

Volunteers Association

From the Board...

Welcome to the New Year! We hope you have settled back into training and the business as usual at your units.

More importantly though, we hope you had the chance to relax with family and friends and have a well deserved break.

This year, we are changing things up with the way we communicate to our members and how our Board functions.

This means we will be having monthly board meetings instead of every two months and we will also be having our newsletter align with those meetings so we can report back to the membership the key outcomes of the meeting.

There will be a number of recurring announcements in each newsletter - these include grant recipients, dates and locations for Board meetings and upcoming events.

As a new Board, we look forward to growing the Association and providing members with more support and assistance where it is most needed.

For anyone who is unsure, the Board of Directors is as follows:

Kim Davis - President
Andrew Edwards - Managing Director
Kim Edwards - Director
Megan Hamblin - Director
Shannon Crofton - Director
Trish Orchard - Director

Stay safe!

What's been happening in the Volunteers Association?

Next Board Meeting

The February board meeting will be held in Bigga - located in the central west region - on the 18th February.

All members are free to attend if they would wish, please contact the office for additional details.

*please note attendance is voluntary and at the members own expense

New Projects

Policy Review Working Group

The Chairperson for the Working Group is Trish Orchard.

A Working Group has been established to review and update all Association Policy in line with review dates and changes that were made to the Constitution at the last AGM.

A meeting was held in late January to determine a work plan for the group and updates will be provided at the 8th February board meeting.

Grant Applications

Applications will be reviewed each board meeting, meaning that the grants program is open 12 times each year.

Applications will not be considered if they are after the date of the activity, applications are not/incorrectly filled in or do not address the criteria. More information can be found at www.nswsesva.org.au

Website Review Project

The VA office is the point of contact for the Website Review.

In line with reviewing the way we communicate with members, we have also started a website review project.

We will be launching a new website in the near future that is easier to navigate and provides more information about what the Association does for the general public.

Autumn Appeal

An Autumn Appeal will be launched in February. This will be a direct mail appeal that all proceeds raised go to the Welfare Fund. For those members who are unaware, our Welfare Fund can provide immediate assistance to members who unexpectedly find themselves facing financial hardship as a result of their volunteering or being injured while volunteering.

Volunteers Association Structure

As we have talked about, we are changing the way we communicate. Our main focus will be on the areas of our Corporate Plan - Growth,

Culture, Change and Risk; and of course, what our volunteers are talking about.

To do this, and achieve all of the projects we have in the pipeline, our structure needs to reflect the way our organisation works, and the way it will integrate with the changes within the SES structure.

Preliminary discussions have taken place about options for the new structure, and a workshop will be held for the Board prior to the February board meeting to look at the project scope and timeframes.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

JANUARY 2018

Applicant	Applied For
Graham Cork	Paddy Dolls (Ballina Unit)
Pam Cocks	Gazebos and Matrass (Eden Unit)
Jamie Newman	Electric Gate (Auburn Unit)
Gerry Burnage	Locker Storage (Ballina Unit)
John Thirkell	Tuition Fees (Emergency Management)

Our Brand

You may have noticed a greater focus on 'Volunteers Supporting Volunteers' in more recent Association communications.

We have incorporated some new elements to our brand to help new members recognise Association material and to let the community who support us know what our mission is.

Volunteers
Supporting Volunteers