



# SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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## From the President

Welcome to the final edition of the State Emergency Service Volunteers Association of Western Australia (Inc.) newsletter for 2023. That was a mouthful and exemplifies the year that was: jam packed, extremely busy and challenging.

For the readers outside of the current serving SES members, I take this opportunity to thank everyone in Orange, their families, and employers. Without your support, we here in WA and other states would be so much worse off from the experiences we faced and would not like to repeat. In thanking those people, we must also recognise that many others play a role—minor or major—in maintaining the community glue that binds us together. To our elected representatives at the Commonwealth, State and Local Government levels, thank you for your support.

Your community-based SES Units rely on you all, to provide and maintain the service we provide to meet your needs in times of crisis or otherwise. These needs vary greatly from one end of the state to the other. One size and one type just do not work around Civil Defence or the other actions of the SES.

Shortly, Western Australia will have the opportunity to review the old Emergency Service Legislation and discuss how to provide the best outcomes for the thousands of communities throughout our state. I trust we can all look deeply for solutions that have been developed through the countless lessons learned and recorded. Hazard based excellence through building skill and knowledge streams in DFES should be examined closely.

The SES Volunteer's Association will release our contribution to this process very soon, and we thank you in advance for your consideration and support. I also want to thank our dedicated project writing and research group who have worked tirelessly throughout the year on this contribution. WOW you rock me!

Our parting thoughts for 2023 are quite simple: Please stay safe, it is your responsibility for you.

Communities start with one person at a time and build. Let's build a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year together. We all look forward to meeting up again in 2024. Thank you so much for all your efforts and the faith placed in us, the SES.



*Kind Regards*  
**Greg Cook, President**

The Executive and Management Committee of  
the SES Volunteer's Association wishes  
everyone in the SES Volunteer Family and their  
families, fellow Emergency Responders and the  
Western Australian community a  
Safe, Joyous Christmas



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*from the SECRETARY'S desk*

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## SES Volunteers Association

# welcomes New Committee Members

### VICE PRESIDENT NORTH LEONIE BRIGGS

Leonie needs little introduction, having been a prominent member of the SES community for many years, notably as Manager and Deputy Manager of the SES Canine Unit. She developed a training and assessment standard for search dogs that is now recognised nationally. Leonie received the 2023 Peter Keillor Award and SES Volunteer of the Year Award.

### SOUTH COASTAL ZIGGY BELCZOWSKI

Ziggy has served with several SES Units including Stirling as Training Manager, Karratha as Team Leader, Mandurah as Training Manager and SWORD as Health & Safety Officer and Team Leader. His SES qualifications extend to Search, Storm, Comms, flood boat and single rope techniques. Ziggy was recipient of the Peter Keillor Award in 2004.

### NORTH COASTAL MEGAN REYNOLDS

Megan is a member of Mandurah SES. Megan is eager to contribute her advocacy experience to her Management Committee role. She has a passion for listening and linking individuals and is dedicated to fostering collaboration and enhancing community engagement. Megan looks forward to positively impacting SES Volunteers in the North Coastal region.

The SESVA Executive Team and Committee welcome Leonie, Megan and Ziggy to the SESVA Management Committee and look forward to working together throughout 2024 and beyond. We anticipate an interesting year ahead with several significant challenges, but feel strengthened by your combined skills, expertise and experience which will no doubt make an invaluable contribution to progressing the Association's objectives on behalf of SES volunteers.

### VACANT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITIONS

#### GREAT SOUTHERN

Albany SES Volunteer has expressed interest

#### KIMBERLEY

#### NORTH EAST (Metro)

Send expressions of interest for vacant positions to Allen [sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au)



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*from the SECRETARY'S*



## KEY INTEREST ITEMS FROM THE 7th DECEMBER 2023 MEETING OF THE SESVA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### LEGISLATION WORKING GROUP—SUBMISSION TO GOVERNMENT

Following consultation with SES units and other stakeholders, the SESVA has prepared a Position Paper for the WA Government to consider when drafting the proposed Emergency Services Act 2024. The Position Paper will be distributed to SES units as soon as final layout and formatting is completed. The SESVA believes the Community will be in a stronger position to respond to and recover from natural hazards if the recommendations in the Position Paper are implemented.

### NATIONAL SESVA RAFFLE

West Australian residents can now participate in a fundraising raffle to support the community-based SES units and the volunteers. Additional funding from the raffle will provide the opportunity for the SES Volunteer's Association in WA (SESVA) to develop programs, provide welfare support and expanded advocacy services for hundreds of SES volunteers in WA each year. By purchasing a \$2 ticket, supporters receive a chance to win a \$5,000 Harvey Norman gift card; to be drawn on 2nd February 2024.

### SWORD SES LOGISTICS— moving from South East region to South Coastal region

The South East (Metro) Management Committee member represents seven (7) SES units while the South Coastal (Metro) Management Committee member represents four (4) SES units. The meeting agreed that the SWORD SES Logistics units will now be represented by South Coastal (Metro) Management Committee member.

### RENAMING THE SES TEAM AWARD

A proposal was discussed in relation to changing the name of the annual SES Team Member Award which is presented at the WAFES Gala Dinner and Awards function. Further consultation and consideration will be given before a recommendation is put to DFES.

### SES 65th ANNIVERSARY 2024

The SES in WA was first established in 1959. A proposal was discussed to acknowledge the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. A working group will be established, and a feasibility study commenced in relation to proposed events.

### CAPITAL REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME AND LGGS

The replacement of SES vehicles and buildings is impacting the capability of SES units. The current system is not working for the SES. We will work with our member units in 2024 to gather information through our Management Committee members then submit our findings to DFES.

### JOINT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MEETING—PTSD Presumptive Legislation

The Presidents of all five Volunteer Emergency Services Associations met again in November. An invitation has been sent to the Honourable Minister Stephen Dawson to meet with the Presidents to address the crucial issue of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and to communicate the deep disappointment and concerns volunteers have regarding the presumptive legislation which was not amended to include volunteers. The invitation is reproduced on the following pages.



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BUSHFIRE  
VOLUNTEERS



**The Honourable Stephen Dawson MLC**  
Minister for Emergency Services  
12th Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

6 December 2023

Dear Minister

### **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Presumptive Legislation**

The Volunteer Emergency Services Associations of Western Australia extend our sincere appreciation for your commitment to the wellbeing of our communities and your efforts in the emergency services portfolio.

We represent the collective voice of our dedicated volunteers who serve in emergency services across Western Australia and are extending a formal invitation to you to meet with our Associations' presidents.

The meeting's aim is to address the crucial issue of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and to communicate the deep disappointment and concerns volunteers have regarding the presumptive legislation, which to our dismay, was not amended to include volunteers in September 2023.

Our volunteers play an indispensable role in safeguarding our communities and beyond, often facing challenging and traumatic situations. The absence of the progress of the presumptive PTSD legislation has been a source of profound frustration and disappointment among our dedicated volunteers. They deserve recognition and the canopy of presumptive PTSD legislation afforded to their paid counterparts.

Our request is for a meeting be scheduled at the first available opportunity in the New Year. We believe that a direct and open dialogue with you would not only provide clarity on the legislative status, but it will also offer an opportunity to discuss potential pathways to address the concerns raised by our volunteers.

(Continued over page)



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Your presence at this meeting would greatly contribute to fostering a collaborative approach in finding solutions that prioritise the mental health and wellbeing of our voluntary emergency service workforce. We are confident that your insights and support will play a pivotal role in advancing this critical legislation.

We believe that, together, we can work towards ensuring the well-deserved protection and care for our dedicated emergency services volunteers.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss these vital matters with you in person.

Yours sincerely

**Paul du Boulay**  
President  
Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Association of Western Australia

**Trevor Wise**  
President  
Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services Association of Western Australia

**Lorraine Webster**  
President  
Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades Western Australia

**Greg Cook**  
President  
State Emergency Services Volunteer Association of Western Australia

*Jeff Howe* ESM  
**Jeff Howe ESM**  
Commander  
Volunteer Marine Rescue of Western Australia



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**The next Meeting of the SESVA  
Management Committee is  
scheduled for February 2024**



**The SESVA Office  
Will be closed from  
Thursday 21st December to  
Tuesday 2nd January 2024**

### **How to contact the SESVA Secretary**

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

**mobile:** 0419 935 497



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## The WA Emergency Services Volunteers' Hardship Assistance Scheme (Inc.)

The WAESVHAS AGM was held at Mandurah SES unit on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

The main purpose of the WAESVHAS is to give emergency services volunteers the opportunity to seek, or be offered, financial assistance during times of hardship and/or significant loss.

The SESVA appointed representative on the WAESVHAS Committee is Gordon Hall; pictured here along with other committee members and observers including President Greg Cook and Commissioner Darren Klemm.



**WAESVHAS Committee members and observers L-R**

Roger Martin, Robert Papalia, Gordon Hall, Commissioner Darren Klem, Lloyd Bailey, Vicki Quinlan, Greg Cook, (absent Terry Hunter)



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## **Mandurah SES Unit Annual Volunteer Awards Presentation Evening**

SESVA President Greg Cook and Secretary Allen Gale were in Mandurah on Wednesday 29th November to join in the celebration of the 2023 Mandurah SES Unit achievements at the John Tonkin College.

Individual and Team awards were presented in recognition of individual volunteer member contributions to the Mandurah Community and the Metro—South Coastal region of WA.

The SESVA congratulates all award recipients on their achievements in 2023.

Attending the evening along with SES volunteers and invited guests were City of Mandurah Mayor, Rhys Williams and A/Supt. Scott Hares who assisted Local Manager Chris Stickland with the following awards recognising service with the Mandurah SES Unit:

**National medal 2nd Clasp:** Ziggy Belcowski (below centre)

**Special Award:** Will Norris for 40 years serving with Mandurah SES and his valuable service as a senior consultant (below left)

**Life Member:** Gordon Hall ESM (below right)







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## YOUTH in Emergency Services (YES) Challenge

On Saturday, November 25, 2023, over 60 emergency services cadets gathered at Langley Park to participate in the Youth Emergency Services (YES) Challenge, as part of the Mining Emergency Response Competition (MERC).

The YES Challenge drew cadet teams from John Tonkin College (Mandurah) Emergency Services Cadet Corps (ESCC), Moora YES, Northam YES, Quinns Rocks YES, and Two Rocks YES, all eager to demonstrate their emergency response skills.

Watched closely by adjudicators from Mandurah State Emergency Service and Dwellingup Bush Fire Brigade, the YES Challenge featured seven teams engaged in two emergency scenarios designed to test their teamwork, leadership, first aid and communication skills. The first scenario unfolded as a fire erupted from an explosion at a chemical warehouse near an airport, requiring swift and coordinated action from the cadets to assist injured workers and extinguish the fire. The second scenario involved a multi-casualty vehicle and bus crash challenging the cadets to respond effectively.



The skill level demonstrated by the cadets was extraordinary and the competition was tight with only a few points between all teams. Congratulations to the John Tonkin College (Mandurah) ESCC Cadets for taking out the top prize. The YES Challenge provided an excellent opportunity for cadet units to showcase their emergency service skills while also fostering teamwork and camaraderie.

For more information about the YES Programme contact the Coordinator Youth in Emergency Services, Lynelle Fozard at [Lynelle.fozard@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:Lynelle.fozard@dfes.wa.gov.au) or 0429 377 703



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**West Australian residents can now participate in a fundraising raffle to support the community-based SES units and the SES volunteers.**

The SES Volunteers Association in WA (SESVA) has reached an agreement with the National SES Volunteers Association (NSESVA) to participate in continuous fundraising raffle campaigns.

Funds raised in WA stay in WA, meaning the Volunteer Association in WA, with the support of the National SESVA, will soon be able to fund beneficial activities for SES volunteers in WA by offering some rewards and additional activities, as well as creating new opportunities and funding new volunteer development projects.

By purchasing a \$2 ticket, supporters receive a chance to win a \$5,000 Harvey Norman gift card. Less than 10,00 tickets are available in WA. The first raffle will be drawn on 2nd February 2024.

**Let your WA family, friends, and colleagues know how they can support SES volunteers in WA and receive a chance to win a \$5,000 Harvey Norman gift card by sharing the phone number and website link below:**

- National SESVA call centre **1300 804 562**
- [Buy tickets and support the National SESVA \(nationalsesvaraffle.org.au\)](http://nationalsesvaraffle.org.au)

### For the benefit of SES volunteers

Current funding provided mostly by DFES enables the SESVA to represent the views and interests of SES Volunteers. Funds raised through the raffles will be used primarily to connect SES volunteers with people, programs and education that will help them achieve their objectives, including but not limited to the following:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to training and development</li> <li>• Access to a welfare fund</li> <li>• Grants for volunteers' services</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsorships for volunteers</li> <li>• Volunteer resources support service</li> <li>• Facilities for use by volunteers and their families</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

### How did this come about?

The national raffle campaign has been running since November 2016. It raises funds for the National SES Volunteers Association which in turn, uses those funds for specific projects and activities to benefit SES Volunteers in all States and Territories. The NSESVA had no funding, so the raffle campaign was started as a source of income. The NSESVA is a relatively new Association formed in 2015. All State and Territory Volunteer Associations are a member of the National Association. Learn more about the National SESVA here [Home | nsesva](#)



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You can view the full version of the National SESVA 2023 Year book via the link on the VA [website](#)



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## Northshore SES adds some Orange sparkle to the 2023 Perth Christmas Pageant



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## Staying Safe Can Help You Enjoy the Season

- Use a Christmas Light Safety Checklist... functional—in good condition - modern - rated properly
- Use the 4:1 Ladder Rule for Christmas Decorations....helps to keep the ladder stable (though it's still good to have someone on the ground to hold the base)
- Measure your Kid's (or Pet's) Reach... so you put fragile things above that line
- Set a Timer When you Light a Candle...it's a reminder to blow it out in case you forget (better still, use battery powered candles)
- Undershare on Social Media During the Holidays... the more you put out there the more vulnerable you are to people who might take advantage of that information
- Keep a Blanket in Your Car when shopping...toss it over your shopping bags to keep them out of sight
- Swap your Poinsettia for a Christmas Cactus...these holiday flowers are actually poisonous and that's not good if you have creatures that randomly eat your plants
- Check the Age Limit on Toys...it's there as a guideline to tell you what's safe for what age
- Offer Mocktails as an option at your Christmas Party... as an alternative to alcoholic drinks and better than soda
- Get an early start for your holiday road trip ....even if you have to start before it gets light, you won't be as tired as driving in the dark after a day of travel.



## Last chance to grab an SES Christmas Pressie...



For more information on the full range of SES Merchandise & how to order contact the SESVA Office: [sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au](mailto:sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au) / 0499 619 287  
website: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/sesva-merchandise/>



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## FEATURE:

# Health & Wellbeing

### Thrivng at DFES

Mental Health and Wellbeing  
Strategy 2021-2023



## MAKE SURE THE VOICE OF VOLUNTEERS

### YOUR VOICE, IS HEARD

The *'Thrivng at DFES Evaluation Survey'* has been live for two weeks and the Mental Health and Wellbeing team are wanting your feedback .

**This is a chance for you to voice your views on mental health and wellbeing related matters about working/volunteering at DFES**

Managers and Duty Managers, please encourage your crew to complete the survey. You are welcome to ask a member of the Mental Health and Wellbeing team go through the survey with you and your crew either in person or on line.

#### The Survey is:

- Completely voluntary and anonymous
- All data is confidential and only aggregate results will be shared with DFES.
- 30 minutes—we know this is a long time but it is worth it!

**You will be provided with your own individualised dashboard at the completion of the survey. This will show a comparison of your results against population norms.**

#### Complete the survey via this link

<https://thrive-dashboard.web.app/survey.html?s=-NazZuwYAD2UX-hbb6VI>



**Mental Health and Wellbeing Team**

**Because when you thrive, we thrive**

- ✉ [thriving@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:thriving@dfes.wa.gov.au)
- 📍 Find out more through the volunteer hub

FOR A SAFER STATE



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## DFES Academy Update

- **SES Off-Road Driving Trainer Assessor Course**
- **What's 'in the works'**

**Until very recently**, the only way to become an Off-Road Driving Trainer Assessor was to do a five-day driving instructor course giving the participant both On-Road and Off-Road driving instructor endorsement.

Given the length of this course and the fact that most SES units do not need to drive under emergency conditions, the SES Volunteer's Association requested that the on-road and off-road instructor components be split into separate courses so that SES Trainer Assessors can be endorsed as either On -Road, Off-Road or both.

The new format of each course is now two days with a pre-course assessment that can be completed prior to the practical component. The first course was scheduled in Albany over the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2023.

### IN THE WORKS

Further work is being undertaken to develop or review the following products:

- \* New DFES wide Induction with the SES component online (printable version too)
- \* Revised Roof Safety System (in line with new WHS law) to be incorporated into Storm Damage Operations
- \* Ladder Safety System to be incorporated into Basic General Rescue
- \* Revised Storm Damage Operations course with learnings from TC Seroja
- \* Storm Damage Operations Team Leader Course



**SES Dress Hat** The SES Wide Brim Dress Hat is available for volunteers to order on TAMStore via Stewart and Heaton.



Size (cm)	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
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**Stewart & Heaton advise the hats need to be ordered ASAP, this week if possible, to have them in time for Anzac Day.**



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# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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## General Rescue Training Update—November Newsletter

**There was a huge response on Facebook to the DFES Academy article in the SESVA November Newsletter on this topic. Here's a sample of some of the comments:**

A lot of good members and DO's have worked to get this course up and running again. Please take a moment to thank them and think about the quality work they put into this.

I've been a member since 2012 and have never had the general rescue course available to me.

I will say yes to run through those core skills. Specially as they cover the updated working at heights.

These skills need to be retaught before a whole generation of volunteers leave and we loose their knowledge.

Bring back national competencies though. That made it worth the time commitment.

So what does this mean for members who have been in SES for 30, 40, 45years and have been qualified as T.A.s in various competencies? Do we forget what we've been teaching over the years and just sit back ? Not allowed to use our knowledge and experience that a 4,6, 8 day courses may not teach. And don't get me started on battery powered tools and nail guns. What's next? you want to encourage vollies to stay I personally don't think this is the way to do it.

Fun? If an SES a unit interacts well internally and has " fun " as we grow together, that's a life bonus. There's no room for functional " fun" in the core job that we as SES Volunteers undertake. What is the function of the SES? To turn Chaos, Crisis and Catastrophe into Stability.

It's a worry if those core functions are " fun" Therein lies an issue of recruitment joining the SES is not about a pretty resume'. It's not about a fashion parade, an orange social club or easy recognition without effort. ( Massive respect to our 10-20-30-49 + year members who did the hard yards ) If it takes 6-10 training days to become truly stability creating competence, so be it. " Fun " is a part of the training curriculum in YES Cadets. I'd like to think most full SES Volunteers have moved past being 12 years old.

I think SES members should be concerned that core competencies such as storm and water damage operations are being stuck behind what is a 4-day specialist course. SWDO contains basic skills required to enable members to be operational for a core SES activity. Requiring members, in at least their first year, to give up 2 x weekends (4 days) does not provide incentive for new SES members to stick around with SES.

I don't think anyone is saying that there is a lack of effort from anyone involved. This is specifically around making it a pre-req and roadblock to a core course like SWDO but also trying to get it across the line on a promise that other courses will be streamlined at some point.

We can't create courses and include content based on a number of possibilities that might happen. There has been very minimal feedback throughout the consultation process, cer-

I support the course but doubling the number of weekends to get storm qualified would see some people not getting qualified as a storm operator well into their second year. Not to mention it'll be a painful few years until enough general rescue courses are running because of trainer availability.

The information released by the VA was presented by DFES to the recent metro training managers meeting held a few weeks ago. The whole course is being made a pre-req for SWDO it's not a part of it. If anything the content about the rescue system is more relevant for the RSS builder course not SWDO.

I think there is additional context and information missing from this. Those three items would not take 4 days. What are the modules..?. Perhaps only one or two modules would be a pre-req for SDWO, not the whole course...I guess I am optimistic that there was some mis-communication.

A big part of this change is the new requirements for working at height, which means a new RSS and techniques. These techniques have significant overlap with VR, and have been included in the new GR course. Other content such as shoring and power tools have been missing from our training for many years.

I agree that 8 days seems like a lot of training to be storm-damage qualified, but that includes so much more than just SDO skills. Members can attend SDO callouts as soon as they've completed their OH&S induction - but cannot work at height.



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**MySES..**

*Newman*

*State Emergency Service*

Extract: "The WA STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE (SES) HISTORY FROM CIVIL DEFENCE INTO THE 21ST CENTURY" by GORON M HALL ESM

The Newman SES Unit was established in July 1981 around the same year that the Shire of East Pilbara (SoEP) took management of the Town from Mt Newman Mining, which was established by Mt Newman Mining (originally Mount Newman) in 1966 as a closed Mining company town.

The Unit initially operated from a site provided by a local contractor until 1984. Then the SoEP secured funding to build a new shed for SES use at the Shire Depot in Woodstock St, Newman. During 1995 the Unit moved to the current location Lot 300 Kurra St which is SoEP owned where the SES utilised existing buildings for their administration and head-

quarters purposes. In 2004 the Unit received funds for an equipment shed which was added to the Lot 300 Kurra St facility.

By 2005 the Newman SES Administration Building on Lot 300 Kurra St was considered no longer fit for purpose for SES operations. The transportable accommodation units were deteriorating due to weathering and wear and tear and minor and major repairs were ongoing.



*SES Newman Headquarters site before the new building was added.*

Funding to construct a new SES Administration Building on the current site at Kurra St was approved in the 2011/2012 Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGs) but was not progressed during this LGGs period. Approved funds were carried over during the 2013/2014 period for \$570,458 but tenders received were outside the approved funding allocation with tenders ranging from \$1.1 to \$1.2 million.

Options to progress this project were discussed by SoEP, DFES and the Newman SES and included reduce the building size and carry original approved funds over to the 2014/2015 LGGs period or put in a new submission for additional funding. An increase in funding was considered the most suitable option as it aligned with the DFES concept strategic direction on state-wide Incident Control Centre (ICC) locations for L2/3 incidents. Due to its remote location, Newman was identified as requiring this capability. Site works for the new building were started during June 2015 with the transportable building modules constructed in Perth and transported to Newman for erection and finishing.

*Continued overleaf*



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## MySES..

## Newman State Emergency Service cont'd

### Current situation

The new Newman SES building serves as the local headquarters for the Unit and includes dedicated administration, training and operations facilities. The building also has capacity to operate as an ICC Level 2/3 which provides DFES with a facility from which to manage incidents where the FES Commissioner is the HMA within the East Pilbara Shire area and the Northern part of the Shire of Meekatharra.



The building was officially opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2018 by Fran Logan MLA and Commissioner Darren Klemm ASFM.

The new buildings role is fit for purpose ICC, administration and training facility where Newman SES members can take pride in. It will also enhance the Units ability to recruit and retain new members with good first impressions of the organisation they are joining.

The new facilities will enhance Newman SES function within the East Pilbara Shire that include their profile role to Natural Hazards and providing logistical support to Local Government and DFES with Bushfire incidents. It will also enhance the support to WA Police in SES Combat roles of Land Search, Vertical Rescue and other logistical support within their profile capabilities to other Volunteer Emergency Services.



A key strength of the Newman SES is that they are very focused on Prevention and Preparedness within Remote Aboriginal Communities. Each year the Unit spends a week travelling approx. 2,500kms visiting remote communities before the Cyclone/wet season establishing working relationships that has significantly reduced the need for resupplies due to the effect of isolation each year within the East Pilbara Shire. Local Manager Connie Reed is one of the longest serving Newman SES Volunteers, Connie has been visiting the communities since 2012 and has built a rapport with community Elders and staff, this has ensured appropriate Response outcomes where the SES Unit maintains two-way communications with information provided and obtained with a good understanding of the level of risk for isolation which does affect these remote communities each wet season.



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## Days Gone By A Proud Heritage

### BUSSELTON UNIT DEMONSTRATES CLIFF RESCUE TECHNIQUES FOR LEGACY WARD'S CAMP

BY BOB WOOD – LOCAL MANAGER, BUSSELTON

Members of the Busselton Unit conducted a cliff rescue demonstration as part of their training for children from the annual Legacy Wards camp at the Wilyabrup abseiling site in January.

The 60 children, aged between five and 17 years, were attending a ten day camp in Busselton which included an opportunity to watch a cliff rescue demonstration conducted by the Busselton SES's Vertical Rescue Team and soldiers from the Special Air Services section.

The 'casualty' was a climber who had collapsed on the rocks at the bottom of the 48m cliff.

The rescue involved SES first aid officer Justin Geoghegan and pointsman Scott Webster, who abseiled down to locate, comfort and tend the victim.

After the demonstration, a number of children were given the opportunity to experience the thrill of taking to the ropes and abseiling over the cliffs.

The Unit also provided support by supplying a safety vehicle for the activity and assistance with transporting stores and rations to the abseiling site.

Acting Regional Director, Nial Wilmot and Regional Support Officer Irene Bell also attended, as did members of the local press.

Legacy Wards are the children of deceased soldiers, sailors and airmen. They are funded by 'Legatees' who are serving and former servicemen who have undertaken to provide support and assistance to the families of dead comrades. The Legacy Wards Camp, which is held each year, enables the children to participate in a range of activities including sailing, survival training, surfing, snorkelling and abseiling.



Justin and Rebecca with Major Mike Radwell who served with Rebecca's father and is himself a Legatee



Justin Geoghegan (Busselton VRT Team) with Rebecca Bowman, 17, and Major Mike Radwell

WESTERN ALERT Autumn 1999 19



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### PULL UP BANNER

Large double sided pull up banner on base that can be filled with water to maintain safety and stability in outdoor settings. Packs away in its own carry bag. Approx. 2 metres tall.



**SES WA GAZEBO** — 3 X 3 metres. Packs away into a wheeled carry case for ease of handling and transport.

### TEAR DROP BANNER

Approximately four metres tall. This high impact banner comes with a heavy steel base and ground spike.



Mundaring Unit use the Gazebo and Banners at a recent public event.



**GAZEBO & BANNERS NOW AVAILABLE  
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