



# SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

July 2022

## NEWSLETTER

### Local Managers Workshop on EMERGENCY SERVICES LEGISLATION AMALGAMATION SATURDAY 9th JULY 2022

The SESVA is hosting a Workshop in Cottesloe on 9th July. This will provide all SES Units with an opportunity for comprehensive engagement on amalgamation of the Emergency Services Acts.

Guest presenter at the Workshop will be Associate Professor Michael Eburn, the leading Australian researcher in the area of emergency services and emergency management and law.

It is vitally important that SES Local Managers participate in this final opportunity for consultation and discussion to development a collaborative position by the end of the Workshop.

#### Background

The legislation Interagency Working Group (IWG) is comprised of representatives of the four Volunteer Associations, DFES and WALGA. It was formed to review consolidation of the three Emergency Services Acts.

In 2021 the IWG requested DFES approach the FES Minister to approve sharing cabinet in confidence material with the IWG, allowing the SES, through the IWG, to be briefed on the live issues associated with the draft Exposure Bill. The live issues could then have been socialised in the SES community with the object of formulating a position on consolidation of the Acts to be presented back to Parliamentary Council.

It now appears the Minister is not prepared to approve Cabinet in Confidence which prevents the SESVA thoroughly socialising the live issues, and raises concern as to the changes being proposed. The SESVA is believes that the government is considering absorbing the SES, removing it from local government and the Local Government Grant Scheme and manage it directly.

### Local Managers Workshop—cont'd

Ultimately, however, it is incumbent on Units to decide whether that is or isn't good for them.

The SESVA believes it is of crucial importance for all Units to be engaged and fully informed on this matter in order to make the best decision on behalf of their volunteers.

Lookout for an update on the Workshop outcomes in the next Newsletter. In the meantime, you can direct inquires on the Workshop to President, Mr Greg Cook on 0418 403 960 or [sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au)

### SESVA Secretary Allen Gale ESM

The Association received two Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the appointed position of Secretary.

They were from two highly qualified people which comes from both their volunteering world and their professional lives.

During the last Management Committee Meeting both were discussed and voted on.

And it is with great pleasure that Allen Gale's EOI has been excepted and we welcome his appointment as the Associations Secretary.

Allen comes with a great deal of experience and professional skill set which spans both his volunteer and professional life, which we are very lucky to have.

### Facebook

Just a quick reminder that 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.**



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### Management Committee

#### NOMINATIONS CLOSE

**SATURDAY 13th JULY 2022**

#### for VACANCIES for VICE PRESIDENT and REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

A number of Management Committee terms of appointment end at the 2022 Annual General Meeting being held .

All Units are invited to nominate a member for election as Vice President or a Regional Representative where a vacancy will exist.

Units that wish to nominate a member of their Unit for a vacancy on the SESVA Management Committee must ensure the nomination form is completed and returned to the Secretary by the closing date 13 July 2022.

The election results will be announced at the 2022 Annual General Meeting on Sunday 11th September.

Regions which do not have a representative on the Committee, do not always hear in a timely manner of items which affect them. This has caused issues for some regions in the past, so to ensure your region is kept fully informed, please ensure a delegate is nominated if your region is one with a vacancy.

If you have any questions about the Association and what being a member of the Management Committee entails, please do not hesitate to contact President, Mr Greg Cook on 0418 403 960 or send an email to [sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au)

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

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

The positions where a vacancy will exist due to their term expiring and for which nominations are called are included in the contact list of Regional Representatives here:

#### REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

##### South Coastal Region - Vacant

Caretaker Representative is Allen Gale

[sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au)

##### South East - Martin Seward

0417 997 875

[sesva.southeast@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.southeast@ses-wa.asn.au)

##### North East Sarah Hamilton **TERM EXPIRING**

0435 932 190

[sesva.northeast@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.northeast@ses-wa.asn.au)

##### North Coastal Jenny Hattenfels **TERM EXPIRING**

0407 880 204

[sesva.northcoastal@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.northcoastal@ses-wa.asn.au)

##### Goldfields/Midlands - Sergio Bottacin

0419 909 523

[sesva.midlands\\_goldfields@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.midlands_goldfields@ses-wa.asn.au)

##### Kimberley - Matthew Roshier

0488 177 047

[sesva.kimberley@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.kimberley@ses-wa.asn.au)

##### Pilbara - Colin Reed

0418 909 006

[sesva.pilbara@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.pilbara@ses-wa.asn.au)

##### Midwest/Gascoyne Steve Cable **TERM EXPIRING**

0417 994 277

[sesva.midwest\\_gascoyne@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.midwest_gascoyne@ses-wa.asn.au)

##### Great Southern Peter Blows **TERM EXPIRING**

0427 721 526

[sesva.greatsouthern@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.greatsouthern@ses-wa.asn.au)

##### Upper Great Southern Kerry Keys **TERM EXPIRING**

0413 967 425

[sesva.uppergreatsouthern@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.uppergreatsouthern@ses-wa.asn.au)

##### Lower South West Peter Newton **TERM EXPIRING**

0427 477 413

[sesva.lowersouthwest@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.lowersouthwest@ses-wa.asn.au)

##### South West Ros McConchie **TERM EXPIRING**

0408 962 528

[sesva.southwest@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.southwest@ses-wa.asn.au)



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### Submit an article

It's great to see Units using electronic forms of external communication, such as websites and Facebook, to spread the good work that the SES does.

We at the SESVA Newsletter are always looking for new content, so if you turn that quick Facebook post into a article we can put it in our newsletter.

The SESVA Newsletter does not just go to other SES units, but is distributed to a wide variety of people, government (Local, State and Federal) and other volunteer organisations.

Why? Because we are proud of what our SES Volunteers do and believe that the very excellent job you do, along with the difficulties we face, the community we serve has a right to be informed; and it's a good way for other Unit's to find out what each other have done or will be doing.

Some of the ideas we are looking for:

- Training - details of an exercise you want to promote or want help with
- Training - an article on a exercise that your Unit might have done.
- Operational event - article on the good, even the not so good; it could be based on WWW (what went well)
- Promotional or Recruitment advertisement
- Monthly update on what your Unit or Region has been up to.

Please note the Editor has discretion over the content and the space available to us for the SESVA Newsletter. To submit an article simply email it along with your contact details to: [sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au).

### SESVA Website

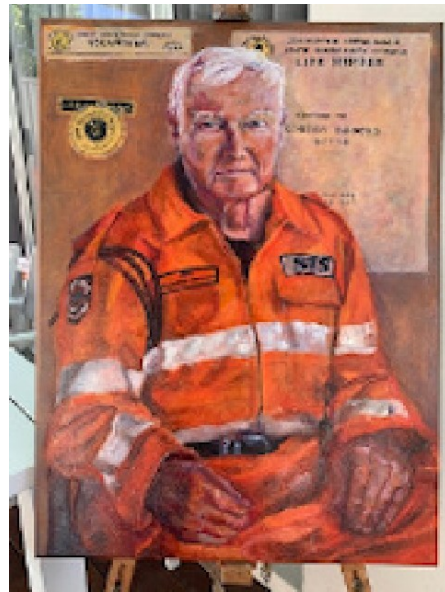
The SESVA website has been upgraded and improved.

Check it out now! If you have any questions, comments or improvement suggestions contact our webmaster:

John Capes [sesva.webmaster@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.webmaster@ses-wa.asn.au)

### Portrait of an SES Volunteer

Sharon Lesley has painted a portrait of her father, Mr. Robert Brooks of the Geraldton-Greenough SES Unit.



The portrait is intended for submission to the Darling Prize national portrait competition in Canberra, and is intended to honour all SES Volunteers in Australia by the presence of the iconic SES orange overalls worn by Robert (Bob) in the portrait, and the depictions of his certificates and medal.

"Bob Brooks, my father and rescue hero, is the sitter in this portrait, however a duality of subject includes a testament to the SES volunteers of Australia. I requested the SES orange overalls be worn for their recognisable iconic and symbolic presence. The background life membership documentation and medal is to say that many SES volunteers are involved for the long haul. Their dedication is generally for life, and in support of life. Bob's white hair denotes his seniority and continued effectiveness in the role irrespective of age, and his demeanour suggests the quiet dignity of his service to Australia."

Unfortunately the portrait did not make the selection for the Darling Portrait Prize, however it does make a powerful statement.



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### SESVA Merchandise

Do you have any ideas for new merchandise items for SES Units? Maybe something for the summer months ahead? Tell us your ideas.

Let your Regional Representative know or send an email to Bella at the office and we'll investigate further.

[sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au)

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 to place orders.

#### Please note:

The office will forward an invoice as soon as an order is received and shipped once payment is received.

### Citizen Youth Award Winner

Extract from THE EXAMINER - February 2022

SJ Community Citizenship Youth Award winner Luke Newman has been volunteering his time with the Serpentine-Jarrahdale SES.

"It was an absolute honour to win this award. I wasn't really expecting to be nominated," said Luke, who was nominated by fellow members of SJ SES.

"I was so grateful to find out my fellow Volunteers were the ones who had submitted the nomination." he said.

Serpentine-Jarrahdale SES unit Deputy Manager said that the whole crew appreciated Luke's commitment and eagerness.

"We're quite proud of him for the award he won, our manager attended the awards." said Keith.

"He's very keen. gets involved in all our activities, in fact he takes it upon himself to do other activities as well".

### Historical Photo's

We are looking for photos, videos, slides and/or film to create a visual history of our great organisation. You can send digital copies to our office (at least 300dpi).

### Height Safety Improvements

The Height Safety Project Advisory Team (PAT) is tasked to improve Height Safety practices, equipment, training, and culture for structure fire, cyclone, storm, and earthquake operational response. A lot of progress has been and is being made in revising existing practices, equipment, and training, as well as developing future control measures to reduce the risk of fall injuries within DFES. Understandably, with such a large range of practices and height safety challenges integral to SES, FES, and FRS operational response, the PAT is focused on short-term quick action, medium-term planning and delivery of innovative systems, equipment, training, and practices, and longer term capability solutions for both metropolitan and country responses.

SES PAT members Andrew Treen (Melville Unit) and Anthony Jones (Wanneroo/Joondalup Unit) have led the way with support from DFES Natural Hazards District Officers, Adrian (Ado) De Kleer and Phil Bresser ESM. This SES sub-team has developed innovative solutions to improve upon and enhance the present Roof Safety System. The SES sub-team have provided and continue to provide ongoing subject matter expert (SME) support to the Fire and Rescue Service sub-team, and the PAT as a whole.

An Update on the Height Safety PAT was published on 29 June 2022 via Operational Circular 40/2022. This Update supersedes the earlier Operational Circular 94/2021.

In the immediate future, with the endorsement of the Operational Concepts recommended by the PAT for both SES/FES and FRS response by the Operational Service Delivery Committee (OSDC), the PAT can enter the "doing" Acquisition phase of identifying actual pieces of equipment, designing training packages, enhancing Doctrine, etc. Rollout for SES training, equipment, and practices is planned for 2023.

**Submitted by:**

**Steve Wickham, Height Safety PAT Executive Officer**



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### Bindoon Search

**Email sent by Senior Sergeant Patterson, Officer in Charge, Emergency Operations Unit, WA Police.**

"On behalf of Wheatbelt District Office, Emergency Operation Unit and the CHOULES family, please pass on my thanks and complements to your respective teams for a job well done. Searching well into the night for someone with advanced dementia and then backing up again at first light to assist with further search actions speaks volumes to the dedication and professionalism of your people. I'm pleased to report Mr CHOULES suffered no long term ill affects from his night lost in the bush and EOU are in discussions with his family about support services and safety plans to hopefully prevent Mr CHOULES from becoming lost again in the future. As always, the success of these searches is predicated on the assistance of SES volunteers for which we are extremely grateful."

**Email sent by Sergeant Clelland, Emergency Operations Coordinator, Emergency Operations Unit, WA:**

"Neville, as discussed can I please formally record Emergency Operations Unit and WAPF appreciation and gratitude for the assistance provided by DFES State Emergency Service Members in the urgent Land Search and Rescue for a 60 year old male, impacted by dementia.

As you are aware, WAPF was contacted in the late evening on Wednesday, 23rd February 2022 and advised Mr David Choules was missing on his rural property in Bindoon. Family members had searched for him from 3.00pm that afternoon, when he was last sighted on his veranda and contacted emergency services for assistance as it became dark. Mr Choules was reported by his family to be impacted by dementia to the point he is non verbal and that he would become easily confused and lost in the thick bush area. Wheatbelt Police subsequently commenced a Land Search and Rescue and advised EOU. Sergeant Gavin Baldock immediately identified the value of SES trained members for search operations and at about 8.00pm, obtained deployment authority from the DFES DOSS. 11 SES vehicles, with 40 personnel attended that evening, arriving in Bindoon to be briefed and deployed just after 10.00pm. These resources were

managed and directed by DFES District Officer Todd Pender and were integral in performing reflex tasking, such as track searches, points of interest searches and containment. These deployments were at short notice and are a credit to the organisational skills of DFES and a testament to the enthusiasm their SES members have for their role in LandSAR and a genuine desire to help the community as volunteers.

Planning for search actions for AM Thursday 24th February were undertaken by the Search Mission Controller, EOU Advisor and DFES District Officer and the joint decision was made to stand down the SES members at 12.30am on the 24th February. Several of those members were the available SES staff for the following morning and to allow for travel home, rest and redeployment, with a risk assessment for searchers, resulted in the incident management team making the decision for search actions to commence again at 8.00am that morning.

I took over as the EOU advisor for Thursday and on arriving at the FCV in Bindoon at 7.00am, was met with the DFES District Officer Todd Pender and the DFES Communications Truck set up at the forward command area. The SES teams began to arrive shortly after, with a total of 8 vehicles and 32 SES members, many of whom had worked the night before, deploying for the search. This was again a fantastic turnout, particularly given the predicted 40 degree temperatures. The SES members were briefed with some teams deployed in the search sectors before 8.00am. DFES District Officer Chris Kin-Maung completed a handover with District Officer Todd Pender and managed and directed his resources until the search was resolved, with Mr Choules being located by a neighbour at about 9.50am in bushland 700m from the place last seen, being his residence.

It cannot be understated what a valuable land search and rescue asset the DFES State Emergency Service is and how committed, enthusiastic and professional the SES members are. Could you please pass on our appreciation to DFES and SES, particularly to the Wanneroo, Bayswater, Belmont, Northshore SES Teams, DFES Communications Truck staff and DFES District Officers,



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### NSW Severe Weather Event

Submitted by Chereese Green, Gosnells SES, who deployed to NSW in March:

On Tuesday 8th March 2022 at about 1030hr, I was contacted to lead a team for an interstate deployment, leaving the Wednesday morning. I was asked to be available for a 1 – 3- 1 deployment to Queensland to relieve exhausted volunteers and to respond to RFA's with a possibility of some clean-up work in the region. The movement orders arrived by email and the most mentionable hazard was 'Eastern brown snakes in structures of homes (at head height).' I was tasked as the Team Leader of Team 3, joined by Warren & Bianka from Kalamunda SES and John from Melville SES.



Members of the WA Team at the Coraki SES Unit in NSW

On Wednesday 9th March at 0830hr all deployment volunteers met at the DFES training academy in Forrestfield, where we were farewelled by the DFES Commissioner & the Emergency Services Minister. By the time we had landed in Brisbane the tasking had changed, and we were now going to NSW. We all loaded up in a bus and travelled to Ballina NSW (home of the 'Big Prawn') where we left Team 4 for tasking. The rest of us arrived at our accommodation at Evens Head at 2145hrs (Perth Time) making it over 16 hours of travel. We were lucky enough to have self-contained cabins shared between two people.

**Thursday, Day 1** - We were tasked to the small town of Coraki. They received their major flood warning at 0900hrs (not impacting property) by 1700hrs they were rescuing residents from roof tops. The local SES unit were launching their flood boats from their unit driveway and 90% of the unit members watched as their own houses went under water whilst they were rescuing their neighbours & other residents of the town. At the height of the event Coraki was cut off from any outside help for 4 days,

the town was split into 3 islands and their evacuation centre was a small church that had over 1000 people staying there. We were collected by Dan the unit commander of Coraki SES, who drove us out to Coraki: a 45-minute drive along some very narrow back roads - the only southern access into town. Dan's only tasking was to put some 'orange' on the street. There were no outstanding tasks for the team to complete so they spent the day walking around and offering to help residents in their houses. This ranged from moving some boxes or furniture to the verge, pulling up carpet or nail tacks. I spent the afternoon in charge of the unit, where I took the unit duty phone and helped any members of the public that walked in.

**Friday, Day 2** - My team was joined by Team 2 in Coraki, again there were no outstanding tasks. The WA teams wanted to help the local unit members out at their houses. Team 2 helped at one member's house, where they helped moved some items on the verge, high pressure cleaned a shed & the garage. Team 3 spent the day at the Unit & Deputy Unit Commander's house helping them out. They helped by moving items out, high pressure cleaning the shed & moving a rainwater tank from a neighbouring property. By the time the team left Dan & Nancy's property the shed was all cleaned out & sanitised ready for the family to move back in.

**Saturday, Day 3** - Team 3 went back to Coraki, with still no outstanding tasks. We spent the day walking the streets having conversations with residents & listening to their stories, all residents were very appreciative & thankful when they had realised we had travel from Western Australia to do whatever we could to help. The day was finished off with organising supplies & delivering out to the helicopter. The afternoon was spent driving back to Brisbane, we were put up in the Pullman for the night before flying back to Perth on Sunday.

A big thank you goes to DO David Cowdell; he was always contactable by phone and supported the volunteers. We always had a full stomach, hot shower and a comfortable bed, the three most important things. It's also essential that we thank our families, employers and others as it is a big ask to allow us to travel to the other side of the country for 5 days at short notice. Even though we went over as Storm Damage & Chainsaw teams, we left Perth knowing that we should be prepared for a challenge, be flexible and be adaptable. For anyone nominating to be deployed in the future, remember that plans change. Remember the SES Mission: **To assist the community to cope with natural or man-made emergencies.**



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