

## Volunteers Association

# 1300 0 SES VA

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### President's Forward



A very big congratulations to all of the finalists in this year's Rotary Emergency Service Community Awards! As a primary sponsor of this award, we couldn't be prouder!

#### NSW State Emergency Service:

- Mr Gerard de Vries, Wauchope
- Mrs Marion Gill, Kempsey
- Mr Graham Kinder, Manly
- Mr Christopher Nelson, Canterbury

We have been continuing our journey down the 'values-based leadership' pathway over the last month. At our annual development weekend, the Area Representatives were put through their paces regarding values-based leadership and the strategic direction of the Association.

While the concept is not new, we are working on putting a formalised framework around the processes that focus on transparency and ethical decision making.

The NSW SES has commenced its transformation project which is being led by the Assistant Commissioner, Mark Morrow. This Project aims to provide improved support for Volunteers and although in the early days there is some uncertainty surrounding it, however the Volunteers Association is fully supportive of the aims and objectives of this project and we look forward to engaging with the SES while it embarks on this journey.

A step in the right direction is the new Grants process that we are rolling out from July 1st. This will allow for 'rolling' application throughout the year, as opposed to one funding round. A committee will be in place to review applications and make recommendations to the Board of Directors, and funding will be allocated accordingly.

We have focused on strengthening up the feedback loop for applicants, so that feedback can be sought if an application is unsuccessful in whole or part.

The new process will also allow for applications to be held for 12 months in the event that funding is exhausted in any particular round. This will remove the need for applicants to apply for each round during the year (there will be a committee meeting every quarter).

We look forward to hearing your feedback about the new process! We will keep you updated as we roll out other new and improved functions within the Association!

Stay safe and happy volunteering!

Chair Moir ESM

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

### Volunteer Council Meeting in Parkes

Our annual development weekend and Volunteer Council meeting was held in Parkes this year.

Some of the key points that came out of the Volunteer Council meeting were the reporting standards required from the Area Representatives so that we understand what the issues you are facing on the ground really are - this helps us and the SES identify if there are any trending concerns that need to be addressed.

We also spent some time on role requirements/expectations and had two intense sessions on values-based leadership and the strategic direction of the Association.

The Forbes Unit also took the time to show the Council the flood affected areas in their area - thanks for your hospitality, Rocky!

### Welfare Support

Don't forget, if you or any of your fellow volunteers are in need of support, the Volunteers Association is here to help. Welfare Fund - application form can be found on the website; is completely confidential and can assist with fast intervention for financial support.

Support - flowers and cards can be sent to members who are sick or in hospital. Application forms are also located on our website.

Member Services - the Member Services Team can assist with questions/queries/concerns regarding volunteering with the SES and the Volunteers Association.

## Grants- Previously known as Funding Schemes/scholarships

All funding schemes offered by the Volunteers Association are changing! A new system will be implemented on 1st July, 2017.

Any assistance for any type of funding will need to be processed through the online form that can be found on our website. Terms and conditions can also be found on the website. Need help completing your form? Contact Member Services for assistance!

## Immunisations

We have had a number of enquiries regarding immunisations and what the status is. This is an SES run project, so contact WHS for more information.

## 2018 Calendar

Feedback has been received that members would like to see a change in the calendar. If you have any suggestions about how you would like the calendar to look, please email us any suggestions at [Office@nswsesva.org.au](mailto:Office@nswsesva.org.au).

## Volunteers of the Year Award

Please ensure your details are up to date with us so your nomination can be entered accurately!

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To reserve now, visit the NSW SES VA Member Benefits website or call 1300 853 352.



## Pre-Order Umbrellas!!

Our newest product in our merchandise range is a branded golf umbrella. These are available for pre-order now! Visit our online store today!

## 2017 Tax Appeal

We have launched the 2017 Tax Appeal that will allow members of the public to donate direct to the Welfare Fund- something that supports members who are in a tight spot, need some immediate financial assistance or who have suffered a loss during the course of volunteering (application is required and each case is judged on its merits by the Welfare Committee).



Our next raffle will commence in June with a theme of winds and storms.

## 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 H, R, A and I 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**