



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

February 2022

Newsletter

From the President

2022 – What a starting point to this New Year!

Our SES Volunteer Association Newsletters always have a degree of difficulty in capturing timely information. Much of what we write can appear at times to be yesterday's news but my question to everyone is "how new is the news to those that have not heard it?"

I do look at the amount of activity that I would love to comment on since the December 2021 Newsletter.

Factually, the hardest article to write in my two years as Association President has been this one.

So in short, Wow!

Great Southern SES Units have been widely praised for their Search and Rescue skills and operational involvement. These volunteers even earned formal recognition from the Great Southern WA Police. It was pleasing to see the activity and recognition appearing in high profile media. A very big thank you to WA Police and the media for the recognition.

Activities have been state wide for SES Volunteers. The list is extensive and includes many operations to meet community needs including;

- Car collision with house
- Motor vehicle rescue
- Search for missing people on land and sea
- Cliff rescue and recovery
- Flood activities
- Storm response to many households
- Fire support
- Logistics – tent city and accommodation facilities
- Communications support via the placement of portable repeaters and satellite equipment

This clearly says in only a few words, SES Volunteers bring a huge diversity of skills to meet the needs of our communities no matter where you live.

These 65 Volunteer Units need some new members that wish to live the experience and reward for contributing to fellow community members when times are tough.

Consider a volunteer career in the State Emergency Service and feel the joy.

Greg Cook
President



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
Belmont WA 6104
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-va.asn.au



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

February 2022

Newsletter

FROM YOUR TEAM AT THE SESVA

What's in this edition:

From the President	1
Hardship Scheme	2
Grant Funding	2
Historical Sub-Committee	3
Merredin Thanks Business for support	3
Unit Visits	3
Conference Room	4
Volunteer of the Year Awards	5
Your Regional Committee Members	5
National Medal	6
Volunteer Leadership Program	6
Face Masks	6
Mundaring Medal Presentations	7
Facebook	7
Website	7
Merchandise	7
Share your Collection	7
Merredin Awards Night	8
How to Keep Informed	8
Display Stand/Gazebo available	8

Grant Funding

We are very pleased to be able to report we have been able to assist Derby SES Unit with obtaining an offer of a 2021 Volunteer Grant from the Australian Government Community Grants Hub..

Under the terms of the Grant Derby SES Unit has until December 2022 to spend the funds on a wide variety of items..

Hardship Scheme

The WA Emergency Service Volunteer Hardship Scheme exists to provide emergency services volunteers with the opportunity to seek financial assistance during times of hardship.

The scheme is managed by a governing committee consisting of representatives from each of the relevant volunteer associations which together constitute the WA Emergency Services Volunteers Hardship Assistance Scheme (Incorporated).

The Hardship Assistance Fund provides direct relief from hardship to volunteers and their dependants. It is designed to help cover basic living costs such as rent, food and utilities. Financial assistance is not provided for expenses arising as a result of living beyond one's means, or to clear gambling incurred debt, or to fund lifestyle choices.

Applications must be for a volunteer who is a member of an emergency services group created under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998; Bush Fires Act 1954; or the Fire Brigades Act 1942 and who has served a minimum of six months (unless in exceptional emergency situations).

What is hardship?

Hardship is when a volunteer is unable to meet minimum living expenses because of unexpected or unforeseen events, such as:

- Loss of work or reduction of work hours
- Illness or death of family member
- Relationship breakdown
- Accidental injury or illness
- Emergency event or natural disaster

Up to \$5,000 of hardship assistance can be provided in order for an eligible applicant to meet the following expenses:

- Outstanding utility accounts and charges
- General household expenses
- Expenses for funeral of a family member
- Unexpected accounts due to accident or injury
- Self-employment expenses
- Support for dependent family members
- Last resort welfare mechanisms
- Medical expenses
- Municipal rates
- Mortgage or lease expenses

The final decision on an application is made by a sub-committee of the hardship committee and as they say on the application form, is final, and no reason for their decision will be given.

For more information, please view the website

<https://waesvhas.org.au>



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

February 2022

Newsletter

Historical Sub-Committee Expressions of interest

The SESVA has formed an Historical Sub-Committee and are calling for expressions of interest from people interested in being on the sub-committee.

Why should we be concerned with our history?

The importance of the past shouldn't be underestimated. Recording history lets future generations know what our fathers, grandfathers and what we did to serve our community.

The purpose of this sub-committee is to provide advice, recommendations, and source Historical items for the Association museum so the history of the WA State Emergency Service is not lost.

This will involve identification, preservation, promoting, collection and dissemination of the Western Australian State Emergency Service's (WASES) members contributions and equipment over the past years.

The Sub-Committee is to be comprised of a mix of SES members, both existing and retired, and other interested parties

If you wish to nominate or know someone who is interested please contact the Association Secretary via email

sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

Unit Visits

As you may be aware, the President and Secretary try to visit as many SES Units, and meet as many SES Volunteers as they can each year.

In the coming couple of months (COVID-19 permitting), they intend to visit Units in the south of the state.

They are hopeful meeting dates and times can be arranged so they can meet as many SES Volunteers as possible.

Bella will be contacting Unit Managers to discuss a mutually suitable time for the visit to occur.

Merredin Thanks Business for Support

We all agree that volunteering has many rewards, and volunteering with the State Emergency Service has even greater rewards, as we assist in times of emergency and in very stressful situations.

Some SES volunteers go far beyond what is asked of them, and do receive recognition for their efforts, both within their own units and by DFES.

We also need to recognise that for our SES volunteers to assist the community, in many cases their employers must make sacrifices to allow their staff (our SES Volunteers,) to attend incidents during the employee's hours of duty. Some of these sacrifices by employers are acknowledged DFES.

Unfortunately at Unit level we do tend to overlook businesses that support the SES, only accepting that the SES Volunteers are always ready to help the community if the need arises. In some instances businesses have gone beyond the normal level of support to Merredin SES Volunteers.

Recently Merredin SES made a special presentation to businesses that, whilst not within the local government boundaries of Merredin, have supported the volunteers of Merredin SES and the Unit. Their support has come in various forms, and has not gone unnoticed by Merredin SES Volunteers.



Training Manager Merredin SES presents Manager of Avon Service Specialist, Mr Cameron Blackhurst with the Merredin SES Appreciation Plaque.



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

February 2022

Newsletter

Conference Room

Conference Room - cont'd

Your SES Association Conference Room

The Gordon Freeth Room was established in 2021 to ensure that the values and history of the SES is maintained in the forefront of our future directions.

Whilst embracing positive changes in today's emergency services environment, lessons learned are so important. Our displays, along with the SES display at the Emergency Services Heritage/Education Centre in Murray Street Perth City are recording our history.

Why is this named after Sir Gordon Freeth KBE?

Let's take a walk down history lane with the SES Nationally.

Source: Wikipedia.



Biography:

He graduated in law from the University of Western Australia in 1938, the year he rowed in the winning Australian four at the Sydney Empire Games. During the next year he married and set up as a barrister and solicitor at Katanning, WA.

In 1942, Sir Gordon became a pilot with the RAAF and, according to wartime associates, a good one, flying Beaufort's in New Guinea.

- Was the federal member for Forest (WA 1949 - 1969) and was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) in 1978.
- He held the following political offices, Minister for the Interior, Minister for Works, Minister for Shipping and Transport, Minister for the Air, Minister Assisting the Treasurer and Minister for Foreign (External) Affairs.
- Australian Ambassador for Japan and Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

In a ministerial statement in 1959, then federal Minister for the Interior, Gordon Freeth, stated;

"It is a basic principle that the States are responsible for the development of their own civil defence planning and programs with the Commonwealth providing national guidance and coordination as necessary".

From this statement and many other actions, the journey began in the creation of the SES in the Commonwealth. July 1959 the State Emergency Service was established in Western Australia for the purpose of: **"coping with civil disasters, including fires, floods, cyclones, railway accidents, crashed aircraft, explosions and the search for lost persons"**.

The Commissioner of Police was responsible for the operation of the State Emergency Service.

For further information, go to:

https://www.ses-wa.asn.au/sites/default/files/160915_Edition_1b_SES_the_First_Fifty_Years.pdf





SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

February 2022

Newsletter

Volunteer of Year Awards

In December 2021 Centacare Family Services of Geraldton held their annual Volunteer of the Year Awards.

The SESVA was invited to attend, and we asked the Manager of Geraldton SES, Ross Jones, and the Manager of Kalbarri SES, Steve Cable, to attend with us.

During the presentations, Centacare Family Services announced they had an inaugural special Directors Award to present.

This was presented to Geraldton and Kalbarri SES for their incredible response to the damage caused by cyclone Seroja to the local communities.

The Mayor of the City of Greater Geraldton highlighted the enormous amount of work done by Geraldton and Kalbarri SES Volunteers long after the support from Volunteers from regions outside the area was removed.

In fact, work is still being done by these Units to assist their communities overcome damage caused by the cyclone.



Photo's courtesy LMR Photography

Your Regional Committee Members

The SESVA has a Representative for each of the 12 Regions of WA.

These Representatives work hard to represent the views of your Unit, as conveyed to them by your Unit Management, and to ensure your Unit Management receives relevant information on matters affecting your Unit and Volunteers.

The Representatives welcome and look forward to communicating with SES Volunteers, and if relevant discuss any matters raised with your Unit Management and the full SESVA Committee.

Please feel free to contact your Representative, or ask your Unit Management team to do so on your behalf, if you feel the SESVA can be of assistance to you.

South Coastal Region - Vacant

Caretaker Representative is **Lin Booth**
0428 612 480

sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

South East - Martin Seward

0417 997 875

sesva.southeast@ses-wa.asn.au

North East - Sarah Hamilton

0435 932 190

sesva.northeast@ses-wa.asn.au

North Coastal - Jenny Hattenfels

0407 880 204

sesva.northcoastal@ses-wa.asn.au

Goldfields/Midlands - Sergio Bottacin

0419 909 523

sesva.midlands_goldfields@ses-wa.asn.au

Kimberley - Matthew Roshier

0488 177 047

sesva.kimberley@ses-wa.asn.au

Pilbara - Colin Reed

0418 909 006

sesva.pilbara@ses-wa.asn.au

Midwest/Gascoyne - Steve Cable

0417 994 277

sesva.midwest_gascoyne@ses-wa.asn.au

Great Southern - Peter Blows

0427 721 526

sesva.greatsouthern@ses-wa.asn.au

Upper Great Southern - Vacant

Caretaker Representative is **Lin Booth**
0428 612 480

sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

Lower South West - Peter Newton

0427 477 413

sesva.lowersouthwest@ses-wa.asn.au

South West - Ros McConchie

0408 962 528

sesva.southwest@ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

February 2022

Newsletter

National Emergency Medal

Your SESVA approached DFES in June 2021 requesting they start the process to have the Federal Government register cyclone Seroja as a major event and issue a National Emergency Medal to the SES Volunteers who attended cyclone Seroja.

We also approached the National SES Association in October 2021 to obtain their assistance in having cyclone Seroja recognised.

This is a very slow process, however we are not letting the matter fade away and are regularly contacting the above to determine progress so far.

At this stage, we believe there is an extremely long way to go.

If you wish to raise the matter with your State and Federal Members of Parliament, that may also assist in progressing the matter.

Details of the medal can be found at:

<https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/national-emergency-medal>

Face Masks

The SESVA is looking at doing a bulk buy of reusable facemasks with the SESWA logo on them.

The masks will either be black with orange logo, or orange with black logo (still to be decided)



We are seeking expressions of interest from Unit's wishing to preorder.

Masks will be approx \$10.each.

If you are interested in purchasing some masks please let Bella know.

sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Volunteer Leadership Program

Applications are now open

The Volunteer Leadership Program (VLP) equips volunteers from community organisations, not-for-profits, disaster relief organisations and local government within the emergency management sector, with the skills and confidence to grow as leaders.

The VLP experience is immersive and collaborative, bringing together volunteers from different organisations and agencies to build knowledge and share experiences with each other. The program explores practical leadership frameworks through interactive learning, and participants gain both self-awareness and an enhanced ability to understand and contribute to their organisations.

To be considered for the VLP, applicants must:

- be an active volunteer working within emergency management, recovery and disaster resilience in Australia.
- be 18 years of age or over on the day the course commences
- be available to participate over the weekend (the program runs from 4:30pm Friday to 2:00pm Sunday)
- have the support of their agency to participate in the program
- be prepared to undertake approximately two hours of pre-course work
- submit an application by the closing date, answering all questions on the application form.

Successful applicants will be notified at least two weeks prior to the course commencing.

The program date in Perth is 13th-15th May 2022 and application are due by 8th April 2022.

For more information including application forms visit aidr.org.au/vlp



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

February 2022

Newsletter

Mundaring Medal Presentations

Share your Collection



Medals and Life Membership were presented to several Mundaring SES Unit Volunteers at their recent Awards Presentation Dinner in December 2021.

Recipients from left to right were:

- Alan Jamieson - 5 year medal
- John Field - Life membership, 18 years service
- Tim Clear - 10 year medal
- Paul Crouchley - 35 year bar
- Doug Pitney - 10 year medal

Merchandise

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

Just contact Bella at the SESVA office.
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Share your SES collection with members

Have you got a little collection of special SES mementos?

Let's share some of our little momentos with our members.

SES is more than a hobby, its for many an additional family network with a number of valued memories.

The photo below shares memories of interstate deployments, recognition that a major retail chain has manufactured an SES Worker and of course our very own WA SES Teddy.

What's out there that you can share with us all?

Please send photos and a few words about it to Bella at office@sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

A simple action can lead to sharing many pleasant memories!



facebook

Just a quick reminder the SESVA is on facebook.

Western Australian SES Volunteers Association

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/42218868165>

Follow us to get all the current information affecting SES Volunteers.

Website

The SESVA website has been upgraded and improved.

Check it out!

If you have any questions, comments, improvements please contact our webmaster

John Capes sesva.webmaster@ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

February 2022

Newsletter

Merredin Awards Night

Following a successful year Merredin SES held its annual dinner and awards night as it wound up its 2021 training year and recognised the efforts of its members.

Local Manager Mr Mark Briggs also congratulated the Volunteers of the Unit for their untiring support to the local community in their times of need, for attending incidents as far as away Meekatharra, and other outside communities when we had Cyclone Seroja.

Even though our training year has wound up, it's pleasing to know that we are still ready to attend any callouts.

Awards were presented to members for their support and outstanding service to Merredin SES and DFES.



Local Manager Mr Mark Briggs (Left) presents Charles Hasson the units Local Managers Award for dedications to service

Also present on the night was DFES District Officer, Natural Hazards, Mr. Matthew Remier who also praised the support Merredin SES has given to the communities, and Mr Reimer also made presentation to members for service given

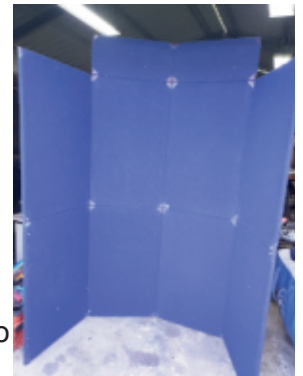


Certificate of Appreciation award to Mr Mark Briggs for service given as Local Manager,



Certificate of Appreciation award to Mrs Judy Briggs for service given as Deputy Local Manager

Display Stand/Gazebo available



The SESVA has available 2 display stands and a Gazebo for Unit's to use for public awareness and recruitment events.

Availability will be on a 1st come basis and can be booked in advance through our Office.

Borrowing terms are below:

- »» You break it, you pay for it arrangement.
- »» Metro Unit's can borrow an item for a two week period starting on a Wednesday
- »» Country Unit's can borrow an item for a three week period starting on a Wednesday
- »» All transport/courier costs are the Unit's responsibility
- »» Gazebo photo - shows with legs not at full height.

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". (SESVA WA) and are on Facebook.

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.