

Volunteers

ASSOCIATION

Volunteers Supporting Volunteers

ADVOCACY ▪ WELFARE ▪ PUBLIC EDUCATION

From the Board....

A new financial year and the Association is already at full swing.

Last year our Managing Director Erin put increased strategies in place for the Association to ensure we remain here for the volunteers well into the future. This FY these strategies continue & we are proud to say that these changes have placed us on the path to ensuring we will remain to do all we can do for the volunteers.

Our advertised and expanded roles within the SESVA continue to receive good responses. To the extent that one of the Coordinator roles, the Mental Health Coordinator, was expanded from a single person to three positions. This will allow more work and a greater reach for volunteers across the State whilst also acknowledging the volunteers willing to get involved and support each other.

This approach also shows the new flexible approach to roles within the Association. Another example is the newly created Member Benefits Co-Ordinator. There was no position within this area, however a keen volunteer has come forward and outlined how they can work in this area to provide benefit to volunteers.

As a Board we are proud of those volunteers who are stepping up and working to build an even better Association. Thank you.

The SESVA office in Rockdale has had some safety improvements which were long overdue. These improvements have been carried out by licensed contractors. The Board has voted for upgrades to the building to enhance facilities, especially the training room.

With its close proximity to Sydney and the Sydney Domestic and International Airport, the Association is enhancing these facilities to create a training area for any and all volunteers to utilise. The SES have used this area in the past along with working groups as it allows volunteers from across NSW to fly into a central point for meetings and gatherings. We have used these areas for our own training courses to volunteers and staff such as the Diffusing Aggressive Behaviour course. Thank you to the volunteers who have donated their time to work on the building. Stay tuned as these works continue and feel free to provide any ideas to us on what you may like or need.

Our magazine continues to be published and distributed with some great feedback being received. We have worked to ensure this media outlet remains and is available to all volunteers to showcase their commitment to their communities. If you are not receiving your copies, or would like to place an article, contact the office and we can help out.

There is lots going on in the Association and we are here to help out in any ways we can. Don't forget we are seeking Volunteer Ambassadors for each unit out there to keep the volunteers informed of the support the Association offers. Thanks again to each and every volunteer for all you do and especially those volunteers who do roles within the Association.

*Enjoy and stay safe in
your volunteering!*

What's been happening in the Volunteers Association?

In the office

Carlee has proven to become a gem for us and each day supports requests that come into the office and from the SES and volunteers.

Carlee works Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays and can be reach directly at Carlee.maccoll@nswsesva.org.au



Advocacy for our membership is one of our three core areas as outlined in our Constitution.

Requests for support and advocacy remain constant and we regularly support volunteers when progressing through issues they may have with the SES, or items the SES has brought to them. Shannon regularly supports and visits volunteers and these matters are handled on a confidential basis.

Grants

Our Grants programs continues to remain more available to volunteers than ever before. Historically you may remember that volunteers could only apply once a year. The association moved to increase this to monthly which has been received with positive feedback.

Our Grants program has kickstarted many a successful SES campaign and training. Two largely successful grants that started a wave of change were our support of Flood Rescue training and Large Animal Rescue training.

Do you have a new initiative that can be supported by an SESVA Grant? Why not apply? We can even assist you with your application.

Visit the Grants page on our website or contact the office for further information.

Welfare Fund

Another of our roles - as defined in our Constitution - is our Welfare Fund. Working through our Welfare Committee we continue to support volunteers through difficult times.

Please feel free to provide feedback about our support fund or contact us about how to support a fellow volunteer though this initiative.

Drought Support

Our Drought Support program is a great example of what volunteer initiatives can achieve, and also a great example of the abilities of rapid movement within the Association.

To date, just 24hrs after the suggestion was made for a program, the SESVA moved swiftly to provide support for volunteers being affected by the drought.

Now over 12 months on, this support has travelled thousands of kilometers and visited many volunteers.

We are always looking for further support in this area. If you know of an individual or company willing to support us please contact the office. We publicly acknowledge all support and can provide social media and printed media recognition.



We are always on the look out for animal feeds such as hay, grain, pellets as well as personal care packages for our members.

Contact Shannon or the office for more details.

We know a lot of you have given time and funds to this program already.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Have feedback?

All feedback is welcome - You can contact us through our office email office@nswsesva.org.au or Facebook page www.facebook.com/NswSesVolunteersAssociation