

Volunteers

ASSOCIATION

Volunteers Supporting Volunteers

ADVOCACY ▪ WELFARE ▪ PUBLIC EDUCATION

What's happening...

This week we are again meeting with the Minister for Emergency Services & the SES Commissioner. These meetings are vital where we can refer feedback and items back to these important people. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like your topic to be raised.

Operational Activity

It has continued to be a crazy time for our members going from fires, drought and now floods, rescues, evacuations and everything else.

We see what you have all being doing and have been out there in the field with you. Our Association is made up of fellow volunteers who work to ensure you are recognised and treated appropriately during these times. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need anything.



Care Packs

You may have seen our care packs go out to fire, flood and storm effected volunteers. These pack are just the beginning of support the SESVA quietly provides. We have sent out over 100 care packs in the past month to volunteers who have been effected by these events. Please, contact us if you become aware of a member who can do with some support. All assistance is strictly confidential

Member Benefits

WOW, hasn't this grown! Remember when you members gave feedback that you did not wish to continue the (old) Member Benefits Card? And we advertised for someone to take this program on? Well it has grown into a huge program that has extended to not only assisting volunteers, but staff of the NSW SES and SES members across Australia.

Adam Jones has excelled himself and devoted immense time & loss of sleep to make these available. At some stage we will have to give Adam a break, but we would like to again recognise his herculean efforts in this space.

NSW SES Volunteers Association Member Benefits page on Facebook

If you are not already a member, join our Member Benefits page on Facebook to keep up to date on current benefits, discounts, competitions and prizes

Mental Health First Aid

Our Mental Health Strategy which was released nearly two years ago continues to move forward, even through the heightened operational activity. We are pleased that the SES has now also just recently released a mental health strategy. Our MHFA courses continue to roll out and just this week Northern Zone again participated in the SESVA run courses. We have also extended our trainers due to demand and to plan forward. We are pleased to have two more fully qualified MHFA trainers and two more to follow soon. We are also undertaking flexible attendance for these courses to ensure they are available to as many members as possible across our state. Watch this space :)

*Stay safe in
your volunteering!*

Fire/Flood/Storm Response Champions

We have extended the Fire Response champions program now to Storm and Flood Champions as well. This program has been very well received so don't forget to nominate a fellow member.

They don't have to be operational and we have recognised staff members as well with certificates and gifts.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSWSESVANominateAChampion>

NOMINATIONS OPEN
NSW SES VA 2019-2020
STORM AND FLOOD RESPONSE CHAMPION!!!

Raffles

To raise money for care packs, benefits, welfare and support etc, the NSW SESVA runs raffles. Just the same as buying a raffle ticket at your newsagent, we offer for sale a raffle ticket for a chance to win \$20,000 cash. These are run through the National SESVA.

At times we hear about 'scams' or members being offered to purchase a ticket to win a prize. If you have concerns about any of this, please contact the office. If you feel you have been contacted and it is a scam please contact the police. Unfortunately there are some people out there that have poor intentions. Any raffle can be clarified immediately on <https://nationalsesvaraffle.org.au/> or by calling 1300 707 344.

The SESVA can listen to the call and see where the call originated from, whether it is from our raffle company or another charity. Please contact the office for more details.

T-Shirts

Talk about hot property. What started as a small recognition for SES volunteers during the fires has grown into a mammoth rollout. Nearly 2,000 shirts have been posted out to volunteers but they are not forever and sizes and numbers are dwindling fast. Please contact the office if you wish to have a shirt sent out to a member who has been out in the fires, floods or storms (this included ops people) *Pls note we only have XL, L, M, S, XS left



Office Hours

Our work is out there with you! We also dress in orange, or wetsuits and get down and dirty. We respond to flood rescue and Community First Responses. Our team also runs units and operations when wearing orange. We are very fortunate to have Carlee in the office 3 ½ days a week and she works through a pile of emails every day as well as massive postage requests. We are a very small team serving 10,000 members so please keep this into account if you cannot get us first try, We will get to you!

The Volunteer Magazine

Submissions are welcome for the Next Edition of The Volunteer Magazine – we have seen outstanding work coming from the Units & Zones and welcome pictures and articles from these recent events to feature in our Magazine. If your unit has been involved in Training exercises, strike teams, community events etc or you would like to shout out a Volunteer for their great work please send information through editor@nswsesva.org.au



Australia Day Awards

Congratulations to all those members who received recognition on Australia Day. We have sent out personal congratulations from the SESVA and President. We understand that there may also be local recognitions that are not forwarded to us. Please feel free to let us know what recognition your members are receiving, and we can acknowledge and promote their good work further. Please contact the office.

Unit Account

We continue to receive a huge amount of feedback regarding the unit accounts. Whilst we continue to raise this with the SES, we are also looking at alternative solutions. Thank you to those SESVA members who have undertaken this program and continue to devote a huge amount of time and effort to it. We continue to seek professional legal and financial advice about the best ways forward. Please contact the office for any further information on how we can help.

Flowers, Hospital Visits

Don't forget during difficult times the SESVA has the ability to send flowers and visit members in hospital. This is simply arranged by going to our website. This service is in addition to our welfare support, drought and fire support programs. Please contact the office for details.

Disabled Members

The SESVA supports a number of SES members with disability. This can be in many ways and includes advocacy both to the NSWSES and through disability advocates and support networks. If you know of a disabled member, or a member of the community who would like to volunteer, we may be able to assist. This program has received good feedback from NSW Government and with this, we intend to expand the program. Pls contact us for details.

Recognition

Anthorr continues to work in this space with great effect. He has significant history with seeking support for SES volunteers for the National Emergency Service Medal and has again been given free reign to support getting this to volunteers as much as possible. Watch developments on the SESVA Recognition Facebook page.

Cert IV Upgrades

Our grants program continually receives requests for Cert IV upgrades. The SESVA supported volunteers for years with this training but was asked to cease some time ago during the restructure. We have recognised this request, as it was outlined that the review would capture all members who require this certificate. We understand that volunteers are disappointed when they do not receive a grant for this, however please contact us if you are not receiving this upgrade through the service. We continue to make representation on behalf of volunteers. Please contact our Member Service Manager for details.