

## Volunteers Association

# 1300 0 SES VA

[nswsesva.org.au](http://nswsesva.org.au)

[office@nswsesva.org.au](mailto:office@nswsesva.org.au)

### President's Forward



Kicking off this newsletter, we have to say a very big congratulation to the June Long Weekend Emergency Services Medal recipients:

**Steve Cliffe** - a long standing volunteer and a previous Volunteers Association Board Member and Illawarra South Coast Representative

**Nicole Richardson** - a previous volunteer from the Sydney Southern Region, before moving to the Lachlan Region as Deputy Region Controller and now as the Region Controller

A big congratulations to the Rotary Emergency Services Community Award Finalists, too.

I was proud to attend and present at the Vehicle Design Group's final gathering in June. A lot of work has been put in over the years by volunteers- not just on the fleet group, but also every other committee, working group etc. and I think at times we forget to acknowledge those people who add that little bit extra into their volunteering, by not only helping their communities but also by giving additional time to support their fellow members through representation on specialist groups.

I want to thank you all for the additional time you put in, many of the great developments we have seen in our Service over the past eight years in particular would not have been possible without your contributions.

We have also been running a Tax Appeal in the lead up to the end of financial year. These donations are directly to the Welfare Fund, so that we can support our members in need. I would like to remind everyone that applications to this fund, traditionally referred to a 'hardship relief', is available to any volunteer who may need a little bit of assistance to get back on their feet.

Keep warm and safe and look after each other!

Chair Moir ESM

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

### Rotary Finalists

A very big congratulations and good luck to our four finalists in the 2017 Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards:

Gerard de Vries - Wauchope

Marion Gill - Kempsey

Graham Kinder - Manly and Sydney Northern Volunteers Association Representative

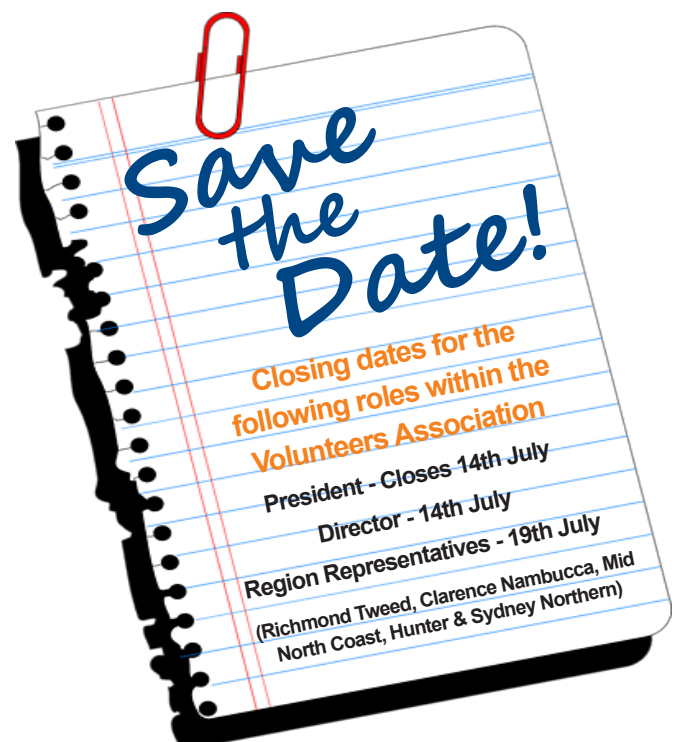
Christopher Nelson - Canterbury

### Elections

We also have a number of elections open for different positions within the Volunteers Association. If you would like to be in a position to advocate for your local members; or have an interest in being on the board-head to our website for the application process.

### Committees

A number of planning committees have also been established within the Volunteers



Association to start looking at a number of activities.

One of these is our conference planning. The Chair of the committee, Kim Davis, will be working with the conference committee to look for a solution based on the feedback provided from previous events...watch this space.

We also have an Awards Committee that has been established and have had their first meeting.

### Parliamentary Enquiry

A Parliamentary Inquiry has been announced into the emergency services in NSW and is considering matters of bullying, harassment, uniforms, mental health support and other issues. Details on the Inquiry can be found at <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2442>.

The Inquiry stipulates that it is not considering individual matters. The SES Volunteers Association will be making a submission based on matters brought to our attention from members.

### Fundraising Activities

We are conducting our first direct mail appeal for donations and response has been encouraging. We will be expanding this program of philanthropic fundraising going forward, but will maintain our existing raffle program, which has been well supported by the public for a number of years.

Our supporters get a tax deductible receipt for a donation, whereas raffle ticket buyers

get a chance to win an attractive prize. Funds raised by the Volunteers Association are used to support our volunteer members of the SES in a variety of ways including advocacy, welfare and scholarships.

### Leadership Pathways

Want to join a Board of Directors one day? Want to apply for a Volunteers Association Board position, but don't feel you have the experience yet?

Have you looked into the Leadership pathways we offer?

The Emerging Leaders Development Program is the perfect starting point to help you understand Board requirements, get a feel for what Board membership is like and the opportunity to sit in on board meetings and present projects for your own development.

Apply online through the Volunteers Association website now or call the office for more details!

Closes COB 14th July.

## Opportunities Open!

**2017 Grant schemes are opening from July 1st! Check it out online as there is a different format and online form that must be used now.**

## Database Draw

Surnames beginning with W, G, T and V will be in the draw to win a \$50 voucher - Member's choice of Bunnings or iTunes voucher.

There will also be a random winner drawn from all of our members.

**Your member contact details must be up-to-date in our database to be eligible**

# PROUDLY SUPPORTING...

**Silver Partner- Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards**

