



### **President's Message**

July has been a mixed bag for us. While we have had a very successful month in the business sense getting a number of new projects off the ground, the continuation of others and a number of professional development opportunities for our Emerging Leaders it has been overshadowed by the sudden death of one of our Representatives.

Ian Forrester of Macquarie Region passed away unexpectedly first July. Ian was a Region Representative for the VA for many years. Our thoughts are with Ian's family and friends.

It is events like this that reinforce the fragility of life. We all work so hard to pay the next bill, to meet the demands of our boss, to help our community but I'm going to ask you all to make family and friends an extra special priority. Spend time with your loved ones, grab that coffee that you keep talking about with a friend, make that call that life keeps getting in the way of you making.

Our time with each other may be shorter than we plan, let's not live with the regret of a conversation not had.

Keep each other safe, value each other and make every moment count.

### **Emerging Leaders Development**

Some of my favourite topics this month were the focus for our Emerging Leaders ethical decision making and values based leadership.

This group meets once a month to discuss different issues facing leadership and members will soon commence work on their chosen topics for presentation so as to provide experience at delivering projects to not-for profit groups.

### **Resignations**

We would like to thank Alexandra Dwyer, Reg Rendell and Mel Press for their involvement as VA Representatives.

We wish Alexandra success in her move and her new career.

Mel is also relocating as part of her paid employment and Reg has made the tough decision to take a step back to spend more time with his family.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

## **Elections**

As a result of vacancies within the VA, we have been busy running elections for Representatives and Coordinator roles in the VA.

We look forward to welcoming our new members on board.

## **Conference**

The time is fast approaching and we have a great line-up of volunteer speakers for this event.

If you haven't had the chance to get your EOI in, please do so! We would love to see you there!

## **Magazine Survey**

We are still gathering feedback on 'The Volunteer', to make sure it meets your needs. Please take the time to complete a short survey and let us know what you would like to see: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KB2JBD6>

## **National SES VA**

This project has continued in its growth and over the last month we have been working very closely with the other States and Territories on nutting out the governance and strategy for the group as well as undertaking more of the work towards a fundraising program.

We will keep you posted.

## **Sydney City Lions Club**

We were honoured to have members of the Sydney City Lions Club at our office where they very kindly made a generous donation to the Volunteers Association.