

SESVA

November 2026 UPDATE

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Mandurah SES Celebrates 50 Years





Congratulations to Mandurah SES on 50 years of service.

SESVA President Greg Cook and Vice President North, Ross Jones were delighted to attend the celebrations held on 29 October. One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the **Keys to the City** to Mandurah SES by Mayor Amber Kearns.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have contributed to this proud history and continue to make a difference in their community.

You can read about the celebration and see more photos on page 9.



Above left: Mandurah SES Unit Volunteers and guests..

Above right L to R: Mandurah SES Unit Manager Chris Stickland, *Minister for Emergency Services Reece Whitby MLA,* ***Acting Deputy Commissioner Operations Paul Carr ESM and Mayor of Mandurah Amber Kearns.***

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from THE PRESIDENT

Hello again to you all

As we approach the 2026/2027 high-threat period, it is important that we prepare not only for the operational demands ahead, but also for the protection, health and wellbeing of every WA SES volunteer.

Our work places us in challenging and sometimes hazardous environments. Flooding, storm damage, extreme weather, heat, unstable structures, fallen trees, difficult access and long operational periods can all place significant demands on our people. Unit member protection must therefore remain central to our preparation.

Being ready means maintaining the skills and knowledge required to work safely in emergency environments. This includes understanding operational procedures, using personal protective equipment correctly, identifying hazards, communicating effectively, working within our capability and knowing when to stop, withdraw or seek additional support. No task is more important than the safety of the people undertaking it.

Preparation must also include our physical and physiological readiness. High-threat operations can involve extended periods of physical effort, disrupted sleep, exposure to heat and weather, heavy lifting, awkward movements and limited access to food, water or rest. Volunteers should consider how they will maintain their health and energy during these conditions.

Practical preparation may include:

- building and maintaining an appropriate level of fitness;
- getting adequate sleep before periods of heightened activity;
- maintaining hydration and carrying suitable water supplies;
- eating regularly and choosing food that supports sustained energy;
- preparing for heat exposure and other environmental conditions;
- checking medications, medical needs and personal equipment;
- understanding the signs of heat stress, fatigue, dehydration and physical overexertion;
- using safe manual-handling techniques; and
- taking scheduled breaks and reporting concerns early.



Looking after ourselves is not a sign of weakness or a lack of commitment. It is an essential part of being operationally effective.

A fatigued, dehydrated or injured volunteer is at greater risk and may also create additional risk for their team. We must be prepared to speak up when we are not fit for a task, and we must support our colleagues when they do the same.

Preparation should also include our mental and emotional wellbeing. Emergency work can expose volunteers to distressing situations, uncertainty and pressure. Staying connected with our team, checking in with one another, participating in briefings and debriefings, and seeking support when needed are all important protective measures. Early support is always preferable to waiting until concerns become overwhelming.

Importantly, our preparation must include our families and loved ones. They should not be left out of the process. Families need to understand that deployments may involve long hours, limited communication, changing rosters and possible exposure to difficult conditions. Discussing these realities in advance can help everyone feel more informed and supported.

Simple steps can make a difference: talk about likely commitments, agree on communication arrangements, identify who can assist with household responsibilities and make sure loved ones know where support can be found if an operation affects normal routines. Our families are part of the broader support network that enables volunteers to serve their communities.

The coming high-threat period will require professionalism, teamwork and resilience. Let us make unit member protection a shared responsibility—from training and equipment checks, through to deployment, recovery and return home.

Every volunteer should return from an operation as safely and as well as possible. By preparing our skills, our bodies, our minds and our families, we strengthen not only individual volunteers, but the whole WA SES network.

Stay prepared. Stay connected. Look after yourself—and look after each other.

Greg Cook ESM

President, WA SES Volunteers Association

from THE SECRETARY



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. (NOTE: Previously submitted Member Delegate Forms will be accepted following confirmation in writing to the Returning Officer.)

Complete the SESVA 2026 AGM Information and Delegate form and email to the Returning Officer no later than Friday, 20 November

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

SESVA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 9:00 am Saturday 21st November 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 wellcoordinated 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE



SECURITY WARNING
TO SES UNITS WITH WEBSITES

SESVA is alerting SES Units with websites to be vigilant following apparent targeting of SES and emergency services-related websites by hackers.

Please review your website security and:

- **Check for unauthorised pages** that may have been created without your knowledge.
- **Review your website for suspicious content**, unfamiliar links or unexpected changes.
- **Ensure themes and plugins are up to date** and remove any that are no longer required.
- **Check that strong passwords and two-factor authentication** are in place for all administrator accounts.
- **Verify that security software, firewalls and regular backups** are operating correctly.
- **Contact your website host or IT support provider** if you identify anything suspicious.

Malicious content can be hidden even when a website appears to be operating normally.

Prevention is far better than recovery.

SES Units with a website - please review your website security as soon as possible.

SESVA – Supporting SES Volunteers in Western Australia.

Fuel Card Funding for Volunteers



Good news for emergency services volunteers: the 2026–27 Volunteer Fuel Cards are on their way to SES units across WA.

DFES has arranged for the cards to be sent to the Unit Manager; the cards are shared for use by eligible volunteers rather than issued individually.

The State Government has allocated $1,000 per brigade, group or unit. The cards can be used for fuel for private or recreational purposes only, not for operational vehicles or vessels.

They are **valid until 30 June 2027**, so units are encouraged to keep track of expenditure throughout the year.

For full details, terms and conditions and support information, visit the DFES information page below.

Read more about the Volunteer Fuel Card Scheme



Keep up to date with news straight to your phone.
Sign up to receive SMS messages from SESVA

We promise only to send alerts for the monthly newsletter and important announcements.
A maximum of four messages a month.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Bernie McNamara SES Young Emerging Leaders (YEL) Program

Applications Now Open for SES volunteers aged 18 to 30 years - apply by 30 November 2026.

The **Bernie McNamara SES Young Emerging Leaders (YEL) Program** provides a valuable leadership development opportunity for young SES volunteers in Western Australia. Aligned with the **National SESVA Young Emerging Leaders Program**, the initiative enables two WA volunteers to participate in the annual National Memorial Service and associated leadership activities in Canberra.

One position is automatically awarded to the recipient of the **WA Fire and Emergency Services SES Young Person of the Year Award**, while the second participant is selected through a competitive application process managed by the **WA SES Volunteers Association (SESVA)**.

Program Activities

While the program schedule may vary each year, participants can typically expect to:

- Attend the **AFAC National Memorial Service** in Canberra.
- Meet senior leaders from across Australia, including the **Governor-General** and Commissioners of emergency services agencies.
- Visit key national institutions such as **Parliament House**, **Geoscience Australia**, and the **National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)**.
- Share their experience with the wider SES community by contributing an article to the **SESVA Newsletter** following their return to Western Australia.

Eligibility and Application Requirements

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must:

- Be a registered WA SES volunteer aged between **18 and 30 years** as at **30 November 2026**.
- Obtain a written reference from the **Local Manager** of their SES Unit.
- Submit a completed application form to the **WA SESVA Secretary** at sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au.

The application form requires applicants to provide information about:

- Their SES, community and leadership involvement.
- Leadership aspirations and future goals.
- How they see themselves developing as a leader over the next five years.

Download the Application form here.

Selection Process

Selection is based on demonstrated achievement, leadership potential and commitment to the SES. Applications will be assessed by an independent selection panel chaired by a member of the SESVA Management Committee.

Key Dates

30 November 2026	Applications close
14 December 2026	Successful applicant(s) announced
Late April 2027	Participation in the Memorial Service and leadership program in Canberra

Help Us Promote This Opportunity -

Share this information with all your Unit members - they may be a deserving volunteer or know of one who would benefit from this unique leadership development opportunity and represent Western Australia at the national level.

North or South, Summer Means Be Ready

As southern Western Australia prepares for a dangerous bushfire season, the north is entering the wet season, bringing the threat of tropical cyclones, severe storms and flooding. The hazards may differ, but the message for SES volunteers and the communities we support is the same: prepare early and stay informed.

In the south: Prepare for bushfire season

Across the southern half of the State, dry conditions are adding to concerns about the coming bushfire season. Hot, dry and windy weather can create dangerous fire conditions, making preparation a priority before summer takes hold.

For volunteers, readiness starts at home. Review your household emergency plan, prepare your emergency kit and make sure your family knows what to do if a bushfire threatens. Follow official property-preparation advice and keep across local Fire Danger Ratings, restrictions and warnings.

In the north: Wet-season readiness matters

Northern communities are entering the time of year when heavy rainfall, severe thunderstorms and tropical cyclones can disrupt lives and essential services. Australia's official tropical cyclone season runs from November to April, although cyclones can occur outside these months.

Damaging winds, flash flooding, road closures and isolation can create significant challenges for communities and responding SES Units. It only takes one cyclone or tropical low to cause serious impacts, regardless of how active the season is overall.

Now is the time to review emergency plans, check emergency supplies and prepare properties in line with official cyclone and flood advice.

Different hazards, shared operational awareness

Seasonal outlooks help describe broader conditions, but they cannot pinpoint where and when individual emergencies will occur. Shorter-range forecasts, warnings and tropical cyclone track information become especially important as weather systems develop.

For SES volunteers, monitoring changing conditions provides valuable context for operational briefings and helps Units anticipate potential demands. Forecasts and public warnings complement, rather than replace, official operational advice and tasking.

Stay informed this summer

Monitor Bureau of Meteorology forecasts and warnings, including the seven-day tropical cyclone forecast and cyclone track maps when issued. Follow Emergency WA for emergency alerts and warnings, and check local Fire Danger Ratings and restrictions.

Whether facing fire in the south or storms, cyclones and flooding in the north, being prepared matters across the State.

Monitor forecasts and warnings through the Bureau of Meteorology website and app, and emergency alerts through the Emergency WA website and app.

Warnings and alerts | The Bureau of Meteorology

North or south, act now—not when the emergency arrives.
Prepare your household. Know your plan. Stay informed and be ready to act on official advice.



WA & TAS Raffle **Support SES Volunteers and buy your tickets HERE!**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Statewide TEAMS Meeting:

Emergency Services Volunteers Hardship Assistance Scheme

SES units across Western Australia are invited to join a statewide Teams meeting on Thursday, 3 December 2026 to learn more about the Emergency Services Volunteers Hardship Assistance Scheme and the support it can provide to emergency services volunteers experiencing financial hardship.

The scheme was established to give emergency services volunteers an opportunity to seek financial assistance during times of hardship. It is managed by a governing committee comprising representatives from the relevant volunteer associations.

For many volunteers, it is a support option they may have heard about but know little about. This statewide session is an opportunity to build greater awareness of the scheme, including **eligibility, the application process, and the rights and responsibilities associated with seeking assistance**. These are among the areas covered in the scheme information available through the WA SES Volunteers Association website.

Why join the meeting?

Whether you are an SES volunteer, Unit Manager, welfare contact or someone who supports volunteers at the local level, the meeting is an opportunity to better understand the assistance available and help ensure volunteers know where they can turn when times get tough.

Thursday, 3 December 2026
Statewide online meeting via Microsoft Teams

Meeting time and TEAMS joining details to be provided.

Supporting our volunteers means making sure they know help is available when they need it most.

Learn more about the Emergency Services Volunteers Hardship Assistance Scheme



Dementia Training for First Responders

Free Masterclass
Tuesday 24 November 2026

Find out more here:

Bayswater SES Long Service Awards

Congratulations to our members who were recently recognised for their long service as SES volunteers!

District Officer, Chris Kin-Maung presented the following:

- **Jane Brindley** - 5 Years
- **Luan Duong** - 10 Years
- **Sean Kenwery** - 10 Years
- **Wayne Bengtsson** - 20 Years

The State Emergency Service (SES) medallion is awarded to volunteers who have completed a period of five years of diligent service.

The SES long service medal is awarded for ten years of diligent service to the SES.

A clasp to the medal is awarded for each subsequent five years of diligent service to the SES.

Acting Local Manager **Sean O'Brien** was also recognised for going above and beyond in support of the unit, and in recognition of his long service he was made a life member of Bayswater SES.

Congratulations you absolute legends, we appreciate everything you do to support Bayswater State Emergency Service and to keep the community safe.



Chris Kin-Maung and Wayne Bengtsson



Chris Kin-Maung and Jane Brindley



Luan Duong and Sean O'Brien

Rewards & Recognition

Various SES items available.



Download the SESVA merchandise catalogue

Share Your SES Story



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

Send us a couple of paragraphs and 2 or 3 photos and we'll turn it into an article.

👉 *Download a simple template from the SESVA website or email sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au*

Congratulations to Mandurah SES on 50 Years!

On 29 October, current and former Mandurah SES volunteers came together for a special celebration hosted by the City of Mandurah, recognising five decades of dedicated volunteer service.

More than 120 people attended the celebration, including around 70 current and former Mandurah SES volunteers, Minister for Emergency Services Reece Whitby MLA, Members of Parliament, DFES and SESVA representatives and other invited guests.

A special honour from the City

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Keys to the City to Mandurah SES by Mayor Amber Kearns.

The presentation was a significant acknowledgement of the Unit's longstanding contribution to the Mandurah community and made the 50th anniversary celebrations particularly memorable.

The Unit also received a special 50th Anniversary plaque from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, presented by Paul Carr in recognition of Mandurah SES's service to the community.

40 years of dedicated service

The evening also recognised an extraordinary individual milestone.

Mandurah SES Unit Manager Chris Stickland was presented with his 40-year clasp to the National Medal by Minister for Emergency Services Reece Whitby MLA.

Chris also received a special plaque from Mandurah SES members in recognition of his dedication and service to the Unit and community.

Celebrating the volunteers behind 50 years of service

The anniversary provided an opportunity not only to look back on the Unit's history, but also to recognise the current and former volunteers who have helped shape Mandurah SES over the past 50 years

Over five decades, generations of Mandurah SES volunteers have given countless hours to training, storm damage response, search and rescue, community service and a wide range of emergency incidents.

Their commitment has helped build the strong relationship Mandurah SES enjoys with its community today.

Congratulations to everyone who has been part of the Mandurah SES story. Fifty years of supporting the community is an achievement well worth celebrating.







Current and former Mandurah SES volunteers joined guests and dignitaries to celebrate the Unit's 50th anniversary. Bottom Right: Mandurah SES Unit Manager Chris Stickland acknowleges the City of Mandurah and distinguished guests on behalf of the volunteers.

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Thu 05 Nov	SES VAC meeting	Mon 30 Nov	YEL Applications close
Sat 07 Nov	Kimberley Volunteer Leaders forum	Thu 03 Dec	Teams mtg: Volunteers Hardship Assitance Scheme
Tu 17 Nov	Summer News submission deadline		
Sat 21 Nov	SESVA AGM	Thu 03 Dec	Volunteering WA Garden Party
Thu 26 Nov	SESVA Management committee mtg	Sat 05 Dec	International Volunteer Day
Sat 28 Nov	Pridefest Parade - Northbridge	Thu 10 Dec	SES VAC meeting



PRIDEFEST 2026

Saturday 28 November 2026

The Pride Parade returns to Northbridge!

Watch from the footpath, cheer from the crowd and support diversity in all its shapes and forms.

Entertainment begins at 6:00 PM with the parade running from 8:00 to 9:30 PM.

Free PrideFEST Parade After Party at Russell Square from 9:30 PM to 12:00 AM (free entry, all ages with a guardian)

For more information visit:

pridewa.com.au/pridefest-2026/

Volunteering WA's Annual Garden Party

Save the date | Thursday 3 December 2026



The International Volunteer Day Garden Party is a favourite on the Volunteering WA calendar.
It's an event that allows volunteers to connect with each other, and different organisations, while celerating the power of volunteering.

The Garden Party features speeches, canapes, live entertainment, and lawn games.
We invite organisations to bring their volunteers to the event as a way of thanking them for their efforts.

Ticket sales close on Thursday 12 November (or once sold out). BUY ONLINE:
https://volunteeringwa.org.au/celebrations/international-volunteer-day-garden-party/

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
DFES Department of Fire & Emergency Services

The SES Volunteers Association of WA Inc.

acknowledges the funding from the

Department of Fire and Emergency Services of WA

USEFUL LINKS

SES Volunteers Association of WA (WA SESVA)
WA SESVA Facebook page
Buy tickets in the WA / TAS SESVA Raffle
DFES Volunteer Hub
State Emergency Management Committee
Volunteering WA
Fortem Australia Wellbeing Hub