



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### FOUND!

Quiet smiles, a lot of hugs, a few tears and satisfaction in the quest of achieving our goals. How the life of a three year old boy in the south west has further galvanised the SES members is a simple fact;

We all have an emotional attachment to the volunteering we so freely give - day in and day out. No matter what your individual role is, you matter in the discharge of our community based functions.

I don't know about you but I followed with an intense interest the search for Jimmy, and waited for a positive result based on a combination of community members efforts. We were rewarded by Jimmy being located and acknowledge that a family member did find Jimmy, thank goodness !

The greatest sense of achievement for all of us, I believe, is the satisfaction we feel in the end result we achieve from whatever mission we accept. We do give our best to ensure our respective communities are safer on our watch.

Regularly I refer to the word "community". But what is a community? What does yours look like? Are they all the same? That's for you to analyse, but the communities I have lived in are generally all different. They all have similar needs but are still slightly different. I think you know that already, you live in and are part of one.

Community can be described as:

*Meaning of community in English (extract-Oxford Dictionary)*

"A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common."

- 1 A group of people living together and practising common ownership.  
'a community of nuns'
- 2 A particular area or place considered together with its inhabitants.  
'a rural community'
- 3 A body of nations or states unified by common interests in names  
'the European Community'
- 4 The community, the people of a district or country considered collectively, especially in the context of social values and responsibilities; society.  
'preparing prisoners for life back in the community'
- 5 As modifier denoting a worker or resource designed to serve the people of a particular area.  
'community health services'

It can be complex so to effectively manage community needs, we the SES, have volunteer local units and managers, and are locally placed, to live and feel our community. I think you will agree that managing this form of needs from a distance has many risks.

Thank you for what you do in your local community and we are so much better off because you made a choice to join the orange family. We do stretch state and nation wide but your heart is a local within your community.

Take care , Kind Regards *Greg Cook*  
President

### FROM YOUR TEAM AT THE SESVA

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## MANDURAH SES

Since 2017, we (the Mandurah SES) have been in our new unit which has become highly beneficial to us, not just for call outs, but for community engagement and recruitment.

With larger rooms for operations, training, and welfare, and a bigger shed for our vehicles, it has developed to be a valuable asset for the Unit, when attending multiple call outs and hosting community events.

We had our first Open Day at our new unit in 2018, followed by a smaller one last year (2019), which helped promote our Unit and gave us a chance to engage with our local community. Other community events that we regularly do and participate in, to promote our Unit, include: attending other local BGU's Open Day's/Events, doing sausage sizzles at our local Bunnings, and school talks either at our Unit or at the school.

Our unit, unknowingly, also gets promoted when we do training and courses out in the community, such as practice USAR searches and storm damage courses.

This year as seen a different start to promoting our Unit, due to COVID-19, with no face-to-face engagement with our local community until only a month or so ago, when we did our first Bunnings sausage sizzle for the year. However, we do promote our Unit in a different way, that being with call outs due to major storms throughout the Autumn and Winter seasons.

Four members spent a few hours completing a job whereby a whole wall-length window, on a two-storey house, smashed due to gale force winds. Whilst working through the job, the local media attended and filmed our members completing the job, which was then broadcasted in the news.

This was then followed up the next day in a recognition and appreciation news article that summarised not only the stormy weather, but all the work the Mandurah SES did, throughout the day and night, to help our local community.



## SES HISTORY

We must extend a big thank you to all the members past and present who have sent us all sorts of historical SES artifacts - pictures, documents, badges, clothing - the list is extremely long.

These items received are very varied, and are providing us with a huge understanding and picture of our formation from the 1950's.

Please keep sending us items, we can never have a full picture of our past, but all the items we are receiving helps build a huge picture.

By understanding the past helps us decide our future.

If you wish any original photographs, documents etc returned, just let us know and we more than happy to return them once we have scanned them.

## SES SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

The Simulation & Exercise Capability (S&EC) Unit at Belmont is facilitating a 12-month project to develop credible scenarios for Cyclone, Storm, Tsunami, Flood, Earthquake and Collapse, as well as the events of Land SAR and Marine SAR.

Commencing December 2020, working groups will be formed to develop these scenarios and a Project Manager (PM) will be established to lead this exciting project.

Experienced personnel within these events are required for the success of these working groups and end product.

Terms of Reference will be formalised as the project nears commencement, with the first matter to be identifying level of interest in involvement.

The S&EC Unit seeks an EOI from personnel across the state, addressed via email in the first instance to

[dosimcen@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:dosimcen@dfes.wa.gov.au).

## 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.*



## FACEBOOK SAFETY

The SESVA has received several calls from SES Units seeking clarification regarding the campaign being promoted by the WA State Emergency Service (unofficial) Facebook Page.

The Executive advises that SESVA is not involved in this campaign nor has it been consulted about its intent.

The link to the SESVA Unit details page on its website is causing confusion with some units giving the impression that the SESVA is promoting the campaign.

If your unit has received the email and you require information or clarification the SESVA recommends you contact the admins of the WA State Emergency Service (unofficial) Facebook Page.

We would also ask Volunteers to consider the security implications of advertising to the general public details of the equipment etc that each Unit has.

In the past several Units and other service facilities have had break ins and equipment stolen and damaged.

## FIELD TELEPHONES

On a recent visit to the Northam SES Unit the members kindly donated to the SESVA museum 4 field telephones, together with cable, and the cable dispenser rack. They also included the canvas cases for each telephone.

Field telephones are telephones mainly used by the military for communication from 1910 to the 1960's. They operate over wire lines strung directly between the telephones and generally draw power from their own battery - as is the case with these units.

The SES in WA used them in the 1960's.

Thank you Northam SES Volunteers for this extremely important donation to our museum.



## SCAMS

We would like to take this opportunity to remind SES Volunteers to be careful when exchanging personal information (or in fact any information) online or over the phone.

Scammers are getting increasingly sophisticated in their attempts to get your money or personal details. Scams target people of all backgrounds, ages and income levels, and there is no one group of people who are more likely to become a victim of a scam.

Scams succeed because they look like the real thing and catch you off guard when you're not expecting it.

Below are several ways of minimising risks when it comes to scams:

- ◀ Be alert to the fact that scams exist
- ◀ Know who you're dealing with
- ◀ Do not open suspicious texts, pop-up windows or click on links or attachments in emails – delete them
- ◀ Do not respond to phone calls about your computer asking for remote access – hang up
- ◀ Keep your personal details secure
- ◀ Keep your mobile devices and computers secure
- ◀ Choose your passwords carefully
- ◀ Review your privacy and security settings on social media
- ◀ Beware of any requests for your details or money
- ◀ Be wary of unusual payment requests
- ◀ Be careful when shopping online
- ◀ Be very careful what you share on social media

## GAITERS

A common complaint to us, as we tour the SES Units in WA, is concerning the new gaiters which have been issued.

The complaint is that they are too small and cannot be used by many members.

Please check the gaiters issued to your Unit, and ensure they are "fit for purpose".

Remember, they do come in 3 sizes and at this stage are a shared item - so not all will fit everyone.

If even the largest size issued is not suitable, please advise your DO and ask for some appropriate sized gaiters.

## MERCHANDISE

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

Just contact Bella at the SESVA office.



## MERREDIN UNIT

Since getting back into the swing of day to day activities, following COVID-19, we now look to the future and the wonderful weather, perfect for holidays and outback travels.

It is noted by the amount of vehicles towing caravans, camper vans and SUV's around the Wheatbelt that many West Australians are already in the travel / holiday mode. (What's to see in the Wheatbelt? Lots - have a look at the app "Wheatbelt Way")

So with the theme of outdoors, we in Merredin have taken the opportunity to head outdoors to refresh our skills, just in case we need to rescue others who may be stressed, due to venturing off the beaten track and getting stranded or lost.

Recently Merredin took the opportunity of the wonderful weather and conducted a training weekend in chainsaw, hydraulics skills and some vehicle recovery.



Team Members Charles and Danielle testing to see how good the lifting capacity is on the ram

We also welcomed a small team from Kalgoorlie Unit.

Also adding to this great weekend our SESVA President and SESVA Secretary called in to say hello,



Team Members Alan & Debra setting up the Hydraulic Pump

We extended an invitation for them to join us in the training but this was politely declined.

We'll accept their reply - "we're not dressed for the occasion".

## MEET YOUR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

### Region: Great Southern

Robert Boyes  
0427 999 304

sesva.greatsouthern@ses-wa.asn.au



Robert has been a member of the Albany SES unit for the last six years.

He has qualified in various areas including General Rescue, Storm Damage, Search Team member, USAR, Operations and Communications, Roof

Safety Systems, Water Bomber loader, Chainsaw Operator, All Terrain Utility (ATU) operator, 4x4 Driving and Recovery and tracking dog training to name a few.

His training has been augmented by extensive experience covering the multitude of SES disciplines which included six days involved in the Esperance fires of 2015, multiple searches and fires in the Stirling Ranges and ongoing callouts to incidents along the South Coast and Perongerup Ranges. He is in his fourth year as Regional Representative and is also a member of the Volunteers Advisory Council (VAC) as well as the General Rescue Utility PAT.

## VEHICLE LIVERY

After much discussion by the SESVA, SES vehicle livery is now going to be reviewed.

DFES have requested the SESVA conduct a survey to obtain your views on proposed new SES vehicle livery. In the next 4-6 weeks, once all the images are prepared, we will be advising you of the survey details.

We will be providing images of all the proposed suggestions and asking for your comments.

Your Regional Representative will be contacting your Unit to discuss the livery suggestions so please respond when the survey is released.

This survey is important as it is your chance to put forward your views and have a say in the livery on all SES vehicles in the future.



## TRUCK LICENCES

As DFES are reviewing trucks for SES use through the truck PAT, we asked the question of truck licences for SES Volunteers. The reply is quoted below:

"The LGGS manual states that each BGU is eligible to train 6 personnel to upgrade their class of licence where a need exists i.e. the BGU has a truck needing a licence above a normal car licence.

These costs are eligible within the current model. Additionally, if the number drops below the requirement at any time during the year due to a member with the class of licence leaving, that additional licences would be able to be acquired with the notification that a need had been determined.

If a BGU had more than one truck, to achieve minimum number, that 6 licences would apply to each vehicle rather than the BGU i.e. 2 trucks 12 licences.

ORD have advised that the new truck, which will be able to be driven on an LR licence, was a deliberate decision to ease the requirement for truck licences to be something more easily achievable.

There is no requirement for HR licences for these trucks.

30% is a reasonable approximation of volunteers numbers available at any particular time which is in a part where the current figure of 6 has been derived from, in that on average there would be at least 2 volunteers able to respond. Note that this applies to all BGUs, not just SES units where trucks are currently the exception rather than the norm.

It should be noted that this was recently increased from 4 to 6 due to a review that identified the need to increase this capacity.

It also isn't anticipated that any BGU would have only a truck available.

The truck is a progression where a unit has sufficient numbers in its profile to need an additional vehicle in addition to the GRU/s and trailer/s.

This would then ensure that if a crew were available they would at least be able to respond with a troop carrier / GRU and trailer and that only a secondary response would be affected.

If there are specific instances where units are having difficulty maintaining enough drivers, this is initially a discussion which should be had with their District Officer.

DOs can assist by corresponding with the ESL branch to develop a plan to support the specific location."

## LEADERSHIP

The most pernicious half-truth about leadership is that it's just a matter of charisma and vision- you either have it or you don't. The fact of the matter is that leadership skills are not innate. They can be acquired and honed. But first you have to appreciate how they differ from management skills.

Management is about coping with complexity: it brings order and predictability to a situation. But that's no longer enough. To succeed in our SES organisation, we must be able to change.

Leadership then is about learning to cope with rapid change.

- Management involves planning and budgeting. Leadership involves setting your Unit direction.
- Management involves organising and staffing. Leadership involves aligning your members.
- Management provides control and solves problems. Leadership provides Unit motivation.

If we start removing some of the management mechanism's, for example you unit budget or finance, then planning becomes much harder as the destination in the unit journey can not be planned in your local community.

## SES UTES

The proposed new utes are currently being trialed around the state.

Trials in the metropolitan area have been completed and the utes are now being trialed by country Units.

Please ensure when your Unit reviews the utes suitability for SES use you accurately complete the review documents.

This is our chance to finally get a vehicle which is fit for purpose.

## 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 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](mailto:sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au)), and advise your details.