



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

June 2021

Newsletter

From the President

Hello to all SES Volunteers,

I also welcome our elected members of State, Local Government, and community based organisations.

Again, it's a pleasure to write to everyone on the back of an extremely busy and active time for many of you.

It would be remiss of me not to again say thank you for the service you have provided to our communities in Western Australia. Your SES leadership in serving communities is welcomed with enthusiasm and pride.

The pride that is shared by many high-profile government and elected community representatives, not only in WA and is an acknowledgement of many jobs well done. I know we will hear more about this in the future.

Whilst you have been busy with our communities, your SES Volunteers Association has maintained its commitment to you through its advocacy. Some of the broader questions for you in the immediate month are:

- △ The WAFES Conference has been confirmed to be on the 10th and 11th Sept 2021. This will be held at Crown Burswood again. The question for all SES Units and your members is in an SES stream of activities, what do you want to see, hear and experience over a possible 5-hour period? ASAP, please send your feedback to Bella at: sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au
- △ WOW Day 2021 planning has commenced immediately following this year's WOW Day. Again, we would love to hear your feedback on the activities conducted by yourselves this year, recognition in your local communities and your thoughts on the support from DFES. Please also send this to Bella at: sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au
- △ SES Volunteers Association Elections.
Notice of elections for Executive and Committee members are to be sent shortly to units. This is an opportunity to make that extra difference in working for SES Volunteers in your region.

The commitment that is required of you as a nominee would be:

- You need to be a current and active SES Volunteer.
- A willingness to contact your regions unit management to discuss points that have developed from member units, DFES and Local Government. This can be as frequently as monthly by phone, Zoom, MS Teams or face to face.
- In a record of discussion, report back to the Association the thoughts and direction required by the members from that consultation. Remember, consultation is not telling the members what they are going to do. We are asking member units what their direction is and then advocating that on their behalf.
- Attend Committee meetings as required, generally every two months by Zoom meeting. There are other meetings conducted where we have guest speakers from our industry leaders that provide higher levels of information, knowledge greater situation awareness for your leadership role. This is to provide personal growth for you.



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From the President - cont'd

- This is an enjoyable role that requires the willingness to work for others, this being the SES Units, so doing things just for yourself is not part of who you are.

The Association strives for outstanding relationships with all, but we do understand that there will be occasions where the mature need to agree to disagree. We do work on together from those bumps in the road. The greater good is our vision and aim.

I was privileged to recently to attend the City of Bayswater, Freedom of the City ceremony for the Bayswater SES Unit.

The City of Bayswater is enormously proud that it is the only Local Government in Western Australia that has provided its community State Emergency Service with this honour. Indeed, the elected members led by Councilor and Mayor Mr. Dan Bull, spoke with great respect for the traditional custodians of this land in their native tung. This was followed by a glowing response to the dedication and resolve to the broader communities from the Bayswater SES Units membership.

This was followed by a wonderful speech by the Minister of Emergency Services, Hon Reece Whitby MLA. Indeed, the Minister spoke from a position of volunteering knowledge and a passion to learn about the offer that the SES Units across the state bring to the community. We say thank you and I know we can look forward to great partnership that brings a fresh outlook to the management of natural hazards in the WA.

Acting Commissioner Mr. Craig Waters represented DFES, and I must say that Craig is looking much better after undertaking a fitness program. This has him looking much more aerodynamic and feeling healthier I am certain. Something I know Craig is immensely proud of and is an example to us all. Good news for us all. Keep up the good work in achieving great things for yourself and the SES.

I would like to thank the Bayswater Unit and its Manager Mr. Alan Hawke for extending an invitation to attend this prestigious event. It was a great place to be, and we continued to enjoy discussions at a short afternoon tea in a City reception room.

Whilst there could be many more things I could discuss; this is time to leave those for the next newsletter. They will remain relevant. Until then, shine in Amber Eclipse of Orange.

Happy days to you and your loved ones.

Greg Cook
President

FROM YOUR TEAM AT THE SESVA

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Emergency Services Radio Network

Update#1 18 May 2021

- ESRN are providing 1100 Hand Held Radios (HHR) and 400 Mobile radios of current functionality to enable radio stocks to be maintained whilst a new P25 trunked digital radio network is built
- According to the Basis of Allocation of Operational Radios SAP, DFES has a responsibility to provide an estimated 5100 HHR in total leaving an additional 4000 HHR to be funded by DFES
- Radio contracts are being established under the ESRN. This will result in a panel contract for our HHR and Mobile radio requirements for both now and when we use the ESRN
- PAT members are represented on the selection panels
- Tender assessment is beginning on 24/5/21 and will be completed by the end of July
- Contracts will be awarded in October 2021
- There will be an opportunity to trial short listed radio models
- Training may be based on a NUCOM type approach given the remit is for an easy to use radio. This could mean an online video, some user guides and a brief online assessment plus some sort of bulk handover presentation at a regional level. To be determined with consultation
- In addition the ESRN team are working on utilising WAPol Microwave backhaul links to carry our radio signals into ComCen. This will provide dual redundancy and an increase in reliability over our current single UHF backhaul links



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Civil Defence and SES

As you may be aware, the SES takes its formation roots from the Civil Defence Organisation created during World War II.

It is interesting to see how little has changed over the years - natural disasters still create major catastrophes, and it is Volunteers who respond in the largest numbers.

Below is excerpt for the Australian Civil Defence Handbook- General Information. Directorate of Civil Defence-1972.

THE CONCEPT OF CIVIL DEFENCE

1.01. The concept of Civil Defense is well proven. Throughout the world it has stood the test of war and emergency. It has shown its effectiveness both at local community level and on a national scale. It is basically a voluntary organisation in which the people join with Government to provide a community service to help all citizens in times of emergency.

1.02. Its aim, which to all intents and purposes is common to all countries of the world, may be defined as follows:

To provide for coordinated, efficient and prompt use of all available resources in the event of an enemy attack or natural disaster, in order to reduce to a minimum loss of life, damage to property and interruption to the national effort.

1.03. The danger of an enemy attack on Australia at the present time is remote. However, international situations seldom stand still; they are subject to constant change. Thus, in the interests of national security it is wise to maintain a measure of preparedness. This is particularly so nowadays when the preparations required to meet an attack from modern weapons cannot be completed quickly. It is for this reason that Australia has adopted a conscious policy of steady but sound progress in the Civil Defense field.

1.04. But war is not the only eventuality against which we must plan. Year in, year out, our country is subjected to the ravages of natural disasters such as floods, fires, cyclones, local accidents and sometimes even earthquakes.

Civil Defence and SES cont'd

These natural disasters almost invariably take their toll of life, property and national resources. The costs involved frequently run into millions of dollars. We cannot afford this loss to the nation, especially when the plans and preparations of an effective Civil Defense organization (coordinated with those of other agencies) can do so much in terms of protection and mitigation. Indeed, over recent years the Civil Defense Services which are now spread throughout the districts, shires and municipalities of the nation have more than proved their worth. Given the continued support of good citizens, they will go on doing so.

1.05. However, the effectiveness of Civil Defense cannot be maintained without considerable application and effort. For one thing, the precise problem which Civil Defense may have to face at any given time, either in natural disaster or war, is extremely difficult to define. For another, the scale of damage, destruction and casualties involved may range from something which is manageable in everyday terms to something which is nationally catastrophic. It follows that the organisation must be adaptable and resilient, which in turn demands that its development should be based on strong and clear principles.

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.



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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

SESVA Elections

This is the time of the year when the SESVA election process begins.

Every Unit Management Team has been sent the documents for this year's elections.

Please nominate if your region has a Regional Representative vacancy, or for the Executive positions.

The documentation show the nomination process, and if more than one person nominates for a position an election is held.

Keep your region informed - ensure it has a representative on the SESVA Management Committee.

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.

Merchandise

WINTER IS HERE!!

New Stock coming, the SESVA is getting closer to releasing some winter woolies.

We are in the final stages of some custom artwork for Beanies and Scarfs and are working on a Hoodie.

Price will be approx

Beanies- \$15.00

Scarf-\$20.00

Hoodie- \$55-\$60.00

Please remember these items are NOT PPE.

Once artwork and pricing is confirmed we will let you know ASAP.

Don't forget we have presentation plaques and other items for purchase see the SESVA website or **contact Bella in our Office 0499 619 287**

Country Unit Visits

Your President is working in his "Day Job" in the southern part of the state over the next month or so.

During this time he is endeavouring to meet every SES Local Manager in the southern regions for an informal chat.

Also, at this time the Secretary is in the northern part of the state, and he is endeavouring to meet all Local Managers in that part of the state.

This is the first time the SESVA has been able to endeavour to meet all country Local Managers on a one on one basis in a year- something we hope to continue in future years.