

LATEST NEWS



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



SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

From the President

A warm welcome to you after a wet, windy and rainy back end of August.

The SES Volunteers have excelled in meeting their community needs. This is becoming a regular sincere compliment to those serving in our Orange Personal Protective Clothing. We are visible, we do contribute in so many ways to communities across Western Australia. Thank you.

Looking to our immediate future, there are some important decisions for the SES Units and unit members on specific organizational proposals.

SES Orange PPC is seeing some updates with the introduction of a light-weight version for working in hotter climates—good news I feel. Within this proposal from DFES is the question of deleting the Overalls from the available range of PPC. If this is an issue for Units and members, please let us know so your message is relayed to the project group.

Fitness for Role is now out for comment to all SES Units and through their Unit management to individual volunteers. This is your opportunity to progress the comment and commitment by reading the supplied material and then answering **Yes** we want this, or **No** we don't.

The consolidation of the three emergency services Acts into one piece of legislation continues without any communication from DFES. The Association has been advised that we may all get a period to comment on the proposed legislation. For more than two years now, the SESVA has been facilitating a working group to ensure that we are in an informed and articulated position ready for when that opportunity presents itself. A position paper has been lodged with all SES Units, DFES and the Government, and is part one of our contribution. Part two is nearing completion for circulation.

The SESVA has received some very exciting news from His Excellency The Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, which is on page two of this newsletter.

We all look forward to seeing many of you at the WAFES Conference over the 6th and 7th of September. Of course, please attend the WA SESVA AGM being held downstairs in Burswood Botanical Room 1 at 9:00 am Sunday 8 September. Details have been sent to all units.

*Kind Regards,
Greg Cook, President*



NOMINATIONS ARE SOUGHT FOR THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS KING'S BIRTHDAY 2025



Nominations can be submitted **online** prior to **Monday 14 October 2023** to be considered for the King's Birthday 2025 Honours List. For further information send an email to rewards@dfes.wa.gov.au



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Vice Regal Patronage - SESVA



**His Excellency The Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM
Governor of Western Australia
and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson**

President Greg Cook, on behalf of the SESVA Management Committee, takes great pride in announcing that His Excellency The Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, and Mrs. Darrilyn Dawson are delighted to accept the invitation for Vice Regal patronage of the SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc).

Governor's Role: The Governor's role includes constitutional, ceremonial, representational, advocacy, and community responsibilities.

Attendance at Events: The Governor and Mrs. Dawson attend various functions and ceremonies throughout the State. They may be invited to a significant celebration or visit a volunteer SES group during their term.

This patronage would undoubtedly bring great benefits to SES Units, SES volunteers, and the communities they serve.

Learn about Vice Regal Patronage - [Patronage - Government House Western Australia \(govhouse.wa.gov.au\)](http://Patronage - Government House Western Australia (govhouse.wa.gov.au))



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from the **SECRETARY'S** desk

Email Allen Gale for more information sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au



HELP US IMPROVE OUR NEWSLETTER ...we want your thoughts on

Format

A downloadable A4 colour PDF, or links from an email to on-line Articles?

Content

What subjects do you want to read about: training, unit events, volunteer awards, other?

Frequency

How often—monthly, quarterly, half yearly?

Method

Hard copy, soft copy, delivered by email, social media, accessed from the website?

Size

What's the maximum size, 5 pages, 10 pages, 20 pages; one article per page or multiple short articles?

Anything else?

COMPLETE OUR READER FEEDBACK SURVEY

IT ONLY TAKES 3-4 MINUTES

TAP-CLICK HERE NOW

**USE THE QR CODE
OR**

DOWNLOAD HERE TO PRINT

SESVA WA Newsletter Feedback
Survey



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SESVA WA Annual General
Meeting - Member Delegate Form



Last call for your AGM Member Delegate form

The SESVA AGM is being held Sunday 8th Sep 2024
in the new venue at Crown Burswood, downstairs in
the **Botanical Room 1**—see map below.

A Member [Delegate form](#) needs to be submitted no later
than midnight the day before the AGM for a member SES
Unit to be able to vote.

All SES volunteers are welcome to attend!

AGM VENUE MAP

Walk from the Crown entry
towards the Convention
Entry, then take the
escalator down to
the Botanical Room 1.

9am start, Sunday 8 Sept



WA-TAS Raffle

**PASS IT ON—tickets only \$2 ea
to win a gift voucher and support
SES volunteers in WA**

**Buy tickets and support the
National SESVA – click below
nationalsesvaraffle.org.au
or call 1300 804 562**



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SCOREBOARD

Vice Regal patronage of the SESVA

His Excellency The Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, and Mrs. Darrilyn Dawson accept our invitation for Vice Regal patronage of the SESVA WA.

Fitness for Task questions – responses from DFES

Shared with all SES Units for management to discuss with individual volunteers. All units are encouraged to respond with a **Yes**, we want this – or: **No**, we don't; so DFES can be responded to.

SESVA.....at the celebration when one of WA's longest serving SES Unit leaders is recognised

Bill Mulrone, Pingelly SES Local Manager for 38 years, handed over the reins recently with President Greg and Secretary Allen there to help mark the occasion and witness the unit pay honour to Bill.

SESVA.....at the AFAC Conference – in Sydney 3rd-5th September

President Greg Cook, Vice President Leonie Briggs, Secretary Allen Gale and Treasurer Robbie Palmer all represented the SESVA at AFAC 2024

SESVA.....at the WAFES Conference and Awards Gala Dinner – at Crown 7th September

Members of the Executive and the Management Committee to meet and greet SES volunteers, as well as celebrate with Award nominees. SES merchandise on sale and along with promotional give aways.

Representation on the DFES Volunteer Sustainability Steering Committee

by SESVA President Greg Cook

DFES group with volunteer association representatives where the focus is on how to better respond to social and economic challenges facing volunteer teams and the WA community.

Representation on the WAFES Conference and Awards Gala Dinner Committee

by SESVA President Greg Cook and SESVA Secretary Allen Gale

DFES consultation with volunteer association representatives for the WAFES Conference and Awards function.

Representation on the Emergency Tree Operations Working Group

by SESVA Management Committee member, Les Hayter

This national group is convened by Public Skills Australia.



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Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 60-124709

Mr Greg Cook
President
State Emergency Service Volunteer Association
PO Box 3218
BELMONT WA 6104
sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au

Dear Mr Cook

PROPOSED EMERGENCY SERVICES ACT 2024 POSITION PAPER

Thank you for your correspondence dated 17 July 2024, and for providing a copy of the detailed "Proposed Emergency Services Act 2024 Position Paper" (Position Paper).

I acknowledge the continued collaborative approach of the State Emergency Service Volunteer Association (SESVA) on necessary reforms in the emergency services sector. SESVA is essential to representing the views of State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers on the development of an Emergency Services Consultation Exposure Draft Bill (the Draft Bill).

I am pleased to learn that the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services, recently engaged with the SESVA on these matters at the SESVA Legislation Working Group on 17 July 2024. I understand that this was an excellent opportunity for collaboration.

I have been advised that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is considering the seven recommendations of the Position Paper. It is my understanding that many of the recommendations involve policy and operational decisions, which are not necessarily a matter for the new legislation, which is still being drafted.

The Office of the Minister for Emergency Services has provided me with a copy of the response to the SESVA's recommendations. I reaffirm the positions and commitments expressed by the Minister for Emergency Services.



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1. Governance model with a Charter and/or Memorandum of Understanding
The Draft Bill will enable the Minister and FES Commissioner to establish a Volunteer Charter.
2. Legal Protection
Confirm that relevant legal protections will be contained within the Draft Bill.
3. Establishment of a Senior Executive Officer with DFES
This is not a matter for the Draft Bill. SESVA is encouraged to continue discussions with the FES Commissioner about how DFES's existing structures can better support the SES.

The Bill has adopted an all-hazards approach in its drafting.

Once Cabinet releases the Exposure Draft Bill for public consultation, the SESVA and SES volunteer members will be notified and provided an opportunity to consider and provide feedback. I strongly encourage the SESVA and SES volunteer members to provide comment through that public consultation process when it occurs.

Lastly, thank you for the wonderful work the SESVA and SES volunteers do for their community and for Western Australia.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roger Cook'.

ROGER COOK MLA
PREMIER

20 AUG 2024



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STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
CELEBRATING
65
YEARS
SERVICE
1959 - 2024
SATURDAY | 12 OCTOBER
10AM - 3PM
11AM OPENING CEREMONY
JARRADALE OVAL, JARRADALE
FAMILY DAY - CURRENT & PAST MEMBERS WELCOME
ALL UNITS WELCOME TO ATTEND & SHOWCASE
YOUR UNITS HISTORY
WITHOUT FAMILY WE WOULD HAVE
NO VOLUNTEERS

An invitation has been sent to all Local Managers along with an Information Pack to celebrate 65 years of the State Emergency Service in Western Australia. A registration form is included in the pack along with a T-Shirt order form.

A working group consisting of Kerry Watts, Pingelly SES, Cherese Green, Gosnells SES and Greg Cook, Gosnells SES, are planning the event. To find out more about the event email

SES65years@outlook.com

The Family Day is open to all—Current and Past volunteers and especially families, as “without family we would not have any volunteers”.

Units are invited to showcase their history within their own gazebo. Be sure to pass the event de-

Proudly supported by the SESVA WA

An “Official” ceremony will be held at 11 am and the rest of the day will be about looking at all the participating SES units’ history, and mingling with other volunteers and the public.

Current volunteers will be supplied lunch. Several food vans will be on site on the day, or bring your own picnic lunch.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY EMAIL NOW!

RSVP to SES65years@outlook.com



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SES VOLUNTEER'S ASSOCIATION OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

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WAFES 2024 CONFERENCE AND AWARDS



Saturday 7th September 2024

Livestream all the excitement from the 2024 WAFES Conference and Awards

The full conference proceedings and gala dinner can be seen via live stream,
through the [WAFES Conference website](#).

Please encourage Volunteers and supporters to tune in from 8:30 am
Saturday 7th September for the opening address and keynote speakers.
Then see the WAFES Award winners announced from 7:15 pm.



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At the WAFES Conference? Drop by the SESVA Stand and chat to the SESVA Team and check out

the SES MERCHANDISE



**"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy.
You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer,
you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."**



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GERALDTON-GREENOUGH SES CELEBRATES A MAJOR MILESTONE 1984 - 2024

**Geraldton Greenough SES Unit
celebrated its 40 year anniversary
at the Unit's Moonyoonooka base
Saturday 31st of August.**

Invited dignitaries included Ms Lara Dalton MLA, representing Emergency Services Minister Hon. Stephen Dawson, and Councillor Aaron Horsman representing Geraldton Mayor Jerry Clune. Lara Dalton addressed invited guests honouring the Unit's history and ongoing contribution to the Mid-west-Gascoyne region's communities.

DFES Deputy Commissioner Craig Waters AFSM spoke to the Unit's achievements noting the leadership of Ross Jones, and presented Geraldton-Greenough Volunteers with Member Certificates, Certificates of Appreciation and Service Medals.

National SESVA Chair Gordon Hall ESM presented Geraldton-Greenough Local Manager an NSESVA Presentation plaque.

A further Presentation Plaque recognising the Unit's milestone 40th Anniversary was presented to Ross Jones by SESVA WA Vice President, Leonie Briggs.

DFES Superintendent, Mark Bowen, Acting District Officer NH Midwest, Jo Bettsworth and District Officers, Tim Dalwood and Elsa Alston also attended the event and greeted invited guests together with Local Manager Ross Jones.



Right:
Ms Lara Dalton, Local
Member for Geraldton



Below:
Left: DFES Deputy Commis-
sioner Mr Craig Waters
AFSM
Right: Geraldton-
Greenough SES Local
Manager, Mr Ross Jones



Above—Left: National SESVA Chair Mr Gordon Hall ESM,
Right: SESVA WA Vice President, Leonie Briggs





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Bell Gorge rescued hiker says, "thank you Broome SES volunteers"

A woman spent the night at a remote gorge after breaking her leg at a popular tourist site in an isolated part of WA's Kimberley region. The woman, 52, was holidaying with her husband and climbing a ledge in the lower sections of Bell Gorge, 2,400 kilometres north of Perth, when she slipped off the edge at about 11:30 am on Sunday 30 June. Witnesses reported hearing the woman's leg snap and hearing screams as she fell. Witnesses rallied together and attended to the woman, prior to the arrival of emergency services.

But extra assistance was hours away due to the gorge, situated on the remote Gibb River Road, being nearly 300km from the nearest town of Fitzroy Crossing.

The Kimberley is a remote place and often requires satellite communications and it can take time to coordinate resources and safe rescue plan to be able to get people back to medical care.

It took about 1.5 hours for SES volunteers from Broome to reach an airstrip near the gorge. They hiked down to reach the location where they and a medical crew remained overnight with the injured woman. A helicopter was used to fly the woman to Broome for treatment.



The injured woman recently wrote to say thank you to her SES rescuers.

"I wanted to extend my sincerest thank you to the SES crew who helped with my rescue from Bell Gorge in the Kimberley, Sunday, 30th June.

I had a fall in the gorge and broke my leg badly, so was unable to weight bear, or be carried up the vertical rock face. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to meet all of my rescuers. There was a young lady who sat with and spoke to my partner while I was being treated by a doctor who then guided him out of the gorge in the dark. I would love to show my appreciation to the team. It blows me away that these women and men are all volunteers; you are all truly amazing heroes.

I saw my surgeon yesterday and he is pleased with my progress, considering the complications. Bell Gorge is a beautiful spot and I'm so grateful I was able to enjoy the climb down and swim to the waterfall before my accident. We are planning another trip next year to



Source: Woman spends night in Bell Gorge after breaking leg during fall from ledge—ABC News.



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BILL MULRONEY

Hands over the reins as Pingelly SES Local Manager after 38 years of service



William (Bill) Mulroney ESM has dedicated an incredible 38 years to the Pingelly community as Local Manager of the Pingelly State Emergency Service (SES).

As he steps down from his role to make way for a younger volunteer (Susan Heazlewood), his legacy of service and leadership will be remembered for years to come, and were celebrated at a special ceremony at Pingelly SES Unit on 18 September 2023.

SESVA President, Greg Cook and Secretary, Allen Gale were invited to attend Bill's presentation ceremony and celebration at the Pingelly Unit.

Unit members assembled a framed Presentation of significant shields and patches marking Bill's extensive career and roles in the State Emergency Service.



Top image left to right: Susan Heazlewood, Bill Mulroney, Bill's wife Lorraine Mulroney.

Above image left to right: Greg Cook, Susan Heazlewood, Bill Mulroney, Lorraine Mulroney, Allen Gale, Kerry Watts

**YOU CAN READ THE FULL HISTORY OF BILL'S 38 YEARS
OF SERVICE [HERE](#).**



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LINCOLN HEADS OUT

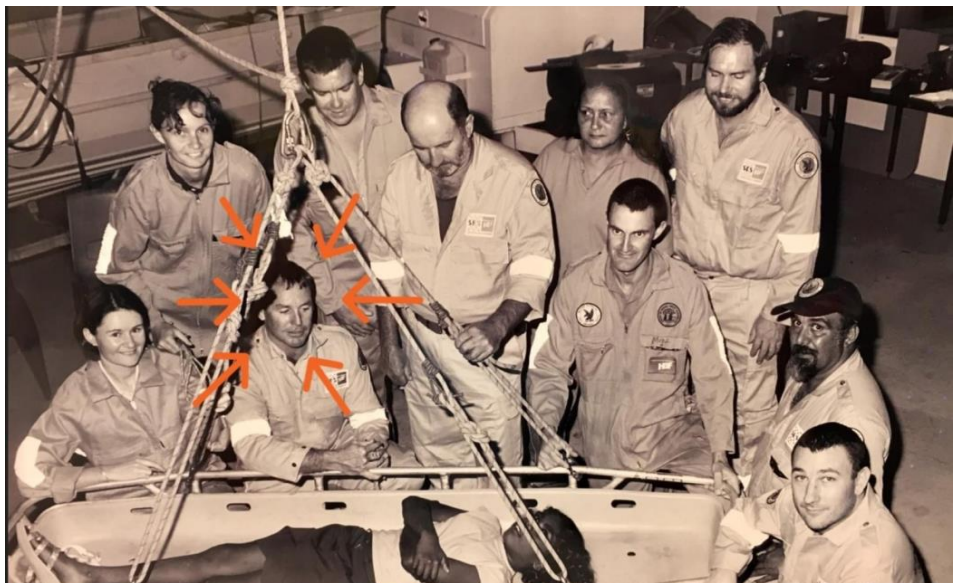


Last week Kununurra Unit members said, “farewell to our very own Lincoln Heading. Lincoln has decided to up stumps after an astonishing 30+ years of service with the SES. His continuous commitment to Kununurra unit and ongoing contributions have been remarkable, and he will without doubt, be missed by many. We also would like to give a big thank you and recognition to Lincoln's family as well.

**Enjoy the
new chapter
big fella.**

Safe travels.

**We'll see you
down the
track.**



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Senate Select Committee on Australia's Disaster Resilience

Boots on the Ground: Raising resilience

Could this Federal Senate report make a difference?

Last month the Senate Select Committee on Australia's Disaster Resilience published its report *Boots on the ground: Raising resilience* (https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Disaster_Resilience).

The Select Committee reported on the current preparedness, response and recovery workforce models, including the role of the Australian Defence Force and, among others, the civil and volunteer groups and state-based services in preparing for, responding to and recovering from natural disasters. It also considered other models for repurposing or adapting Australian civil and volunteer groups.

Recommendations of note were:

- ◇ Funding be provided direct to local government to facilitate disaster recovery and resilience (Recommendation 3).
- ◇ Legislate to provide leave from employment for volunteers (Recommendation 4).
- ◇ Allow volunteers tax deductions for training and courses that are part of their emergency volunteering (Recommendation 5).
- ◇ Australian Government provide a comprehensive resource centre for mental health resources, training and support for first responders (Recommendation 6)
- ◇ Incentivise young Australians to participate in disaster response and recovery volunteer organisations (Recommendation 10).

The Select Committee acknowledged that State Emergency Service agencies must be supported to ensure their levels of resourcing and training are maintained and sustainable in the face of increased demand for their services. It went on to say what we all know: the role of volunteers cannot be understated.

What the report also highlighted were the opportunities for collaboration between local and Federal agencies and direct funding to provide resources for response and recovery after disaster events. Whilst State Emergency Service units provide local and immediate response, there is a need for additional capacity to sustain the response and recovery over longer periods of time. This requires community engagement and a level of interoperability between State and Federal agencies.

Cont'd overleaf



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Senate Select Committee on Australia's Disaster Resilience

Boots on the Ground: Raising resilience cont'd

There is something in this Report for everyone

- State Government and local Governments can leverage off Federal funding and other resources.
- Local Government can better influence recovery that meets local needs.
- Emergency service volunteer brigades, groups and units can access multiple resources and benefit from nationally recognised training, alternative maintenance of competency pathways and interoperability with a wider range of organisations.

The SES Volunteers Association supports SES volunteers and their selfless contributions to Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR) in its local community, and welcomes collaboration with DFES and local government in the interests of safer communities.

Submitted by A Hawke, SESVA Vice President South

ASK RU OK?™ ANY DAY
A conversation could change a life.

**R U OK? Day is
Thursday 12 September**
And encourages people to meaningfully connect with those around them.

Regular, meaningful conversations with the people close to you can help prevent small things from becoming big things. By checking in regularly, you build trust and normalise talking about what's really going on, so when the people in your world find themselves struggling, they know you're someone they can talk to. **How to Get involved this year:**

- ♦ Submit your EOI to join our in-person RU OK? Workshop? **"How to have an RU OK? Conversation"**. Learn how to approach conversations with your colleagues, friends and family and how to encourage help seeking with loved ones. **Monday 09 September: 10:00-12:00 Cockburn ESC.**
- ♦ Dial into **Black Dog Institute's** webinar: **Promoting Wellbeing and Help Seeking at work—RU OK? Day 2024**. The 45 minute webinar will unpack different mental health support options and help you feel more confident to seek support yourself or guide others in your workplace. **Thursday 12 September 09:00-09:45.** [Sign up here](#) or join the Cockburn ESC watch party and morning tea in Training Room 1 at 08:45.
- ♦ **Run your own Local Event** any time throughout September. Check out our comprehensive [Event Guide](#) to assist you.
- ♦ **Completing the R U OK? Online training module on eAcademy** to increase your skills, knowledge and confidence in having and R U OK conversation—Search 'R U OK' on eAcademy to complete the short 10 minute course.



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National Disaster Rescue Challenge (NDRC) 2024 SYDNEY 27—29 September

Training is in full swing as the WA team prepare for the Challenge



Local Managers from all metropolitan units were contacted and Expressions of Interest sought from interested volunteers. In some cases specific skill sets were preferred so the team can be in the best position to participate in the challenge against some of the other states/territories.

After a late start, the preparation for the NDRC is now in full swing for the WA Team which is made up of metropolitan based SES volunteers.

WA Team comprises SES volunteers from Metropolitan units:

Mark Geary – Gosnells SES

Cherese Green Gosnells SES

Megan Davies Gosnells SES

Ming Lim Canning-South Perth SES

Ketesse Hansen—Canning-South Perth SES

Melissa Baker—Canning South Perth SES

Warren Taylor—Kalamunda SES

The team will be accompanied by :

WA Evaluator representative – Rob Smart – Wanneroo Joondalup SES

Team Manager is Todd Pender—DO Metro South East.

Get the full details of the team's preparations [HERE](#)



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SES a Proud Heritage

WANNEROO

Operation 'Doctors Conference' Yanchep

On Sunday, 3rd May, Wanneroo SES had an exercise at Yanchep National Park involving some very surprised doctors who were attending a conference at that time.

We arrived at Yanchep at 0930 hrs, and proceeded to set up the exercise which had been arranged with the Rangers' co-operation and approval. Just one small problem though, the Rangers with whom we had made the arrangements were off duty on that particular day and had forgotten to brief the Rangers who were on duty!

After a lot of discussion with our Coordinator John Capes, it was all sorted out and on with the show, and what a show! The whole idea of the exercise was to surprise the doctors and to see how they would react to an emergency situation.

The story is as follows:

Five campers, three adults and two children decide that one of the caves is a good place to set up camp for the night. They sleep well and wake up feeling hungry, time to cook breakfast. Disaster, the gas bottle blows up. The injuries sustained are pretty horrific (thanks to Jan and Jeff Smiths' excellent make-up).



WESTERN ALERT, SUMMER, 1987



Wanneroo SES is on the oval practising for their sports day, an ambulance standing by just in case the exercise proves too much for our "unfit" members. We hear the explosion and rush up to see what is going on. There is smoke coming out of the cave, thanks to Ken's smoke bomb. The St John people are on the scene as well as a couple of Rangers who inform us that there are about 20 doctors holding a conference at the park at that time. Off goes Ian to recruit the doctors' help while we go into the cave and check out the damage and injuries.

Inside the cave it was chaos, smoke filled, with bodies lying around. Jan Smith was hysterical with burns to the chest and neck and was in deep shock —great acting, even tears. Jeff Smith has massive burns to his back as well as a bump on the head resulting in concussion. Tracy Capes has had a cardiac attack and is unconscious. Tracy is represented by a resuss dummy until the doctors give her mouth to mouth and CPR and bring her back to consciousness. Danny, Jan and Jeff's son is in shock and badly frightened. Ann MacKail had a penetrating wound to the left arm and was in shock.

Meanwhile, outside the cave the doctors have arrived with Ian. They were smiling as they walked up to the cave entrance, they didn't smile when they walked out! Most of them treated the exer-

cise very seriously after they saw the effort that had been put into it. Two of them walked up to the resuss dummy and immediately declared it dead.

Jan asked them if they were going to attempt to resuscitate it which they did. Enter Tracy. She replaced the dummy and was put in the stokes in a coma position and then out to the ambulance.

Meanwhile the doctors were treating the rest of the casualties. Danny went missing which made Jan even more hysterical and the tears were really flowing. She was shaking, supposedly from shock, but it was very cold in the cave so the effects were very good. Ann was worrying about Tracy and wanted to check on her so we had quite a job keeping her calm.

The whole exercise took about an hour and then debrief. The doctors were very impressed and said the most important thing they learnt out of it all was the fact that they were unprepared for a situation like that, only one of them had a stethoscope on him! They commended Jan and Jeff on the make-up and said that the acting was excellent, they had put a lot of their skills into practice.

ALL IN ALL, A GOOD DAY.

Many thanks to all concerned, Jan and Jeff, Danny, Tracy, Ann, the Yanchep Rangers and the St John Brigade.

MARGARET KELLEY,
Wanneroo

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SES Volunteers Association of Western Australia Inc.
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SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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