



from THE PRESIDENT

Hello to you

This month I've looked into common inspirations for Western Australian SES volunteers

1. Desire to help the community in real emergencies

Many volunteers are driven by the chance to make a tangible difference during storms, floods, road crashes, and search-and-rescue operations — situations where their help directly protects lives and property.

Western Australia's vast size and exposure to cyclones, severe storms, and bushfires mean SES members often feel they're filling a critical gap.

2. Personal connection or experience

Some have been affected by an emergency themselves (e.g., storm damage to their home) and want to "give back" what they received.

Others have family members or friends already in emergency services and are inspired by their stories.

3. Sense of purpose and belonging

Volunteering provides meaningful work, camaraderie, and a strong team environment. Many describe the SES as "a second family."

It offers structure and achievement outside of regular jobs, especially for people in regional or remote areas.

4. Learning practical skills and adventure

Training in rope rescue, flood response, chainsaw operations, navigation, and first aid appeals to those who enjoy hands-on, challenging activities.

The variety of callouts (from urban storm damage to remote searches) keeps it interesting compared to routine volunteering.

5. Giving back while gaining experience

Students, tradespeople, and professionals often join to build leadership, teamwork, and technical skills that also help their careers.

Retirees frequently cite staying active and useful as a major driver.

Typical profile of a WA SES volunteer

Most volunteers are ordinary community members (truck drivers, teachers, farmers, nurses, etc.) rather than full-time emergency workers. They train in their own time and respond when available, often balancing family and work commitments.

Is this you?

Greg Cook ESM
President SESVA of WA (Inc)



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SES Volunteers Association of Western Australia (Inc.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9:00 am Saturday 12th September 2026

DFES North East Region, Lecture Theatre, 91 Leake Street, Belmont

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE UNIT DELEGATE

This year the AGM will be held on a Saturday—**1 week after** the WAFES Conference.

All Units are eligible to vote

Each member Unit has one vote

A Member Delegate must be Authorised to vote

- To enable the Member Delegate to vote for their Unit, a form must be signed by both the delegate and the Unit Authorising Officer (Local Manager).
- A Member Delegate form has been emailed to each member Unit for return by **Friday 11th September 2026**.
- A Member Delegate can attend via a TEAMS meeting link if they are unable to attend the AGM at Belmont. Please ensure the SESVA Returning Officer is advised of the email address for sending the TEAMS link when returning the Member Delegate form.
- Details of the TEAMS meeting will be forwarded **before** the meeting day to each Member Delegate who requests the TEAMS link.
- The Member Delegate form **must** be received by the SESVA Returning Officer by **Friday 11th September 2026**, otherwise your Unit will not be eligible to vote.
- Complete and return the signed form to the **SESVA Returning Officer** sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Secretary – SES Volunteers Association of WA (SESVA)

Voluntary Executive Council Role

SESVA is seeking a motivated and organised individual to join the **Executive Council** as **Secretary**.

This key governance role supports Association communications, meetings, records management, newsletters, and the supervision of a paid staff member.

The Secretary works closely with the President and Executive Council to support and represent members of the SESVA.

Skills sought:

- Strong organisation and communication skills
- Attention to detail and reliability
- Interest in governance and volunteer advocacy
- Meeting administration experience desirable



- Make a real difference for SES volunteers
- Gain leadership and governance experience

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





SESVA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Summary of meeting held 23 July

New Emergency Services Minister

Hon Reece Whitby MLA has been appointed as WA Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Local Government Grants Scheme Review

Reform of the LGGS continues, focusing on funding, governance and safety compliance for volunteer emergency service organisations.

DFES is developing a Fleet Strategy beyond 2030...

and is seeking volunteer input on future vehicle and fleet requirements. Volunteers are encouraged to provide feedback on what works well and what could be improved.

H5N1 Bird Flu

The first detections of H5N1 Avian Influenza have occurred in WA and SA. Volunteers should be aware of official public health advice. Members can stay up to date via a website: [Weekly Bird Flu Update in Western Australia](#)

Fire Weather District Changes

Changes to Fire Weather District boundaries are expected in mid-August 2026.

Emergency Services Legislation

SESVA continues to monitor emergency services legislation developments and has developed FAQs for management committee members to share with units.

SES Training Review

Training pathways are being reviewed and simplified for recruits, specialists, unit management and statewide response requirements.



Regional Leadership Forums

SESVA attended the Goldfields-Midlands Leadership Forum and is working to ensure representation at all regional forums.

SESVA Strategic Plan 2026-2029

The plan has been adopted, including a commitment to preserve SES heritage and investigate a future SES heritage museum.

SES Flood Boats

A position paper on SES flood boats and AMSA Exemption 24 has been adopted to support discussions with DFES.

Canine Unit Trailer Issues

Reported trailer issues are being addressed.

70th Anniversary of SES in WA

Nominations still being sought for the working group. SESVA will provide administrative support for a second edition of WA SES history.

SES Association Training Advisory Group

An opportunity still exists for membership by interested SES volunteers of this group.

DFES Asset Design and Fleet Delivery presentation

DFES Asset Management officers provided and updated and answered questions. See the article on the next page.

Association Rules are not optional

Submitted by Alan Hawke, Vice President South

Many SES volunteers identify themselves as DFES volunteers, but that description does not accurately reflect the legal relationship.

In Western Australia, SES volunteers are generally members of gazetted SES units, most of which are incorporated associations governed by their own Rules under the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA).

Those Rules are not guidelines or suggestions—they are legally binding on both the association and its members. Understanding this distinction is essential to understanding

how SES units operate, how disputes are resolved, and why governance, leadership and communication matter so much within volunteer organisations.

This article explores the legal framework underpinning SES units, the role of the FES Commissioner, the importance of association Rules, and why effective leadership requires more than simply managing emergencies—it requires listening to, respecting and supporting volunteers.

Download the article [here](#).



DFES Asset Design and Fleet Delivery Update

At its 23 July meeting, SESVA Management Committee members received an update from AC Sutton, DFES Asset Management, and Supt. Ryan Murray, Asset Design and Fleet Delivery.

Later this year both AC Sutton and Supt Ryan will travel through the Pilbara and Kimberley regions to meet with various units and regional offices to hear directly from staff and volunteers about operational needs and challenges.



Several issues were raised for follow-up with a response being received within two working days; see below:

Snorkel Decision for Isuzu D-Max

Following careful review, DFES has confirmed that snorkels will not be fitted to the Isuzu D-Max fleet. While snorkels remain popular on private 4WDs, the decision was based on manufacturer specifications, vehicle safety, and operational boundaries.

The factory maximum wading depth for the Isuzu D-Max is 800 mm. Fitting a snorkel raises the air intake but does not protect electrical components, the alternator, door seals, or differential breathers. Water deeper than 800 mm can still cause electrical failure or cause the vehicle to float and lose traction. A snorkel provides some protection against a sudden wave over the bonnet; however, it does not safely allow operations beyond the manufacturer's limit. Exceeding this threshold introduces unnecessary risk to crew safety and equipment.

The original supported specifications for these vehicles were a minimum of 350 mm fording depth for the GRU and 400 mm for the GRT — the parameters on which the vehicles were designed and built.

Sidestep Configuration on the GRU

The entry height for the D-Max GRU is 540 mm, compared with 640 mm on the LT. This is considered a manageable step-in height for volunteers. Dedicated steps have also been incorporated between the chassis and POD to assist with safe access to the roof rack.

Given the lower baseline sill height of the D-Max platform, the current setup is considered to strike the right balance between ease of access and ground clearance. Feedback on this matter will remain on file for ongoing review.

SES Bus Fleet – 2WD/4WD/4WD Considerations

The current SES bus is the Toyota HiAce Commuter Bus (2WD). With reduced seating in the troop carrier to GRU transition, the bus is intended to support SES capacity for moving personnel.

An analysis of 12,391 SES vehicle movements recorded in OIS data between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2023 showed that 4WD capability was used on only 271 occasions (2.19%). This indicates a limited overall need for 4x4 capability across the SES.

However, seven units recorded 4WD usage exceeding 10% of their travel time: Esperance, Margaret River, Exmouth, Collie, Meekatharra, Denmark, and Derby. Capability requirements for these units will be reviewed based on their specific operational needs.

Other Fleet and Equipment Updates

Flat Bed Ute: This option will be considered as part of the Future Fleet review.

Flood Boat PPC Review: The Operational Response Directorate (ORD) is currently reviewing Flood Boat Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment (PPC/E). The review will examine DFES doctrine and training requirements, current DFES-supplied items, equipment not provided, and items purchased ad hoc by units. A jurisdictional comparison, including tropical conditions in Far North Queensland and cold-weather conditions in Victoria, will also be undertaken.

SES Canine Trailer: The unit has been waiting to learn when their damaged trailer is to be replaced. This is waiting for an Insurance claim to be completed by the unit to fund the repair. The SE region is following up.

Welcoming Jon Broomhall AFSM as DFES Deputy Commissioner Operations



The SES Volunteers Association of Western Australia warmly congratulates Jon Broomhall AFSM on his appointment as Deputy Commissioner Operations for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).

With more than three decades of experience in fire and emergency services, Jon brings extensive operational expertise, strategic leadership and a strong commitment to public service. Most recently serving as **Assistant Commissioner Future Capability**, he has led preparedness and capability planning associated with AUKUS-related operations in Western Australia.

His previous roles, including **Assistant Commissioner Metropolitan Operations**, have provided substantial experience in frontline emergency response, incident management and organisational leadership.

As Deputy Commissioner Operations, Jon will oversee firefighting services, natural hazard operations, aviation and marine capability, special operations and State operations coordination. Leadership in this role is vital to ensuring Western Australia remains prepared to respond to bushfires, storms, floods, cyclones and other major emergencies.

Jon's appointment is particularly significant for SES volunteers because of his strong volunteer background. Alongside his professional career, he has a long and distinguished history with **Surf Life Saving Western Australia**, reflecting a genuine understanding of the commitment and community spirit volunteers bring to emergency services.

His service was recognised in 2001 when he received **Life Membership of the Swanbourne Nedlands Surf Life Saving Club**.

As Jon commences his five-year term on **3 August 2026**, the SES Volunteers Association looks forward to working closely with him to strengthen emergency management capability across Western Australia. We are confident his leadership will support strong collaboration, operational excellence and continued investment in volunteer capability.

On behalf of SES volunteers throughout the State, we extend our sincere congratulations to Jon Broomhall AFSM and wish him every success in this important role.

DFES Fleet & Facilities Feedback form



The form is designed to gather **your input** and identify issues on current operational fleet, equipment on fleet, personal protective clothing and emergency facilities across the State.

The intent of this feedback form is to:

- Help shape the Next Generation of Operational Fleet
- Inform future facility planning and design briefs
- Identify trends and collect insights from first-hand experience.



**Your feedback is welcomed -
via this link or QR code**

[DFES Operational Fleet and Facilities Feedback Form](#)





David MacLean, Acting District Officer Training Development Support and Compliance SES and Marine Rescue, has provided an update from the Operational Delivery section of the FES Academy:

We had a few hands raised as a result of the request for people interested in the Comms PAT. We are just finalising preparations before organising a scoping meeting with everyone.

*There have been a few tweaks made to **General Rescue**:*

- *All reference to Paslode has been removed, as per ERAP 02/2026*
- *We included a brief formula for calculating an object's mass. It's nothing dramatic, but helped us map a key criteria and helps people make a quick judgement before lifting or dragging an object.*

***Storm Damage timetable** has been rejigged to reflect the removal of anchors and allow more time to practice your skills before being assessed in them.*

*We are just finalising the inclusion of some elements of the **Ladder Safety System** in BGR. It is just introducing the harness/rocker set up and understanding how to connect to an existing system. The on-line courses are not going to be needed.*

*If anyone is interested in **joining the Flood Rescue Boat Operator PAT**, we are now looking for a few willing participants. Before John Ryan's entire fanbase takes a step forward, please understand this is a heavily regulated course. While we have a degree of interpretation, a lot of the course content is dictated by AMSA.*

Any expressions of interest can be sent to DOsesmracademy@dfes.wa.gov.au

The Association thanks David for his ongoing support of SES volunteers in WA!

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Association Training Advisory Group - State Emergency Service Membership

This is an opportunity for SES volunteers to make a difference by participating in a forum for the communication of training information between DFES and SES volunteers.

Several vacancies currently exist for membership of the Association Training Advisory Group - State Emergency Service (ATAG - SES).

The ATAG – SES is a consultative group established under the authority of DFES. The group will usually meet two (2) times per year. Next meeting is Saturday 19th September at 10:30am.

Membership includes at least six SES regional representatives and one SES Volunteers Association representative.

Regional representatives are responsible for;

- Disseminating and communicating the minutes of the ATAG – SES to their subgroups and SES volunteers.
- Actively seeking input into deliberations of the ATAG – SES through their respective committees and networks.
- Providing a report to the ATAG – SES.

If you are you interested, send your Expression of Interest to the ATAG – SES Chair, Superintendent Operational Delivery, Matt.Wakeling@dfes.wa.gov.au



WAFES Conference 2026:

One Day. Countless Ideas. Endless Inspiration.

Are you attending WAFES Conference at Crown Perth on Saturday 5 September?

Collect your **SES T-shirt and gift pack** - drop in to the SES Volunteers Association stand opposite the main conference hall and meet our Association representatives. We'll have our great merchandise on sale too!

Whether you've been volunteering for decades or joined SES more recently, the 2026 WAFES Conference promises a day packed with stories, lessons, innovation and practical insights that can make a real difference in the field.

The conference brings together emergency service volunteers and paid staff along with industry experts from across WA and beyond.

The 2026 WAFES [Conference Program](#) is now available. **Some of the highlights include:**



Jessica Watson sharing her inspiring story of resilience, leadership and perseverance.

At just 16 years old, Jessica became one of the youngest people to sail solo, non-stop and unassisted around the world, spending 210 days alone at sea. Through her keynote, Jessica will share lessons on leadership, decision-making, managing adversity and maintaining focus when faced with uncertainty.

The dramatic story behind the **Appelbee rescue**, which promises to be one of the conference's most memorable presentations, providing a rare opportunity to hear directly from the people who helped bring a remarkable rescue story to a successful conclusion.

Insights into the upcoming weather season from the **Bureau of Meteorology**.



Scott Millar exploring how different generations can work together more effectively.

With up to five generations now volunteering and working side-by-side, Scott's keynote will challenge common stereotypes and provide practical strategies for building stronger, more connected teams.

Practical sessions on **flood intelligence, social media, marine emergencies, vertical rescue and lithium-ion incidents**.

Lessons learned from the **Victoria fire response** and other major emergency operations.

Opportunities to connect with volunteers from across the state during breaks and networking sessions.

For those attending the full conference experience, exclusive **Friday behind-the-scenes tours** offer rare access to specialised emergency service teams and facilities. The WAFES Conference is more than just a day out. It's a chance to strengthen connections, share knowledge and celebrate the incredible contribution volunteers make to keeping Western Australian communities safe.

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 25th of August 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





New webinar explores the invisible wounds of service

Fortem Australia is launching a new webinar to help emergency service workers, their families, clinicians and support networks better understand moral injury and its impact on psychological wellbeing.

The **free online session**, *Moral Injury: Understanding the Invisible Wounds of Service*, will be held on **Monday 24 August** and will explore how moral injury can arise when experiences conflict with a person's deeply held values, sense of responsibility or trust in others.

Although moral injury is often discussed alongside trauma, it is different to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Rather than being driven primarily by fear, moral injury is more commonly linked to feelings such as guilt, shame, anger, grief or betrayal. It can occur after situations where someone feels they were unable to act in line with their values, or where they experienced a perceived failure by systems, leadership or others around them.

Fortem's clinical lead for mental health and programs, Marnie Donovan said recognising moral injury is an important step in helping first responders understand their experiences and seek support when they need it.

'Emergency service workers enter their professions because they care deeply about helping others. When they're faced with situations that challenge their values or leave them questioning decisions made in impossible

circumstances, the emotional impact can stay with them long after the incident has ended,' Marnie said.

Designed for the emergency services sector, the webinar will cover the causes and signs of moral injury, how it differs from PTSD, and practical strategies to support recovery. Participants will also be introduced to values-based approaches, communication techniques, and resources to support ongoing learning.

The session is suitable for first responders, family members, peer support officers, supervisors, clinicians and anyone who supports those working within the emergency services sector.

Through education and early intervention, Fortem Australia aims to build awareness of moral distress, support more informed conversations, and ensure first responders and their families have access to practical information before challenges become overwhelming.

'Moral injury is not a sign of weakness. It's a very human response to experiences that conflict with what matters most to us. By understanding what moral injury is, we can reduce stigma, encourage meaningful conversations and help people access support earlier' says Marnie.

The webinar will be delivered online on Monday 24 August from 3–4 pm AEST and is free to attend.

Developing a new online training program for emergency service workers across Australia—Participate in research

The Black Dog Institute is inviting first responders experiencing mild-moderate stress to participate in a research study evaluating a new online mental fitness (prevention-based) program.

A brief eligibility screening is required. If eligible, you will be randomly assigned to one of two online program groups or a delayed access comparison group. The programs are self-paced and contain four modules (approx. 20 minutes each). Participation also includes short online questionnaires (approx. 10 min each).

By taking part, you'll play a vital role in shaping better mental health support for first responders.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

WA SES 70th Anniversary (2029) - Working Group MEMBERSHIP

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**.

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.

About the Role

Working Group Members will play an active role in planning and delivering a statewide anniversary program, which may include:

- State and regional commemorative events
- Volunteer recognition initiatives
- Community engagement and public awareness activities
- Development of legacy projects such as publications, digital archives or storytelling initiatives
- Supporting sponsorship and partnership engagement

Who We're Looking For

We invite Expressions of Interest from SES volunteers who are:

- Passionate about recognising SES history and achievements
- Interested in contributing to a **statewide project**
- Able to work collaboratively as part of a team

Commitment

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.

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

RAFFLE #11
DRAWN: 28TH AUGUST 2026

**FIRST
PRIZE**

\$1,500*

COLES MYER GIFT CARD*



UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Thu 6 Aug Agenda items for AGM - submit by 9am
Tue 18 Aug Spring Newsletter submissions deadline
18-21 Aug AFAC2026 in Melbourne
22-23 Aug Midwest-Gascoyne Forum—Geraldton
Sun 23 Aug National SESVA AGM
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

Help us promote YOUR achievements!



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 [here](#) or email sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Next deadline 18 August

Fortress Laptop Backpack

Sturdy with lots of great features.

\$65 + pp



Download the SESVA merchandise catalogue



The SES Volunteers Association of WA Inc.

acknowledges the funding from the

Department of Fire and Emergency Services of WA

USEFUL LINKS

[SES Volunteer's Association of WA \(WA SESVA\)](#)

[WA SESVA Facebook Page](#)

[Buy tickets in the WA/ TAS SESVA Raffle](#)

[DFES Volunteer Hub](#)

[State Emergency Management Committee](#)

[Home - Volunteering WA](#)

[Fortem Australia Wellbeing Hub](#)

