

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to you all and welcome to March which is upon us so soon!

I have been away for the past month on leave overseas and it's interesting to hear on my return the efforts from the SES deployments to various locations throughout the state.

Whilst it may not be everyone's observation, my understanding from the messages we are getting from SES Volunteers is that they are not always being listened to. Also task management and confusion on who really is the captain of the ship is being fed back to the Association.

Rest assured that the advocacy of the Association raises these type of examples to ensure that senior ranks in DFES are enabled to fix these problems when they arise. We all need to pull together on behalf of the community in times of need.

On another front I had the pleasure of meeting, Mr Dennis Sudla, Wellness Chaplain (Dennis.Sudla@dfes.wa.gov.au - 0436523421). Dennis will progressively be making contact with all SES to arrange visits in the future. Please note that the Chaplaincy is nondenominational. I think based on his personality, you can look forward to a great experience.

Major news from the weekend meeting at DFES is that the SES is to have one last say in deciding its future dress uniform.

SES Representatives at a meeting on Saturday morning voted to return this final decision to the units based on a number of factors that were not covered in the first survey.

This time the SES VA Committee members, over a very short time frame, will be in contact with each unit to undertake our role as the advocate for the SES in WA.

Please note that information needs to be received from DFES before this can happen.

I am hoping after a meeting with DC Waters on Wednesday 26 February, that this will be released to us and we will begin to make contact later this week. Please watch your email inboxes and phones.

Once again, all of you take the very best of care, now and into the future.

You and we are a critical family and community resource. Many thanks and kind regards.

*Greg Cook*  
President

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## WA FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES CONFERENCE

The 2020 WA Fire and Emergency Services (WAFES) Conference will be held on Friday 4 to Sunday 6 September at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

This year's conference theme "Stronger when we work together" represents the collaboration and camaraderie of our emergency services as we work towards creating a safer State.

There will be more places available for volunteers at this year's WAFES conference than ever before!

The Commissioner has endorsed a new format for the conference to include a greater range of site tours to choose from, with enough places for everyone. Changes to program times include shifting the official opening to Friday afternoon prior to the Welcome Sundowner and moving AGMs to the Sunday morning.

These changes provide opportunities for more exciting keynote speakers, plenary sessions and service specific sessions in the Saturday program.

The Fire and Emergency Services Awards gala dinner will be held on Saturday night, as it has in previous years.

If you are interested in attending the conference expressions of interest will open for all volunteers in March.

DFES are also seeking expressions of interest from volunteers to join a working group to contribute to the development of topics of interest for the program.

For more information visit the Volunteer Hub.

For further information please email [conference@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:conference@dfes.wa.gov.au) or call 9395 9853.

## EDUCATION & HERITAGE CENTRE

Staffed almost entirely by volunteers, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Education and Heritage Centre offers an interactive, interesting and fun experience for schools, tourists, families and community groups.

Each year, the Centre welcomes over 20,000 visitors and showcases a heritage trail offering a history of each room within the building and what it was originally used for, a display of ses items, vintage fire service appliances and an exhibition space featuring the history, photographs and stories of WA's SES and fire brigades.

The centre also has an All Hazards Gallery, where visitors to the Centre can learn about how to prepare, respond and recover from hazards, in an interactive and fun way. This gallery has been designed to reflect the elements of Wind, Fire, Earth and Water.

Should you wish visit to the Education and Heritage Centre, we are able to open after hours. Please contact the Centre Coordinator Heather McNamara. Phone: 9395 9300

Email: [heather.mcnamara@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:heather.mcnamara@dfes.wa.gov.au)

Opening Times

- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10am – 3pm
- First and Third Saturday of the month 10am – 2pm

## PRIMARY DENTAL THANK YOU

Primary Dental, would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to every SES Volunteers who has, and continue to help protect our community.

They recognise your selfless contributions and the sacrifices that you and your families make, which to them is nothing short of heroic.

As a gesture of their support, and because thank you doesn't always seem enough, they are offering you and your immediate family a 25% year-round discount\* on their dental services.

Please visit [www.primarydental.com.au/thankyou](http://www.primarydental.com.au/thankyou) for a list of participating centres and the Terms & Conditions of the offer.

The three dental centres in WA are:

Craigie Medical & Dental Centre  
9 Perilya Road  
CRAIGIE WA 6025

Rudloc Road Medical & Dental  
Centre Morley  
40 Rudloc Road  
MORLEY WA 6062

Rockingham Medical  
Centre  
18 Civic Boulevard  
ROCKINGHAM WA 6168

## METRO/SW TASK FORCE FOR TC DAMIEN

*The following email was received thanking and acknowledging the contribution made by SES Volunteers in assisting after TC Damien.*

"I was recently the Task Force Leader for the deployment to Karratha of SES teams from the metro and SW areas. As a relatively new person to DFES this was the first time I had worked this closely with the SES.

The task force was split into 3 teams (2 metro and 1 SW) and comprised of volunteers from units across these regions. We were there predominantly to support the Pilbara SES units and in particular Karratha SES. The teams started work almost as soon as they landed and over the next 4 days contributed to clearing around 230 RFA's. Working with the Karratha unit and a team from Onslow they were split into 2 shifts working 6 hours. The conditions were very hot and humid.

I would like to go on record and say how proud I was to have led this Task Force. The teams performed in a very professional manner and dealt with everything that was put in front of them without complaint. They integrated very well with the Pilbara teams. The team leaders did an excellent job of organising and tasking teams and ensuring their continuous welfare. This made my job much easier and allowed me to concentrate on other areas

Through you could I ask that you pass on my thanks to all the individuals from your areas who made up the task force. They are a credit to the SES and I would have no hesitation in stepping forward again to lead them on the next one.

Cheers, Paul

Paul Dennison

Senior Building Fire Safety Officer// South West Region"

## 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](mailto:sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au)) and advise your details