



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

From the President

September is now the time for communities to take action to reduce the impacts of seasonal hazards. Spring and summer bring higher levels of risk to many across Western Australia and again for many, the consequence of inaction is loss. Government, company and personal unexpected loss.

We at the SES Volunteers Association are privileged to be able to speak with so many community members through this monthly newsletter, our Facebook and Twitter pages and of course our Website <https://ses-wa.asn.au/>. Many of our members are working face to face imparting our messages.



The volunteer community SES Units are motivated by being supported by our Local Governments and the state based DFES. These partnerships bring services from local community members that train year round to respond to emergency needs. I do regret to say that many of the emergency calls are made to 132500 because simple maintenance on our homes and businesses that are not undertaken.

The SES Volunteers understand that some of these tasks may not be easy, may be cost restrictive but when evaluating the cost of flooding in a building, fire from electrical arcing, or a number of unexpected incidents, and is it a sound decision to take the chance?

The likelihood of a fire is increasing, spring and summer storms along with the risk in our north from severe weather should be a call to arms for many community members. The actions we can take now and on an ongoing basis reduces the impact when we experience any of the hazards. Please also do not under estimate the satisfaction gained from helping those that cannot help themselves. If you have not tired it, have a go. It can be habit forming and outrageously enjoyable.

A heartfelt thank you to Rhonda Hemsley on her retirement for the metro based Northshore Volunteer SES Unit. Over forty years' service, you are a credit to community volunteering. Whilst celebrating at the unit, the DFES Commissioner, Darren Klemm also stated that Northshore is the best SES Unit in Western Australia. I am certain that provided a boost to the volunteers.

Thank you again for taking the time to read about community local heroes, our emergency service volunteers. Be they SES, Fire, Marine or Lifesaver Volunteers, we all contribute our time free of charge.

Greg Cook, President.

SESVA AGM at Crown Perth

9am Sunday 10th September 2023

Studio 2, Crown Perth, Great Eastern Hwy, Burswood

All SES Volunteers are welcome to attend at Crown or join online



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
Belmont WA 6104
sesva_office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

WAFES
CONFERENCE
2023

Join the Conference Livestream

Saturday 9 September 2023 8:30am – 11:45am

to hear from keynote speakers **Justin Langer AM** and **Rabia Siddique** and opening addresses from the **Minister for Emergency Services** and **Commissioner Klemm AFSM**. Visit the conference website for more details [WAFES Conference - Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#)

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

SES MERCHANDISE PRE-ORDERS

ORDER YOUR SES MERCHANDISE & COLLECT IT at the CONFERENCE
— Contact SESVA Office on 0499 619 287 or sesva.office@wa.asn.au



Check out the SESVA Website for our full range of merchandise

[SESVA Merchandise – SES Volunteers Association of WA](#)



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
Belmont WA 6104
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>



RHONDA HEMSLEY HANDS BACK THE KEYS AND CELEBRATES 45-YEARS WITH THE SES AT MOUNT HAWTHORN

Her contributions and endearing nicknames speak volumes about the impact she's had since taking on her role along with husband Jack. Rhonda is affectionately known by various heartwarming nicknames, such as the woman next door who brings warmth to the community, the baker of delicious treats, a surrogate mother, the provider of morning coffee, the guardian angel in orange, and the cherished 'Sconda Rhonda'. These nicknames reflect the deep affection and gratitude felt by those who have had the privilege of knowing and working with her.

In 1978 the WA State Emergency Service – Metropolitan Regional Headquarters opened its doors next door to Rhonda and Jack in Lynton St, Mount Hawthorn. The building was previously used as a project office during the construction of Mitchell Freeway. 20 years later the Northshore SES Unit moved in when the regional staff moved to Leake St, Belmont.

Long serving Northshore SES volunteer and former Local Manager Jim MacClean said "Rhonda is the embodiment of dedicated service and commitment, a reassuring and ever-present figure on Lynton St who has provided unwavering support to SES Volunteers, Regional Headquarters staff and the local community. While she was never afraid to make suggestions and offer advice, Rhonda was willing to take advice from others, albeit with a touch of reluctance at times.

"Her steadfast dedication to the SES has made her a stalwart of the SES, taking a great deal of pride in always undertaking her duties quickly, efficiently and correctly. She was always available for training courses and call-outs, she always opened up in her dress uniform and was always ready to take on the world. Rhonda's caring and considerate nature extends far beyond her role as an SES member, making her a cherished friend and neighbour who has consistently offered help and comfort. She could always lend a sympathetic ear to those in need providing solace and support to countless volunteers and staff members who turned to her for guidance and reassurance."

The turnout at her farewell function on August 2nd is a testament to the profound impact Rhonda has had on the lives of so many SES volunteers, staff members and neighbours. Rhonda's retirement is a well-deserved culmination of a lifetime of service, and her legacy will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of those she has touched throughout her service.

Rhonda was presented with the 45 year SES Service Medal by FES Commissioner Darren Klemm. Local Manager Nick Elliot announced that Rhonda was awarded life membership.



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
Belmont WA 6104
sesva_office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

SESVA—OUT 'n ABOUT

UPPER GREAT SOUTHERN LEADERS' FORUM— 19th August 2023

The Upper Great Southern Leaders Forum 2023 convened at Narrogin on Saturday 19th August 2023. At the invitation of Superintendent Craig Smith, SESVA Vice President Alan Hawke attended on behalf of the President, Greg Cook.

The aim of the Leaders Forum was to enhance knowledge, promote growth and provide an opportunity for fellowship.

BGU leaders from the region were treated to very informative and thought-provoking presentations:

Lithium battery hazards with Adam Whitford: I'll never leave my lithium batteries on charge unsupervised again!

Dealing with children with Lynelle Fozard: Youth are our future.

State Logistics and SWORD SES with Lyndon Jackson: There's a lot of great logistics equipment to support major incidents.

Effective leadership "Be" with Geoff Stewart: Leadership is about self, people and relationships.

Leading cultural change through uncertainty with Mike House: We can learn to Thrive and Adapt under pressure.

On the road towards resilience with Steve Wickham: If you are going through hell ... keep going?

Canada deployment learnings with Blake Halford: The environment influences risks – understand the hazards.

Emotional intelligence with DFES Chaplain Dennis Sudla: Adversity forges resilience.

The Q&A session after the presentations revealed administration, training and recognition of prior learning are common cause of concern amongst many volunteer services.

The Forum's proceedings ended by an evening of conviviality over dinner at the Albert Facey Motel Restaurant.



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
Belmont WA 6104
sesva_office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers
Association of WA (Inc)
One Association - Many Values

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

SESVA—OUT 'n ABOUT



BRISBANE 2023 23–24 August



AFAC, the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council, indeed plays a crucial role in bringing together emergency service personnel, equipment suppliers, and experts to exchange knowledge and showcase the latest advancements in the field.

President Greg Cook, Secretary Allen Gale and Treasurer Robbie Palmer attended AFAC23 in Brisbane. The theme this year was "Creating a sustainable future: the challenges and opportunities. Some of the key points of interest included:

- Technological Advancements: Advancements in AI, data analytics, and communication tools can enhance disaster response and recovery, but they also introduce new vulnerabilities and require up-to-date training and infrastructure.

- Indigenous Knowledge and Values: First Nations values and knowledge should be incorporated into emergency management strategies.

- Community-Centred Approach: The well-being of people should be at the forefront of emergency management efforts.

- Collaboration and Responsibility: Collaboration among governments, communities, and organisations is vital in addressing these challenges.

The equipment expo once again highlighted the importance of innovation and preparedness, underscoring the significance of collaboration and innovation within the emergency services community:

- Cutting-Edge Equipment: The availability of state-of-the-art equipment like stretchers, vertical rescue gear, and rescue vehicles demonstrates the commitment of emergency services to ensuring the safety of both responders and the individuals they rescue.

- PPE Advancements: The presence of a wide range of personal protective equipment (PPE) is a testament to the continuous development of gear that can withstand extreme weather conditions.

- Industry Innovation: This is essential to saving lives and minimizing damage during crises. The commitment to exploring new technologies and equipment is a testament to the dedication of those working in emergency services.

- Adaptability to Local Conditions: Specialised equipment designed for conditions such as those experienced on Bluff Knoll in the Stirling Ranges highlights the importance of tailoring resources to local needs.



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
 Belmont WA 6104
sesva_office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

SESVA—OUT 'n ABOUT



BRISBANE 2023 23–24 August



AFAC23 focused on the urgent need to adapt emergency management strategies to address the compounding and complex disasters facing the Pacific Region while also considering the global shift toward sustainability and the role of technology, infrastructure, indigenous knowledge, and community engagement in shaping a safer and more resilient future.



SESVA Treasurer, Robbie Palmer delved into the vast array of equipment and PPE on display including the latest stretchers and vertical rescue gear along with Rescue Trucks, Utes, flood boat and swift water rescue equipment—all designed to function optimally in the most challenging conditions, while still protecting the Rescuer.

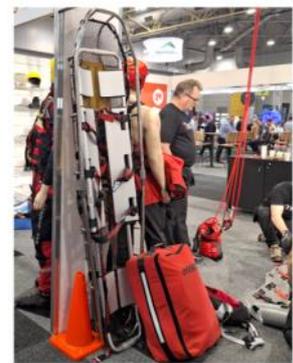


The latest PPE covered general type overalls to Alpine weather clothing designed for laying down during operations in conditions that our own SES in WA, regularly experience in and around Bluff Knoll, in the Stirling Ranges.



It was impressive and reassuring to discover there are solutions to every possible situation for emergencies.

If you'd like to chat to Robbie about equipment on display at AFAC please call after hours on 0409 978 934 or email him : sesva.treasurer@ses-wa.asn.au



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
Belmont WA 6104
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

My Unit

STIRLING SES UNIT Metro North Coastal Region

The Stirling SES unit was formed in 1968 as a Civil Defence group with Joe Rice as Manager and Tom Appleyard as deputy.

It is one of the oldest units in the metropolitan area and has been looking after the community for 55 years.



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

Stirling SES started at the back of the old Stirling Council building. There were two rooms, one for Communications and one for training. A lot of the training had to be conducted outside due to lack of space. There was a 2-bay shed that housed 2 vehicles, a Rodeo Ute, an old Land Rover and 3 rescue trailers. The Landcruiser had to be garaged at the Local Managers house.

When the council decided to demolish and rebuild the present council facility in the 1990s, LM Maureen Grierson secured the empty Nollamara Football Club building at 33 Carcoola Street Nollamara and it was converted to suit the units needs. The vehicles were still located at the Cedric Street depot, so callouts were complicated. A 4-vehicle shed was then built nearby on Sylvia Street which still presents a bit of a walk from the unit.

Unit members have taken part in many Airborne searches, including the search for missing MH370 plane. A specialist role Stirling SES held was Vertical Rescue with members conducting training at various locations. Some of the unit VR team members took part in the Karijini National Park Hancock Gorge rescue in 2001.

Another specialist role was Tracker Dogs. Brian Law was originally leader of the SES Tracker Dog unit, stepping down when the dog unit split up. Tracker Dogs started around 1998 and ceased in 2007 when the Canine Unit was formed. There were many successful searches including the finding of a handgun. Tracker Dog training was undertaken at the unit along with taking part in search training out in the bush. Stirling lost its Canine status in 2010.

Another role that was undertaken for many years was being part of the rescue teams at the Avon Decent. The trusty Land Rover carted canoeist and power boat participants who were injured or separated from their boats. It was a cold but fun campsite for our SES unit of volunteers. The unit enjoyed many years running the Kings Park area of Perth's Australia Day Skyworks, controlling the crowds and even one year isolating a fire area when a firework set fire to the embankment.

In 2023 Stirling SES is still located at Carcoola Street Nollamara with the Equipment Depot located around the corner in Sylvia Street. We have over 60 members who volunteer their services to the City of Stirling and the wider community. Many have been in the unit for over 10 years.

Your Unit could be next to be featured. Send your information and images to Bella sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
Belmont WA 6104
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers
Association of WA (Inc)
One Association - Many Values

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

**GENERAL RESCUE
 UTILITY
 MODIFICATION
 ALLOWED**



Image for illustration purposes only

In our previous newsletter, we provided guidance for SES Units on capital grants for facilities and new equipment.

One of the big wins for SES units is the rollout of the General Rescue Utility (GRU). These vehicles provide enhanced driver and passenger safety, as well as on-road and off-road capability.

From user feedback, DFES has made a change to the new GRU to fit extendible wing mirrors. These provide improved rear vision when extended for towing trailers wider than the vehicle body. Even in the retracted position, these wing mirrors offer improved vision because they are slightly wider than the standard wing mirrors.

For SES units that have already received their GRU with the standard wing mirrors, DFES confirms that the extendible wing mirrors can be retrofitted. DFES also confirms that the cost of the retrofit is eligible expenditure under the Local Government Grant Scheme.

SES Units may select the Clearview Compact product or other Isuzu DMax Australian Design Rules approved retrofit products that are commercially available. We are advised that the cost is around \$1,000 installed.

If units want to retrofit the expendable wing mirrors, it is recommended that local managers first have a conversation with their local government and their DFES District Officer before embarking on the upgrade.



BIG SAVINGS
on brands you love

The discount service exclusively for frontline workers and emergency volunteers

SES Member Benefits - Blue Light Card Discounts

Offering member benefits like Blue Light Card discounts is a great initiative for recognising and appreciating the dedication and service of much valued SES Volunteers.

SES volunteers can apply online for these benefits— follow these simple steps:

1. Go to [Discounts for Frontline Workers | Blue Light Card](#)
2. Create your account (\$9.95 for 2 years access)
3. Provide your DFES ID number and show employer name as *Department of Fire and Emergency Services*, then the employer type as *State Emergency Services*.



Sign up today to receive discounts, special offers, or access to specific services through the Blue Light Card program!



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
 Belmont WA 6104
sesva_office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers
Association of WA (Inc)
One Association - Many Values

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

FEATURE:

Health & Wellbeing

Mental Health is a positive concept related to the social and emotional wellbeing of individuals and communities. Having good mental health, or being mentally healthy, is more than the absence of illness, rather, it's a state of overall wellbeing.

Mental health is influenced by several biological, psychological, social and environmental factors which interact in complex ways:

The DFES Mental Health and Wellbeing Team is committed to offering a variety of tools and resources aimed at supporting your psychological, physical and spiritual health & wellbeing and is pleased to announce that all volunteers can sign up for the Headspace App for FREE! Each DFES Volunteer also has 5 free family and friend subscriptions.



The Headspace app is a mindfulness tool for your everyday life, designed to help you stress less, move more, and sleep soundly. With over 1000+ hours of themed meditation sessions, with proven results in just 10 minutes a day, Headspace equips you to take care of your mind. **You can get Started Now!**

Step 1: [Sign up here](#)

Step 2: If you are new to Headspace choose "No, create a new account" and follow the prompts to register.

Step 3: If you have an existing Headspace account or you are renewing your DFES subscription, select "Yes, I have an existing account".

Step 4: Verify your account with your email address.

Success! You're on your way to better self care. For more information please contact thriving@dfes.wa.gov.au

The DFES Wellness Team will be at WAFES .

They'd love to have a chat and invite you to come down to their booth at the Sundowner, 5-7pm Friday 8th September.



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
 Belmont WA 6104
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

Disaster Resilience: Preparing for Disaster with an Emergency Response Plan



The SESVA Office recently received a query from a member of the public about where they could obtain an Emergency Response Plan. This was prompted by the person's recent experiences.

We sought to assist and our research revealed the Red Cross has been extremely active in this area and assembled a comprehensive range of resources freely available on line.



Create an emergency plan

Make an emergency plan for your household to protect what matters most.



Get Prepared app

Build and keep your emergency plan close at hand with our app.



Use a survival kit checklist

Build your survival kit with our handy emergency checklist.

Red Cross also conduct EmergencyRedi workshops to support people to learn about preparing for emergencies and take steps towards building their individual household's resilience. The workshops can be adapted to local contexts and tailored to suit different audiences.

Participants learn about the practical, psychological and social steps they can take to prepare for emergencies and minimise the impacts of disaster.

RediPlan workshops rely on the content contained in the Australian Red Cross' household emergency plan . –

This informative booklet and Apps are available to download from the Red Cross website:

<https://www.redcross.org.au/emergencyredi/>



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
Belmont WA 6104
sesva_office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-wa.asn.au



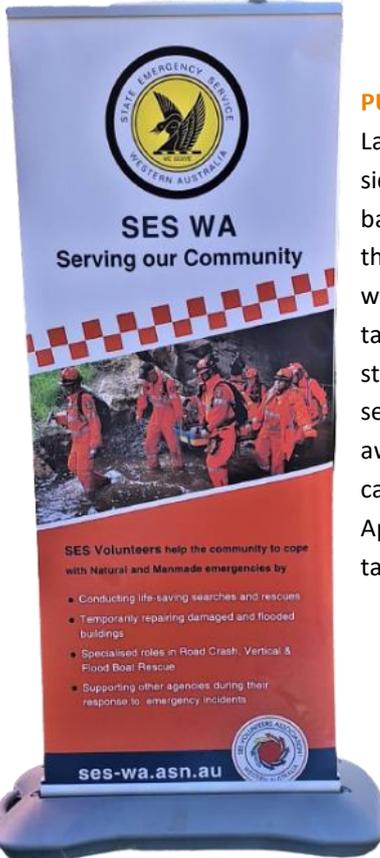
SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>



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.

NOW AVAILABLE
for your Unit to borrow
FREE OF CHARGE

SES UNITS CAN BORROW THESE ITEMS FOR PROMOTIONAL/PUBLIC RELATIONS EVENTS

For more information contact Bella

sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

0499 619 287

TEAR DROP BANNER

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



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



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
Belmont WA 6104
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

Opportunities to expand your Volunteering experiences start here.....

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Do you have a lot to offer as an SES volunteer?

Do you want to be part of a team with the SESVA?

- ⇒ The Team that'll work to build a positive public perception of SES volunteers?
- ⇒ The Team that'll work to enhance community awareness of SES volunteers?
- ⇒ The Team that'll work on ensuring suitable recognition of SES volunteers?

The SESVA is seeking expressions of interest from SES volunteers for membership of the new SESVA

Media And Public Relations Strategy Sub-Committee

This Team will play a crucial role in maximising the benefits for SES Units by enhancing the visibility, reputation, and relationship of SES Units.

Some of the strategies likely to be addressed by the Team include:

- ⇒ communication to the public and media outlets;
- ⇒ effective public relations programs;
- ⇒ conservation of SES history in WA; and
- ⇒ acknowledgement of SES volunteers.

You're Interested Aren't You?

Email Bella sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au explaining in less than 1 page what you'll bring to the Team!

Unsubscribe by sending an email to sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au if you no longer want to receive the SESVA Newsletter



PO Box 3218 (91 Leake St)
Belmont WA 6104
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au
www.ses-wa.asn.au



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

September 2023

NEWSLETTER

To make sure you receive the SESVA Newsletter monthly, subscribe via the link: <https://ses-wa.asn.au/subscribe-to-newsletter/>

SES VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION of WA (Inc) MEMBER DELEGATE FORM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 09:00am Studio 2, Crown Burswood SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

UNIT NAME	
SES REGION	
UNIT POSTAL ADDRESS	

MEMBER DELEGATE	
NAME	
POSTAL ADDRESS	
PHONE	MOBILE
EMAIL ADDRESS ksak	
SIGNATURE	DATE

UNIT AUTHORISING OFFICER	
NAME	
POSITION	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
SIGNATURE	DATE

Do you wish to receive the TEAMS Meeting Link to attend the AGM: Yes/No?

If YES, please advise Email address: _____

Completed forms must be returned by close of business on 9th September 2023

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

Email: sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

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

