmouth and Port Hedland is the most cyclone prone in Australia, and we are relatively accustomed to dealing with these extreme weather events. However, Cyclone Zelia was now on our doorstep as an extreme Category 5 storm and that scared a lot of locals. If there was one piece of positive news from Zelia, it was that she had moved to the east and Port Hedland was being spared the direct hit that was initially feared. Strong winds did however, cause significant damage in town and elsewhere across the Pilbara with flooding causing major problems for many communities, including Warralong and Marble Bar. The Hedland SES is only a small team, so support from Karratha SES and our Perth based teams was hugely appreciated. Approximately 120 SES members passed through the Hedland base over the next week, assisting with the clean-up. A big shout out to Lyndon Jackson and the SWORD Logistics team for mobilizing to assist with the response.

Submitted by Barry Harrison ESM, Deputy Local Manager Hedland SES



Port Hedland





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WA SES UNITS RESPOND TO NATURAL HAZARDS NATIONWIDE Hedland, Armadale, Swan & Bayswater report on their deployments

In November 2024 Armadale SES assisted Tom Price SES members when a freak storm hit that town. They spent three days assisting with removal of trees and fixing structural damage to roofs.

Thereafter, Audra Smith, Shire of Ashburton President, called into Armadale Unit together with Armadale Deputy Mayor John Keogh, to present a plaque from the Shire in recognition of Armadale SES' efforts.

Armadale were then deployed to assist with the flooding in Ingham. On their way back from Armadale SES were called to assist with the clean up of damage caused by Cyclone Zelia in De Gray, north of Port Hedland.

The De Gray station was cut off by severe flooding and fast flowing rivers meaning the only means of getting equipment and food in was by helicopter.

On returning to Perth, Armadale Unit was again called upon help in the clean up following the severe storm that swept through the Perth hills in February from Gidgegannup to Mundaring.

Submitted by Ron Stroet, Deputy Local Manager Armadale SES



L-R: Ron Stroet, Geoff Wolfenden, Audra Smith Ashburton Shire President, Connie and Jasmine Eikelboom, Armadale Deputy Mayor, John Keogh. (Assistance provided by Ryan Banting not in the photo.)



SES VOLUNTEER'S ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

SESVA NEWS



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



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WA SES UNITS RESPOND TO NATURAL HAZARDS NATIONWIDE Hedland, Armadale, Swan & Bayswater report on their deployments

Members of Bayswater SES were deployed across Australia recently in support of various severe weather events. Volunteers joined up with other agencies and other SES units to provide assistance. Bayswater unit often gets called upon to deploy nationally and across WA to assist with incidents including storm damage, severe weather, disaster preparation and land search.

"We want to thank the families and employers of our deployed members for their support to enable our members to deploy!"

Right: Bayswater members in Ingham, Queensland



Swan SES was busy recently responding to a large number of requests for assistance following the microburst storm that struck the Perth hills in February from Gidgegannup to Mundaring. The first calls came in around 6:30, with teams working from then into the night, with the last of them returning around 2:00 am the following day. Calls continued to come in so teams were out working again Thursday and Friday with new requests coming from as far away as Wannamal.

With such heavy and widespread damage there were more calls than one SES unit could handle so teams from Armadale, Belmont, Bassendean, Bayswater, Canning-South Perth, Gosnells, Kalamunda, Mandurah, Northshore, Rockingham-Kwinana, Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Stirling, Two Rocks and Wanneroo-Joondalup were called out to assist. Air intelligence was also on to survey the storm damage from above.



As well as our teams in the field, we had a team in operations taking requests for assistance, assigning and monitoring jobs and teams, making sure we had the resources needed to do the jobs and keeping volunteers fed and hydrated. Assistance was also provided by the local volunteer bushfire brigade's members.

Above: SES Volunteers attend to Perth Hills microburst damage

Courtesy of the Swan SES Facebook page



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SES Volunteers Association visits Pilbara Units

President Greg Cook, Vice President Alan Hawke and Pilbara representative, Trevor Patton called on SES Units in the Pilbara in January.

Karratha SES Local Manager Rob Walker and other members of the unit met on Thursday evening 23 January to discuss matters causing concern, such as the new Australian Warning System, vehicles, training, removal of qualifications and the aging building. Volunteers reported that Cadets are doing well in Karratha.

Roebourne District SES Local Manager Clint Taylor and his wife Stacey hosted a catchup in Wickham on Friday 24 January where Greg provided information about the SESVA role along with an overview of the role of the SESVA in relation to the Consolidation of Emergency Services Acts. Discussion also covered matters related to vehicles, as well as the new Australian Warning System and how the public can provide feedback.

Port Hedland SES volunteers turned up for a visit in the evening of Friday 24 January. Deputy Local Manager Barry Harrison represented Local Manager Brad Western who was on leave at the time. Among matters discussed was the female uniform and the related work, health and safety issues. The need for a light-weight uniform in the Northwest was also raised again. There is evidence that volunteers have required hospitalisation in the past because of heat stress exacerbated by the current uniform.

Newman SES Local Manager, Connie Reed and Training Manager, Colin Reed were visited on Saturday 25 January. A range of matters causing concern were discussed including operational incident issues, such as no longer getting sufficient updates, briefings and handovers.

Tom Price SES Local Manager Kylie Kite and unit volunteers were visited in the evening of Saturday 25 January where Greg addressed the group explaining that visits to the Pilbara are planned to occur every two to three years. The Association relies on good communications through the Local Manager and is always keen to submit unit feedback to DFES and the Minister. The unit praised the support and local knowledge of DO Peter Cameron.

Greg took the pleasant opportunity to invite Tom Price SES volunteer Jack Watkins to attend the Young Emerging Leaders program in Canberra from 29 April where he will be able to join the AFAC Emergency Services Memorial on first of May. Jack is the most recent recipient of the 2024 SES Youth Achievement Award.

Above top: SESVA President Greg Cook (L), Clint Taylor Roebourne Districts Local Manager (centre); Trevor Patton, Pilbara VA committee member (R),





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Mandurah SES Thanks to Retiring Member for Mandurah David Templeman MLA

On Wednesday 12 February many community leaders and volunteers attended a farewell function for David Templeman MLA.

The Mandurah SES Local Manager, Chris Stickland ESM, had the opportunity to speak about the phenomenal support from David and in particular that he has been a Life Member of the Mandurah SES for twenty years.

Chris, on behalf of the SES volunteers, presented a plaque to David in appreciation of his help and assistance given by him to the SES volunteers over many years.



David Templeman MLA (centre) with Mandurah SES Members Gordon Hall (L) and Chris Stickland (R)



We're Looking for Your SES Unit's Good News Stories

The SESVA newsletter wants to celebrate the dedication and hard work of our SES Units and Volunteers.

The SESVA Newsletter has a wide circulation that includes politicians, Local Government Councillors and CEOs, and various community organisations.

Send your articles and especially some great images to :

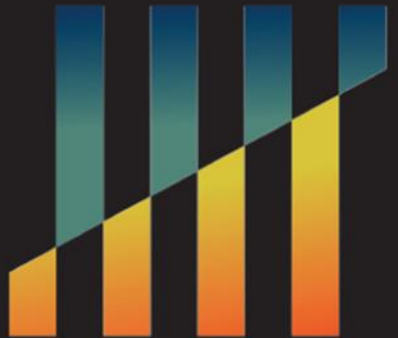
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Deadline to submit your article in the Winter 2025 Newsletter is Tuesday a week before the end of the May.



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WAFES AWARDS

2025

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

If you know a volunteer or DFES staff member who has shown exceptional dedication over the past 12 months and deserves recognition, nominate them today.

Nominations close
9am Monday 17 March

To find out more
Scan the QR code or visit dfes.wa.gov.au/wafesawards and download a copy of our nomination guide full of tips to help make your nomination stand out.

If you nominate a finalist, you also receive a free ticket to the 2025 WAFES Awards gala dinner.



The WAFES Awards are a fantastic opportunity to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of SES volunteers over the past 12 months.

Nominate an individual, young person or team today who has gone above and beyond the line of duty.

There are great incentives for getting nominations submitted with nominations of a successful finalist invited to the WAFES Awards gala dinner to be held on Friday 29 August 2025.

Cash prizes are also up for grabs for volunteer finalists and winners.

To review the awards criteria and to submit a nomination, visit the [WAFES Awards Website](#).

NOMINATIONS CLOSE
MONDAY 17 MARCH
AT 9:00 AM

Need help writing a nomination?
Refer to the handy [NOMINATION GUIDE](#)
With handy tips and sample nominations.



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NARROGIN HOSTS THANK A VOLUNTEER DAY SUNDOWNER WITH LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES

Narrogin SES recently hosted a Thank a Volunteer Day Sundowner, bringing together volunteers from Narrogin Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) and Narrogin Bush Fire Brigades (BFB) for an evening of appreciation, connection, and community engagement.

The event provided a fantastic opportunity for members of the public interested in volunteering to visit the SES, VFRS, and BFB stations, explore the trucks and equipment and chat with volunteers about the rewarding experience of serving their community.

All three services were also actively recruiting new volunteers, giving attendees a chance to learn how they could get involved.

To show appreciation for their dedication, Thank You Certificates were presented to all volunteers by Shelley Payne MLC.

It was a meaningful moment that highlighted the invaluable contributions of our emergency services members.



Above: Susan Wettenhall, Local Manager Narrogin SES

Shelley also shared her gratitude, acknowledging the time and effort volunteers give to keep the community safe.

Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner, while free face painting added a fun touch for families and children.

The event was proudly supported by a grant from the Department of Communities, which funded the sundowner as well as a professional photography session for Narrogin SES.

These high quality images will be used in recruitment and promotional materials, ensuring our volunteers are recognised and valued in the community.

The photography session also provided a special experience for volunteers, allowing them to feel appreciated and celebrated. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event a success.

To all our emergency services volunteers – your dedication is truly appreciated! Want to see more about what we do? Follow the **Narrogin SES** Facebook page!

Below: Organisers and participants of the Thank a Volunteer Sundowner





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SES UNITS MARK SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES

Gosnells State Emergency Service 2025 Marks 45 Years of Service

In May the Gosnells SES will celebrate its lengthy and continuing dedication to serving their community with a gala black tie event.



Esperance State Emergency Service 2025 Marks 60 Years of Service

On April 12th the combined Esperance SES and Marine Rescue will celebrate with a Sundowner at their Co-location building.

NOW IN STOCK

- ⇒ **SES NECK GAITER**
- ⇒ **SES DOG LEASH**

This smooth, silky neck gaiter celebrates the orange family and offers warmth in winter and cool protection from the summer sun. **\$10.00**



Your dog will be proud to be led by this sturdy SES dog leash, 1.5m long with robust spring loaded clip and D-ring. **\$20.00**

To order your SES Neck Gaiter or Dog Leash, contact SESVA Office:
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au — Mob: 0499 619 287

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Rockingham-Kwinana SES Reach Out to their Local Community



Recently the team from Rockingham-Kwinana SES visited the Silverchain Social Centre in Rockingham to share insights about the history of the State Emergency Service (SES) and the local unit.

Unit members discussed how to prepare for storms, including securing outdoor items, cleaning gutters, and creating emergency kits.

Unit members highlighted safety tips for bush walkers and outdoor enthusiasts, including carrying essentials like water and a map, checking weather conditions and informing others of your plans.



“It was a rewarding day connecting with the community and promoting safety awareness. Thank you to the Silverchain Social Centre for having us!”



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Search and Lost Person Behaviour: Statistical Search Strategies

Australia is a country with a diverse range of topography and vegetation coupled with extremes of climate that can make survival for a lost person a precarious situation. This puts pressure on search coordinators to develop sound and resilient search areas to provide the greatest chance of a lost person being found alive.

Lost person behaviour is part of the statistical search strategy used by Police search and rescue coordinators when developing a search area for a lost or missing person. Lost person behaviour is a Bayesian analysis of previous lost people and is used as a predictive model for determining what actions a lost person may take based on what other people in similar circumstances have done. This can then be used in the planning for a search.

A small lost person study was undertaken in Australia between 2000 and 2006 using the Bayesian theory with the results tabled at the 2006 National Search and Rescue Council. The International Search and Rescue Incident database (ISRID) is a statistical analysis of over 50,000 lost persons mainly from the USA, New Zealand, United Kingdom and Canada where people were found. Thirty two categories of lost person were identified and each category was provided with statistical distances of travel, lost person characteristics and suggested search strategies.

ISRID data differs from what lost people in Australia were doing, which prompted an Australian study into any unique characteristics. Data collected in Australia since 2010 forms the basis for lost person behaviour, now in the National Search and Rescue Manual, which is updated biannually and structured for Australian situations. In 2021 two new categories of lost persons were added:

Prospectors and Children with ADD, ADHD, Aspergers and Autism and more recently First Nations People. The latter appear to have the capability to cover vast distances and search coordinators generally work on a 23km distance.

The new First Nation People lost person behaviour category addresses an important gap in search team ability to develop appropriate search areas for lost people. This addition is a beginning and, as more data becomes available, it will be able to refine current details and increase the ability to find lost and missing people in uniquely Australian circumstances.

Courtesy of the Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub



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ALL HAZARDS DEPLOYMENT REGISTER

DFES is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitably qualified SES volunteers wishing to be considered for deployment to Interstate and International emergencies.

This EOI will be effective from **February to 30 June 2025**. A new request will be issued commencing 1 July 2025 and will be effective until 30 June 2026.

Deployment Register

The DFES All Hazards Deployment Register is used by DFES Regions and State Operations to identify suitably qualified personnel available for Interstate and International deployments.

Interested personnel should note the following:

- Personnel without a current EOI registered will not be considered for Interstate or International deployment.
- EOIs will only be accepted electronically; any EOIs submitted in hard copy will not be included on the register.
- To be considered for Interstate or International deployment, applicants may be required to complete a medical assessment and pack hike testing prior to deployment.
- An EOI for the Deployment Register is not required for Intrastate deployments within Western Australia.
- This EOI does not guarantee deployment.

Further information, including access to the EOI form, is available on the All Hazards Deployment Register page of the [Volunteer Hub](#).

Approval Process

Once an EOI has been submitted, managers will automatically receive approval/endorsement request via email for review and progression.

SES volunteers can access the relevant circular using this link: [Operational Circular 01/2025 - All Hazards Deployment Register](#)



*SES Volunteers Association of WA Inc. acknowledges
the funding from the Department of Fire and
Emergency Services that support the operation of
the Association.*



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2025 W-AFAC Conference - a supercharged WAFES Conference for Volunteers

Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th August 2025 – Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre

This year DFES offers volunteers a unique opportunity to attend the W-AFAC Conference which will be a blend of all your favourite experiences from the WAFES Conference with the bonus of the national AFAC Conference and Exhibition. The event will allow volunteers from across the State to come together to network and share ideas. While a program of engaging content and experiences including tours, keynote speakers and presentations will enhance the knowledge and skills of those who attend.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS

To ensure the conference is relevant and informative for SES volunteers, you can submit your ideas for program sessions, demonstrations and more to Allen Gale via email sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au.

You can also use this link to [submit your ideas online direct to organisers of the conference.](#)

Information on how to register your interest to attend the 2025 W-AFAC Conference and WAFES Awards will be announced soon

AFAC25 exhibition is a world class showcase of national and international brands, latest best practice solutions for all first responder sectors who protect life and property every day.

Exhibitors span the following collaboration groups.

- Capability – Fleet, PPE, and Equipment.
- Workforce – WHS, people systems and learning and development.
- Community Risk Reduction – Risk reduction, mitigation strategies, warning systems, and risk management.
- Response Operations – Real-time operational decision systems, decision support, incident management, emerging technology, communication technology, drones, satellite imagery, GIS, field rigid redeployable infrastructure.
- Fire Safety – Building fire safety systems, building standards.





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



AUTUMN 2025 NEWSLETTER

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SES a Proud Heritage

THE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION IS BORN

BY CLIVE ABELL, PRESIDENT

Mid-July 1997 saw the new SES Volunteers Association of Western Australia created and WAVES became part of history.

With the new Association came a new constitution set up by lawyers to reflect today's business environment and the state-wide needs of the SES.

The interim Board of Management will be headed by Clive Abell as President and Gordon Hill as Vice President. The Association is fully supported by the SES CEO Russell Dyson and the VCC (former VAC). It is independent, and will be self funding and therefore free of any dependency and outside influence.

The constitution is set up so the Association is run by volunteers for volunteers.

Over the past 15 years, SES has been under numerous management regimes and we are about to go through more changes with the amalgamation of the SES, Fire & Rescue and the Bush Fire Board corporate services area.



Clive Abell, President Volunteers Association

A strong independent Association will be needed, as the VCC now has non-volunteers appointed to it and this could reduce the volunteer influence.

The new association will be initially modelled on the very successful eastern states SES associations and to that end, it is already in contact with the other associations and interest is mounting for closer ties throughout Australia.

The immediate objective of the association is to promote the WASES. To this end, a world wide web page has already been set up and the address is: www.ses.wa.asn.au.

Feel free to contact the Association and its Board members through the email addresses shown.

Membership of the association will be canvassed throughout the state. We intend to send information by fax to all units and your ideas and comments as individuals and as units are welcome.

Suggestions already put forward are; to have specific subject members attached to the board, subjects could include women's interests, health safety and welfare, publicity, training and equipment, also a suggestion to provide standard items such as t-shirts and other SES items without impacting units current money raising efforts have been put forward.

This is your association, which will support you, so we are interested in your ideas. Distance is no object to the new Association, so if you would like to represent your area or give input on any subject matter please contact us.

President Clive Abell
Tel: (08) 9279 9279 (AH)
Fax: (08) 92795708
Email: wases@hotmail.com
Gordon Hill,
Swan SES Unit
Tel: 017 853 591



Gordon Hill, Vice-President Volunteers Association

Courtesy of 1997 Spring Western Alert