

the

Volunteer



MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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REGULAR FEATURES ❖ From the Chairman ❖ From the Commissioner



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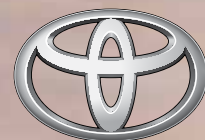
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Oh what a feeling!

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CHARLIE MOIR ESM
PRESIDENT NSW SES VA

And so another year comes to an end and hopefully everyone is looking forward to the festive season ahead and has made plans to relax and recharge over the summer.

All too often we fail to 'schedule' down time and as a result we end up with a packed schedule and no time to ourselves.

This year NSW has experienced the effects of flooding for months, but the human element of that for us is what we have seen, heard and talked to many members about – the impacts of long-duration events.

Time and again, the theme most highlighted is the feeling of duty towards helping. As volunteers, it is this duty that has us turn up and turn out to the full gamut of tasks we do but always remember that 'doing your

bit' should never be at the expense of your family, friends or career. There is a lot of pressure – a lot of the time from ourselves – to be active and a part of OAAA and local responses, but we need to be making sure there is just as much focus put into having downtime; doing whatever it is that calms you down, recharges you and makes you happy.

The need for volunteers will already be there, and the next big event will happen – you shouldn't feel guilty if your other commitments stop you from volunteering. Remember family, work and then volunteering!

I would also like to take this time to congratulate you all on what you have achieved over the last 12 months. Countless hours and your ongoing expertise has helped communities all

over NSW.

But we have also seen so many of you recognised for your long service to the NSW SES, Commissioner's Awards for a variety of responses and events – not just operationally – as well as very well-deserved thanks from Volunteering NSW.

You have conducted yourselves with professionalism throughout a very busy operational period, helped communities with safety messages and preparedness information and held the standard of the NSW SES Volunteers in continued high regard.

If you are travelling in the coming holiday period, please travel safely and look after each other. I look forward to catching up with you in the New Year.

NSW SES Peer Support

The Peer Support team is available to all SES members and their families.

- » Peers are volunteers who are active within their own units and regions
- » Peers have been trained to be a listening ear when you or your family members need that ear
- » Peers have varying degrees of talents, skills and years of service within the NSW SES
- » Some of us are young; some of us are older and come from diverse backgrounds, race, cultures and experience

We are there to listen to whatever

it is that is bothering you: it can be service related, family related or work related. We are a listening ear; there to talk to you and where you can be assured it will remain confidential. Sometimes by just talking to someone you will be surprised at the clarity and sense of relief you will find.

Our Duty Officers in Peer Support are there to take calls from our members and their family. Like any other DO within the service – they are on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week – no time is a bad time to call them. They are there to take calls at

those times when you just need to talk to someone straight away.

We have peers, Chaplains and access to a psychologist depending on your needs.

Please ensure you have the **1800 626 800** number saved in your phones and in the phones of the ones you care about.

Watch this space over the next few publications on more of what we do and who we are. An EOI will be announced later for those of you who would be interested in training to become a Peer Supporter.

With the holiday season approaching I wish to take this opportunity to thank volunteers at the NSW State Emergency Service. There are 8,658 volunteers who take time away from their family and friends to give something back to the community when it is in need. It is because of this commitment that I hope they enjoy the Christmas and New Year period.

This year was again a challenging year for the SES. During the East Coast Low in June, 2016, volunteers responded to 11,000 requests for assistance. There were 310 flood rescues – 182 of these involved vehicles

– and 17 general rescues.

The determination shown by SES volunteers during this major incident is something to be proud of.

To support the SES during incidents such as this, volunteers received 11 medium storm vehicles, five medium rescue vehicles and two medium rescue 4X4 vehicles during 2015/16.

This equipment comes from NSW Government's record budget for emergency services.

I hope that during the festive season all members of the SES can spend as much time with their family and friends as possible before gearing up for 2017.



DAVID ELLIOTT MP
MINISTER FOR
EMERGENCY SERVICES

FROM THE ACTING COMMISSIONER

----- “ -----
**I believe as an agency this is where
we need to have greater focus.
Our people are everything and are the
key to our sustainability.**
----- ” -----



GREG NEWTON
ACTING COMMISSIONER

Resilience is about how we overcome the unexpected and continue to thrive.

In the emergency services we accept that unexpected events are constant. In fact, it is the changing and challenging nature of the responses that we attend that is the 'hook' for many of us. We think on our feet, assess the situation, draw upon our training and experience, and respond with confidence and professionalism.

Hand in hand with resilience, goes sustainability.

I believe as an agency this is where we need to have greater focus. Our people are everything and are the key to our sustainability.

We can train and equip people, be agile and innovative in their deployment, but there is only so much

we can expect from our people and from their families and employers.

The protracted flood operations in western NSW this year, highlighted that having a sustainable foundation of responders across the Service will be fundamental to our long term survival as an emergency service.

This is why 'volunteer experience' is one of the three anchors of our new Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan gives us clear direction for the next five years and combined with a range of exciting projects, we are very much looking forward as a Service.

2017 will be a great year for us!

Our new public website will better prepare and engage our community, while the *Operational Communications Equipment and Services (OCES) Project*

will dramatically deliver on ground communications benefits.

Having ownership of our fleet has allowed us to continually research and improve our vehicles to better meet our needs and our new state headquarters building will finally be a 'fit for task' building that is also a welcoming hub for all our members and the community.

So in amidst another challenging year, with unexpected events organisationally and operationally, our resilience has prevailed and we are thriving.

Thank you once again for the part you have played in this, for your time, commitment and the energy you put into sustaining our Service.

Please stay safe over the holidays and enjoy your well-deserved break with family and friends.

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From the Editor

PAT JOHNSON ESM
EDITOR

I wish to congratulate the five young members who will be going to RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) at the YMCA camp in Yarramundi in January 2017.

- » Peter Lin – Liverpool
- » Patrick Moore – Waverley/Woolhara
- » Charlotte Morrison – Ballina
- » Madison Nemec – Mudgee
- » Tom Nicholls – Shellharbour City.

These five volunteers will have their stories published in the next edition.

I wish everyone a happy Christmas and a safe New Year. Keep the stories coming!



VALE

JOSEPH.H.LEWIS HUGHES
OBE 2/2/25 – 3/12/16

"Lew" as he was better known to many people around the State sadly passed away on the 3rd December 2016.

In the past few years I have had many conversations with Lew mostly about SES Flood Boats. Lew kindly sent me his last copy of Floods, Flutters and Butchers in Boats which he published in 1997. If you can get your hands on a copy it is a great insight into our flood boat history.

On pages 26-29 I have re-published Lew's story by Chas Keys which featured in The Volunteer a few years ago.

PARAGRAPH WORDED WRONG IN THE SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

This event was a tragedy but if anything good is to come from this is educating the community of Larnook. Lismore City SES has already arranged to run a Flood Awareness Day with the Larnook community (Billen Cliffs) where they will be taught how to use throwbags, not to drive through flood water and having PFDs in their vehicles. This is due to be run after the funeral. The Billen Cliffs community has thanked all involved in the search for Derek and they appreciated everything the NSW SES did to try and locate him.

Amanda Vidler

Deputy Unit Controller, Lismore City

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Volunteers Association Conference

The 2016 Volunteers Association Conference, themed *Volunteers Supporting Volunteers* was held at the Sydney Sofitel Wentworth Hotel in October.

In the weeks leading up to the conference, there was some concern about volunteers being able to attend as a result of long term flooding throughout the Lachlan Region.

We had an attendance of 280 members with unfortunately, a number of members having to drop out of attending due to last minute OOA commitments.

The Association decided to trial a new layout for the Conference, running three different streams with speakers coming from within the volunteer ranks.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing stream was presented by Patricia

Orchard, Chris Cleary and Jim Pullin with facilitation provided by Douglas Wylie, one of the successful applicants in the inaugural Emerging Leaders Program.

Stories from the Field were presented by Carl Manning, David King and Kristine McDonald with facilitation by Mel Press, also one of the Emerging Leaders Program participants.

The final stream was Innovation Amongst Members and the presenters were Anthorr Nomchong, David King and Brett Johnston with facilitation by Ralph Youie, also one of the Emerging Leaders Program participants.

Other presentations were also given by the Honourable David Elliott, Robyn Moore, Steve Leahy, Shannon Crofton and Erin Pogmore, Megan Hamblin and Jenna Finnagan (unit and district coordinator training) as well as

Acting Commissioner Greg Newton and the Volunteers Association President Charlie Moir.

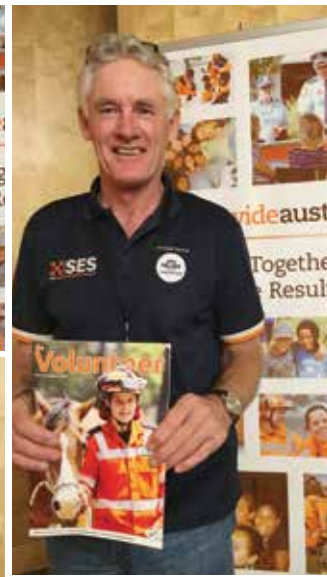
Feedback provided after the event was overwhelmingly positive, with members wanting events like this in the future with the possibility of being held out of the Sydney area.

There was mixed feedback about running multiple streams concurrently, as some members liked the ability to pick and choose whereas other members stated they would have preferred being able to attend all of the individual sessions.

The Volunteers Association will be holding a post event debrief internally to consider the feedback provided by members and look at ways we can improve on the already successful event, and provide more members with the opportunity to attend.



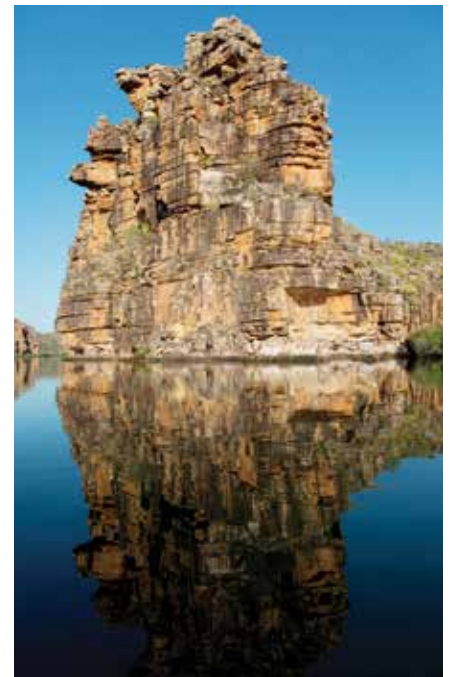
David Elliott MP Minister of Emergency Services.



Young Endeavour

We applied for the Young Endeavour Scholarship. Not long after we heard back that out of 39 applications we had been successful. We were thrilled at the news. The anticipation had been building for over a few months. For both of us the realisation had not yet sunk in until we were at the harbour standing, looking up in awe of this magnificent tall ship. We were both surprised at how big the Young Endeavour was. On board there were 24 youth crew and eight Navy staff.

Each and every day is unique and exciting. One day we could be climbing the masts then the next we could be helping out in the kitchen as a galley hand. We got to see various amazing



and stunning places include Bigge Island, King George River, Yampi Sound, Cape Leveque and Broome. We were also fortunate enough to see a range of different marine wildlife. This included countless numbers of whales, dolphins, sharks, sea snakes, jelly fish and tuna.

On the voyage we gained many new skills including safety while on board a ship, the road rules for the sea, how to sail and proper navigation. We were

also able to develop and improve many skills such as communication, leadership, teamwork and trust. Many of these skill we will be bringing back to our SES units.

We were a little surprised at the end of the voyage how close everyone was with one another. Since we can't communicate with our family or friends, the crew on board become our second family and support network. As a result, we have made some close and good

friends which we will keep in contact with for a long time.

We will never forget our time on the Young Endeavour. The friends we made, the skills we learnt and the experiences we had. We would like to give a big thanks to the Volunteers Association and Origin Energy for making this fantastic opportunity a possibility.

By Matthew Kertson

Marrickville Unit Grant

In late October, NSW SES Marrickville Unit had new benches and change rooms installed next to the members' lockers on the second floor. These new facilities, together with larger lockers were part of a project driven by the Deputy Local Controller, Penny Rogers, who passed away earlier this year. Penny was incredibly passionate about ensuring that NSW SES, Marrickville Unit members were well looked after. That their every need was catered for.

Her goal was to make the Unit feel like home for the members.

"Penny also recognised the fact that these facilities would allow for rapid deployment during operations" Local Controller Michael Carney said.

This project was funded by the NSW SES Volunteers Association and the former Marrickville Council.

"On behalf of the members at NSW SES Marrickville Unit and the wider community, I would like to warmly thank the NSW SES Volunteers Association for the grant that made Penny's dreams come true" he said.



Ballina Unit Grant

The members of the Ballina Unit would like to thank the NSWSESVA for their ongoing support and grant received for 2016. This has enabled us to purchase a Moulage 03 Kit E.M.T. Casualty Simulation Kit to the value of \$2,866.25, and a Lifetec Water Rescue Dummy Adult Man Overboard 1.8m – 40kg \$1,624.56. These were purchased from Fire & Rescue Australia Pty Ltd in South Australia.

These have already been used in training and will be used extensively in training of members of the Ballina unit and other units during courses and exercises.

The NSWSESVA has been very supportive of the Ballina Unit since



the NSWSESVA has been in existence. Ballina currently have 100 per cent membership of the VA with over 70 unit members.

Gerry Burnage ESM
Local Controller Ballina



Sydney Southern Region 39th Presentation Night Awards

On November 12, 2016, Sydney Southern held their 39th Annual Awards night. All 15 Units were represented with 230 members and guests.

A total of 2,105 years of service was recognised by Assistant Commissioner Kaylene Jones in the form of National Medals and Clasps, Long Service Medals, Clasps and Certificates.

On the night, Bob Neilson from the City of Sydney was awarded his 50 Years of Service Clasp.

The Peter Murray Memorial Leadership Award was also presented to Elizabeth Gardiner from SSR HQ.

Also this year's NSW SES Young Volunteer of the Year Sam Corby from the Sutherland Unit was recognised.



Walker Family receives National Medal for Narelle Walker

In April this year the members from Mid North Coast were shocked at the sudden passing of Narelle Walker.

Narelle worked at the NSW SES Mid North Coast Region Office in Taree for the past 15 years, supporting local volunteers in her role as one of the region's business service officers.

Narelle, known affectionately as "Nell", also played a critical role in the management of large scale events both on the Mid North Coast and throughout NSW.

These events included major floods on the Mid North Coast in 2009, 2011 and 2013, last years' April superstorm and in providing logistical support as part of the response to Cyclone Yasi in 2011.

Narelle was also heavily involved in community life and made enormous contributions to local scouting and soccer organisations.



Acting Commissioner Greg Newton, David Elliott MP (Minister for Emergency Services), the Walker Family and the Member for Port Macquarie, Leslie Williams.



Penrith SES presentation night

On Saturday, November 19, Penrith SES celebrated its end of year presentation.

While no major awards were presented on the night one thing that was really highlighted on the night was the extensive training hours and courses as well as the number of

member that have assisted with out of area deployments for extended periods.

Members were able to mingle on the night, chat and unwind over woodfire pizzas.

While the unit looks at winding down with training for the year

members are still mindful that storm season is upon us and prepared for activation should the need arise.

Penrith Unit would like to extend its best wishes to all members of the SES and their families, may you all have a wonderful christmas and happy new year.

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SES recognises 1,060 years of service to the community



Gary Greene from the Wingham Unit receiving his Life Membership Award.



Garry Fajks receiving his Commissioner's Certificate of Appreciation for his work with the Cadet Program.

The NSW State Emergency Service honoured the many years of service to the community provided by local SES volunteers by conducting a long service awards ceremony on Saturday, November 26, 2016.

The awards ceremony was held in Port Macquarie and involved recipients from Camden Haven, Forster Pacific Palms, Gladstone, Kempsey, Mid North Coast Region, Nambucca, Port Macquarie, Wauchop and Wingham NSW SES Units.

Sixty four awards were presented including honours for 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 35 and 45 years of service to the NSW SES. In total, the 48 award recipients have provided 1,060 years of volunteering to their local communities.

NSW SES Mid North Coast Acting Region Controller Tony Day said, "The awards ceremonies recognise the outstanding contribution and commitment of long serving local SES volunteers to the safety of their communities in times of need. Over the last 12 months, NSW SES Mid North Coast Region Units have responded to over 1,423 requests for

Over the last 12 months, NSW SES Mid North Coast Region Units have responded to over 1,423 requests for assistance



assistance within their respective Local Government Areas, equating to 29,972 hours of volunteered service."

Members from NSW SES Mid North Coast Region Units have also

been involved in providing assistance to NSW SES Units in the Western Regions, with over 50 deployments, during the prolonged flood operations experienced this year.



The North West Region Lawn Bowling Team (or *The Happening ... because wherever they go things happen!*) travelled to Caloundra in early October to represent the State, the Service and the North West Region at the 2016 Australasian Police and Emergency Service Games.

Brian “*The Lead*” Parsons (Inverell), Leeanne “*The Lady*” Vickers (Ashford), Graham “*The Pie Man*” Moxey and Wes “*The Driver*” Macpherson (Moree) were selected to represent the Region at the games following an exhaustive and demanding selection process.

Following the selection process the four members realised that travelling to Caloundra for a week would be an expensive business so the Volunteers Association (SESVA) came on board as the major supporter. The VA then further supported the team by providing them with promotional items such as shirts and caps to give away to their opponents. These quality items were snavelled up by the opposition players with vigour.

When the players spoke of the VA and how it supports the members of the Service we really did generate some discussion as some of the other

Services do not have such a facility or service to support their volunteers. With the NSW SES VA looking to promote itself nationally this event gave the team a great opportunity to showcase the Association and the benefits it can provide to its members to a national audience.

Leeanne travelled from Ashford which is so close to the Queensland border that you can actually smell the XXXX to join Graham from Warialda, Wes from Moree and Brian from Inverell to venture along 700 kilometres of the Gwydir and New England Highways into Queensland.





Then along the Bruce Highway into Caloundra.

The team took up residence in a holiday house on the shores of Lake Currumbundi to rest and refine their talents.

Initially, there was a bit of confusion for the team when they team registered at the Games Hub as they were called "Athletes" ... *(if you know any of the members involved and know their current body shape you can see why being called anything remotely athletic would be mistaken !!!)*

The venue was the Caloundra Bowling Club, one of the venues for the upcoming 2018 Commonwealth Games and short listed for the Australian Open.

Over the four days of competition, these "athletes" walked over 20 kilometres up and down the greens playing pairs and fours against teams from as far afield as PNG, New Zealand, South Australia, West Australia and the Territory. There was obviously a very heavy Queensland and Police component with a variety of skill levels.

Several teams had state, national and Commonwealth level players in them but the *The Happening* did NSW, The NSW SES, The North West Region and VA proud.

The first two days were spent in the pair's competition with Graham and Wes pairing up while Brian and Leeanne joined forces. Both teams finished mid field out of a competition of 42 teams. Brian and Leeanne took the honours over Graham and Wes by the slimmest of margins to top the SES group.

The third day saw all involved in the fours competition where the team did not fare as well as they did in the pairs competition. Although the team did not come away with any medals they did top the SES group again and did well in the NSW group by virtue of a handy positive point's bonus and an interpretative spin on the results.

APES 2016 - Lawn Bowls - Team - Unisex - Open - Fours

Place	Team	State
1	Tuncurry	NSW
2	BECKS	SA
3	GILT'ies	QLD
4	Team Gray	NSW
5	NT Police	QLD
6	no name yet	QLD
= 7	Newcastle H2O	
= 7	Blue Swimmers	SA
9	Shawshank Screws	VIC
10	Caloundra Police Retirees	QLD
11	Sparks	QLD
12	The Rat Pack	
13	Graceville	QLD
14	caloundra mix	QLD
15	APESG WonRichBoy	NSW
16	Bits'n Pieces	QLD
= 17	NWR SES	NSW
= 17	Fire Crackers	QLD
19	Fireies	QLD
20	Irritable Bowls Syndrome	SA
21	Roma Street A1-Team	QLD
22	Murbah Parkies	QLD
23	Battlers 1	NSW
24	The Battlers	NSW
25	Roma St A2	QLD
= 26	The Grass Cutters	TAS
= 26	NZ Hillbilly's	
= 26	Battlers 2	NSW
= 26	Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade	NSW

Unfortunately the team did not qualify for the final rounds in the fours competition but after watching the medal rounds did the tourist bit and watched whales breaching, jumping and playing in the calm waters of the Coral Sea off the tropical Queensland coast.

Later that evening, the team attended the closing and medal ceremonies of the lawn bowls component of the Games and were pleasantly surprised to be awarded a medal for being the best dressed team.

This would not have been possible without the support of the NSW SES VA. The team really did stand out in their noticeable orange hi-vis shirts,

royal blue trousers and caps.

Following four fantastic days of competition where Queensland did a "Melbourne" and put on four seasons in four days, the team is now heavily into preparation for the next Australasian Police and Emergency Service Games which is being held in Perth in 2018.

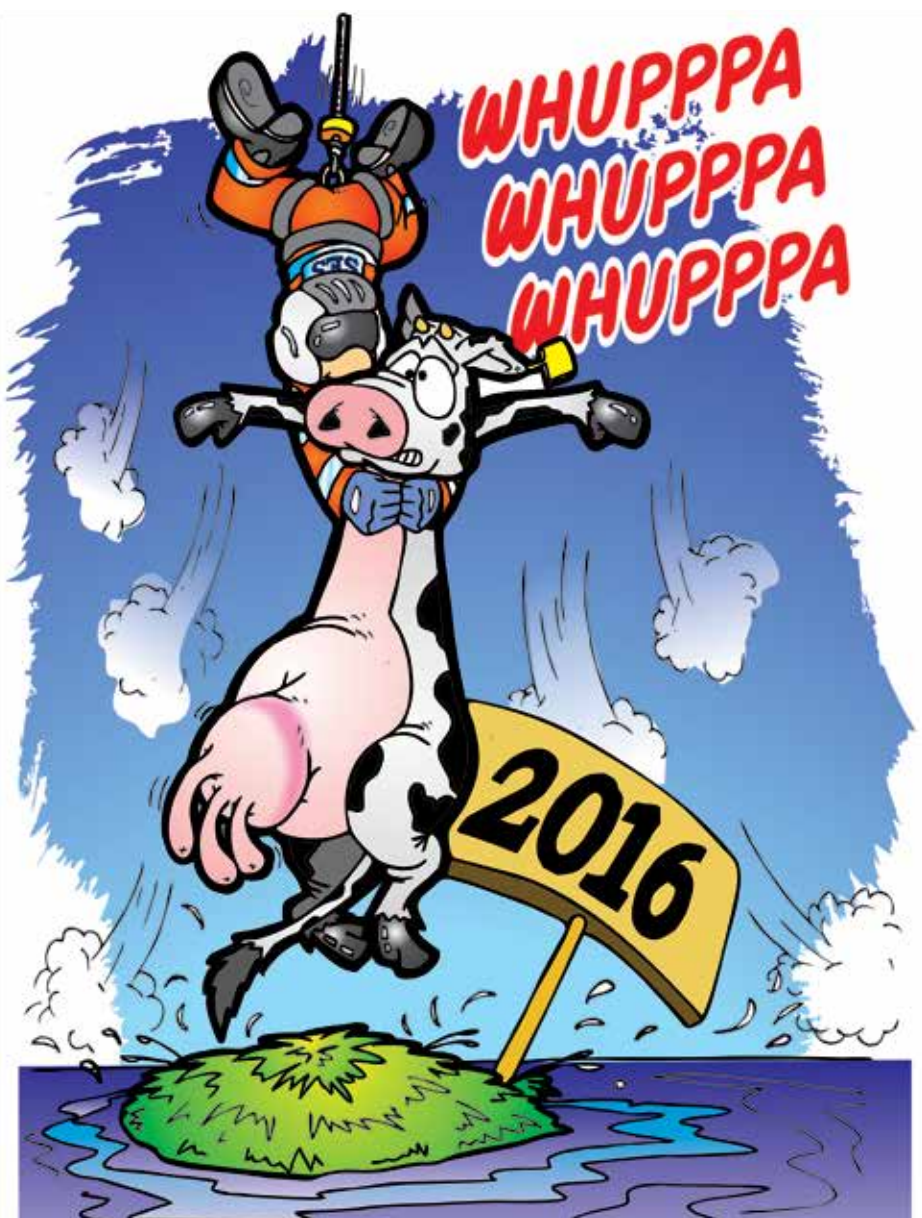
The team encourages any SES memembr to consider the games. Despite not winning medals the team thouroughly enjoyed the comaraderie given through friendship that is always found in sport.

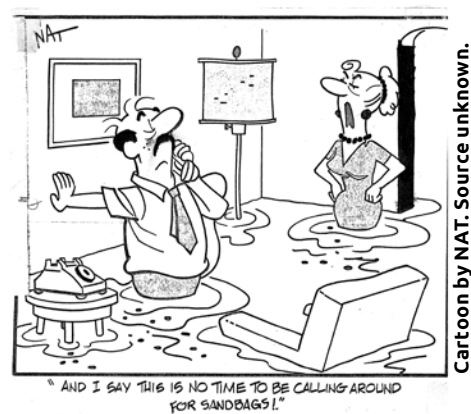
By Wes Macpherson
North West Region

CENTRAL FLOODS

AL WEST LOODS













'Lew' Lewis-Hughes: Man of Many Contributions to the State Emergency Service

Chas Keys

JH Lewis-Hughes, known as 'Lew' to all who met him, spent 40 years either as a volunteer member of the SES or on its staff. In that time contributed hugely to the organisation's development as an emergency service. His career spanned the civil defence era of the 1950s and 1960s and the organisation's period as the central emergency service organisation in New South Wales and responsible for the state's preparation for disasters of all kinds.

Lew's introduction to the Civil Defence Organisation, as the SES then was, came in 1955, when he was asked by the first Lismore District Operational Controller, Bill Thursby, to help in the setting up of the organisation in the northern rivers. At this stage Lew was eight years out from his war service in the Royal Australian Navy and well into a career as the Lismore District Valuer in the Valuer-General's Department. When Thursby left Lismore in 1957 Lew inherited the senior CD position, which a year later was re-titled the Richmond-Tweed Regional Controller. Lew held this post for 12 years before being posted to Dubbo in a promotion in his employment.

His contribution to the development of the Richmond-Tweed region was huge. When he became the Controller he had a headquarters staff of five volunteers and a total of 12 local controllers, some of whom had a few volunteers in their still very new local units. Building on the former chief wardens of the wartime National Emergency Services Lew had a regional organisation with more than 600 volunteers by the time he left for Dubbo. These people were well organised, several had been to

the Australian Civil Defence School at Mount Macedon and training was well established in all the civil defence and flood management functions then available. Included were such things as rescue, signals, floodboat operation and home nursing. Lew took a strong personal hand in the training in his region, and he set up an effective exercising regime as well.

Moreover he led the development of the Regional Evacuation Plan, which was drawn up to guide the reception of evacuees from Sydney in the event of a nuclear strike. In addition he led

Lew's leadership ability and in the mid-1960s he made him the organisation's Pro (Provisional) Director. This appointment was not publicly known but it was very important: Dougherty created a 'shadow' state headquarters staff, made up of regional controllers and other volunteers, about 20 people in all, to lead the CD&SES organisation in the event that its Sydney-based headquarters became incapable of functioning – for example, because of an enemy strike on the capital. Those were the days when the Cold War was at its height, and a nuclear

strike by the Soviet Union was genuinely feared. The alternate headquarters, incidentally, would have operated from an underground site beneath the old Bathurst jail. All this was highly confidential, Lew quietly organising the necessary planning and the maintenance of the war-time emergency broadcasting radio station at the Richmond RAAF base.

During the 1960s Lew was heavily involved in the development of the organisation's flood management expertise. It helped, no doubt,

that Lismore had many floods: between 1955 and 1969 there were about 20, several invading the central business district. The frequency of flooding created the opportunity to practise, develop and refine the techniques of flood management, and this became Lew's major field of operational activity. He appointed many gauge readers, organised the installation of new gauges and worked on the collection of river height data and its utilisation in the flood warning field. He can fairly be called a pioneer in the development and use of flood intelligence in New South Wales.

Lew's contribution to the building up of the Region and its headquarters in those early years was recognised in 1963 by the award of the OBE.

the planning for the 'mobile columns' which were to go from Richmond-Tweed to Sydney to help what would have been a devastated city. In the 1960s, this planning was at the centre of the organisation's activity.

Lew's contribution to the building up of the Region and its headquarters in those early years was recognised in 1963 by the award of the OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), a high honour equivalent to the AO in the present Australian awards system. Moreover the Director of Civil Defence, Major General Ivan Dougherty, had noted



Because of this work his headquarters led the state in the matter of flood warnings, the warning messages in big Lismore floods like that of 1974 (roughly a one-in-100-years event) being of very high quality. They contained all the key information – the current river height, the forecast height, an assessment of the likely consequences of the flooding at the predicted height and the actions which people should take to defend themselves and protect their belongings. Years later, the standard of the flood warning messages which came out of the Richmond-Tweed Region was far higher than those of most of the other regional headquarters of the SES.

When Lew left for Dubbo he must have assumed that he would have a quieter life than the one he had lived in Lismore, especially if the potential demands of the Pro-Director's role did not become reality. But it was not to be: he soon became the Macquarie Region's Staff Officer (Operations)

under Regional Controller Dev ('Brookie') Brookfield. Then, in early 1971, there was a severe flood on the Barwon-Darling system and Lew was sent by Dougherty to Narrabri and then Walgett to help manage the flooding there. There were warning, evacuation and resupply functions to manage and in Walgett's case a levee to monitor and maintain.

Neither community had a strong SES organisation at the time. As in many country areas the units were token rather than real, and major relief operations were beyond their capabilities. The Walgett operation became a test of using experienced personnel from the Alternate State Headquarters in support of a local unit.

Dougherty retired in 1973, followed soon after by his long-running deputy, George Gold. Lew applied for the Director's post but was given the deputy's position, which he occupied until his retirement a decade later. As Deputy Director he played a major part in the running of several big flood

operations – there were many of these in the 1970s on the inland rivers and on those of the coast – and over the Xmas-New Year period 1974-75 he led the operation in which 13,000 evacuees were received in Sydney after Cyclone Tracy had flattened much of Darwin.

In this operation Lew held many meetings at state headquarters in Sydney and at Sydney Airport to coordinate the efforts of the Police, the departments of Housing, Manufacturing and Youth and Community Services, the Health Commission, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Smith Family, Lifeline, St Vincent de Paul, the Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Commonwealth Department of Social Security and other organisations. An SES welfare centre was set up at Callan Park, Rozelle, at which evacuees were fed, registered, given clothing and accommodation and had other needs met. Welfare centres were

» continued on page 28



» **continued from page 27**

also established at the North Head quarantine facility, at army and naval establishments, at hospitals and at commonwealth hostels. This was a very large and complex operation which went on around the clock for five days at the international terminal and in one of the hangars at the airport. It continued for two weeks at state headquarters. This was the biggest evacuation operation ever seen in Australia.

It was also a major test of the SES and its abilities – a test not unlike that created by the Sydney hailstorm of April 1999 but without the hostile media attention – and the organisation acquitted itself well. Many problems arose, of course, and they were to inform the thinking that went into the first State Welfare Plan which was drawn up over the following two years and completed in 1977. In this planning, Lew headed the working party which prepared the document

itself. The plan covered the roles of federal and state departments and voluntary organisations in the provision of welfare services. All functions – welfare centres, catering, accommodation, clothing, registration and inquiry, personal services and the provision of welfare information and advice – were covered.

In those days the SES had the chairing role in the development of all the state-level disaster plans in New South Wales. Today this role is managed by the State Emergency Management Committee, not by any individual agency.

Lew's planning contribution extended to the flood warning arena in which he had much practical experience from his time in Lismore. As Deputy Director he chaired a joint working party made up of Bureau of Meteorology and SES personnel to review flood warning arrangements in the state. This group produced the NSW State Flood Warning Plan which was promulgated in 1978 and which

still has a great influence on flood warning procedures and practices in the state.

Lew thus had a deep involvement in both operational management and planning for emergency operations. He understood clearly the nexus between the two functions and the needs of each. He made sound decisions during operations, and he appreciated the value of good plans in guiding decision-making during flood and other emergency operations. He embodied the notion that planners should be operators and vice versa. Things work best when this is the case!

In the late 1970s, recognising the great value of planning, he sought to enlarge considerably the number of planners at state headquarters. At the time there were only two of them, and he argued for ten – a reasonable number given the size of the SES's planning task as laid down in the SES Act of the time. But he was rebuffed, and a decade later

the SES was severely criticised by the Office of Public Management for the paucity of its effort in planning for emergency situations.

Amongst his most important contributions to the SES (and indeed to emergency management generally) were in the development of 'intellectual capital'. He gave many addresses at workshops and conferences at what is now called the Emergency Management Australia Institute at Mount Macedon, and some of these were reprinted in the SES's journal which was variously called *The Civil Defence Bulletin*, *The State Emergency Services Bulletin* and *Sitrep*. These were the forerunners of today's *Director General's Newsletter*. He wrote on themes such as the problems of staffing a civil defence region, the establishment of a headquarters (in terms both of facilities and staff), the exercising of operational control and the management of evacuations during floods.

He also spoke on many occasions about SES matters at forums outside the SES itself. His talks and his writings were based on considerable personal experience and on an ability to think through problems. At one point his knowledge and experience were recognised in an invitation to visit Pakistan to advise on flood management – including warning. Much earlier, in 1964, he addressed the Flood Mitigation Authorities of New South Wales at their annual conference, speaking about the civil defence role in flood times. This may have been the first formal contact between the FMA and the SES; today, the SES features heavily in the FMA's yearly conferences and its quarterly meetings.

Lew was also instrumental in the development of a national professional association of emergency managers. In 1977 the Australian Institute of Emergency Services was formed, and Lew became its first president. He foresaw a professional journal, the better education of emergency managers, regular seminars and discussion groups dealing with the needs of the emergency

services, and the fostering of higher standards for paid and volunteer members of emergency organisations. In the late 1980s the AIES began publication of the journal *National Emergency Response*.

In 1983 Lew retired from active employment with the SES. But he continued on until 1995 as a volunteer, first at state headquarters and then in the Sydney Northern Division Headquarters. At SHQ he assisted in a survey of the state's reserve of radiac instruments, rewrote several natural disaster pamphlets and acted as an adviser on training and other matters relating to the NSW Disaster Welfare Plan – including writing and conducting residential courses for welfare training at Mt Penang. At the Division Headquarters he conducted courses in map reading and information gathering

brigades were forebears of the local units of the SES. For decades they carried out rescue, resupply and other flood tasks on the eastward-flowing rivers north of Sydney.

The book on the brigades continued Lew's career-long interest in flood management. Earlier, while still the SES Deputy Director, he had written a history of flood rescue in New South Wales. This had canvassed the development of the water brigades and their boats, and the evolution of floodboats after the SES had assumed the flood response role in the mid-1950s. Lew's research dealt with the battles during the 1950s and 1960s over how boats should be constructed and powered: there were debates over materials (clinker, plywood, fibreglass or aluminium), the merits of oars

and motors for propulsion, the size of outboard motors and the dimensions of the boats themselves. A big issue was whether different building specifications should be allowed in different areas.

Views on these matters were passionately held in the surviving water brigades and among the growing group of SES floodboat operators. There were debates, too, about registration, training courses, and the sorts of radios which should be carried in boats during operations. A Flood Rescue Boat Advisory Committee, chaired by the SES

and incorporating people from the Maritime Services Board, the Police, the Navy and other organisations, was set up in 1956 to develop policy on these issues.

In retirement Lew has retained a keen interest in the SES and its fortunes. He remains a strong supporter of the volunteer concept and he has attended several functions for people retiring from the organisation. He also continues to write, most recently in 2007 commenting on emergency operations in *National Emergency Response*. In 2005 he participated in the SES's 50th anniversary celebrations. Lew's was an immense contribution across many of the interests of the SES, and it should not be forgotten.

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He embodied the notion that planners should be operators and vice versa. Things work best when this is the case!

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and processing, and he also took a major managerial role in operations. His last big operation was the response to the great northern suburbs hailstorm of early 1991.

Even after he ceased to be an SES volunteer he continued to write on themes of interest to the organisation, especially in relation to history. In 1997 he published a book on the volunteer water brigades which took root on several of the state's rivers from the Hawkesbury to the Richmond from 1870. The last of these, at Grafton on the Clarence River, ceased to operate as recently as 2000; before then, the surviving brigades were gradually absorbed into the SES (sometimes, as at Lismore, as SES floodboat sections). In a real sense the water



Andy Roberts Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement goes to NSW SES Cadet Andrew Street

When home school student Andrew Street started the NSW SES Secondary Schools Cadet Program he seemed shy, introverted and unsure of his abilities. By the end of the program Andrew had changed dramatically. Andrew became confident in expressing his opinions and showed the qualities of a servant leader among the group. Andrew is now the proud recipient of the *Andy Roberts Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement*.

The award is in memory of Andy Roberts, an advocate for young people who lobbied hard for the NSW SES Secondary Schools Cadet Program to be established. Andy lost his battle with cancer in September of 2007. Though unable to see the ongoing impact of his achievement, the award remains an important feature of the NSW SES' commitment to acknowledging the contributions

It is a privilege to be able to recognise young Australians like Andrew who strive not only for the purpose of self-improvement but also to provide support to Australian communities through volunteering with the NSW SES.

of youth in their ranks. The award is given to a NSW SES Cadet who has persevered and shown extensive improvement during the program.

NSW SES Region Controller, Andrew Galvin was joined by the Chairman of the NSW SES Volunteer Association, Charlie Moir and NSW SES Coordinator

of Youth Engagement, Todd Burns to present the award to Andrew Street on Wednesday, November 30, at The Southern Cross School of Distance Education in Inverell.

"Andrew was chosen out of 500 cadets who graduated from programs in 2015 and it is encouraging to see



Wes McPherson, Kam Wheeler, Brian Parsons and teacher Vicki Alford from Southern Cross School of Distance Education High School with Andrew Street.



his confidence has developed to the point where he was able to be the Master of Ceremonies for the school awards ceremony. It is a privilege to be able to recognise young Australians like Andrew who strive not only for the purpose of self-improvement but also to provide support to Australian

communities through volunteering with the NSW SES." said Mr Burns.

In winning the award, Andrew received a financial scholarship provided by the NSW SES Volunteers Association, as well as a trophy and framed certificate. Andrew's school, received a duplicate copy of the trophy

to put on display. Andrew has already put his scholarship funds towards gaining a forklift licence.

NSW SES community partner 'Origin' is also a proud sponsor of the cadet program and would also like to congratulate Andrew Street on winning the award.

NSW SES Commissioner Greg Newton said it was wonderful to see how the program had helped develop Andrew's confidence and looked forward to Andrew's continued involvement with the service.

"The NSW SES Secondary Schools Cadet Programs offers a unique and valuable opportunity in not only introducing young people to ways they can be of service to their communities, but also giving them valuable skills and experience to enhance their lives and their careers." said Commissioner Newton.

Andrew went on to join the Inverell Unit as soon as he become eligible on this 16th birthday and has become a well-respected member, keen to explore all the ways he can develop in the NSW SES both personally and professionally.



Samuel Corby the NSW State Emergency Service Young Volunteer of the Year

In a presentation held at NSW Parliament on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, The Honourable David Elliott MP, Minister for Emergency Services was joined by NSW SES Commissioner Greg Newton and NSW SES Volunteer Association General Manager Andrew Edwards to present Sam Corby with the NSW SES Young Volunteer of the Year award.

Samuel is from the NSW SES Sutherland Shire Unit and was nominated by his Unit Controller, John Gonzalez.

At 18 years of age, Samuel joined the Sutherland Shire SES unit and has since completed a wide range of courses including Storm and Water Damage Response, Swift Water Awareness, Land and Water Based Rescue, Communications and First Aid.

Samuel has also gained Training and Assessment qualifications and has been the person his team mates go to for help with the new Beacon web based incident management system.

In the last two years, Samuel has demonstrated leadership qualities in his commitment to the NSW SES in both practical and academic roles.

Samuel became a member of the logistics team where he showed initiative and began making improvements to practices and procedures. Samuel quickly identified ways to make the logistics section more efficient and he became the conduit between the Unit and Region for all logistical matters.

In the last two years, Samuel has demonstrated leadership qualities in his commitment to the NSW

SES in both practical and academic roles. He is held in high regard by all members within the Sutherland Shire Unit and the NSW SES Sydney Southern Region.

During this time Sam has contributed over 700 volunteer hours in training across a broad range of areas including, 250 hours operationally, 150 hours in Logistics hours and 100 hours in Community Engagement.

Broken Hill and Willyama Secondary School Cadet Programs

On November 22, Broken Hill and Willyama High Schools had their cadet graduation ceremony. Presentations were made in front of other students from the school and after the event, many students expressed interest in joining the local SES unit.

One of the graduating cadets, Neve Robin heard that the NSW SES has opportunities for volunteers to be trained in Media and invited Region Controller, Graham Craig and Coordinator of Youth Engagement, Todd Burns to an interview at ABC Radio where she was doing work experience. Little did Neve know, that ABC broadcaster Andrew Schmidt had plans to include her in the interview.

“Neve did a great job promoting the NSW SES in the interview, she has become an ambassador for the NSW SES and we are proud of her achievements. I am hopeful that we will be able to recruit her as a unit volunteer so she can help us with media related work,” said Todd Burns

The number of young volunteers has increased in the Broken Hill unit over the past four years due to the influence of the NSW SES Secondary Schools Cadet programs. Region Controller, Graham Craig said that about 20 volunteers aged between 16 and 25 had joined over that time. One of the local school teachers has also joined the unit because of the influence of the cadet program.

Region Cadet Coordinator Kevern Hobman, Deputy Region Controller, Marc Coulter and RLDO Rod Whalan have done a great job in establishing the Cadet program in Far West and Kevern plans to expand the program into more part of the Far West Region.

Each year around 34 Secondary School Cadet Programs are conducted across NSW with about 700 school students graduating.

By Todd Burns

Coordinator Youth Engagement



Willyama Cadets.



Broken Hill Cadets.



ABC interview organised by graduating cadet Neve Robin from Broken Hill High School with Todd Burns and Graham Craig.



Artwork Competition

NSWSES in partnership with the NSW SES Volunteers Association is running an exciting original Artwork Competition for the new SHQ.

All members are eligible to apply. The winning entry will be used at the entrance to the new SHQ in Burelli Street inset into a 2100mm circle in the ground.

The theme is "NSW SES past, present and future" and colours used must be sympathetic to the traditional SES roundel.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Competition closes **31 January, 2017.**

Prize winners will be announced on **March 1st.**

Please read the Terms and Conditions to ensure you qualify. If you have any questions email **shq.project@ses.nsw.gov**.

NSW SES New State Headquarters Artwork Competition Application Form

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Given Name: _____ Surname: _____

Position: _____ SAP Number: 400 _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Preferred Phone Number: _____

Region / Unit / Directorate: _____

2. CONSENT

I hereby consent to the collection and use of my personal image and art work to be stored and uploaded onto the EOS, including the use of my image in newsletters and publications for the NSW State Emergency Service and the NSW State Emergency Service Volunteers Association.

YES ☐ Date: _____

NO ☐ Signature: _____

NB: Only applications that provide consent can proceed to judging.

3. AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND BY THE COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I hereby agree to be bound by the Competition Terms and Conditions.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

4. OFFICE USE ONLY

Date artwork received: _____ Signature: _____

NSW SES New State Headquarters Artwork Competition

Terms & Conditions

1. The NSW State Emergency Service New State Headquarters Art Work Competition runs from 16 November, 2016 to 31 January, 2017. All entries are to be either digitally submitted (preferred) or posted with a registration form to arrive no later than 11:59pm AEST on 31 January, 2017 to the competition email address. No responsibility is accepted for late, lost, delayed or misdirected entries.
2. This competition is open only to current members of the NSW State Emergency Service. Entrants aged less than 18 years must have permission from their parent or legal guardian, who must agree to these Terms and Conditions on their behalf.
3. A completed registration form must be submitted with the entry.
4. Up to three (3) prizes will be awarded on merit as decided by the judging panel and consist of a first prize \$500, second prize \$300 and third prize \$200. Only one prize may be awarded per entry.
5. A maximum of two entries per person is acceptable. Collaborative entries will be accepted where they are entered by one person responsible for the collaborative entry.
6. **Submitted artwork must be an original creation.** Copying of any pre-existing image is not acceptable, whether visually or by tracing. Colouring in an outline printed or drawn by someone else is also not acceptable. Artwork must not be overly derivative of images found on the Internet, in print media, or elsewhere. The Entrant warrants that the entry is the work of the Entrant and does not contain any material by anyone else, unless this is acknowledged. The Judging Panel will disqualify a work if they reasonably suspect that it is wholly or partly copied from other works.
7. The Entrant acknowledges that all intellectual property rights, including but not limited to copyright, trademarks, design, patents and other rights in and to the name of the NSW SES and its products, are the sole and exclusive property of the NSW SES.
8. The Entrant acknowledges that all intellectual property rights, including but not limited to copyright, trademarks, design, patents and other rights in and to the name of the NSW SES Volunteers Association and its products, are the sole and exclusive property of the NSW SES Volunteers Association.
9. The Entrant indemnifies the NSW SES against any third party liabilities, claims, costs, expenses (including legal costs), loss or damage incurred by the NSW SES as a result of publishing any material submitted by the Entrant.
10. The theme of the art work is "NSW SES past, present and future". Only entries aligned with this theme are eligible for judging.
11. The colours must be sympathetic to the traditional SES roundel. Please see <http://117.53.163.75/sesbrandonline/logos/roundel/roundel-logo>
12. All entries must be capable of being translated in an acceptable digital format so that the can be reproduced in a suitable media for placement into a 2100mm sized circle in the forecourt of 93-99 Burelli St, Wollongong NSW 2500.
13. Clear digital copies of artworks of no more than 15MB from scans or photographs, together with a signed and scanned version of the registration form are to be sent via email to completion email address: shq.project@ses.nsw.gov.au
14. The Entrant is bound by the NSW SES Code of Conduct and Ethics. Therefore entries must not contain any material that is offensive, defamatory, discriminating, obscene, indecent, harassing or threatening or is otherwise unlawful. The Judging Panel may reject entries that it considers inappropriate for any reason. The Judging Panel can publish or decline to publish, or use or decline to use, any submitted artwork at its sole discretion.
15. All entrants must submit their name, email address, phone number, address and postcode, membership number and agree to the terms and conditions of the competition.
16. Finalists' artwork will be chosen to hang in an exhibition at the New State Headquarters (93-99 Burelli Street, Wollongong, NSW, 2500) for at least one week commencing on or within three days of the official opening of the facility. Finalists will be contacted via email. Finalists will be required to post their original work to the Competition address

17. The Competition Organising Committee reserves the right to crop and/or correct the digital copy of the artwork for hanging and/or installation to ensure consistency of appearance.

18. Prize winners will be announced on March 1, 2017. Results will be published on **www.ses.nsw.gov.au**

19. The Organisers have the right to disseminate information about the competition arrangements, competition entries, prizes, the awarding of the winners and other details related to the competition in their marketing and advertising that may be published on the web, in brochures or in other forms.

20. By entering this Competition, each contestant consents to the use of their artwork under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence by the NSW SES and the NSW SES Volunteers Association. The entrant authorises the reuse of their artwork without further notice or compensation in any art work installation, merchandise, advertisements, educational materials or publicity carried out or produced by the NSW SES and/or the NSW SES Volunteers Association.

21. The Judging Panel's rulings are final and without appeal in all matters related to this Competition and the awarding of the Prizes.

22. Entries in the completion will not be returned. The entry becomes the property of the NSW SES and may either be kept or disposed of at its absolute discretion.

23. The NSW SES assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen, delayed, damaged, illegible, incomplete, postage-due, or misdirected entries, or for any problems or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer on-line systems, servers, access providers, computer equipment, software, failure of any entry to be received or traffic congestion on the internet or at any website, or any combination thereof including any injury or damage to an entrant's or any other person's computer.

24. By entering this Competition, entrants agree to be bound by the NSW SES Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy and that the NSW SES and its members, directors, and other groups supporting the competition, are not liable for any loss or damage of any kind to the entrant or any other person in connection with this Competition or participation in any Competition related activities, including but not limited to the use or misuse of a prize or any portion of a prize including personal injury or property damage.

25. The NSW SES reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify, cancel or suspend this Competition, its terms and conditions, or any part of it should an external circumstances arise which are beyond its reasonable control.

26. The NSW SES is not responsible for any errors or omissions in printing or advertising this Competition. This Competition will run in accordance with these terms and conditions, subject to amendment by the Judging Panel.

27. Entrants must comply with these terms and conditions, and will be deemed to have received and understood the rules if they participate in the Competition.

28. If you have any questions not answered here, please email: shq.project@ses.nsw.gov.au

DEFINITIONS:

- 1.** Judging Panel consists of:
 - » NSW SES Commissioner, NSW SES
 - » Director Finance and Asset Management, NSW SES
 - » President of the NSW SES Volunteers Association
 - » Member of the NSW SES Volunteers Association
 - » Two Under 25 year old NSW SES members from NSW SES Regional locations
- 2.** Competition Email Address
 - » shq.project@ses.nsw.gov.au
 - » NSW SES – New South Wales State Emergency Service PO Box 6126 Wollongong DC NSW 2500. ABN 88 712 649 015
- 3.** NSW SES Volunteers Association
 - » New South Wales State Emergency Service Volunteers Association, Unit 1, 2-6 Lindsay St, Rockdale, NSW, 2216. ABN 21 688 925 780
- 4.** Entrant
 - » a current member of the NSW SES who submits an entry to the competition

SEARCH & RESCUE

Created by Derek Archer

S	R	Z	D	E	N	B	R	E	L	I	A	R	T	H	S	A	G	B	M	F	Q	O	X	Y
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AGENCY
AVENUE
BARRICADES
BEACONS
BINGARA
BOOTS
CHAINSAW
CLOSED
COBAR
COMMUNITY
CONTROLLER

EMERGENCY
FLOODBOAT
LEADER
LIGHTS
LIFEJACKETS
LITHGOW
MAPS, MEASURES
OFFICER
OPEN
OPERATIONS
POLICE

QUICKCUT
RADIO
REGION
RESCUE
ROAD
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