



From the President

As we move into the second quarter of 2025, I reflect on the significant events that are changing and shaping our community, which prompt me to advise you of some upcoming opportunities for leadership within our Association.

I'm excited to announce we'll soon be holding elections for several key positions within the SESVA including President, Vice President and Management Committee members. We are also seeking EOI's for Secretary and Treasurer.

This is a wonderful opportunity for those who are passionate about our mission and would like to take an active role in shaping our future.

I encourage all members to consider running for a position, or to nominate someone who you believe would be a great fit. Your involvement is crucial to our continued success and the vitality of our community.

I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support and dedication to our Association. Together, we can navigate the challenges ahead and seize the opportunities that lie before us.

Let us honour the past while looking forward to a bright future filled with promise and potential.

Warm Regards,

Greg Cook, President WA SESVA

[Read Greg's full article via this LINK](#)

REGULAR FEATURES

News and Announcements

Training information

Vehicle, Equipment and PPC issues

SES Volunteer Recognition

Opportunities for SES Volunteers

Safety Matters

Committee Updates

Upcoming Events—Important Dates

WA Young Emerging Leaders travel to Canberra for the National Memorial Service

Lilika Allum, 2025 Bernie McNamara Young Emerging Leader, and the 2024 SES Young Achiever Award Winner, Jack Watson (pictured below) joined SESVA President Greg Cook and Secretary Allen Gale at the National Memorial Service in Canberra on Thursday 1st of May.



The National Memorial Service is held in Canberra annually to honour the courage and sacrifice of those who have died in the line of duty.

While in Canberra Lilika and Jack met with Emergency Management Minister, Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister

APOLOGY & CORRECTION April Monthly Update

The article on the VA's visit to Pingelly Unit incorrectly named Susan Wettenhall-Fisher as Pingelly's new Local Manager.

Susan Heazlewood has taken over as Pingelly Local Manager from Bill Mulrone.

The SESVA apologises for any confusion, distress or inconvenience this error may have caused.



STATE & NATIONAL EVENTS

AFAC 2025 National Memorial Service

On Thursday 1st May, AFAC held the 11th memorial service at the Canberra National Emergency Services Memorial, which honours those emergency services workers from 34 services across Australia and New Zealand who lost their life in line of duty. Twenty five medals were presented to the families of those who had passed.

The Roll of Honour commemorates all emergency services personnel in Australia and New Zealand who have lost their lives in the line of duty.



These names are inscribed on the Emergency Services Memorial Wall in Canberra. You can search for a person using this link: [Honour Roll](#)

SESVA President Greg Cook and Secretary Allen Gale attended on behalf of the Association.

SES Young Emerging Leaders meet up in Canberra on 1st of May

Fourteen Young Emerging Leaders from SES units across Australia came together in Canberra as part of the National SES Volunteers Association's Young Emerging Leaders Program.

Representing WA were Lilika Allum of Nannup SES and Jack Watson of Tom Price SES. The young SES Emerging Leaders group provided the Guard of Honour for the Emergency Management Minister, Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister at the AFAC Memorial Service on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin.

As part of the programme, the group met with the Commissioners from emergency services around the nation and toured Parliament House and emergency service facilities in Canberra.



SES Young Emerging Leaders at Memorial Service
(Lilika Allum in foreground)

ANZAC Day

WANNEROO-JOONDALUP SES Unit were an inspiring sight as they marched in the recent ANZAC Day Parade on 25th April in Perth.



Esperance SES 60th Anniversary

SESVA President Greg Cook and Great Southern Representative Ceridwen Fitzpatrick attended the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the combined Esperance SES and Marine Rescue Service, on Saturday 12th April



(full story of Esperance's 60th anniversary will feature in the SESVA's Winter Newsletter in June)



UPCOMING EVENTS

National Volunteer Week 19-25 May 2025

National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering. This special event highlights the important role of volunteers in our community and invites people not currently volunteering to give it a go. Celebrate this year's theme, **Connecting Communities**, with ready-to-download, fully customisable assets available from the Volunteering Australia [website](https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/).

Wear Orange Wednesday 'WOW Day' will be Celebrated on 21st May 2025

Will you be wearing orange on WOW Day? Help to promote SES by uploading your WOW Day images to social media and sharing them with the Association and local media.

On WOW Day, communities across Australia will be encouraged to wear orange and thank SES volunteers.

In WA, DFES will celebrate the day with several iconic buildings and landmarks across the state being lit up in magnificent orange.

The SESVA will be

- advertising WOW Day on its website and Facebook page;
- promoting the event to state and local government;
- liaising with DFES on alternative events and regional office support to units; and
- providing resources for units to download from our website.

Need Help?

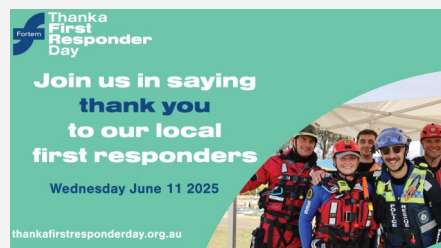
If you need help with Federal and State government contact details, get in touch with the Association Office:

Mob: 0499 619 287

Email: Sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Thank a First Responder Day 11th June

Thank a First Responder Day recognizes the commitment and dedication of over 370,000 volunteer and paid first responders across the nation.



The initiative is in its 6th year and raises awareness of the sacrifices first responders and their families make in their service to the community, while also raising funds to support Fortem's work providing mental health, wellbeing programs and services for first responders and their families.

Local schools, childcare centres, councils and businesses across Australia are being encouraged to get behind their local first responders on 11th June. The VA would love to see your people involved in local events and activities.

More information can be found at [TAFRD-Fortem Australia](https://www.tafrd-fortem.com.au/)

Swan SES—Storm Ready Open Day 25th May

Is being held at the Swan SES facility for the community to attend between 1100 and 1400, to provide a one stop shop for storm preparedness information as we move into the upcoming season. Members of the public can:

- Discuss how SES prioritise requests for assistance
- Have a go on the radio and explore prowords
- Ask questions and gain information on the new Emergency WA App and learn about watch zones and the new warning system.
- Learn what to include in an emergency kit.
- Watch demonstrations on sub-pumps and roof safety systems.
- Get hands-on experiences for kids with mini sandbags, dress-ups and photo opportunities.
- Enjoy a sausage sizzle & much more!



LATEST NEWS FROM THE SES VOLUNTEER'S ASSOCIATION

The SESVA has pleasure in welcoming two new Management Committee regional representatives.

Ceridwen Fitzpatrick—Great Southern

Ceridwen has been a member of Mount Barker SES since 2009. Joining the SES enabled Ceridwen to become involved in her community. Her key interests as an SES member are search and rescue, emergency preparedness, volunteer retention, and community engagement.

Ceridwen brings her considerable professional skills in advocacy, outreach and service navigation to the SESVA Management Committee role.

Ross Jones—Kimberley

Ross joined the SES as a Cadet in 1987 and later that year became a full time member of Mandurah SES. He quickly became a team leader and trainer assessor in numerous SES skills. Ross has held various positions within several SES units across WA and has been Local Manager of Geraldton-Greenough SES since 2021.

Ross believes the future of the SES requires representation on behalf of the volunteers to maintain and improve standards in training, leadership and infrastructure.

SESVA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 17 APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

SESVA Bus Replacement Project

The 8 SESVA buses funded by BHP in 2014 are due for replacement. A working group to include interested SES unit leaders will consider replacement bus types and styles and commence a process of attracting a sponsor to fund the purchase and ongoing maintenance of the new buses.

McNamara Family donation for the Young Emerging Leaders Program

An annual contribution of \$500 p/a for the next 5 years has generously been offered by the McNamara family to support the YEL Program.

SESVA Insurance Cover

DFES provides insurance cover for volunteers, however, advises the Association is not covered and needs to continue arranging its own private insurance.

Committee Succession Planning

Committee members are to consider suitable future committee members. The Association will assist prospective members to step up into the role.

Annual General Meeting

The Association AGM will be held in the SESVA Belmont Conference Room on Saturday 13th September 2025 which is the weekend following the W-AFAC and WAFES Awards Gala Dinner

Constitution Amendment

A notice of motion will be developed for the AGM to amend the SESVA Constitution to create a third VP position to improve management of the Association and spread the workload.

Strategic Planning

Member Units will be consulted on the Association's draft Strategic Plan currently under development.

Training Discussion Paper

More feedback will be sought by direct contact with those Units that are yet to respond.

Wear Orange Wednesday—21st May

The Association has been liaising with DFES on alternative celebratory events and encourages Regional Offices to support WOW Day on its website and Facebook page. Tools and materials will be available for units to download from the SESVA website.



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



TRAINING MATTERS

DFES TRAINING COURSES on Emergency Management & Disaster Recovery

Now open for Expressions of Interest

These awareness level courses have been tailored to provide a firm foundation for state government agencies and service providers working in emergency management and disaster recovery in WA.

The no-cost training modules are being delivered between June and October 2025 and include:

1. Introduction to Emergency Management
2. Introduction to Disaster Recovery
3. Working in Disaster Recovery
4. Engaging the Community in Disaster Recovery

For further details on course content, access to on-line resources, and to register your interest in attending an in-person training session, please click here: [Training Catalogue](#)

Volunteer Leadership Program

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE
6TH MAY**



Information about the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience VLP and application process is available on the Volunteer Hub.

Volunteers registered with DFES have access to the Hub with the Volunteer ID number.

APPLY ON THE [Volunteer Hub](#)

Generic information about the VLP is available on the [AIDR website](#).

For volunteers who don't currently access the Volunteer Hub, local DFES managers are able to assist with face-to-face support.

Volunteer Hub logon support is provided through each region and their [Volunteer Management Support Officer](#)

GPS WORKSHOP

Sunday 20 July 2025

Gosnells EOC

0800 hrs - 1200 hrs

Know your way around your GPS:

- Create waypoints
- GO TO waypoints
- Project waypoints
- Change datum
- Change positional format

BYO GPS

BBQ Lunch Provided

RSVP 2 July 2025:

admin@gosnellsses.com

Gosnells EOC: 16 Horley Road Beckenham

afac25

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

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

MONTHLY UPDATE

MAY 2025



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Get Ready for



SESVA COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The Association is inviting Expressions of Interest from passionate, energetic SES Volunteers to represent the Units of Goldfields-Midlands region on the SESVA Management Committee. Interested?

Email a brief *Expression of Interest* to Allen Gale:

sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

Or, phone Allen for a chat about the role:
0419 935 497

Let us know of changes
to your SES Unit Leadership Team

Submit your articles, photos,
feedback and suggestions to:
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

USEFUL LINKS

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

[NSESVA Yearbook 2024.pdf](#)

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

[NSWSESVA The Volunteer December 2024.pdf](#)

[QLDSESVA - The Volunteers Voice](#)

[SA SES Volunteers' Association](#)

[Tasmania State Emergency Service Volunteers Association](#)

<https://vicsesva.org.au/>

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

[State Emergency Management Committee](#)

[Home - Volunteering WA](#)

CALENDAR of EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| May 1st | National Memorial Service
Canberra |
| May 10th | Gosnells SES 45th Anniversary |
| May 19-25 | National Volunteer Week |
| May 21st | WOW Day |
| May 24th | DFES Metropolitan SES Leaders
Pre-Winter Forum |
| May 25th | Swan SES Storm Ready Open Day |
| June 11 | Thank a First Responder Day |
| July 20 | GPS Workshop Gosnells EOC |
| Aug 26-29 | W-AFAC & Gala Dinner |
| Sept 13 | SESVA AGM |



AUSTRALIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) AUTHORITIES ARE LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Preparing for the future is essential for all public safety organisations. This requires the identification of future risks and new opportunities to support evidence based decision making and strategic planning.

SAR arrangements provide a specialist search and rescue capability delivered by government, non-government and volunteer organisations.

Australia has responsibility for coordination of SAR in the Australian Search and Rescue Region. Australia has the largest search and rescue region in the world, stretching through parts of the Indian, Pacific and Southern Oceans. It extends east and west of Australia's land mass and extends over the Australian Antarctic Territory to the South Pole. This equates to approximately 52 million square kilometres and 10% of the earth's surface. The Australian SAR arrangements operate within Australia's federated system established under the Constitution.

There are two megatrends that will impact on the Australian SAR environment. These trends impact not only the local context but also global conditions and are outside the sphere of control of SAR authorities.

Climate change is a defining issue. Global climate projections predict more extreme temperatures, sea-level rise, and increasing frequency and intensity of weather events in the coming decades. This is likely to create new pressures for public safety agencies.

To this effect SAR is conducting an environmental scan as a key tool to identify trends, assess their impacts and develop strategies to anticipate risks, threats and opportunities, and prioritise responses.

This is the second of a series of articles we'll be publishing on the operation of AMSA & SAR and anticipated future direction. Next month's article will identify the projected drivers of change and their impacts. Courtesy of the 2023 ANCIL Allen Report commissioned by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority on behalf of the National Search and Rescue Council.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submit your articles, photos, feedback and suggestions to:
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Wed 21 May **Wear Orange Wednesday**

Tue 27 May Submissions due date - **Winter Newsletter**

Fri 06 Jun **Winter Newsletter** published

Tue 15 Jul Management Committee nominations due

Tue 26 Aug Submissions due date - **Spring Newsletter**

Tue 26 Aug W-AFAC, Perth—until 29 Aug

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

Fri 05 Sep **Spring Newsletter** published

Sat 13 Sep SESVA Annual General Meeting, Belmont