



President's Message

We have had a bit of a hiatus from the President's Newsletter while there have been intense and protracted operations around the state. I figured your inboxes would be full enough with sit-reps, requests for OOAA and the myriad of other correspondence that accompanies any event. But we are leading into the festive season, and at the Volunteers Association we have been, and will continue to be busy with a number of projects that we would like to keep you updated on.

Conference

The 2016 Conference is all finished and wrapped up.

Thank you to those who attended we have collated all of the feedback and it will be presented to the Board with recommendations on how we can improve on this process.

A quick snap-shot of the results are:

- 275 registered attendees, with attendance from all regions.
- 80 survey respondents- 79 valid surveys (one completed by a member who did not attend)
- 97.53% would like to see a conference held in the future
- 2.47% would like another format considered
- 16.5% would like another location to be considered- potentially out of Sydney

Overall, the Conference was everything we hoped it would be, and we were excited to run an event that featured volunteer speakers.

A special thank you to:

Trish Orchard
Anthorr Nomchong
Carl Manning
Chris Cleary
David King
Kristine McDonald
Jim Pullin
Brett Johnson and
Erin Smith

Scholarships, Sponsorships and Grants

We would like to congratulate our 2016 Funding Scheme Recipients, and look forward to hearing about your scholarships, sponsorships and grants as they progress.

New Board Members

We would like to welcome Kim Edwards of Waverley Woollahra Unit to the Board of Directors.

About Kim,

Kim has been a volunteer with the NSW SES for over 11 years and the Local Controller of Waverley Woollahra Unit for around 6 years. In this time she has worked in local and out of area storm teams and Incident Management Teams, trained members and managed and led

our local unit.

She wants to see that the volunteers are safe, respected and cared for. Kim says she looks forward to helping the SES volunteers from a position on the Board of the NSW SES Volunteers' Association.

Kim is also a member of the NSW SES Volunteers' Association's Corporate Compliance Committee helped to establish its Compliance Register and Risk Register.

Professionally, she is a qualified and experienced environmental scientist, legal practitioner and compliance professional and currently works as a self-employed consultant specialising in helping organisations:

- with their legal compliance obligations;
- manage the risks of non-compliance; and
- improve their business's environmental sustainability.

Kim believes that the culture of an organisation begins at the top and with the right culture, organisations can make more profit, better look after their customers and employees, benefit communities, improve corporate relationships and help the environment.

New Representatives

We would also like to welcome the new Area Representatives, District Coordinators and Unit Coordinators.

Board Training

We are having ongoing training for the Board of Directors as the Volunteers Association continues to grow. The Board has completed a number of sessions with Wayne Pearce Advantage to have access to cutting edge" tools, techniques and the executive coaching support to help businesses become more successful whilst helping individuals become more fulfilled.

Scholarships and Grants- Review

A number of points have been raised by the NSW SES regarding the way Unit Grants are processed. As a result, we are undergoing a full funding scheme review into not just grants- but sponsorships and scholarships as well.

Recommendations will be put to the Board of Directors, so keep an eye out if you are planning to apply next year as there may be some changes.

AGM and Financial Results

As part of the Conference, the NSW SES Volunteers Association held their AGM during the morning sessions.

The Association is well on track to achieving its set goals, and was able to report a positive financial status to its members.

National SES Volunteers Association

This month, the National body presented to ACSES about the role and function of a national Volunteers Association.

During the next month, the national body is booked to speak to Prime Minister and Cabinet about establishing a National SES Volunteer Award- this is just a watch this space at the moment.