

## From the Board....

The Association has been extremely busy during the bushfire emergency event.

We have been providing a lot of volunteer support as well as continuing to advocate for volunteers during this time.

Business as usual hasn't stopped, just because we are supporting a major event, and we have seen some amazing achievements out of the office- supported by you!

### Calendar

The quality of the images that were provided, and your feedback in voting for your favorite pictures was great. Carlee was able to select the most popular images, as voted by you, and fulfill the calendar requests we had received. We also ran with a pre-order system to minimise wastage and allowed us to prepare for the distribution process.

This was a trial process for the production of the calendar, and we are impressed with the way it worked. If you have any feedback on the process, please let us know at [office@nswsesva.org.au](mailto:office@nswsesva.org.au)

### Drought and Bushfire support Northern NSW

While the fires have calmed down in northern NSW, we know the recovery process will be long and at times, tedious.

The Association has care packs- these contain non-perishable food items, toiletries and cleaning products- for members affected by fire.

Please email [office@nswsesva.org.au](mailto:office@nswsesva.org.au) if your unit would like some delivered. Ideally, we would love a central person to drop the packs off to, who can distribute to members who require than as we understand that it can be overwhelming and make people self-conscious to be receiving items from strangers.

### Western NSW

The fires have been at the centre of a news cycle for many months now, but we know our Western NSW are still battling with terrible drought conditions.

We have care packages available as well as feed for livestock so please Contact us at the office if you or your members require assistance.

### Southern NSW

The fire threat has not yet fully passed, but we have care packages available

For delivery to southern NSW including the Snowy region Please email [office@nswsesva.org.au](mailto:office@nswsesva.org.au) if your unit would like some delivered. Ideally, we would love a central person to drop the packs off to, who can distribute to members who require than as we understand that it can be overwhelming and make people self-conscious to be receiving items from strangers.

### Blue Mountains and Wollondilly Areas

For any member who have been affected in these areas, please get in contact with us.

*Enjoy and stay safe in your volunteering!*

## Member Benefits

Our Member Benefits Coordinator, Adam Jones, has been doing an amazing job at securing a large number of member benefits for SES volunteers. Not only has he had NSW SES volunteers added into utility and telco deals that were originally only for firefighters, he has made them available for SES volunteers around Australia.

Our member benefits facebook site also now have more than 800 members and it's growing daily. Remember that membership will only be accepted if the rules of the group are agreed to.

If you know of a company who would like to offer a benefit to members, or have a suggestion, please email Adam at [memberbenefits@nswsesva.org.au](mailto:memberbenefits@nswsesva.org.au)

## Mental Health Coordinators

We are working at building up our Mental Health Coordinator capacity.

We will be onboarding more Mental Health First Aid trainers (MHFA) to ensure we can meet demand for this course, but due to demand for this training, priority will be given to NSW SES Volunteers Association members.

Interest can be registered for the training through [MHCordinator@nswsesva.org.au](mailto:MHCordinator@nswsesva.org.au)

## Eat.Sleep.Respond

We have had great interest in our Eat.Sleep.Respond range of products. These now include:

- Navy t-shirts
- Grey trucker caps
- Collapsible and reusable coffee cups
- Steel reusable water bottles

We are excited about additional colour ranges that will be available soon and these make the perfect addition to casual wear!



## Fundraising

This has been an unprecedented time for requests for support from the Association.

We have an online fundraising campaign via Facebook fundraising and this is a great way for the community to donate directly to volunteers. The NSW SES volunteers have been actively supporting bushfire efforts since September last year, as well as dealing with the drought and everyday issues that may arise through injury, illness and personal hardship.

If you are asked about where people can donate, please consider pointing them in the direction of the Association so we can continue to support you and your peers.

## Government Initiative- Financial Support to RFS volunteers

We are talking with state and federal ministers requesting that the financial support package that is being offered to RFS volunteers is also extended to include SES members. We will keep you posted on the outcomes of our discussions.

## Donations for NSW Bushfire affected Volunteers

The NSW SESVA Would like to acknowledge and Thank both Sally Suckling (Penrith Unit ) & Chris Cleary (StreetMed Incorporated) for their amazing work this week which saw 6.5 tonnes of non perishable items delivered to our Rockdale office. These donations will be used to support our NSW SES Volunteers who have been affected by the bushfires throughout NSW!



## What's been happening in the Volunteers Association?

Following a member suggestion, we were also able to source and send hydration packs (camel packs) to members who have been assisting with the bushfires.

The team in the office have processed hundreds of requests for member packs and Carlee has become a well-known fixture at the local Post Office! It's great to see our Members utilizing their hydration packs and Tshirts etc out on the field already! For those that sent in orders this week keep an eye out as another postal run was made today



## Have feedback?

All feedback is welcome - You can contact us through our office email [office@nswsesva.org.au](mailto:office@nswsesva.org.au) or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/NswSesVolunteersAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/NswSesVolunteersAssociation) Don't forget to let us know how and what ways you would like to be communicated with.