



# SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

## AUGUST 2022

# NEWSLETTER

### *From the President*

Welcome to the August edition of the SES Volunteers Association Newsletter. At the end of July and beginning of August SES unit volunteers have been busy meeting the needs of our communities during wide spread Storms. Thank you for the sleepless days and nights; your work never goes unappreciated.

There are three main topics to share briefly with you.

1. Exercise FAULTLINE sees the return of the National Disaster Rescue Challenge to WA. Teams from across Australia WA will in Perth in October, including a team of SES volunteers from WA. See page 2 for more information.
2. The Combined Emergency Services Legislation Workshop was held on Saturday 9 July at the Cottesloe Town Hall. We had 44 SES Volunteer attendees from around the state of Western Australia listening to Dr Michael Eburn provide a brief on what legislation is in place in other states and territories of Australia and Mr Craig Masarei explaining the Parliamentary Westminster System in WA. Read on further in the newsletter for details.

I would describe this day as laying an open foundation for Unit Managers and leaders to embrace ownership and take this back to SES Unit Members for consultation. A follow up paper will be sent to each Unit that will describe the options and elements that are open for us to choose as a base platform in the formal correspondence to be sent to Government on the combined wishes of SES volunteers and their communities. I do also clearly understand that we do represent a position that is greater than 50% of the membership as we are advocates in democracy. It's your choice, I hope you do participate in our discussions for the health of the functional SES into the future. We are talking a period of 20 years and beyond.

3. Please also note that your SES Volunteers Association AGM is being held at on 11th September at Burswood. That's the Sunday after the WAFES conference and of course the morning after the Awards function. Please ensure that each unit has an authorized proxy to attend. This is after all your Association. Have your say in its leadership. We will allow for a Q&A session of up to one hour after the formal meeting to answer as many questions as possible.

The last two years have been a great experience in opening up the workings of the Association. Thank you all and I look forward to seeing many of you at the VA exercises in August and September, and of course at the WAFES Conference.

*Best regards, Greg Cook*

## SESVA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**9am Sunday 11th September 2022**

**Studio 2, Crown Perth**

**Great Eastern Hwy, Burswood**

Your delegate nomination form  
is on the back page of this Newsletter



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# **NEWSLETTER**



**We're excited to confirm that Western Australia will host the  
National Disaster Rescue Challenge (NDRC)  
over the weekend of 22 and 23 October 2022**

**Exercise Faultline will be held in Kings Park and SES teams from all States and Territories have been invited to attend.**

This is the first time since 2007 that WA has hosted the event. WA will be represented by a Metropolitan team who are hard at work training.

A team of volunteers and staff are busy planning rescue scenarios and stands to showcase the SES, DFES and our state.

There will be further opportunities to be part of the NDRC available to volunteers by assisting with roles such as Casualties, Assistants, and Judges. These will be called for soon via circulars and the Volunteer Hub.

There will also be opportunities to spectate during the weekend and we encourage everyone to come and see the teams at work. Enquiries [NDRCWA@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:NDRCWA@dfes.wa.gov.au)



**WA National Disaster Rescue Challenge Team  
Tasmania 2017**



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## Local Managers Workshop – preparing for the Legislation Review

A lot of positive feedback has been received by Local Managers and leaders from SES units who attended the Workshop at Cottesloe on 9th July.

In opening the Workshop, Greg highlighted the importance of taking this opportunity for consultation and discussion to develop a collaborative position before the government Green Paper is developed in relation to the consolidation of the three Emergency Services Acts.

The culmination of the workshop findings, ongoing consultation and further research into options that support a reset of the of the current legislation will empower the SESVA to represent SES volunteers in WA at this crucial juncture.



Dr Michael Eburn addresses Workshop attendees

The process being followed is one that respects the SES Volunteers and their requirements into the future. Most importantly, the discussion enables the sharing of information with each other so as to make the best decision on behalf of the SES Volunteers.

Associate Professor Dr Michael Eburn was guest presenter and workshop facilitator. Michael is the leading Australian researcher in the area of emergency services and emergency management and law. Michael's initial observations in relation to the legislation included:

- *Not to make it worse than the current provisions.*
- *That SES is not expected to 'stop a flood or storm', as opposed to 'stopping a fire'.*
- *SES personnel are all volunteers; there are no paid staff.*
- *There is no need for Units to be incorporated (refers to the current Act, 37.1. )*

Michael provided an overview of the different emergency services legislative arrangements in place for Victoria, NSW and Queensland for participants to gain an understanding of the approach taken on the east coast of mainland Australia.

Mr Craig Masarei, former Chief Legal Officer with Water Corporation, is assisting the SESVA with the legislative process.

Craig has a long standing association with State legislation and the law in WA and provided a summary of what to expect:

- *Three Acts to be consolidated—WA Fire Brigades Act 1942, WA Bush Fires Act 1952 & Fire & Emergency Services Act 1998.*
- *Need to lobby for what SES Units want to see included in the GREEN PAPER.*
- *SES Brand is powerful — ORANGE.*
- *Need to 'cherry pick' from the Recommendations of previous reviews—2006, 2011, 2014, 2016 etc.*
- *Decide if Local Government involvement is to be retained.*
- *Retain independence and the ability to fundraise.*

After lunch, all attendees were given the opportunity to work in groups to address three key questions; **what do we do well;** **what could we do better;** and **what do we want, as a first grab, with the new legislation?** Your VA is preparing the findings and possible options to share with SES Units. For more information contact President Greg Cook [sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au)



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**In 2022 the SESVA re-initiated an SES Regional Exercise program, starting with two events; one in the north and one in the south of the state.**

Regional Exercises have been a proud tradition of the WA State Emergency Service. These exercises offered SES Volunteers the opportunity to develop skills, self-direction and discovering new tricks and tools to assist them to be better prepared to defend and assist their local communities in their role as emergency responders.

Regional Exercises were an occasion for SES Volunteers to get to know each other and build camaraderie, as well as getting to know potential operational areas different to their local area of responsibility. The absence of these valuable exercises has been keenly felt and we're sure they'll be welcomed back.

For more information on the SES Regional Exercises, contact Greg Cook, Steve Cable or Kerry Keys.

**REGIONAL EXERCISE**  
**Midwest Gascoyne**  
**13 and 14 August, 2022**

**Steve Cable**  
**0417 994 277**

**REGIONAL EXERCISE**  
**Upper Great Southern**  
**17 and 18 September, 2022**

**Kerry Keys**  
**0413 967 425**



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## Karijini National Park chasms a challenge for Tom Price SES Volunteers undertaking rescues

EXTRACT FROM ABC Pilbara News website—posted 22 June 2022

The Tom Price State Emergency Service carried out ten rescues during 2021, mostly in the national park.

Western Australia's Karijini National Park is famous for its steep chasms and deep gorges formed over 2.5 billions, but its spectacular gorge environment can also be treacherous. When something goes wrong, it is often State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers from the nearby town of Tom Price who carry out the challenging rescues—sometimes in extreme weather conditions.

Vertical rescue volunteer Simon Davidson has been with the Tom Price SES for 13 years, carrying out more than 100 rescues as a team leader. In 2019 Simon Davidson was recognised with the Peter Keillor Award for his work leading land searches in extreme heat conditions and highly technical gorge rescues.

Most rescues, he said, were for people who had fallen from height, been bitten by a snake, or struck by rockfall. Dozens of people from Tom Price, at town of about 3,000 people, would head out to Karijini to help.

"When there is a rescue on, everyone's involved," Mr Davidson said.

Emergency service volunteers in the small town of Tom Price are heavily involve in any rescues that occur in Karijini National Park. A rescue operation can involve the SES, park rangers, St John Ambulance, police, the fire brigade and the Fire and Rescue Service, depending on the situation.

"Everyone wears their uniform but everyone's part of the same team, which is a great thing, which you don't often see, and we're really proud of that environment," Mr Davidson said.



Simon Davidson, Sue Davies, Nicole Kelly of Tom Price SES  
(Image courtesy of ABC Pilbara: Samantha Goerling)



Tom Price and Newman SES volunteers take nearly eight hours to rescue a hiker from Hancock Gorge.  
(Image supplied by DFES)



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23 new work, health and safety codes of practice have been approved by the Minister for Industrial Relations . They came into effect on Friday 15 July 2022. These codes, developed through consultation with unions and employer organisations, will help you understand what you need to do to comply with specific regulations and provide a healthy and safe workplace. Codes of practice do not replace the law. Of note for WA local governments are the following which have now been approved:

**EXTRACTED FROM  
WORKPLACE AND SAFETY CIRCULAR, PUBLISHED BY THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSURANCE SCHEME (LGIS) OF WA**



- Construction work
- First aid in the workplace
- Hazardous manual tasks
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Managing hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls in the workplace
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- Occupational safety and health in WA public sector
- Psychosocial hazards in the workplace 2022
- Violence and aggression at work 2022
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Workplace behaviour 2022

Visit the [WorkSafe website](https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/approved-codes-practice) to read all of the codes of practice.  
(<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/approved-codes-practice> )

## SESVA APPAREL—WINTER ESSENTIALS



Cable Knit acrylic scarf \$20.00



Knitted acrylic beanie \$20.00



Massive 130 cm dia. SES WA 'golf' umbrella—\$34.00



Super warm fleecy Hoodie—\$55.00

**Winter Special : Buy 1 scarf & 1 beanie - \$30**



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## UPDATED: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CODES FOR ROAD WORK

**EXTRACT OF A CIRCULAR PUBLISHED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
INSURANCE SCHEME (LGIS) OF WA**

Main Roads WA have updated the *Traffic management for works on roads code of practice* (May 2022). This will have implications for all local governments so you should make sure that you're aware of the changes and what it means for your local government.

The SES Volunteers Association through LGIS has taken a close look at the changes and found five broad areas where local governments need to review their traffic management practices. For some there may also be a need to invest in new equipment to meet the new standards, resulting in budget implications.



**NOTE: SES VOLUNTEERS DON'T UNDERTAKE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT UNLESS DIRECTED BY AN AUTHORISED OFFICER.**

- Safety buffers:** a detailed risk assessment should be undertaken to determine if safety buffers may be used within the work area speed limit.
- No manual traffic control:** As of 1 July 2022, manual traffic control (i.e. with Stop-Slow bats) will no longer be permitted on Main Road's roads unless the requirements are within the defined exemption list. Local governments and their contractors will be required to move towards the use of portable traffic devices (PTCDs) where possible. It should be noted that it is intended to have PTCDs as the preferred method of traffic control on all roads in WA by early 2023.
- Use shadow vehicles for workers on foot:** There is now a requirement for the use of "Shadow Vehicles" to protect workers on foot (when not protected by road safety barriers) in certain situations as defined by the Code.
- Shadow vehicle may be required for TTM:** There are now increased requirements for temporary traffic management (TTM) implementation, operation and removal processes that require the use of shadow vehicle as part of the process.
- Mandated early 2023** Main Roads will look to mandate the use of relevant signs on Main Roads projects in early 2023. Local governments and their contractors will need to review the requirements for use.

More information is available on the Main Roads website: *Traffic management for works on roads code of practice*.

**A big thanks to  
Grill'd Healthy  
Burgers Ascot for  
their fundraising  
support of the  
SESVA**



**Grill'd Ascot Store  
Manager Reece**

**Grill'd Ascot  
Great Eastern Hwy  
Belmont**



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**SES VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION of WA (Inc)**  
**MEMBER DELEGATE FORM**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**09:00am Studio 2, Crown Perth, Burswood**  
**SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2022**

*Please complete Unit email address details to ensure your Unit can be contacted*

UNIT NAME	
SES REGION	
UNIT POSTAL ADDRESS	
UNIT EMAIL ADDRESS	
NAME OF MEMBER DELEGATE	
POSTAL ADDRESS OF MEMBER DELEGATE	
PHONE	MOBILE
EMAIL ADDRESS	
SIGNATURE	DATE
UNIT AUTHORISING OFFICER	
NAME	
POSITION	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
SIGNATURE	DATE

Do you wish to receive the Zoom Meeting Link to attend the AGM: YES / NO

If YES please advise Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Completed forms must be returned by close of business on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Please return via email, marked; **Attention SESVA Returning Officer**

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

***Returning forms to any other email address may result in  
the form not being received by the Returning Officer in time.***