



President's Message

I'm waiting for the month where I can say it has been quiet...clearly June was not it!!

The east coast had two battering only a fortnight apart-admittedly the first was by far the worst.

There was a lot of rain, a lot of wind and unfortunately, a lot of flood rescues. From the Tweed coast all the way to Bega our orange family, joined by other emergency services, showed their communities exactly what your worth really is.

And while you work through the winter months outside, the work here at the Volunteers Association continues inside.

Even though we are already half way through the calendar year, we are looking forward to a busy few months.

2016 Conference

Our Conference in October is shaping up to be another great get together, and thank you for all those who work so hard with the Association.

Final touches are being completed for the planning and soon invitations will be forwarded along with an Expression of Interest for any associate member of the Volunteers Association to come along.

Whilst I have been strictly told to not let the cat out of the bag, I have seen the line-up of speakers and people attending and it is shaping up to be a great conference.

For the first time we have made this conference a true 'volunteers supporting volunteers' conference, where your fellow volunteers will speak on topics related to us all. Stay tuned!

Volunteering Symposium

I was honored to be invited to speak at the NSW Volunteering Symposium recently which was a huge event where volunteering across many arenas are discussed.

Unfortunately, at the last minute, the weather was against me and snowed me in, literally. Luckily our General Manager, Andrew Edwards was able to present my speech.

Here the Volunteers Association was asked to talk about its journey along with how we work with our volunteers and discuss the issues that are effecting them.

Andrew reports that the presentation was extremely well received and the audience enjoyed the emergency services perspective on volunteering issues and the support that is required of management to assist us in our roles.

Emerging Leaders Development Program

Our Emerging Leaders program continues to roll on successfully.

The successful applicants have now completed two meetings along with conducting online virtual meetings. Together as a group they study leadership styles and effective leadership practices.

Each month they are tasked with areas to write or research to bring back to the group. So far there has been some outstanding feedback from those involved, and I look forward to the further development of our future leaders.

Rotary Emergency Service Awards

The Volunteers Association is a proud sponsor of the Rotary Emergency Service Awards. We were fortunate to have one of our own Volunteers Association Associate Members win the top award last year. This year there are again four finalist nominations: Mark Elsley, Patricia Johnson, Danielle Osborne and Benjamin Tory.

Congratulations and best wishes for all of you in reaching the finals and for the night. Well done.

Hackathon idea presented to help improve communication

One of our members, Steve Cliffe, attended the Hackathon with an aim to address an ongoing issue that was identified in the 2014 Roadshow around how we are communicated with. He presented an idea to help address this issue by enabling a subscription based email service that would:

- Let members choose what they want to receive (topic based subscription)
- Let members choose how they want to receive it (via their member email, personal email or via their Unit)

The aim was to develop a simple web-based form to show how this could look as a “proof of concept”. If the Service liked it, then it could be developed further.

A detailed story will appear in the next edition of The Volunteer.

Nominations for Volunteers Association Unit Coordinator Positions

A call for nomination for Unit Coordinator positions has been sent out. Information on how to nominate and the role description is available on the Volunteers Association website at www.nswsesva.org.au. Nominations close on 15 July 2016 and all members that are successful in gaining a position will need to attend the Volunteers Association Conference on 8 October 2016.

Vale

Ian Forrester