

President's Forward



I would like to have thought at this point that I may have been on the wind down! In a perfect world, I pictured myself cruising gently towards retirement, a time destined to be full of travel adventures, family and a whole lot of spare time.

Instead, this month has been a crazy planning expedition and as we roll into October, there isn't much free time in the Association between now and the AGM where I officially hand in my stripes!

Phew, let me take a quick breath and ill run you through what we are looking at!

We are really excited to be the sponsor for the State Disaster Rescue Challenge, to be held on the weekend of the 14-15th October. This is one of my favorite events, and I'm really sad that it will be the last one that I attend as the President.

Our first 'mini conference' is being held in Broken Hill on the weekend of the 21-22nd October, so we are looking at some really interesting speakers and demonstrations where the attending members will also get the opportunity to get their hands on the newest hydraulic tools PT Hydraulics has to offer.

I will be representing NSW at the National Volunteers Association AGM on the last week in October- I am the president of this group and will be maintaining that presidency for the mean time.

I hope all of the Fathers, both the ones who are a part of the SES and those who support their children's involvement in the SES had a great Father's Day this month! I know I had a lovely time with my family and especially my great-granddaughter.

Driving across the state as I am prone to do, I can't help but notice how dry it is and history tends to suggest that we are either going to be very busy as a Service supporting our brothers and sisters in the RFS with bushfire support, or we will be front and centre with flood and storm response so I encourage you all, if at all possible, enjoy the downtime from operational response because I fear we are about to get very busy!

Stay safe and look after each other!

Chair Moir ESM

What's been happening in the Volunteers Association?

Values based leadership

The Volunteers Association is undergoing some rapid transformation in a changing environment. To keep up with our environmental changes and those occurring within the SES, we have undertaken training in areas to ensure our changes align to what our Association will be in the future.

Our Values Based Leadership program has been rolled out to staff and members and piloted in the Sydney Norther Region.

It provides a platform to ensure that all people inside and outside the Association are treated fairly and with the values that are pivotal in our organisation. These values allow us to be role models for others along with the comfort of standing up for what is right, and that the Association will support those whom support these values.

The staff have undertaken the Values Based Leadership Program which was an interesting yet insightful experience. We are all excited to see this program rolled out to the Association Leaders and a flow on effect to the Members.

The Journal of Values-Based Leadership reminds us that Steve Jobs said, "The only thing that works is management by values."

Our association is committed to upholding these values and Glasshammer, a website for leading businesswomen outlines, 'Values are meaningless unless put into action, and the standard for integrity within an organization is set by its leaders.'

We need to ensure we stand by these values, uphold our integrity and be a part of this Values Based leadership. Through this process we will continue to grow and develop as the best we can be to support our members.

Team Building Workshop

On Monday September 11, our staff members undertook a Team Building day. The activity was highly engaging and allowed the team to show off their different strengths while building beautiful dog kennels which the Volunteers Association will be

donating to Herds to Homes- a working dog rescue organisation that relies on foster carers to help rehabilitate working dog breeds obtained primarily from pounds across NSW.

As part of an upcoming restructure of our office, Vivien from Through the Looking Glass facilitated a workshop as part of the day to establish how the restructure would look and where roles would be changing or being migrated.

We found it was a really positive experience to not only get out of the confines of the office for a day, but also to have some relaxed quality time with co-workers- power tools, outdoors and a cold change in the afternoon...it was somewhat similar to an SES callout!

We would also like to thank Erin for donating the supplies required to build the kennels.

Transformation Workshops

We sent Volunteers Association representatives to participate in the two Volunteer transformation workshops, held in Penrith and Orange.

Participation from those that attended was great to see, and it appeared that those who were there felt that the Service was moving in the right direction for

us to meet the needs of our communities better in the future and the needs of those who make up the Service.

National Volunteers Association Meeting

The National Board, as well as having their board meeting, also met with ACSES in Wollongong.

Key points raised were about training, recognition of volunteers, fundraising, submissions made to the ABS and ATO, interoperability and the NDRC.

Any changes in this area, and we will keep you posted.

A month of awards and achievements!

Congratulation to both Shannon and Andrew who are celebrating major achievements this month!

Andrew is graduating from Macquarie University with a Masters in Research. As part of his studies he presented his thesis at an Information Systems conference in Boston, USA and participated in multiple workshops with other academics from all over the world. The next step is the PhD. Congratulations Andrew!

Shannon is one of three firefighters being honoured by the United States Government with a Higgins and Langley Program Development Medal for the work they have done in implementing and training a flood rescue program for FRNSW. Congratulations Shannon!

Save 3% on your next

FLIGHT CENTRE[®]

holiday with Member Advantage

It's time to start thinking about planning your summer holiday.

Before you book your flight, check out how you can access exclusive savings through your member benefit program.

Flight Centre gift cards are always a perfect way to save wherever you are traveling and with a specially negotiated discount, save 3% on pre-purchased e-gift cards*.

Simply visit your NSW SESVA member benefit website today or call 1300 853 352 and start saving!

*Terms and conditions apply.

Opportunities Open!

The next Grants Committee Meeting is 2nd November and therefore all applications are needing to be received by 10th October to be reviewed at this meeting.

PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED!

We have the opportunity for a volunteer to quote on taking photos for the SDRC in October this year. The Challenge is on the 14th-15th October and we are inviting quotes and samples of your work to be sent to us at office@nswsesva.org.au