



AFAC Conference 2026

SESVA representatives attended the AFAC26 Conference and Exhibition in Melbourne from 18—21 August 2026, joining emergency management professionals, volunteers, government agencies, and industry partners from across Australia and New Zealand. The event provided valuable opportunities to learn about emerging trends, innovative technologies, volunteer engagement, and community resilience initiatives shaping the future of emergency services.

Attendance at AFAC enabled SESVA to strengthen networks and gain insights that can be applied to support SES volunteers across the state. The knowledge and connections developed during the conference will help inform SESVA's ongoing work in advocating for, supporting, and recognising the vital contribution of SES volunteers.



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As we move into spring, the WA SES Volunteers Association would like to take a moment to acknowledge the extraordinary service of SES volunteers across Western Australia.

SES individual and team finalists are being recognised at Crown this weekend for their significant achievements. Being selected as a finalist is testament to the positive impact these volunteers have on their communities. I wish all finalists every success at the WAFES Awards presentation on 5 September.

Winter once again reminded us of the important role our SES volunteers play in supporting the WA community. From storm damage and flood response to dangerous road conditions, callouts and community support, SES volunteers have stood ready to assist whenever needed. Their professionalism, commitment and resilience continue to make a real difference to the safety and wellbeing of people across the State.

While winter may be drawing to a close, our work does not pause. The change of season brings new challenges, and we now look ahead to the spring storm season, which can bring strong winds, heavy rain and damaging weather across many parts of WA.

At the same time, our colleagues in the northwest are preparing for the coming summer cyclone season, which demands constant readiness and coordination across agencies and communities.

We also recognise that our support may extend beyond our state borders. There is always the possibility of deployments to assist our orange colleagues on the east coast when severe weather and emergency events require additional resources. These deployments are a powerful reminder of the strength of the broader emergency services network and the generosity of volunteers who are willing to travel wherever they are needed most.



In particular, the Association would like to acknowledge Connor from CSU for his recent deployment to the USA as part of Australia's commitment to international emergency resourcing. This is a significant achievement and a credit to Connor's capability, experience and dedication. We congratulate him on representing WA and Australia in this important role, and we thank him for his contribution to international disaster response efforts.

To all SES volunteers across Western Australia — thank you. Your service throughout the winter season has been invaluable, and your continued readiness for the months ahead reflects the very best of volunteer spirit.

Greg Cook ESM
President SESVA of WA (Inc)

WA Volunteers receive NSW Premier's Flood Emergency Citation



Congratulations to Nic Brien and Darren Wyatt for receiving the NSW Premier's Flood Emergency Citation.

Nic deployed to the Woodburn area in March 2022 and Moree in October 2022.

Darren also deployed to the Woodburn area in March 2022, Maitland area in July 2022 and Moree in October 2022.

Well done on representing WA SES.

L-R: Darren Wyatt, Darryl Arndt and Nic Brien.





from THE SECRETARY



SES Flood Boats — training

In the August edition we advised that a position paper on SES flood boats and AMSA Exemption 24 has been adopted to support discussions with DFES. A meeting has been planned for 7 September where Greg Cook and Alan Hawke will discuss the paper and related Flood Boat training opportunities with DFES Marines Services. Mark Eatts, Assistant Director Marine Services.



MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

Time is running out to submit your Member Delegate Form

Don't miss out on your unit's chance to vote

If your unit hasn't submitted your Member Delegate Form for the AGM, now is the time. Complete the form using this link

[SESVA 2026 AGM Information and Delegate form](#)

Send the Delegate Form to the Returning Officer no later than
Friday, 11 September

All SES volunteers can attend the AGM; however, only an authorised unit delegate can vote .

SESVA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 9:00 am Saturday 12th September 2026

Location: 91 Leake Street, Belmont (or attend via TEAMS link if the Returning Officer is advised of the email address for sending the TEAMS link to)

Contact details: SESVA Returning Officer sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

WA SES 70th Anniversary (2029) Working Group Membership

[Join the Working Group and make a difference.](#)

In 2029, the SES in WA will celebrate a **70 year of milestone**. Planning is underway now to ensure a well-coordinated and impactful program.

The WA SES Volunteers Association is calling for **Expressions of Interest** from committed SES volunteers to join a dedicated **WA SES 70th Anniversary—Working Group**.

The Working Group will operate from late 2026 through to 2029, with flexible levels of involvement depending on project needs and individual availability.

Register Your Interest

[Click here](#) or Scan the QR Code to complete an EOI to join the working group.

Help shape the celebration of 70 years of the SES in Western Australia.





Consultation with WA SES Units

Recognition of Tropical Cyclone Seroja Responders

Feedback and recommendations sought

The Association President is writing to all SES units in WA seeking feedback and recommendations regarding the most appropriate way to pursue formal recognition for eligible volunteers, emergency services personnel and support agency personnel who responded to **Tropical Cyclone Seroja in April 2021**.

Since 2022, SESVA has undertaken several initiatives to secure formal recognition for those who participated in the Tropical Cyclone Seroja response.

No support from DFES and the Government

Given that both DFES and the WA State Government do not support the awarding of the National Emergency Medal or a WA Premier's Citation, the SESVA is seeking feedback from **WA SES Units** - what further actions could be taken to allow for the acknowledgment of the outstanding commitment delivered to Western Australian communities in times of need?

SES volunteers deserved to be recognised

The response to Tropical Cyclone Seroja involved thousands of hours of service by volunteers, emergency services personnel and support agencies under challenging circumstances. The SESVA believes it is important that the contribution of these individuals continues to be appropriately recognised and recorded.

How to proceed?

SES units are urged to respond the letter when received so the WA SESVA can consider how to proceed; if that is what member units want.



Make a difference. Be our Secretary.

Help support and strengthen our SES volunteer community.



Support

Play a key role in keeping our Committee organised and informed.



Contribute

Help shape decisions that benefit SES volunteers across WA.



Make an impact

Your time and skills can make a real difference.



We need you!

Step up. Get involved. Support your SES community.

VOLUNTEER TODAY.

To apply:

Submit a brief Expression of Interest outlining your skills and motivation.

Enquiries:

Greg Cook 0418 403 960

sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au

Vale George Sulc

The SES family is saddened to learn of the recent passing of **George Sulc**, a former WA SES staff member who dedicated 15 years of service before retiring in 1999. George was well known and highly respected throughout the SES community of his era, working alongside volunteers and staff during a period of significant growth and development for the State Emergency Service in Western Australia. Many members of the SES family will remember his commitment, friendship, and support over many years. On behalf of the SES Volunteers Association of WA, we extend our sincere condolences to George's family, friends, and former colleagues. His contribution to the SES community will be remembered with gratitude and respect..

Rest In Peace George.



WA SES Team Set for National Disaster Rescue Challenge

A dedicated team of WA SES volunteers is preparing to put months of intensive training to the test when they travel to North Queensland to compete in the National Disaster Rescue Challenge (NDRC) over the weekend 12-13 September.

Since early May, the team has committed to a rigorous training schedule, meeting every Wednesday evening and every second weekend to build and refine their rescue capabilities across a wide range of emergency response disciplines.

The training program has focused on developing skills in mass-casualty incident management, vertical rescue, storm damage operations, navigation, and a variety of practical rescue scenarios. Team members have tackled realistic exercises involving aircraft crashes, motor vehicle collisions, injured workers trapped at height, flooding incidents, and other complex emergencies designed to challenge teamwork, problem-solving, and operational decision-making under pressure



WA's NDRC team members for 2026

- Ben Whittle (Team Leader)
- Nigel De Snoo
- Gavin Murdock
- Paul Bloffwitch
- Jessica Rouse
- Kate Pritchett
- Kathy Way

On behalf of all SES volunteers in WA, we wish the team every success at the Challenge in North Queensland.



The team will depart for the Atherton Tablelands on 9 September to compete against disaster rescue teams from across Australia. The NDRC provides an opportunity for volunteers to test their skills in realistic, high-pressure scenarios while sharing knowledge and learning from other emergency service personnel.

The WA SES team is looking forward to representing the state on the national stage and showcasing the professionalism, capability, and dedication of SES volunteers. Their months of preparation reflect a strong commitment to continual training and ensuring they are ready to respond when communities need them most.

The SESVA congratulates all team members on their selection and recognises the valuable experience and knowledge they will bring back to WA.



IMPORTANT NOTICE



Do you know a young person with a
perspective worth sharing?

Young Voices Leading change

Fortem Australia is looking for young people aged 12 – 23 with a strong personal connection to the first responder community to become Youth Ambassadors.

Youth Ambassadors will share their perspectives, inspire other young people and help shape Thank a First Responder Day® 2027. They will have opportunities to develop their leadership, advocacy, media and public speaking skills while helping children and young people from first responder families feel seen, heard and understood.

Behind every first responder is a family with its own experiences, perspectives and understanding of what first responder life can look like. The Youth Ambassador search is about making sure young people from these families have a voice and an opportunity to use it.

Youth Ambassadors will have the opportunity to:

- share their ideas and perspectives
- get involved in campaigns, community events and selected media and speaking opportunities
- help children and young people from first responder families feel seen, heard and understood
- develop skills in leadership, advocacy, media and public speaking
- contribute to Thank a First Responder Day® 2027.

No previous leadership or public speaking experience is needed. We're looking for young people who care about the first responder community, have ideas to contribute and are keen to get involved. **Fortem will provide training and ongoing support along the way.**

Applications are now open and close 1 October 2026.

Learn more and Apply: [Youth Ambassador search - Fortem Australia](#)

WORLD GAMES
CELEBRATING THOSE WHO SERVE
CALLING ALL
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES
VOLUNTEERS
WORLD
POLICE & FIRE
GAMES
PERTH 2027
A multi-sport event spanning across 10 days, featuring 65 sports.
The Games will unite 6,500 active, volunteer and retired
Firefighters, Law Enforcement and Emergency Services personnel
from around the world, standing **Shoulder to Shoulder** both on
and off the field.
Come for The Games. Stay to experience all Australia has to offer.
wpfg2027.com

**The World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) are coming to Perth in
March 2027 and will be spanning 10 days of competition.**

Scan the QR code for more information and to register as an athlete or a volunteer!





Midwest-Gascoyne Leaders Forum



Emergency services volunteers and leaders from across the Midwest-Gascoyne region gathered in Geraldton on 22-23 August for the Midwest-Gascoyne (MWG) Leaders Forum, providing an opportunity to discuss key challenges, share ideas and strengthen collaboration across the sector.

Representing the SES Volunteers Association (SESVA) were Vice President North Ross Jones and Hugh Bryan, SESVA representative for the Midwest Gascoyne region, who joined volunteer leaders, District Officers and DFES representatives for the two-day event.

The forum opened with an address from Chief Superintendent Andrew Wright, who spoke about leadership changes within DFES and outlined potential future developments, including the creation of Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services (VFES) units to support Incident Control Vehicle (ICV) crews and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) operations.

Participants also heard from retired Police Superintendent Geoff Stewart APM, whose engaging presentation on leadership provided valuable insights drawn from his extensive police and emergency services experience.

On the second day, attendees took part in service-specific breakout sessions where SES leaders discussed a range of operational and organisational priorities. Topics included volunteer recruitment and retention, callout response rates, training attendance and currency requirements, operational preparedness, access to resources during operations, support for Unit Managers, financial guidance, library resources and planning for regional exercises in 2027.

A practical demonstration by Steve Cable and Henrick Strand showcased new Clark mast systems and Automated Traffic Units (portable traffic lights), giving participants an opportunity to see the latest equipment in action.

Ross Jones was also invited to address the forum on behalf of SESVA, highlighting the Association's role in advocating for volunteers across Western Australia. His presentation covered SESVA's advocacy efforts, the Association website and Facebook page, current vacancies for the ATAG and Secretary positions, the importance of units raising issues through their Regional Representatives, and information relating to AGM delegate forms.

An update was also provided on the Vehicle Assessment Survey, including the current status of the project as it awaits consideration by the new Minister and discussion through the Volunteer Advisory Committee (VAC).

The forum generated valuable discussion on a range of issues affecting SES volunteers and reinforced the importance of collaboration between units, volunteers and DFES to ensure a strong and capable emergency services network across Western Australia.

Events such as the MWG Leaders Forum play an important role in building connections, sharing knowledge and ensuring volunteers have a voice in shaping the future of emergency services across the state

Missing Persons Memorial Service Marks 20 Years

On 8 August 2025, members of the Mandurah SES Unit attended the 20th Missing Persons Memorial Service hosted by the Zonta Club of Peel.

The service brought the community together to remember those who are missing and stand alongside the families who continue to live with uncertainty and hope.

The service marked this significant milestone, recognising two decades of compassion, remembrance, and support.



What does the SES Volunteers Association do for me?

Submitted by Alan Hawke, Vice President South



The Minister for Emergency Services has established committees to provide advice and assistance to the Minister or the Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Commissioner or both on matters relevant to the operation or administration of the emergency services Acts (FES Act s.24).

The SES Volunteers Association of WA Inc (SESVA) is the prescribed association that represents the SES units in Western Australia.

For the SESVA to perform its functions, it is funded by way of a grant from DFES on terms set out in the Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement requires SESVA to achieve the following:

- Effective support to SES units
- Effective communications with volunteers
- Cooperate in stakeholder meetings
- Support the conduct of DFES-run events and attend unit events if invited

So that the Minister and FES Commissioner may receive relevant information and advice from SES volunteers, the SESVA executive and committee members will communicate with SES units on a regular and frequent basis.

A common criticism is that the SESVA doesn't do anything for volunteers or DFES. This criticism may be founded on misunderstandings about what the SESVA can and cannot do. The SESVA is not about advising DFES on what DFES may want to hear; the SESVA is a conduit through which volunteers can express themselves by means of an alternative to the DFES chain of command.

Likewise, communication messages to SES volunteers through the SESVA may not be what SES volunteers want to hear. Wherever possible, SESVA will respectfully advocate on behalf of SES units, even when that advocacy is not what DFES wants to hear. Recent examples of this include the SESVA positions papers on consolidation of emergency services legislation, SES helping address climate adaptation, workplace health and safety and flood boat operator qualifications. Likewise, DFES proactively engages and consults with SESVA on a wide range of matters that affect SES volunteers.

SESVA executive and committee members strive to be respectful, honest and frank. Through clear and unambiguous communication, the SESVA endeavours to advocate for SES volunteers in WA.

For information on the advocacy of SESVA, see our website at www.ses-wa.asn.au/news-summary.
SES units and volunteers are welcome to contact the SESVA direct on 0499 619 287.

RAFFLE #12
DRAWN: 27th NOVEMBER 2026

**FIRST
PRIZE**
\$1,500*
COLES MYER GIFT CARD*



Vertical Rescue Training Joint Exercise

Volunteers from the Geraldton-Greenough SES joined fellow SES volunteers down south for vertical rescue training in August.

Ado and Anita from Geraldton-Greenough SES and DFES Midwest Gascoyne District Officer Tim, along with John from Bridgetown SES, taught high-risk rope rescue skills to volunteers at a four-day vertical rescue course in the Lower Great Southern region.

Volunteers from Bridgetown, Bunbury, Busselton and Margaret River SES completed practical and theoretical training at Margaret River SES headquarters and in the wooded surrounds of Leeuwin Estate Winery. The course concluded with six practical cliff rescues at Wilyabrup in wet and blustery conditions.

Well done to the students who qualified in Rope Rescue Systems and Advanced Vertical Rescue. Your communities can feel very proud of your willingness to participate in high-risk rescues and your commitment to maintaining your highly perishable technical skills.

Photos by Anita Kirkbright and John Tonai-Moore



Multi-Agency Rescue Training in the Perth Hills

A few weeks ago, Metro SES Vertical Rescue teams joined forces with St John WA Special Operations Paramedics for a day of challenging, realistic rope rescue training in the Perth Hills.

Working in tough terrain, crews were tasked with locating, accessing and conducting a complex 90-metre vertical rescue of pre-positioned casualties from the base of the waterfall.

These scenarios help ensure our responders are ready for the real thing, building strong partnerships and refining the specialist skills needed when lives are on the line.

A huge effort from everyone involved and a great example of multi-agency collaboration at its best.



General Rescue Training, Busselton

Training was delivered in the traditional General Rescue (GR) weather package: cold, nippy, and just the right amount of blowy to make you question your GR choices. In other words... perfect.

As some of you know, GR is the next level. It's where knots become serious business, systems get a little more complicated, and casualty extraction becomes less "pull on the rope" and more "stand back while someone who knows what they're doing mutters words like mechanical advantage."

The golden rule? Know your knots. Your knot connects to the slidy thing, which connects to the clampy things, which connect to the ropey bits, which eventually move the casualty. It's all very technical.

Get one knot wrong and your slidy thing, along with your casualty, could embark on an all-expenses-paid, one-way adventure to Destination Unknown. While that sounds exciting, it unfortunately generates paperwork.

Paperwork then lands on the desk of the grumpy office person, who must ask awkward questions like, "What exactly happened?" This can usually be avoided by bringing them chocolate.

Thankfully, thanks to some fantastic teamwork, plenty of communication, and everyone remembering which end of the rope was the important one, everyone went home with a few more skills, a few more laughs, and only slightly frozen fingers.

Another great GR training session in the books. Well done, team!



Progress on WA SES General Rescue Trailer Project

Attending the WAFES Sundowner? Make sure you stop by, take a closer look at the GR trailer and share your ideas. Your feedback is helping shape the future of SES rescue capability in WA.



*GR Trailer cabinet
on drawbar- top view*

The new General Rescue Trailer being developed by the Natural Hazards Fleet Project Action Team (PAT) is continuing to take shape, with the prototype now nearing the next stage of testing and evaluation.

Designed to support the future needs of SES units across Western Australia, the trailer combines operational capability, efficient equipment storage and flexibility for changing rescue requirements. With capacity for up to 1,000 kg of equipment, the trailer includes dedicated storage for fuel-powered equipment, ladders, pole saws, long rescue items, and modern storage tubs and toolboxes that improve organisation and accessibility.

One of its standout features is the inclusion of LED scene lighting powered by an 18V Makita battery, allowing the lighting system to operate independently of the tow vehicle and making deployment in the field quicker and easier.

The design also focuses on safe load management, with load limits to be specified for individual storage locations, particularly the rear drawer system, helping ensure compliance with vehicle and trailer mass requirements.

When paired with a General Rescue Unit (GRU), the trailer is designed to mobilise almost identical equipment to that currently carried on General Rescue Trucks, providing a comparable operational capability in a more flexible configuration.

Two prototype trailers are being built initially. The first is scheduled to enter operational service with Northshore SES, replacing an ageing asset and providing valuable operational feedback. Lessons learned from this deployment will help refine the second trailer before it undergoes further review by the PAT.

Volunteers attending the WAFES Sundowner and Conference 4-5 September will have the opportunity to inspect the prototype trailer, meet members of the PAT and discuss the design. Feedback from SES volunteers continues to play an important role in shaping the final product, helping ensure the new trailer meets the practical needs of units throughout Western Australia.

Attending the WAFES Sundowner? Make sure you stop by, take a closer look at the trailer and share your ideas. Your feedback is helping shape the future of SES rescue capability in Western Australia.



SES Young Person of the Year Award

In the July update we were pleased to announce SES Team Achievement and Peter Keilor (individual) finalists for the 2026 WAFES Awards.

Winners of these categories will be revealed at the WAFES Awards Gala Dinner on Saturday, 5 September 2026 at Crown Perth.



We are now pleased to announce the recipient of the State Emergency Service Young Person of the Year Award: **Zach Hill, Karratha State Emergency Service**



Zach Hill, 19, joined Karratha SES in March 2025 and has already contributed more than 350 volunteer hours while completing an impressive range of operational training. He travelled almost 3,000 km across the Pilbara to gain specialist qualifications in Road Crash Rescue, Basic Life Support, Land Search and General Rescue.

Rarely missing a training night, Zach willingly steps forward when help is needed. Trusted by experienced members, he manages the unit's chainsaws and workshop equipment, helping maintain operational readiness. His enthusiasm, initiative and commitment have quickly made him a valued member of Karratha SES.

Zach will also now go forward to be considered for the inaugural WAFES Young Person of the Year Award with the winner announced on the night.

WAFES Awards Presentation

Zach will join the SES individual and team finalists at Crown Perth on 5 September. Being recognised as a finalist is a significant achievement and a testament to the positive impact these volunteers have on their communities.

On behalf of SES volunteers across Western Australia, the SESVA wish all finalists every success at the WAFES Awards presentation.

Regardless of the outcome, you have already made us proud through your outstanding service and contribution to emergency management in Western Australia.

WAFES Awards livestream

The WAFES Awards will be livestreamed so friends, family and colleagues who can't attend the event can still share in the moment and watch the awards being announced live.

Please encourage your volunteers who are not attending the awards to tune in from 7:15pm through the [WAFES Awards web-site](#).

Come and meet your SESVA representatives at our Association Merchandise stand, opposite the Main Conference Hall. We'll have our great SES MERCHANDISE on sale too.

Don't want to stand in line?

Pre-order before the 3rd September and we can have it packed and ready for you!

Collect your **FREE gift pack** and your pre-ordered SES merchandise at the SESVA stand opposite the main conference hall.

To place your order:

Email sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au or phone 0499 619 287.

Check out the full merchandise range





Albany SES Awards Night

Albany SES members recently came together at the Railways Football Club for their Annual Awards Night, celebrating the incredible volunteers who make up the Unit.

The evening provided an opportunity to recognise the dedication, commitment and achievements of members while enjoying great food, plenty of laughs and good company.

Congratulations to everyone who received a Unit Award, Service Medal or National Medal, with service milestones recognised from five years through to an incredible 45 years of volunteering.

Every hour spent training, every callout attended and every task completed behind the scenes contributes to the strength and success of the Unit.

Congratulations to all award recipients on your well-deserved recognition.

Top: Member of the Year Jessica Rouse (top left); Most Improved Kate Pritchett (Bottom left); Margaret Utley Kathy Way (bottom middle). (The Margaret Utley award is managers choice). Most Dedicated Gavin Murdock (top right); Compass award Renske Veltkamp (bottom right) the compass award is recognition for their efforts during an operation).

Bottom L to R: Jessica Rouse, Gavin Murdock, Linda Candeloro, Renae Hordyk (all 5 years), Keith Lucas (10 years), Renske Veltkamp (15 years), Nigel De Snoo (15 year nation medal), Cathy Clark (25 year national medal), Tom Walker (45 years)



Tom Price Awards Night

On 6 August, we had the pleasure of welcoming District Officer Peter Cameron to the Tom Price SES Unit to recognise and celebrate the dedication and commitment of several of our outstanding members.

Congratulations to:

- 🏆 **Cam** – 5 Years of Service Award and Certificate as a Vertical Rescue (VR) Team Leader.
- 🏆 **Paul** – 10 Years of Service Award.
- 🏆 **Simon** – 15 Years of Service Award and recipient of a National Award.
- 🏆 **Nicky** – an incredible 20 Years of Service.

Thank you all for your commitment, professionalism, and the time you so generously give to the Tom Price SES Unit and the wider community. Your dedication is truly appreciated, and these achievements are thoroughly deserved.

Congratulations once again—we're incredibly proud to have you as part of our team. ❤️



Award recipients: Cameron Hunt, Paul Hatfield, Simon Davidson and Nicole Kelly.





21 YEARS OF SES — CONGRATULATIONS WAYNE

Back when some of us were still in high school, Wayne Credaro joined Margaret River SES. After a stint as Unit Training Manager and a brief thought about retirement, someone had the questionable idea of offering him the Local Manager role in Busselton.

11 years later... and apparently nobody can find the exit button! 😊

For 21 years, Wayne has shown an incredible commitment to SES and, most importantly, our community. Whether it's storms, floods, searches, Large Air Tanker support, training, community engagement and preparedness, Wayne has consistently been there to help, lead, advocate and make sure we're ready when the community needs us.

He's never been afraid to speak up, ruffle a few feathers or have a good "strong discussion" — all while creating his own special brand of professional chaos! 😊

He's helped build skills across just about everything SES, always pushing us to improve and reminding us:

"The standard you walk past is the standard you accept."

🙌 Thank you, Wayne, for 21 years of service, leadership, laughs and an unwavering commitment to our community — including 11 years as Local Manager.

💖💖 You're a legend, Wayne... but DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT RETIRING!

The community still needs you, the biscuit tin never has Monte Carlos without you... and quite frankly, the coffee machine doesn't know how to function if you're not here to fix it. 😊



National Medal for Brett Watson Cockburn SES

Brett was recently presented with the National Medal, recognising his outstanding 15 years of operational emergency service and his ongoing commitment to supporting our community.

A fantastic achievement and a very well-deserved recognition of the time, dedication and commitment you've given to helping others over the years.

Congratulations, Brett, and thank you for your continued service to Cockburn SES! 🙌🏆👏

Left: Brett Watson displaying his Certificate of Recognition, presented by the Cockburn SES for 16 years of service.



Celebrating a Remarkable Career of Service

Retirement Celebration for Lynda Elms | Saturday, 15 August

SES volunteers and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) staff from across the Upper Great Southern Region were joined by SES volunteers from the neighbouring Great Southern Region in Wagin on Saturday, 15 August, to celebrate the retirement of Lynda Elms and recognise her outstanding contribution to the State Emergency Service over more than three decades.

The luncheon provided an opportunity for colleagues, friends and volunteers from throughout the region to come together and thank Lynda for her many years of dedication, leadership and unwavering support of SES volunteers across Western Australia.

Many attendees shared stories and reflections from their time working with Lynda, highlighting her professionalism, approachability and genuine commitment to the volunteer emergency services sector. Throughout her career, Lynda built strong relationships with volunteers and staff alike, earning a reputation as a trusted and respected supporter of the SES family.

Lynda's journey with the SES began with the Tracker Dog Group as a volunteer in Mount Barker, then as a staff member with the former WA State Emergency Service in Albany, where she worked alongside well-known SES identities John Umney and Barry Hamilton. Her career later progressed through the organisation, including her appointment as a District Manager with FESA, where she worked closely with Barry Jones. Over the years, she became a familiar and valued figure to countless volunteers across the State.

During the celebration, a number of presentations were made to Lynda on behalf of SES volunteers and DFES staff in recognition of her decades of service and the positive impact she has had on emergency services and the communities of Western Australia.

Secretary Allen Gale attended on behalf of the SES Volunteers Association and presented a special plaque to acknowledge her more than 30 years of distinguished service and her enduring commitment to supporting SES volunteers.

The afternoon was filled with laughter, memories and heartfelt appreciation as those in attendance reflected on the many lives Lynda has touched throughout her career.

As she begins her well-earned retirement, SES volunteers and DFES staff throughout the Upper Great Southern and Great Southern Regions extend their sincere thanks to Lynda for her outstanding contribution and wish her every happiness, good health and success in the years ahead.

Thank you, Lynda, for your decades of service, support and friendship. Your contribution to the SES family will be remembered and appreciated for many



SESVA Secretary, Allen Gale presented Lynda with a special plaque in recognition of her service.

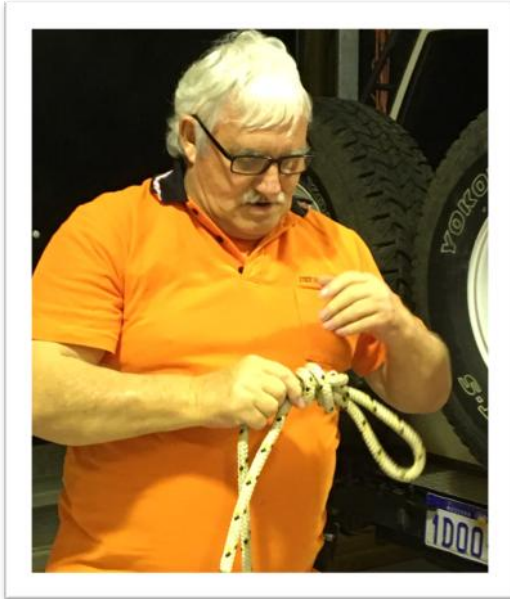


On 15 August, SES volunteers and DFES staff from across the Upper Great Southern Region were joined by SES volunteers from the Great Southern Region to celebrate the retirement of Lynda Elms.



Lynda was presented with her favourite M&Ms and a riding hat.

Vale – George Livesey, Shark Bay SES



Some people become much more than fellow volunteers, they become part of the family.

For the members of Shark Bay SES, George Livesey was certainly one of those people. His passing in June 2026 was deeply felt by everyone in the unit as well as the community who had the privilege of caring for, knowing and serving alongside him.

George dedicated an incredible 20 years to volunteering with DFES across multiple agencies.

Over the years, George served in a number of important roles at SES Shark Bay, including Deputy Unit Leader, Communications Officer and our much loved knot master.

He was always willing to contribute his time, knowledge and experience, whether it was during training, an operational response or simply helping around the unit.

Those who served alongside George will especially remember his time on the radios. His unmistakable English accent occasionally made communications that little bit more interesting, and it became one of the many things about George that made us smile, laugh or joke about. He was Uncle Georgie, a character, a friend, and most importantly a part of our SES family.

George also had his own unique way of passing on his knowledge. Knot-tying training was never simply about learning a knot. George would always have a funny saying, story or explanation to go along with it, somehow making it stick in your mind long after training had finished. Just ask any member of Shark Bay SES how to tie a bowline knot and you're likely to hear a very unique story involving a farmer and a rabbit which is usually delivered with our best impersonation of Georgie's unmistakable English accent!

And then there was chilli. George absolutely hated it and seemed to possess an almost supernatural ability to detect even the smallest amount hidden in a meal. You could assure him there wasn't any chilli in sight, but somehow George would find it! It became another of those little things we came to know and love about him in our small volunteer unit.

We are incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to volunteer alongside him and to call him our friend.

Rest peacefully and stand down George. You will always remain part of the Shark Bay SES family.

From all past and present members of the Shark Bay State Emergency Service.



The SES Volunteers Association on behalf of SES volunteers extend their deepest condolences to George's family, friends and former colleagues.

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

04-05 Sep WAFES Conference & Awards
11-13 Sep NDRC QLD—Atherton Tablelands
Fri 11 Sep WA SESVA AMG Delegates form deadline
Sat 12 Sep WA SESVA AGM—Belmont and online

Thu 24 Sep SESVA Management Committee mtg
Tue 17 Nov Summer Newsletter submissions deadline
Thu 26 Nov SESVA Management Committee mtg
Sat 05 Dec International Volunteer Day

Help us promote YOUR achievements!



SESVA wants to celebrate the dedication, hard work and achievements of our member SES Units and Volunteers.

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