

Volunteers

ASSOCIATION

Volunteers Supporting Volunteers

ADVOCACY ▪ WELFARE ▪ PUBLIC EDUCATION

From the Board....

How quickly our year is moving, and so too is our association.

We have received a number of requests again for volunteer support in the advocacy and support person space. All requests are confidential & we wish to reassure volunteers that they are allowed to have a support person in dealings with the SES.

The SESVA has had a long and great relationship with the SES Senior Chaplain. He has always been there when requested & supports the volunteers through thick and thin. We made representation to the SES to ensure this role, & support is ongoing to the volunteers of the NSWSES. We have proudly supported the chaplain over the years to undertake the worlds best learnings. We are proud that a positive outcome was reached & our trusty chaplain remains here for everyone.

Another item of advocacy was proposed changes to the immunisation program. This program has received support over the years from the SESVA and we received a lot of comments and feedback from volunteers over proposed changes. At time of writing we have hopefully been able to have this program remain in its current availability to volunteers. The ladies developing this program are long serving volunteers themselves and we are very proud of the travels and support they provide to volunteers across the state.

As you may be aware, changes to the WHS Act have outlined that there is a gap in the support for volunteers injured and their return to work support. Whilst we are currently advocating and bringing this up with the SES, please let any volunteer going through this that they can contact the SESVA for support

Our Secretary of the Board, Trish Orchard has after many years in her Director position decided to step down from her role. Trish continues to support volunteers as Unit Commander at Nyngan. Thank you Trish for your support and commitment to the volunteers over the past years. A more formal thank you is in the works so stay tuned!

Unit accounts continues to be a topic brought to the association. We have raised this at VJCC, Commissioner and Ministerial levels. As this progresses the SESVA has some energetic volunteers working at alternate solutions for units and members. More to come on this one.

Our newly placed Recognition Co-Ordinators & Mental Health Co-Ordinators have hit the pavement running. We haven't even had a chance to get all of our people in one place together yet & they have made great leaps forward in their works. Thank you for your commitment and look out for their work in the current magazine as well as social media.

Our AGM date has been set so place it in your diary. We have made it accessible again to every member via teleconference on 28 November 2019. Like last year we aim to reply fully in the meeting to any questions raised so get them in to the association by 14 November 2019.

We remain open and on the lookout for Volunteer Ambassadors for units. These positions remain open and go to our website for details.

*Enjoy and stay safe in
your volunteering!*

What's been happening in the Volunteers Association?

In the office

Carlee is in the office Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays & can be reached directly on Carlee.maccoll@nswsesva.org.au

We have ensured that every call to the office is received and captured. If there is no one physically in the office or they are on another call—Our call centre will personally take the call and details and email the msg to the appropriate staff member.

Please feel free to contact us at any time.



Grants

Did you know the SESVA Grants have supported the newest cadet program all the way up to a Deputy Commissioner? If you are somewhere in between and an SES volunteer why not apply for a grant for yourself, your unit or an initiative?

Do you have a new initiative that can be supported by a n SESVA Grant? Why not apply? We can even assist you with your application. Go to our grants page on our website or contact the office for further details.

Welfare Fund

As another of our roles as defined in our Constitution, our Welfare Funds, who works through our Welfare Committee continues 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.

We are always looking to improve our welfare support to volunteers and feedback is welcome.

Thank you to our independent Welfare Committee who quietly works behind the scenes in this area.

Drought Support

With the drought worsening the SESVA has travelled to some volunteers recently with support and a friendly ear. These people are not only great members of their communities, great volunteers, they are great Australians. They often ask that this help is rediverted to 'others'. A very humbling gesture but, the association visits these members personally and see's the conditions they are living in.

Thank you to all who have supported the various drought campaigns. From Socks to direct support of food, we, and our volunteers appreciate it.

We are always looking for further support in this area. If you know of someone who can support us, or a company willing to support us please contact us. 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.

Whats a WIFR?

The SESVA is proud to support many initiatives and campaigns. Currently the SESVA is a supporter of the Women In Flood Rescue group. A group of volunteers getting together to hear feedback and better the volunteer experience.

The SESVA is providing support in various forms and we're proud to host a recent meeting at the SESVA HQ in Rockdale. Sorry for the mess girls and guys, we are doing some upgrades!

Come back soon and our training room will be in place (and the leaky roof repaired).

The small things

One thing we can do as an independent, non government association is move quickly. We had some feedback that volunteers would love some stickers. Carlee the office magician soon had in place some bumper stickers and also some locker stickers for volunteers to place their names on. These also have contact details for support.

Contact the office and we will send you out some free stickers.

Join us for a night of laughter at our *Comedy for a Cause Fundraiser*

The night will include a live comedy show featuring Headliner Comedians & an MC, with lucky door prizes & auctions throughout the night while enjoying Mezze in the Terrace Room at Canterbury Leagues Club (a licensed premises)

Limited tickets available so book now to secure a seat!



Comedy for a Cause

Featuring comedians from **Sydney & Melbourne International Comedy Festivals**

SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER
DOORS: 7pm / SHOW: 8pm (18+)

BOOK NOW! \$45

comedyforacause.net/SES

Canterbury Leagues Club
26 Bridge Road, Belmore

BOOK ONLINE

In Support of:
NSW SES
Volunteers Association

comedyforacause.net/SES

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 Don't forget to let us know how and what ways you would like to be communicated with.