

## Volunteers Association

### *From the Board...*

Review and reform! This has been the moto of our Board over the last couple of weeks. We have a Policy Review Committee ensuring we are up-to-date and relevant with our organisational governance.

A focus has been put on the methods for the way we process grants, general welfare and any other financial support mechanisms.

We have also looked at the way we are providing educational experiences to members, and how to tailor these to meet the local volunteers.

From an external view, we were invited to take part in the Parliamentary Inquiry into Bullying and Harassment in Emergency Services. We look forward to seeing the findings from the Inquiry and hope that it makes the sector better as a whole. We do acknowledge that the SES has already started to implement a lot of different strategies to make the overall volunteering experience better and we will continue to work closely with them for our volunteers.

We would also like to extend our thanks and praise to those who have been assisting with Tathra, and storms on the Central and North Coast- as well as those who have been out assisting with storm damage jobs. There have also been searches, RCR activations and flood rescues and it is so great to see the diversity of our members across the State!

You may have seen a survey issued by the SES - Volunteer Voice Survey 2018. We would encourage all volunteers to take this opportunity to be a part of the future of the NSW SES. Please see Member Connect or your nominated email account for details on how to access the survey.

Keep each other safe out there.

*Happy Volunteering!*

## What's been happening in the Volunteers Association?

### Direct Mail Campaigns

We have contacted a number of units over the past couple of weeks to advise if we are undertaking fundraising in their area.

The fundraising we are doing is all specifically for our Welfare Fund- particularly because we have seen historically that those members in areas that have been affected by an event are the ones who need some assistance.

The Welfare Fund has Deductible Gift Recipient status (DGR) and means we can issue people with a receipt that they can claim on tax.

The Welfare Fund is also able to receive applications at any point - the Committee will call a meeting when they get applications - and return a decision promptly. So if you know anyone who is in need of some assistance, please have a look at our website for application forms or contact the office

### Member Benefits

We have had a few questions pop up recently about different member benefits that are available. As a Board, we are looking in some new ways we can bring benefits to members - including the 'Entertainment Book'.

We currently have the Member Advantage Card that allows you to access a number

of different programs. If you do not have a card, or are unsure if you are a member, contact the office

### Member Benefit Card - Update

A number of members have received membership cards with incorrect details on them - their middle name has been used as their first name. We have contacted Member Advantage to have those cards reissued with correct details.

If you have not received a membership card and believe you should have, please contact the office on 1300 073 782 so we can ensure we have the correct contact details for you.

### General Welfare - Flowers/Cards

We have a long history of providing what is called 'general welfare' to members, which comprises of flowers or cards for members who are sick, injured, in hospital or who have passed away.

The Association can send flowers as a pick-me-up or to offer condolences- application can be made via the website form 'General Welfare' or give the office a buzz

### New Website

We have been working on a new website to replace our old and rather clunky one. We are putting the finishing touches on the designs and making sure the content is up-to-date and relevant so we hope to be launching that soon!

### Grants

For those of you who are unaware, our Grants and Funding process has changed.

We decided to get away from the 'one intake a year' model and now grants are open year round. If you are interested in applying, check out our website to get some information about what grants will and won't cover.

*Need a hire car* **Hertz**  
*for work or holiday?*

Book your passenger vehicle through your NSW SESVA Member Advantage benefits program to access discounted rentals from popular car hire company, Hertz.

Compare the two great offers\* and pick the one that best suits your vehicle need. Choose between set rates all year round with

a reduced excess<sup>^</sup> or a specially negotiated 10% off the daily price. Get a quote by visiting [www.memberadvantage.com.au/nswsesva/hertz](http://www.memberadvantage.com.au/nswsesva/hertz) or call 1300 853 352 for more information

\*Terms and conditions apply. <sup>^</sup>Offer not available on prestige car vehicles including Audi.