



From the President

Dear SES Volunteers and Friends,

It is with great enthusiasm that I extend a warm welcome to all our volunteers. Your dedication and support are the backbone of the State Emergency Service, and we are truly grateful for your ongoing commitment. I also welcome and thank our readers who support our volunteers.

Recently, I had the pleasure of visiting Mount Barker for their SES Awards Night — an inspiring event that celebrated the outstanding contributions of our SES volunteers in the local community. It was wonderful to witness the passion and teamwork on display, including support from sponsors and thoughtful words from the President of Plantagenet Shire. Thank you to everyone involved in making it such a memorable evening, and for the continued support from Local Government.

Looking ahead, we are turning our focus to the upcoming DFES *Fit for Role* initiative. As some of you may be aware, Western Australia is currently the only state or territory not participating in this AFAC program. We are actively working to better understand the reasons behind this and exploring ways to foster a broader understanding of SES volunteer roles among DFES workers. Our aim is to ensure that all regions have the opportunity to benefit from the value this training and development initiative may offer.

We acknowledge and appreciate the feedback we've received so far on several key concerns:

- The need for a national SES training package to promote safe and consistent work practices.
- Ongoing inequities faced by SES volunteers compared to the other volunteer services.
- Concerns over who will manage the initiative, especially with local managers already at capacity.
- Questions regarding the financial support DFES will provide to implement the program e.g. who pays for the supporting fitness program?
- Uncertainty about whether participation is mandatory to remain operationally active in SES WA.
- Insufficient information at the unit level to make informed decisions.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Together, we are making a real difference, and I look forward to sharing more updates and achievements with you in the months ahead.

Warm regards,
Greg Cook, President

REGULAR FEATURES

- News and Announcements
- Committee Updates
- Training information
- SES Volunteer Recognition
- Opportunities for SES Volunteers
- Facilities, Fleet and Equipment updates
- Upcoming Events—Important Dates

From the Secretary

Please share this Update with others and encourage those who don't yet receive the Newsletters and Monthly Updates to send an email to sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au requesting to be added to the subscriber list.

We've certainly missed Bella over the past few weeks since her retiring from the Admin Officer role. Do you know an SES volunteer who can fill Bella's shoes? If YES, then please pass on the details of the Job Opportunity as advertised on page 5.

Nominations for elections have been received for all but two of the positions becoming vacant at the 13th September AGM; these are the South West region and the Kimberley region positions. In case you don't know — nominations can be called from the SES volunteers at the AGM to fill any positions remaining unfilled after the election.

We're refreshing our image which includes a new logo for the SESVA in WA. This will be revealed fully later in August at W-AFAC.

Print this Update to pin on your noticeboard so all your Unit members get a chance to read it.

Thank you
**Allen Gale
Secretary**

We value your
FEEDBACK

Click this [link](#) or
scan this QR code

SESVA Feedback





SES Volunteers Association—2025 Elections

VOTING BY UNITS

An election is required to be held for the three positions where more than one nomination was received.

President

Vice President South

Pilbara region Management Committee

Ballot Papers

Ballot Papers are being emailed to ALL units to vote for the **President** position and the **Vice President South** position. Resumes will be included to assist in determining the preferred applicant.

Another Ballot Paper will be emailed to each Pilbara unit to vote for a **Pilbara region Management Committee** member. Resumes will be included to assist in determining the preferred applicant.

Unit Authorised Officer (Local Manager) to submit

ON-LINE: Complete then *click/tap* on **SUBMIT** in the on-line 'Ballot Paper' by **COB 30th August 2025**, or

PRINTABLE: Complete/Sign the 'Ballot Paper' and **EMAIL** to the Returning Officer by **COB 30th August 2025**

Returning Officer—Allen Gale sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

SES Volunteer's Association of WA (Inc.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9:00 am Saturday 13th September 2025

SESVA Board Room, 91 Leake Street, Belmont

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE UNIT DELEGATE

This year the AGM will be held on a Saturday—**2 weeks after** the W-AFAC Conference.

- All Units are eligible to vote. Each member Unit has one vote. A delegate must be Authorised to vote.
- To enable the Member Delegate to vote for their Unit, a form must be signed by both the delegate and the Unit Authorising Officer (Local Manager).
- A Member Delegate form will be emailed to each member Unit for return by **Friday 12th September 2025**.
- If unable to attend the AGM at Belmont, but the Member Delegate wishes to be present via a TEAMS meeting link, please ensure the SESVA Returning Officer is advised of the email address for sending the TEAMS link when returning the Member Delegate form.
- Details of the TEAMS meeting will be forwarded **before** the meeting day to each Member Delegate who requests the TEAMS link.
- The Member Delegate form **must** be received by the SESVA Returning Officer by **Friday 12th September 2025**, otherwise your Unit will not be eligible to vote.
- Complete and return the signed form to the **SESVA Returning Officer** sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au



ANNOUNCEMENT

Proposal to Amend the Constitution Addition of a Third Vice President

It is proposed that the constitution of the SES Volunteers Association of WA Incorporated be amended to include the role of a third Vice President.

This change will be considered as a special resolution at the 13 September AGM and, if approved by the required majority, will modify the current SESVA structure to establish this new position within the organisation.

Reason for the Amendment:

The addition of a third Vice President aims to:

- **Distribute Leadership Responsibilities:** Alleviate the workload of the Executive Council by spreading leadership duties more effectively.
- **Enhance Internal Operations:** This Vice President will focus on leading sub-committees and improving the internal workings of the Association.
- **Provide Support:** Assist the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, while other Vice Presidents continue to focus on supporting the Management Committee Members.
- **Ensure Diverse Experience:** The third Vice President is expected to bring a strong corporate or political background, adding value to the Executive Council and helping manage the organisation's needs.



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



Leveraging Our Past; Siesing Our Future

A New Chapter for the SESVA

Article developed from a larger work by Phil Scanlan, Belmont-Vic Park SES; SESVA Committee member and sub-committee member

The SESVA is entering an exciting new era with a refreshed image that honours our proud history while looking ahead to a bold, unified future. We remain grounded in the spirit of the SES; where everyday people make an extraordinary impact.

A Fresh, Unified Identity

This refresh is more than just a new logo. It's an evolution of how we present ourselves — with clarity, consistency and heart built on a foundation of service, dedication, and community.

This isn't about leaving the past behind — it's about using it as a launchpad to tell the powerful story of the SES volunteers.

Key changes include:

- **One Look. One Feel. One Voice** A consistent identity that strengthens recognition and centres on creating a unified presence that delivers on a positive volunteering future.
- **Human Tone of Voice** Moving to a language to reflect the voice of the volunteers who serve their communities.
- **Modern Logo** Simple and meaningful, with a human touch. The new 'V' shape combined with the orange check reflects **volunteers, unity, and movement** while keeping the focus on the volunteers who are the hero, not the new logo.

What's Ahead?

This is just the beginning! The refreshed image will roll out across SESVA platforms, materials, and events. Feedback will be invited along the way to keep it relevant & flexible.

In Summary

- We're **honouring our past**
- **Empowering our volunteers**
- And **building a strong, connected future**

Together, we'll continue shaping an image that reflects the incredible impact of SES volunteers across WA. If you have any questions, please contact the Allen Gale.

☎ 0419 935 497 ✉ sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au



Vale James 'Jim' MacLean ESM



It is with profound sadness that the SESVA acknowledges the passing of James 'Jim' MacLean ESM, a much-loved and highly respected member of the State Emergency Service in WA.

On behalf of the Management Committee and our wider SES family, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Jim's wife Jan, his family, and all who were privileged to serve alongside him.

Jim dedicated over four decades of his life to the SES, primarily with the Northshore Unit, where he was more than a volunteer—he was a pillar of strength, a mentor, a friend, and the heart of the unit. Known affectionately as the “grandfather of Northshore,” Jim brought not only exceptional skill and knowledge to every task but also a generosity of spirit that left a lasting imprint on those he encountered.

His calm leadership, his willingness to share experience, and his deep sense of service were felt across the organisation. Jim gave not just his time but his heart, always the first to step forward when needed, and always the first to guide and support others—particularly newer members finding their feet in the SES.

In the words of one fellow volunteer, “Jim didn't just teach us how to do the job—he taught us how to be better people while doing it.”

A moving tribute by Michael Wood of Northshore SES described Jim so well—thank you Michael. Read the **Ode to Jim** opposite.

These words echo what so many of volunteers felt: that Jim's presence brought reassurance, clarity, and a sense of purpose, even in the most trying situations.

Jim's passing is an enormous loss to the SES community, but his legacy will live on through the countless volunteers he mentored, the values he championed, and the lives he helped protect.

The SES Volunteers Association honours his memory and his remarkable contribution to emergency services in Western Australia.

Rest in peace, Jim



Words and photos courtesy Northshore SES Unit

Ode to Jim

by Michael Wood, Northshore SES

*Oh Jim, the finest boss I've known,
Tough yet kind, with heart full-grown.
Your Scottish charm, that steady grace,
Could soften blows, yet truths embrace.
“Get the plank out of your eye,” you'd say,
In that accent, calm as day,
Sage words hard to hear, yet true,
Guiding many, me, and countless too.
Ten years in LG beside you, hand in hand,
Learning much from your command.
When I first came to Vincent's halls,
It was your counsel I'd recall.
'Join the SES' you'd firmly press,
And in your lead, I found success.
A call-out came? You were the gun-
The steady rock, the trusted one.
Team leader, friend, the guiding light,
A manager who did things right.
With whisky poured—a Laphroaig neat,
Strong and peaty, bold, complete.
Respected far through every sphere,
From Scottish cop to leader here.
In rangers' ranks, in safety's name,
In SES, you earned your fame.
Beloved by Jan, by all his clan, by kin,
A life well-lived, through thick and thin.
A legend now, though passed from view,
Missed by all whose lives you knew.
But Jim, dear friend, you're not forgot-
Your wisdom lingers, lesson-taught.
A toast, a dram, to you we raise,
And honour you through all our days.*

RIP



APPLY NOW

JOB OPPORTUNITY

PART TIME POSITION

SESVA Administration Officer

Belmont, Perth WA

The SES Volunteers Association is seeking a suitably qualified individual to join the team on a part time basis as the Administration Officer to the Executive, and to provide administrative support the management committee. This is a great job opportunity to showcase your skills in a stand-alone role.

SES volunteers! This is a rare and exciting opportunity where you can apply your SES experience in an environment that will reward you daily.

Interested? Send a current resume and cover letter explaining why you should be considered for the role to Janet Cooper, email: janet@all4people.com

**Find the job on SEEK
in the 1st week of August**



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

ANNOUNCEMENT



Bella Scharfenstein's Retirement Celebration

On Friday, 4 July 2025, the Executive Council members gathered in Guildford to celebrate the retirement of Bella Scharfenstein, who served for over 11 years as the Association's Administration Officer.

The lunch function was a warm and well-deserved send-off, also attended by former Assoc. Secretary Lin Booth and Wendy Booth, both of whom joined in acknowledging Bella's years of dedication and outstanding service.

President Greg Cook spoke during the event highlighting Bella's unwavering commitment to SES volunteers and her invaluable support to the Management Committee of the SESVA in WA.

"Her professionalism, behind-the-scenes contributions, and reliability have left a lasting legacy within the Association," Greg declared as he presented Bella with token of appreciation: a stunning bouquet of flowers.

Bella was also presented with an electric drill — a fun and practical gift chosen to represent both her connection to the SESVA and her plans to tackle home improvement projects during retirement.



We thank Bella once again for her service and wish her every happiness in this exciting new chapter.

Clockwise from the left: Alan Hawke, Wendy Booth, Robbie Palmer, Allen Gale, Greg Cook, Leonie Briggs, Bella and Lin Booth. (Absent: John Capes)





**WINNERS TO BE
ANNOUNCED
AUGUST 29th**

SES FINALISTS

SES PETER KEILLOR AWARD This award recognises a dedicated State Emergency Service volunteer who has made an exemplary contribution to the service and community, specifically in the last 12 months.

Amy Drage Geraldton– Greenough SES Unit

Connie Reed Newman SES Unit

Leslie Hayter Margaret River SES Unit

SES YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD This award recognises the achievements of a volunteer under the age of 28 who has accomplished significant goals and made a positive impact to the State Emergency Service.

Joshua Yates Margaret River SES Unit

Lucas Fraser SES Communications Support Unit

Riley Symington Mandurah SES Unit

SES TEAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD This award recognises a team or group of State Emergency Service volunteers who have collectively served the communities of WA and worked together to complete either a project or significant operational response in the past 12 months.

Esperance SES Unit Kununurra SES Unit Tom Price SES Unit

***The SESVA congratulates all finalist on their achievement
and for their countless hours of service to the community.***

More information on the Awards Finalists is available on the [WAFES Awards Website](#).



AWARDS and ANNIVERSARIES

FAMILIES INVITED

Toodyay SES



10th Anniversary Lunch Sunday 27th July, Mahogany Inn

Picture above are the current and former Toodyay SES members, family members and special guests celebrating at the Mahogany Inn near Mundaring.



Left: Jeff Venn, holding Rescue Ted wguwgws presented by SESVA Vice President Leonie Briggs. Jeff has been the Local Manager of Toodyay SES since the unit was founded in 2015. He is pictured here with founding Deputy Local Manager Kim Maddrell.

A free event at Elizabeth Quay



10:30am to 2pm Sunday, 24 August 2025

A day packed with action and fun for the whole family.

Explore impressive vehicles and vessels from all DFES volunteer and career services, meet the fluffiest SES members and test your skills with the DFES virtual firefighting experience. Tackle fun activities like giant ropes and ladders.

Experience live demonstrations throughout the day, including a dramatic RAC Rescue helicopter hoist from the Swan River as well as vertical, marine and road crash rescues and more.

Fuel up at a variety of food trucks serving up tasty treats.

Use the link below to RSVP via the Volunteer Hub:

[Sirens on the Swan - Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#)



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

The SESVA Newsletter and the Monthly Update want to celebrate the dedication and achievements of member SES Units and Volunteers.

The SESVA Newsletter in particular has a wide circulation that includes SES volunteers, politicians, interested Councillors and Local Govt CEOs, DFES staff, other Associations & community groups.

Send your articles and especially some great images to:

sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Deadline for your contribution for the Spring Newsletter is Monday 18th August

If you have any queries, please contact SESVA Secretary Allen Gale on 0419 935 497



APPLY NOW



2025 SENIOR CADET LEADERSHIP

Emergency service **cadets** and **instructors** will spend 5 days in the Kimberley region, based in Broome.

This is a great opportunity for proactive young leaders to meet other cadets from around the state and develop their leadership potential in a unique environment outside their normal comfort zone.

CAMP OVERVIEW

The 2025 Senior Cadet Leadership Camp will see emergency service cadets 15 – 18 years old and instructors spend five days in the Kimberley region, based in Broome from 6 October to 10 October 2025.

LOG ONTO THE VOLUNTEER HUB TO APPLY

[Youth camps and activities | DFES Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#)

APPLY NOW

Applications must be received by 25 August 2025.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

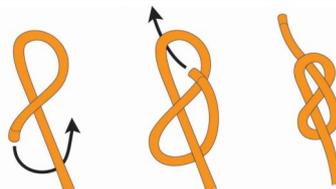
If you have any further questions, please contact DFES Youth in Emergency Services Coordinator

Lynelle Fozard

✉ Email: lynelle.fozard@dfes.wa.gov.au

☎ 9395 9716

TRAINING MATTERS



Bring Training to Life

Help Rebuild the SES Activity Archive to Keep Volunteers Inspired

Les Hayter made an offer through the SESVA Newsletter to help SES units with ideas for training to keep SES volunteers inspired and turning up regularly.

Planned, engaging training nights are vital for maintaining enthusiasm and skill development in SES members—both new and seasoned. Especially in colder, wetter southern regions, keeping volunteers interested requires dynamic, meaningful training. Les is continuing with a project to collect and share effective training activities, inspired by the old SES “Continuation Training File” and “Acti-cards” from the mid-2000s.

He is still calling on SES volunteers to contribute tried-and-true activities that work — activities that build teams, leadership, and skills. With over 20 activities already compiled, the goal is to create a new, accessible resource through the SESVA, but it needs input from those on the ground.

Volunteers are asked to submit details like:

- Activity type and skill focus
- Timing, resources, and safety
- Outcomes and variations
- Bonus: photos and tips

Contributions can be sent via email, text, or call — brief but clear descriptions are welcome. This grassroots effort aims to preserve and share the practical wisdom of SES volunteers for future training success.

INTERESTED?

Contact Les or submit your contributions direct:

✉ Les Hayter – sesva.lowersouthwest@ses-wa.asn.au

☎ Call Les – 0455 243 602



afac25

**2025 W-AFAC Conference - a supercharged
WAFES Conference for Volunteers**
Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th August 2025
Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre

Come and meet your SESVA management committee Regional Representatives and Executive members at our Association stand, opposite the Media Lounge (circled **RED** on the exhibition hall layout below). We'll have our great merchandise on sale too.

After almost 30 years, we are retiring the SESVA logo for a fresh new look. Come and see us in the Exhibition Hall to check out the new logo - leveraging the past...seizing the future!

Pre-Order your SES Merchandise for W-AFAC 2025

- ◆ Don't want to stand in line?
- ◆ Tired of waiting for your payment to be processed?

Pre-order before the 20th of August 2025 and we can complete your order and have it packed and ready for the trip home!

You'll be able to collect your FREE gift pack and your pre-ordered SES merchandise at the SESVA W-AFAC25 Exhibition stand.

To place your orders:

Email sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au or phone 0499 619 287 to pre-pay by credit card or direct debit

Visit the SESVA website and check out the full merchandise range — ses-wa.asn.au/sesva-merchandise/





ANNOUNCEMENTS



DFES Asset Management team new feedback form

The form is designed to gather your input and identify issues on current operational fleet, equipment on fleet, personal protective clothing and emergency facilities across the State.

The intent of this feedback form is to:

- Help shape the Next Generation of Operational Fleet
- Inform future facility planning and design briefs
- Identify trends and collect insights from first-hand experience.

Feedback Form



Your feedback is welcomed
- via this link & QR code

[DFES Operational Fleet and Facilities Feedback Form](#)

SES MERCHANDISE

Winter SPECIALS



SCARF & BEANIE COMBO

Buy 1 Scarf & 1 Beanie for \$30.00

Place orders at sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

USEFUL LINKS

[SES Volunteer's Association of Western Australia Incorporated – One Association – Many Values](#)

[NSESVA | Advocating for Australia's SES Volunteers](#) and the [NSESVA Yearbook 2024.pdf](#)

[NT SES Volunteers Association Facebook](#)

[ACTSESVA | Proudly Supporting the ACT Community](#)

[NSW SES Volunteers Association](#)

[QLDSESVA - The Volunteers Voice](#)

[SA SES Volunteers' Association](#)

[Tasmania State Emergency Service Volunteers Association](#)

[Home | DFES Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#)

[Emergency Management | WALGA](#)

[Home - Volunteering WA](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Submit your articles and photos to:

sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

16-17 Aug Midwest-Gascoyne Region Exercise

Tue 19 Aug Spring Newsletter submissions due

Thu 21 Aug Management Committee meeting

23-24 Aug Great Southern Regional Exercise, Mnt Barker

Sun 24 Aug DFES Family Funday, Elizabeth Quay

Tue 26 Aug W-AFAC, Perth—until 29 Aug

Fri 29 Aug **WAFES Awards and Gala Dinner**

Sat 30 Aug SESVA Election — Ballots Close

Fri 05 Sep **Spring Newsletter** published

Sat 13 Sep SESVA Annual General Meeting, Belmont

Tue 16 Sep SESVA Monthly Update submissions due

Fri 03 Oct **SESVA Monthly Update** published

06-10 Oct Senior Cadet Leadership Camp, Broome

Fri 31 Oct Bernie McNamara YEL applications close

Tue 18 Nov Summer Newsletter submissions due

Sat 29 Nov Youth in Emergency Services Challenge