

LATEST NEWS



Read about what we have been up to recently in our latest Newsletter.

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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FEATURES:

Awards & Recognition

This month we're honouring our SES volunteer award recipients in an Awards & Recognition section

AFAC 2025

Supercharged WAFES Conference
Perth 26-29 August 2025

Scam Alert

SES targeted

SES a proud heritage

30 Years ago – TC Bobby flooding



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From the President

Hi to you as we all recover from the festive time of year. Yes, it's even back-to-school time. Your WA SES Volunteers Association and its business has been travelling, listening, and shaping up for a busy 2025.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge in our newsletter the recent passing of Julian Yates. For members who have been in the SES service a little longer, we remember Julian as a past Executive Director of the WASES when it was its own organisation. Julian still had orange in his heart serving as an SES Volunteer in the ACT. He passed from a heart attack whilst recreationally hiking. RIP.



As a statewide emergency service, SES Volunteers pack up and travel great distances to help our communities. I was privileged to recently welcome a deployment flying into Port Hedland heading on their way to assist the Marble Bar community from a storm event. I know we spun a little humour in saying we arrived just to welcome everyone, but it was pure luck that three SESVA committee members were at the Port Hedland SES unit doing a unit visit and hosting a unit BBQ for members that evening. It gave us an opportunity for some banter and I trust all were in good spirits and ready for the task.

2025 is going to be a busy one for the SESVA. New legislation is coming and the WA state and national elections are both in the first half of the year.

Also, note the WAFES / AFAC Conference is in the last week of August this year with the WAFES Awards Dinner on Friday night not Saturday as done in past years.

Nominations are now open for the WAFES Awards. Please recognise your outstanding unit colleagues by nominating them across the three categories:

- The individual member – the Prestigious Peter Keillor Award
- Team Award for the best positive contribution to the SES and community
- Young Person Award, changed by DFES from the Youth Award. Think about our mutual future and recognise the fine efforts of those aged between 18 and 30.

Let's knock our socks off with an avalanche of great nominations, it is after all another way to say thanks.

Just to reinforce the SES message; all Units are open 24 hours, 7 days a week. We are here to help our communities when things get dangerous, and hardship is felt. I still get blown away by how much you contribute to your communities and still, I don't think you recognise the leadership you provide. The power of one is still great.

Stay Safe.

Greg Cook President, SES Volunteers Association

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DO YOU HAVE A GOOD NEWS SES STORY YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

We invite your contribution to the SESVA Newsletter. Please submit your article for the March Newsletter at latest by CoB 26 February 2025 to sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au



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Bernie McNamara SES Young Emerging Leaders Program

Applications close Friday 28 February

Young SES volunteers under the age of 30 can apply now to be considered for selection to participate in the National Memorial Service in Canberra on Thursday 01 May 2025.

The *Bernie McNamara SES Young Emerging Leaders (YEL) Program* has been established to support the development of young SES volunteers in WA. It is aligned with the National SES Volunteers Association YEL Program, in which young volunteers from all Australian jurisdictions join together at the Memorial Service each year. They also get the chance to meet the Governor-General and the Commissioners of emergency services from the other jurisdictions, among other interesting well organized activities.

SELECTION PROCESS

Apply for the YEL program using the supplied form for consideration by a selection panel appointed by the SESVA Management Committee.

Selection will be achievement-based using a fair and transparent process managed by the SESVA of WA.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are asked to provide a paragraph or two about themselves and write what they believe they can contribute as a Young SES volunteer to the SES Volunteers Association of WA and to their SES unit.

A supporting reference from the Local Manager of the applicant's SES unit must also accompany the application.

TIMINGS

- 28 February 2025 closing date for receipt of applications
- 14 March 2025 announcement of selected candidate(s) for the YEL program 2025
- 01 May 2025 AFAC National Memorial Service, Canberra

DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION FORM [HERE](#)

Submit applications by the close date to the SESVA Secretary sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au



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SES units respond to questionnaire - Bushfire Training for SES/VMRWA Personnel

The SES Volunteers Association recently sent an email to all units with access to an online questionnaire for completion and return by Monday 27th January. More than half of the SES units have responded at the time of publication.

Of the responses received so far, most units support replacing the *DFES0995 Bushfire Safety Awareness* course with the *DFES1055 Bushfire Fundamentals* course.

Most units also support the *introduction of a currency drill for Bushfire Support and Burnover Drill*.

Background

The SES Volunteers Association was approached by the Bushfire Centre of Excellence (BCoE) for comment on potential changes to the bushfire training product delivered to SES volunteers.

The BCoE provided the SESVA with a discussion paper for consideration which was shared to all units for consideration before responding.

The SESVA understands that the learning objectives for Bushfire Safety Awareness and Bushfire Fundamentals are largely similar, with Bushfire Fundamentals offering additional content on incident management—an area highly relevant to SES/Marine Rescue personnel's role in supporting major bushfire incidents.

The BCoE believes that Bushfire Fundamentals would be a more suitable course for SES/Marine Rescue personnel, particularly as it is available in both in-person and online formats, offering greater flexibility.

The SES Volunteers Association is committed to representing the views of its members to DFES. Thank you to all those units who responded; your position will be communicated to BCoE.

SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc) Management Committee Opportunities

**The Association is inviting expressions of interest from passionate, energetic
SES Volunteers to represent the units of the Kimberley region and
the Goldfields-Midlands region on the SESVA Management Committee**

Interested? Email a brief *expression of interest* to Allen sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

Or phone Allen Gale for a chat about the role — 0419 935 497

SES VOLUNTEER'S ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

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SESVA Raffle

Raffle #05 will be drawn Friday 28 February 2025.

Tickets are only \$2.00 for a chance to win a \$1,500 Coles/Myer Gift Card

Tickets can be purchased online nationalesvaraffle.org.au or by calling 1300 804 562.

Do you have family and friends who support SES volunteers? Ask them to purchase tickets.

What happens to the profits from ticket sales?

The profits from the sale of raffle tickets go to the SES Volunteers Association **in the state where the tickets were sold to support SES volunteers.**



Roundtable discussion with

VESPIIA

International Womens Day
Policy and Practice for Women in First Response

Tuesday 11 March 2025
0930 - 1230
The University Club
University of Western Australia



VESP//A

Tickets are now available for the 2025 VESPIIA International Women's Day Roundtable Event, **POLICY & PRACTICE FOR WOMEN IN FIRST RESPONSE**, in collaboration with the University of Western Australia Defence and Security Institute. The event offers an opportunity for female first responders to come together and discuss the policies and practices that impact them in their daily roles. It's a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue, advocate for policy improvements and help create a more inclusive and supportive environment for women in emergency services.

DATE: 11 MARCH 2025

TIME: 09:30—12:30

WHERE: THE UNIVERSITY CLUB, UNIVERSITY OF WA

TICKETS: [VIA THIS LINK](#)

MORNING TEA AND LUNCH INCLUDED

General Admission \$48.96

VESP//A is Australia's first full service professional body for the organisations and professionals supporting Veterans, Emergency Services, Police and their families.



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Think twice before you hit 'post' Review your social media etiquette

CONSIDER:

1. Using professional language

- Always maintain a professional tone in your posts and communications.
- This reflects well on both you and the SES.

2. Promoting Positivity

- Share positive news, achievements, and SES milestones.
- Positive content can boost morale and SES image.

3. Familiarising Yourself with WA SES policies and Expectations

- Adhere to your social media policy and Code of Conduct.
- This ensures you are aligned with Agency expectations.

4. Using Privacy Settings

- Adjust your privacy settings to control who see your posts.
- Protect your personal and professional information.

5. Engaging Thoughtfully

Engage in meaningful discussions related to your field.

AVOID:

1. Sharing Confidential Information

- Avoid posting any confidential or sensitive SES information.
- This could lead to security breaches, legal or misconduct issues.

2. Posting Inappropriate Content

- Steer clear of posting offensive or inappropriate material.
- Such content can damage your professional reputation and harm others.

3. Engaging in Negative Rants

- Avoid venting about the SES, the Agency, staff or SES members online.
- Negative posts can reflect poorly on you and the WA SES.

4. Mixing Personal and Professional

- Be mindful of what you share on your professional accounts that allow the creation or posting of social media content.
- Keep personal opinions and professional interactions separate.

5. Overusing

Set limits and boundaries for yourself. Limit the time you spend scrolling and take breaks from social media altogether.

Social media is an integral part of our lives, and is a fantastic way to enhance collaboration, connect and support each other. However, it's crucial to understand the boundaries to remain professional online and to uphold the values and standards of the WA SES.

Social Media Policy and Terms of Use Guidelines are designed to help us navigate the digital space effectively.

It is important that members of WA SES do not:

- post inappropriate content;
- make negative or unprofessional comments; or
- share confidential information as a post or comment, either publicly or in a private Facebook group.

If you have any concerns or issues about the use of social media, please consult your Local Manager in the first instance.



SES Volunteers Association of WA Inc. acknowledges the funding from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services that support the operation of the Association.

For further assistance or queries, please contact SESVA Secretary



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SCOREBOARD

Attendance at the Mandurah SES Awards and Recognition function Tuesday 04 December 2024 by SESVA President Greg Cook.

SESVA Executive Council and Management Committee members will visit SES units, especially the recognition events, when given the opportunity.

Attendance at the SESVA Executive Council meeting on 20 January by SESVA President Greg Cook, Vice President Alan Hawke, Vice President Leonie Briggs, Secretary Allen Gale and Treasurer Robbie Palmer

Regular eight-weekly online meeting of the Executive Council members to manage the day-to-day operations of the Association.

Visit to each of the Pilbara region SES units Thursday 23—Sunday 26 January SESVA President Greg Cook, Vice President Alan Hawke and Pilbara representative Trevor Patton .

Meet and greet with SES volunteers to engage and discuss matters affecting volunteers and to learn how the Association can be of assistance and opportunities to improve the Associations services.

Attendance at the Murray SES Awards and Recognition function Friday 17 January by SESVA President Greg Cook.

An SESVA Executive Council and Management Committee members will visit SES units, especially the recognition events, when given the opportunity.

Meeting with FES Commissioner on 07 January by SESVA President Greg Cook and Vice President Alan Hawke

Positive discussion on behalf of SES member units on matters of concern to both the SESVA and DFES, raise important issues that the Commissioner may not be aware of and update one another on important initiatives.

Representation on the WAFES/AFAC Committee by SESVA President Greg Cook

DFES and AFAC consultation with volunteer association representatives on the August Conference and Awards.



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Governor General's 2025 Australia Day Honours List Emergency Services Medal Recipients

Leonie Brigg's ESM

Leonie is an accomplished dog trainer who has been integral to the establishment of Western Australia's State Emergency Service (SES) Canine Unit. She has single handedly trained more than 30 dogs throughout the state since joining the unit 14 years ago. A natural-born leader, Leonie served as Local Manager and Deputy Local Manager for the unit between 2014 and 2023. Leonie has shown unwavering mental and physical grit, turning out at all hours to search for lost and missing people in challenging conditions. Leonie's achievements are outstanding, none so more than her tireless work behind the scenes to improve canine search-and-rescue capabilities across Australia. As a member of the Australian Council of Search and Rescue Dog Organisations, she has worked diligently over nearly a decade to develop the first national standards for search and rescue dogs, which will ensure a fair and consistent accreditation process for all canines and a significant step toward building confidence in the sector.



Ronald Davey ESM

Ronald is a highly respected State Emergency Service (SES) volunteer who has attended many complex and prolonged incidents over the past 37 years and has over 70 SES qualifications under his belt. Known to consistently put the needs of the community ahead of his own, Ronald stands out for his impressive deployment record and long list of credentials. After starting with Kalamunda SES in 1987, he quickly rose to Deputy Team Leader for well over a decade, then Team Leader and Section Leader before taking on his current position as a Duty Officer. In 2016 Ronald joined the Statewide Operational Response Division (SWORD) as a Deputy Manager/Training Manager for the SES Logistics Unit, assisting in large-scale emergencies across WA. Under his leadership the unit's membership lifted nearly tenfold. Ronald's outstanding commitment to emergency services has been recognized with life memberships for both SWORD SES Logistics Unit and the Kalamunda SES Unit.



Grant Pipe ESM

Grant has played a key role in keeping Western Australians safe during some of the State's worst natural disasters. His impressive 35-year career in emergency services started as a volunteer with Rockingham SES in 1990, where he fulfilled various leadership positions before being appointed Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) SES District Manager in 2007. Grant's dynamic and adaptable leadership style saw him promoted to DFES Regional Superintendent in the Kimberley in 2012. Grant achieved significant improvements to emergency preparedness and bushfire response and was instrumental in establishing the Kimberley Fire Working Group which saw key Kimberley stakeholders work collaboratively on mitigation and knowledge sharing including traditional burning techniques. Throughout his career Grant has displayed outstanding leadership during major incidents, such as record breaking floods. His strong relationships throughout the Kimberley were key to the successful delivery of services and support to isolated communities as well as efforts to rebuild vital infrastructure as the appointed State Recovery Coordinator. Grant Pipe is now back in Perth as Chief Supt Metro North.



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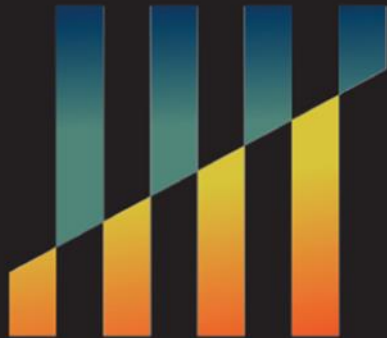


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WAFES AWARDS

2025

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

If you know a volunteer or DFES staff member who has shown exceptional dedication over the past 12 months and deserves recognition, nominate them today.

Nominations close
9am Monday 17 March

To find out more
Scan the QR code or visit dfes.wa.gov.au/wafesawards and download a copy of our nomination guide full of tips to help make your nomination stand out.

If you nominate a finalist, you also receive a free ticket to the 2025 WAFES Awards gala dinner.



The WAFES Awards are a fantastic opportunity to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of SES volunteers over the past 12 months.

Nominate an individual, young person or team today who has gone above and beyond the line of duty.

Successful nomination brings immediate benefits, with nominees invited to the WAFES Awards gala dinner to be held on Friday 29 August 2025.

Cash prizes are also up for grabs for volunteer finalists and winners.

To review the awards criteria and to submit a nomination, visit the [WAFES Awards Website](#).

NOMINATIONS CLOSE
MONDAY 17 MARCH
AT 9:00 AM

Need help writing a nomination?
Refer to the handy [NOMINATION GUIDE](#)
With handy tips and sample nominations.

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Volunteering WA is the peak body for volunteering in Western Australia, working across community, government, corporate and education organisations to build capacity of volunteer involving organisations, and support volunteering. Each year the WA Volunteer of the Year Awards

AWARD CATEGORIES

Excellence in Volunteer Management

Inclusive Volunteering Award

Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering

WA Young Volunteer of the Year

Corporate Volunteering Impact Award

Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year

RAC WA Volunteer of the Year

KEY DATES

28 February 2025
Nominations close

Late March, 2025
Finalists announced

May 2025
Ticket sales close (unless sold prior)

15 May 2025
Awards Gala Dinner

19-25 May 2025
National Volunteer Week

For more information about the Award categories and to lodge a nomination [CLICK HERE](#)



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SES Volunteer Award Recipients

MANJIMUP SES— Michael & Nick Vince

Manjimup SES congratulated Unit Manager Michael Vince and youngest operational member, Nick Vince, on their well deserved nominations in the Shire of Manjimup Australia Day Awards. Nick took out the award for the Youth Division. Pictured are Michael (L) and Vince (R)

Michael is not only Manjimup Unit Manager, but also a member of the South West/Lower South West Vertical Rescue Team and an active firefighter with Yanmah Volunteer Bushfire Brigade.

Nick is one of their most active members, putting in more hours than most to callouts and training. He too is a member of the South West/Lower South West Vertical Rescue Team and a fire-fighter with Manjimup Volunteer Fire and Rescue.

“We are proud to have them in our Orange family”.



BELMONT SES— Stuart Romero

City of Belmont celebrated the extraordinary contributions of individuals and groups, recognizing those whose volunteer efforts leave a lasting impact, fostering a stronger more connected community.

Stuart Romero was presented the Community Service Award for having dedicated over 23 years of service to the Belmont SES. He has participated in more than 500 callouts and leads a team of 45 volunteers. His leadership and innovation, including development of a computer program now used by 100+ SES groups has had a profound impact on both the local and broader community. Pictured centre is Stuart Romero flanked by Mayor Robert Rossi and Deputy Mayor Deborah Sessions.



ESPERANCE SES— Vertical Rescue Team

Four members of Esperance SES Vertical Rescue Team have been awarded Certificates of Appreciation for their extraordinary efforts in the recovery of a body at Cape Arid in March 2024. The challenging operation spanned six days and required exceptional skill, teamwork, and courage under perilous conditions. The team faced numerous dangers, including unpredictable ocean swells, gusty winds, and the precarious terrain. Nonetheless their dedication and professionalism prevailed, returning the body to the grieving family.

L-R: Supt. Wayne Green holding certificate for Matthew Summers, Kyle Lawrence, Stanley Halls, Michael Churchland.



Continued over page.



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SES Units Honour Their Volunteer Award Recipients cont'd

BASSENDEAN SES

The unit recently held its Rewards and Recognition Night to recognize the enormous efforts of its volunteers, acknowledging the Unit had put in over 4000 volunteer hours, over 1600 training hours and nearly 1300 hours operationally on active call outs. Of these, 535 hours had been put in by volunteers on deployment to regional and remote areas.

Various members were recognized for achieving years of service: Walter, 10 years; Bruce, National Medal for 15 years service; Dan and Jean, 20 years of service. Unfortunately, Jean pictured centre, chose to step down as she is unable to continue training.



MANDURAH SES—Chris Stickland

City of Mandurah 2025 announced its annual Community Awards during the City's Australia Day celebrations. Community Citizen of the Year was awarded to SES Local Manager, Chris Stickland. Chris became a member of the SES in 1986, and was appointed Local Manager in 2010. He was recognised for his strong advocacy for cadets and youth in emergency services and being instrumental in establishing the highly successful Mandurah Senior High School SES cadet program. Other Mandurah Unit award winners are Corey Wozencroft, 2025 Peel Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, and Alison Kew, 2025 Peel Volunteer of the Year Award. Pictured centre is Chris Stickland flanked by Caroline Knight and City of Mandurah Mayor Rhys Williams.



MURRAY SES

The unit held its Awards and Recognition Evening on 17 January to acknowledge SES volunteers who served their local communities in the Shires of Murray and Waroona in 2024. Life Membership was awarded to Ric Bank. Member of the Year, presented by Barbara Keillor, was awarded to Michael D'Rozario; pictured centre with Mrs Keillor, left. Michael also received the Training Achievement Award and award for the best 2024 team player. Encouragement Award recipient was Caitlin Bain. Awards for distinguished service to support operations were presented to Lisa Busittil JP and Trevor Johnson.



PINGELLY SES

The unit held their annual members dinner and Awards Night to end the 2024 training year. Local Manager Susan Heazlewood thanked the team for their excellent work, achievements and success, and presented the following awards.

- *Youth Achievement Award* Felicity Heazlewood.
- *Local Manager's Award* Michael Dowdell, Colen Hendriksen and Thibault Aussourd.

Certificates of Appreciation were also awarded to local organisations who have supported the Unit throughout the year.



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Karratha SES Recognises its volunteer members

Karratha SES held its Unit Awards Presentations in December. The night also signalled the end of an era, with longtime and much loved local Manager Trevor Patton handing the reins to Rob Graham, the new Local Manager who also received an Award for 15 years of dedication and as long-time Rescue Officer and Coordinator of the YES Cadets.



Supt. Daryl Ray and Trevor Patton hand the Local Manager epaulettes to Rob Graham



Rob Graham (L) with Trevor Patton

Other Unit members recognised for their service

Rosie Mines

16 years of Dedication
Current Training Manager, and longtime Vertical Rescue Team member.

Nick Sargeant

Members Choice Award
For always engaging during all training and volunteering to assist whenever he can despite actually living in Perth.

Matt Eardley

16 years of Dedication
Former Rescue Officer and long-time Deputy Rescue Officer

Marie Waterstrom

For all her hard work behind the scenes.

Sue O'Toole

For keeping the unit's finances in order.



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Trevor Patton Steps Back from Karratha SES Local Manager Role

Trevor Patton has been a member of the Karratha SES Unit since 1985, and the Local Manager from 2006 until December 2025. Trevor is a trainer/ assessor in almost every aspect of SES life. He has passed on his vast wealth of knowledge to hundreds of SES volunteers not just in Karratha, but also throughout the Pilbara and across the wider West Australian community.

Trevor has mentored so many volunteers and is a friend to all. The Karratha SES is lucky that he is not leaving the unit totally just yet. He has stepped back from the management functions and is enjoying some time as a regular volunteer while mentoring the new leadership team from behind the scenes.

Trevor has held various positions representing SES volunteers on regional and state groups over the years. He continues as a member of the Minister’s SES Volunteers Advisory Committee and is the Pilbara representative on the Management Committee for the SES Volunteers Association of WA, where he previously held the position of Vice President. Congratulations Trevor for your many years of dedicated service to the local Karratha community and enjoy being back on the front line where it all started 40 years ago.



Training Matters

Future of SES training in WA

Many of the unresolved issues reported to the SES Volunteers Association of WA are related directly to SES volunteer training. It is a subject that the current Minister has indicated a particular interest in.

Training has a significant impact on recruiting and retention, as well as meeting the community expectations when dealing with the threats and impacts of natural hazards.

The SESVA is developing a discussion paper to be distributed to SES unit managers in the very near future for information and consideration, along with an abstract for the AFAC Conference 25 based on training needs for volunteers as community champions.

The SESVA Management Committee will be seeking the views of its member units in relation to the current and potential future of SES training in Western Australia, with an emphasis on the influence of nationally recognised training and option(s) for improvement. Keep an eye out for the discussion paper; the SESVA is committed to representing the views of its members to DFES.



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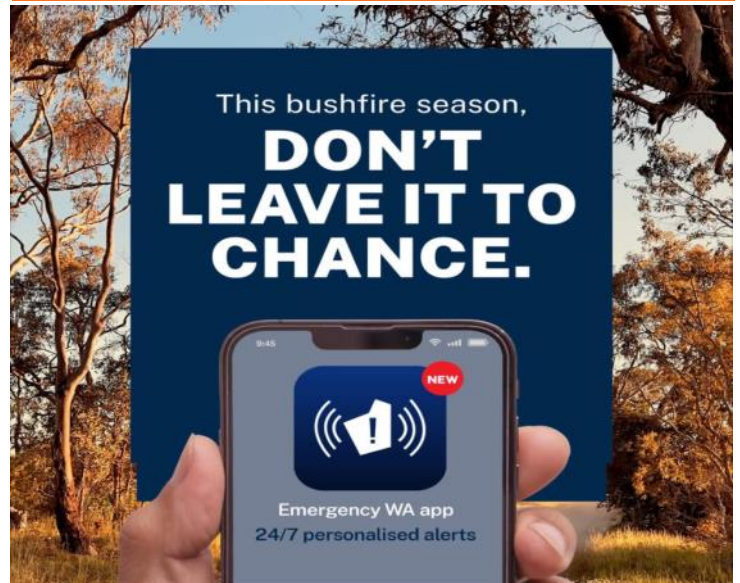
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The Next Gen Warnings Project has reached a major milestone with the launch of the Emergency WA app delivering the fastest and most reliable access to alerts and warnings for hazards across Western Australia.

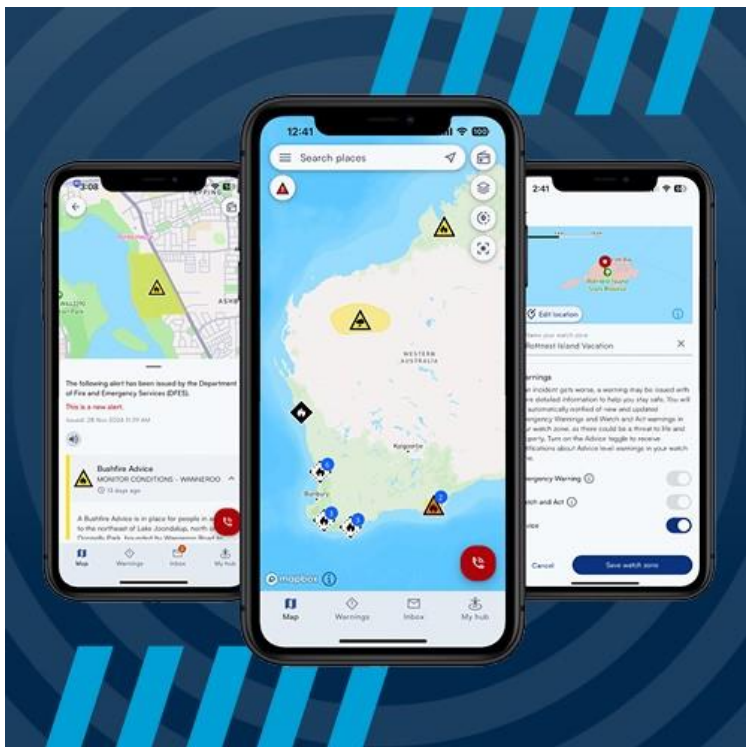
This powerful tool offers the fastest, most reliable access to alerts and warnings for hazards across Western Australia.

Learn how to set custom watch zones, personalise your notifications, upload important documents, listen to emergency broadcasts and more:

- [Emergency WA overview](#)
- [How to create a watch zone](#)
- [Visit the DFES website for more information](#)



Download the Emergency WA app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) to receive instant notifications about warnings, incidents, Total Fire Bans and elevated Fire Danger Ratings in your area.



Three mobile screens displaying the app:

- A warning
- map view and
- creating a watch zone

SES Volunteers: Explore the [toolkit](#) for resources to share with your community including posters, social media tiles and more.

Even more improvements are planned for Emergency WA in the near future to provide faster, more targeted and personalised emergency information than ever, including:

- Greater integration with in-home and wearable devices.
- The ability to create a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan across multiple hazards (replacing My Bushfire Plan).
- Automation of natural hazard alerts such as earthquakes.

For regular updates about the project, visit the Next Gen Warnings project page or if you have any questions, contact the DFES Public Information team.

Encourage your friends, family and community to download the app and empower them to make lifesaving decisions during incidents/emergencies.



Courtesy: Public Information Team statepublicinfo@dfes.wa.gov.au



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Rockingham-Kwinana SES Farewells Local Manager—David Catchlove

Members of the Rockingham-Kwinana SES Unit bid farewell to David Catchlove, the Unit's Manager for past three and a half years and a member of the SES for over 30 years. The Unit took pleasure in thanking David for his dedication to the SES and in particular to the Rockingham-Kwinana SES Unit.

One of David's last acts as Unit Manager was to be Santa Claus, handing out Christmas gifts to members of Rockingham – Kwinana Unit. Unit members wished David well in his future endeavours.



Members of Rockingham-Kwinana Unit congratulated Ian Renton on being appointed Acting Unit Manager, and look forward to working with Ian in 2025



SCAM ALERT

COLD CALL SOLICITING FOR ADVERTISING IN AN 'SES TRAINING DIRECTORY' IS BOGUS

The SESVA has been alerted to unsolicited scamming phone calls, purportedly selling advertising in an "SES Training Directory".

SES Units, members of the public and businesses have been targeted.

This scamming activity has been active over recent months. The callers are reported to have a North American accent, but are likely based in a South East Asian call centre.

The SESVA has reported this scam to Police and government agencies.

Please be alert to this scam and inform friends, colleagues and business associates.

All scamming attempts should be reported to Scamwatch.

More information on how to detect scams and how to report them is available on the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) website:

<https://www.acma.gov.au/avoiding-scams>



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2025 W-AFAC Conference - a supercharged WAFES Conference for Volunteers

Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th August 2025 – Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre

This is once in seven-year opportunity not to be missed.

This year DFES offers volunteers a unique opportunity to attend the W-AFAC Conference which will be a blend of all your favourite experiences from the WAFES Conference with the bonus of the national AFAC Conference and Exhibition. As always, the event will allow volunteers from across the State to come together to network and share ideas. A program of engaging content and experiences including tours, keynote speakers and presentations will enhance the knowledge and skills of those who attend. The W-AFAC Conference will include:

TUESDAY 26 AUGUST:

Exhibition opening and welcome event – think WAFES Conference sundowner, but bigger!

WEDNESDAY 27 AND THURSDAY 28 AUGUST:

AFAC conference program including access to the exhibition with demonstrations each day

FRIDAY 29 AUGUST:

The ever-popular DFES tours run during the day with the WAFES Awards gala dinner rounding out the week

To ensure the conference is relevant and informative for SES volunteers, please submit your ideas for program sessions, demonstrations and more to the Allen Gale via email sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au.

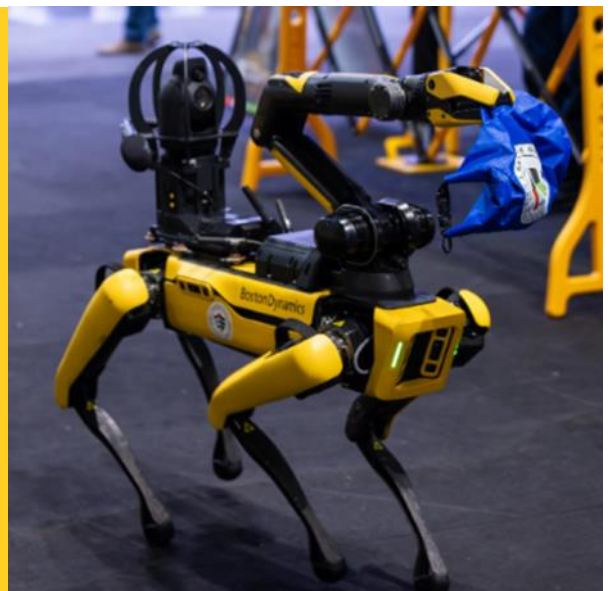
You can also use this link to [submit your ideas online](#) direct to organisers of the conference.

Information on how to register your interest to attend the 2025 W-AFAC Conference and WAFES Awards will be announced soon

AFAC25 exhibition is a world class showcase of national and international brands, latest best practice solutions for all first responder sectors who protect life and property every day.

Exhibitors span the following collaboration groups.

- Capability – Fleet, PPE, and Equipment.
- Workforce – WHS, people systems and learning and development.
- Community Risk Reduction – Risk reduction, mitigation strategies, warning systems, and risk management.
- Response Operations – Real-time operational decision systems, decision support, incident management, emerging technology, communication technology, drones, satellite imagery, GIS, field rigid redeployable infrastructure.
- Fire Safety – Building fire safety systems, building standards.





Walpole Search Training Exercise



On 7th December, SES Units from Bridgetown, Donnybrook, Manjimup and Nannup came early to Walpole and carried out a land and water search training exercise under the leadership of newly appointed Lower South West District Officer, Richard Bothe. Twenty five volunteers took part along with the flood boat craft from Nannup and Walpole's FB09.

All went well notwithstanding at times thick bush and some previously burnt out areas.

The on-water search utilised equipment such as Jason's Cradle. Sitreps were delivered with good communications to and from the Field Search control base within the town's Pioneer Park.

Teams returned for lunch at 1330 hours during which Richard delivered the de-brief.

In bush thick with blackberry Richard emphasised the need for lower leg protection, not to mention the probability of snakes. Some had lower protection and others that didn't learned a scratchy lesson!

It was a good day, with teams returning home mid afternoon.

Submitted by Peter Newton—Walpole SES Unit

LATEST NEWS



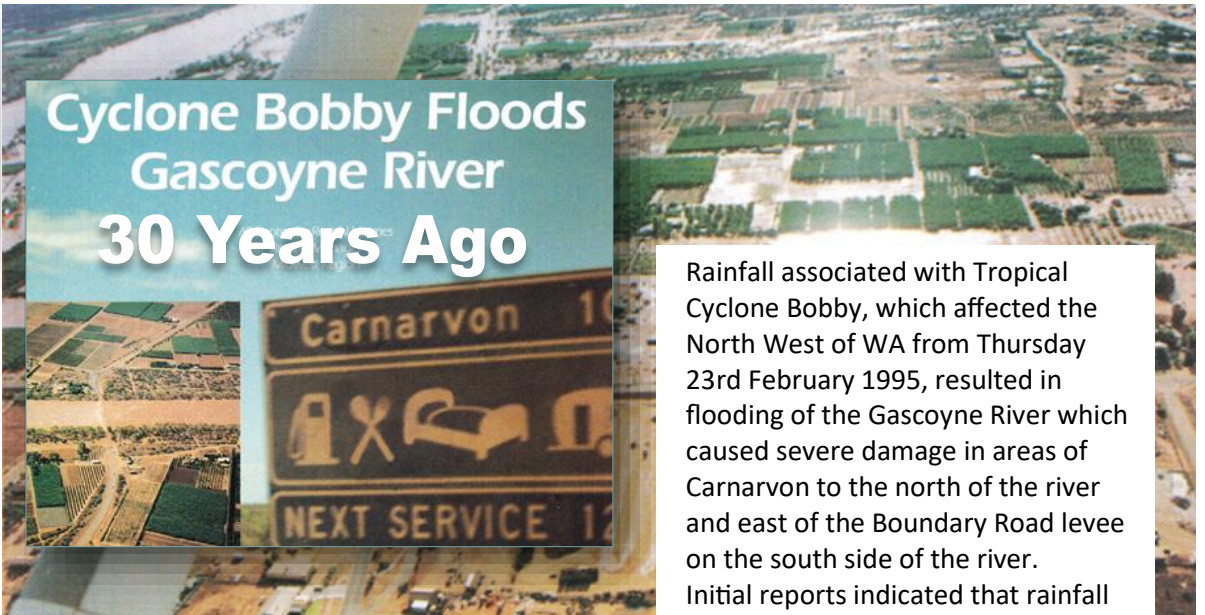
Read about what we have been up to recently in our latest Newsletter.

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe by email to sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au



SES a Proud Heritage



Cyclone Bobby Floods Gascoyne River 30 Years Ago

Rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclone Bobby, which affected the North West of WA from Thursday 23rd February 1995, resulted in flooding of the Gascoyne River which caused severe damage in areas of Carnarvon to the north of the river and east of the Boundary Road levee on the south side of the river. Initial reports indicated that rainfall was not consistent with that which would cause significantly high river levels.

However, advice received from pastoral stations in the path of Tropical Cyclone Bobby indicated that not all rain had registered in rain gauges. This rain fall on an already wet catchment was cause for concern. WAWA issued a River Flow Advice at 0730 hours on 27/2/95 and based on local experience, it was determined that the river could peak at levels similar to the 1980 floods.



Left: Carnarvon Operations Room. Some of the Carnarvon SES staff, Anti-clockwise from left Bekky Pitt, Paul Stemp, Peta Foulkes & Denise Round

Courtesy of 1995 Spring Western Alert