

From the Board...

The biggest issue we have had feedback on recently is by far the new draft policies released by the SES regarding finances, ability of units to raise their own funds and unit accounts.

The Association was provided these policies at the same time as members and we have been working through the implications for all tiers of units. If you have specific feedback you would like to provide outside of the SES feedback structure, you can either email it through to office@nswsesva.org.au or contact the office on 1300 073 782 and you will be directed through to one of our Board or staff who are compiling feedback from members.

This feedback will be presented to the SES in various forms such as VJCC and SLT meetings along with direct meetings between the President and the Commissioner.

We have been working with the SES to improve how the feedback being received by the SES is managed and responded to. The SES now has a FAQ section where you can see the feedback given by the SES to questions posed by members.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Association. The Board of Directors chose to change from a major birthday celebration and

instead channel that money back into the greater membership. This means more funding through our grants program and Welfare Fund because our Association is the sum total of our members. Helping you to succeed and achieve is what makes the Association tick.

Our 20 years have not been without tough times. There are a number of areas that have caused concern for the current Board with the way many agreements have been structured in the past. A large focus of the Association has been ensuring that any affiliation with the National VA is in the best interests of the NSW SES Volunteers Association and its members, and that our member's feedback does not fall on deaf ears.

Looking at where we have come from, we are pleased that as a Board, for the first time in the Association's history, we have both the President and Managing Director role filled by women. There has been a notion of an 'old boys club' floating around previously, and we are happy to see this being changed and a renewed focus on 'right person, right role' for all positions within the Association

We are creating an agile Association, that puts volunteers first and who above all else, holds our values as the guiding principles in what we do. We are keeping those the people who support you to those same values just as firmly.

Enjoy & stay safe!

What's been happening in the Volunteers Association?

Annual General Meeting

The AGM for the Association will be taking place at 7pm on the 26th November, 2018.

In the Office

We have permanently appointed Erin Pogmore in the role of Managing Director for the Association. Erin has been acting in the role since June and has extensive experience as an SES volunteer - joining in 2004 - and with the Association.

This appointment was undertaken in accordance with the NSW SES VA Constitution which was voted in by the Board and SES VA Representatives in November 2017.

Erin has extensive experience within the Volunteers Association. She has worked in Media and

Communications, Advocacy, Member Services and Deputy Managing Director roles. Erin oversaw major projects such as the NSW SES and NSW SES VA Roadshow, where she received the only Unit Commendation ever awarded to the NSW SES VA by the NSW SES.

Erin has an extensive background in business and finance along with government investigations. She was a major factor in the recent Parliamentary Inquiry submission from the Association which saw our primary request of an independent body for volunteers accepted by the Parliamentary Committee. Erin also has extensive practical experience as an SES volunteer. As a qualified Flood Rescue Technician, she conducted research into Aviation Safety. This research was recognised internationally by the United States of America in 2015.

We look forward to continuing to work with Erin and congratulate her on her appointment.

Volunteers Association Representative Feedback

There is no question that the SES is changing, and the Association also must do the same to reflect the needs of the membership.

Changes to the way Representatives were structured were voted in by unanimous vote at the last AGM by the Area Representatives. This changed the structure so that representatives were no longer 'region' based - a term that as part of the SES Transformation will become redundant.

We recently opened a survey to get member's ideas and thoughts on what they wanted from their Representatives, and how volunteers are currently being supported by their SESVA Representatives.

This feedback from members, along with feedback from an Area Representative meeting recently, will go towards how the new roles will be positioned.

Website

The website program slowed due to competing priorities at the first half of this year. We are back into it now and will be ready for a soft launch in the coming weeks. If you would like a preview to the site and the opportunity to provide feedback on where we are headed with it, please contact the office for details.

Clarence Nambucca Representative Resignation

Ray Faggotter has made the decision to resign from the position of Area Representative for the Clarence Nambucca Region. We wish Ray the best in his future endeavours.

'Volunteer Magazine'

Patricia Johnson has stepped down from the editor role for The Volunteer. Pat has been compiling the magazine for the Association for a number of years, but has decided to step aside due to competing priorities.

We would like to thank Pat for her efforts on the magazine.

A Position Description and details on applications will be released shortly for the Editor role. If you are looking for a role to get some experience in publications, and or production or have a burning desire to try your hand at journalism... keep your eyes peeled!

Member Benefits

You may have noticed that the Member Advantage card will be expiring in December this year. The contract with Member Advantage expires in October, and based on member feedback, a decision has been made to not renew this contract.

We are constantly faced with availability of benefits for members outside of major geographical centres and at this point we haven't found a suitable alternative. Feedback from volunteers outlines that major providers in these benefit schemes are often not available in rural areas.

We are asking volunteers to let us know of any benefit scheme which is fairly distributed to all volunteers in all locations, that can be considered for inclusion in our benefits to volunteers.

At this stage, the funding for this scheme will be redirected to volunteer support and our Grants program, where all volunteers in all areas are encouraged to apply.

Current Deals

Save hundreds on everyday expenses with your NSW SESVA benefits program

Save between 3 and 10% on pre-purchased e-gift cards, which gives you the buying power of the e-gift card, without paying full price. For example, order a \$300 Woolworths e-gift card with a 5% discount for \$285, then use your e-gift card to purchase your entire weekly fuel, groceries and beverages up to the value of \$300. Order your e-gift cards today, visit www.memberadvantage.com.au/nswsesva or call 1300 853 352 for more information.

*Terms and Conditions apply; credit card surcharges do not apply to WISH e-gift cards.
Please allow up to 5 business days for e-gift cards to be delivered