

The official journal of the NSW SES Volunteers Association

the
Volunteer

Issue 43 | April 2018

ISSN 1445-3886 | PP 100018972



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shannon.crofton@nswsesva.org.au

Chief Executive Officer

Andrew Edwards
andrew.edwards@nswsesva.org.au

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Director

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kim.edwards@nswsesva.org.au

Director

Megan Hamblin (Wellington)
megan.hamblin@nswsesva.org.au

NSW SES VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Sydney Northern Area

Graham Kinder (Manly)
sydneynorthern@nswsesva.org.au

Central West Area

Rob Hines (Orange)
centralwest@nswsesva.org.au

Sydney Southern Area

Pat Johnson ESM (Sydney Southern HQ)
sydnaysouthern@nswsesva.org.au

Hunter Area

Mark Elsley (Musswellbrook)
hunter@nswsesva.org.au

Macquarie Area

Kurt Andrew (Dubbo)
macquarie@nswsesva.org.au

Southern Highlands Area

Patricia Maxwell (Queanbeyan)
southernhighlands@nswsesva.org.au

Clarence-Nambucca Area

Ray Faggotter (Coffs Harbour)
clarencenambucca@nswsesva.org.au

Far West Area

Paul Kaye (Broken Hill)
farwest@nswsesva.org.au

Murrumbidgee Area

Madison Harvey (Wagga Wagga)
murrumbidgee@nswsesva.org.au

Mid North Coast Area

Cheryl Goodchild (Taree)
midnorthcoast@nswsesva.org.au

Lachlan Area

Vacant
lachlan@nswsesva.org.au

Illawarra South Coast Area

Lisa Williams (Eden)
illawarrasouthcoast@nswsesva.org.au

Richmond Tweed Area

Kristine McDonald (Tweed Heads)
richmondtweed@nswsesva.org.au

Sydney Western Area

Vacant (Sydney Western HQ)
sydneywestern@nswsesva.org.au

Namoi/North West Area

Dennis Buck ESM (Namoi Region HQ)
namoi@nswsesva.org.au

Murray Area

Susan Leckie (Murray HQ)
murray@nswsesva.org.au

CRITICAL INCIDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM 1800 626 800

CONTRIBUTIONS



Volunteers Association

Please send all content to:

The Volunteer Editor:

Pat Johnson

Unit 1, 2-6 Lindsay Street, Rockdale NSW 2216

Phone: 1300 0 SES VA

Mobile: 0408 161 018

Email: editor@nswsesva.org.au

Content for *The Volunteer*

Photography should only be supplied digitally, please avoid scanning of any type. Text can be supplied as a Microsoft Word document.

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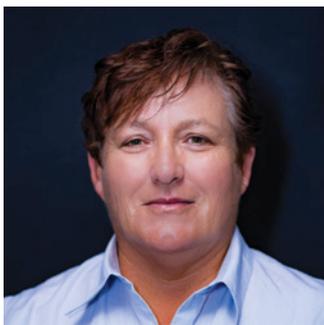
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On the cover:
Photograph by
Phil Lalor.



KIM DAVIS
PRESIDENT NSW SES
VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION

Our deepest sympathies go to the community and our brothers and sisters in the RFS from the Bega Shire after the loss of so much property in Tathra.

I'm sure we all watched as the weather deteriorated and conditions became frightening for the community and the emergency services.

It does serve as a timely reminder that what we do, and what we are willing to do for our communities is at times dangerous, stressful and well out of what would be considered a 'normal situation'.

And our role in all of this is to offer support to our members where we can,

particularly through the Welfare Fund. We strongly encourage you or anyone you know who may need assistance to put in an application and the Welfare Committee will consider it.

We have also undertaken a review on the process around General Welfare support particularly through flowers for members who are sick or injured. We are excited to be launching a new program in the very near future and applications must be received through our website. You can locate the application form on the front left hand side of the website.

We also received an invitation from the SES to participate in a

'Job Ready' workshop. From what we have seen this looks to be a really exciting direction for the Service to take, and a great way to get new members involved and on the job faster so they can really contribute to units sooner and get out to do what they joined the SES for.

Many of you would be aware that the Parliamentary Enquiry interviews were done with the Volunteers Association and the NSW SES earlier this month. We will be waiting to see what the emergency services-wide findings have been and the associated action plans that will improve the experience for our volunteers.

It does serve as a timely reminder that what we do, and what we are willing to do for our communities is at times dangerous, stressful and well out of what would be considered a 'normal situation'.

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.

A year has passed since I was appointed as Minister for Emergency Services and the honour of holding this position only increases with each month.

As we approach east coast low season I'm confident our SES units across the state are well prepared and equipped. In December the NSW SES played a key role in the Government's Summer Safety Campaign which raised the profile of our emergency services agencies and provided an opportunity to spread the word about important NSW SES safety messaging.

The past months have seen SES members respond to numerous events, notably in late March to a deep trough that brought severe weather warnings which impacted upon communities from the Central Coast right up to Coffs Harbour – with our SES volunteers and personnel fielding nearly 1,150 requests for assistance and 12 flood rescues. Thank you to the men and women who rushed to the aid of those in need during this and other events over the summer.

Over the last few months I've had the privilege of visiting Units, presenting medals and handing over new vehicles in The Rock, Albury, Wagga Wagga, Armidale, Bathurst, Kyogle, Tabulam and Orange. Without a doubt the best part of my role is

meeting our hard working, professional emergency services volunteers and I look forward to meeting many more throughout the year ahead.

I also had the privilege to join with around 250 dedicated members at Summit 2018. Despite being put through my paces at a fitness session hosted by Commissioner Smethurst bright and early, it was a wonderful opportunity to speak with many from all corners of the state and hear firsthand their plans for the NSW SES. I want to again thank all those who travelled from far and wide and sacrificed time with loved ones to attend the leadership conference to collaborate with colleagues and identify priorities for the organisation going forward.

The new SES Headquarters has also been operational now for over six months and has proven to provide state-of-the-art facilities from which to spearhead the SES response to major events. I had the pleasure of receiving a briefing and meeting personnel there recently and continue to be impressed by the capabilities of the infrastructure and more importantly the individuals on the ground who help service our units across the state.

Commissioner Smethurst's volunteering reimagined which was launched in late September last year continues to gather speed. This modern



TROY GRANT MP
MINISTER FOR
EMERGENCY SERVICES

and flexible volunteering model has increased engagement with corporate and spontaneous volunteers, as well as increasing flexibility for the Service's existing volunteers. It's an exciting period for the NSW SES with partnerships now underway with schools and universities, businesses and community organisations to provide the organisation with a larger volunteer workforce into the future.

Volunteers are the backbone of communities and I will do all that I can to advocate on your behalf. I value the support of each and every member of the NSW SES, not only in times of disaster but in building community resilience. I assure you the NSW Government is committed to ensuring volunteers of the NSW SES are supported in the best possible way.

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**MARK SMETHURST DSC, AM
COMMISSIONER**

Dear All,
Much has been achieved in my first year as the Commissioner of NSW SES, and as the 27th February 2018 marked my first anniversary with the Service, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the past twelve months.

In my first year of leading the Service I focused on volunteer recruitment and retention, training and operational capability. Volunteering Reimagined as the new, more flexible approach to volunteering was launched and continues to be implemented, but we can still achieve a great deal more. The online membership application process was introduced and the Training Model Review finalised. We held 17 targeted workshops focusing on Organisational Transformation with over 500 participants, as well as three volunteer-only workshops. It was great to see everyone getting involved and providing input as to how we can redesign our operating model to increase operational capability and better serve the community. Over \$10 million was invested in improvements to radio networks and equipment within the OCES program, to enhance our communications and operational response; while the launch of the TAMStore is streamlining the uniform ordering and delivery process. AIIMS training was implemented for all staff, ensuring every business unit is trained and prepared to support operations.

During the last twelve months, we have also experienced many operational events, including some of significant community impact, and I have been greatly impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the volunteers and staff. After moving 200 staff to the new State Headquarters

in Wollongong in August, we held a moving ceremony for the Dedication of the Memorial Garden. We defined our objectives and aspirations for the future in the Service's mission and vision statement, which we finalised in October. In November we also held the first State Headquarters Open Day, which was an excellent showcase to the Illawarra Community and for those SES Members that travelled to be a part of the event. Another memorable competition of the last twelve months was my trip to Tasmania to the National Disaster Rescue Challenge. I was proud to see the NSW SES team from Port Macquarie display fantastic skills and take first place. The recent 'Summit 2018' was the first Controllers' Conference I attended. It was a great opportunity for me to meet up with the leaders of our Service, listen to your feedback, and discuss the future developments of the Service. We will now continue to hold the Controllers Conference every two years, rather than every five years.

As I start my second year of service, I am looking forward to many exciting projects and initiatives planned for the next twelve months. The new Incident Management Operating Model will be introduced as we move into the Zone structures later in the year. With the second Deputy Commissioner on board in April, increased Zone-based staff, and structural changes in the newly aligned Directorates, I am convinced our operational capability will be enhanced, to better serve the needs of the volunteers and the NSW community. Our focus will remain on supporting volunteers and improving our operational capability which will be achieved through strategies such as increasing operationally focused positions through efficiency gains in

Financial, Human Resource and other 'back of house' activities.

We will continue to seek further opportunities to improve areas of operational capability, digital transformation, process mapping and workflows, new training and assessment functionality, and facilities forecasting. I'm looking forward to seeing the uptake of the Availability App, and the roll-out of many other significant projects such as redesigned State Flood and Storm Plan documents, implementation of the new Rank Structure and introduction of the Training Assessment Tool. We will continue to expand our Service by partnering with companies and institutions via MOUs offering them flexible volunteering options. As we re-signed our partnership with NRMA Insurance as our principal partner, I hope our collaboration will grow, and mutually we will further increase the resilience of the NSW communities. The NSW SES and NSW SES Volunteers Association also intend to enter into an MOU, reflective of our collaborative working relationship. To better assist our growing number of volunteers, we will be rolling out a mental health strategy, and expanding the newly established diversity networks.

I'm looking forward to working with the NSW SES Volunteers Association on joint initiatives of the Service and the Association. I believe there are many new ways we can work together to better support our volunteers, represent their interests and recognise their contribution to the community, as we continue to implement our Service's mission: NSW SES saving lives and protect communities, and our vision to be the best volunteer emergency service in Australia

Regards to all.

“
As I start my second year of service, I am looking forward to many exciting projects and initiatives planned for the next twelve months.
”

From the Editor

PAT JOHNSON ESM
EDITOR

Another busy month for our members with storms, floods and bushfires. A big thank you to all, when the chips are down you are always there to help, fulfilling many roles - in the field, IMT, PIO, media, help in the BFIL (Bushfire information line) and PIIC (Public Information and Inquiry Line) at Police HQ to name but a few.

On Saturday Night (24/3/18) I attended the first of the Rotary District Emergency Services Community Awards. Two of our members were finalists, Josephine Jones From SSR HQ and Robbie Newman from the Auburn Unit. They will now go into the State Awards as finalists on the 1st June 2018. I have added some photos below of the night.

Once again keep the stories and photos coming.



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards



On the 2nd of January Neeta, Dan and I set off for a week of unexpected experiences as we left to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). The NSW SES Volunteers Association along with our local Rotary clubs had identified that we all possessed the potential to be great leaders, and had a strong passion to help support and improve our local communities.

The three of us attended the camp not knowing anyone or what to expect. The first day was definitely daunting however, we were encouraged through a Toastmasters workshop to face our fears of public speaking. We spent the day identifying what makes a good public speaker, and how we can best engage and relate to our audience

when presenting. Within our groups of ten we presented a six-minute speech about ourselves and then each group nominated a member to repeat this speech in front of the whole camp; which consisted of at least 50 people. I considered myself to be the unlucky person chosen, as I was not very excited to stand up in front of 50 strangers, and speak on a microphone for six minutes about myself. However, after the experience I realised it wasn't as frightening as I had expected. I had so many people come up and talk to me afterwards and it felt so rewarding to think all these people had engaged with what I had said, and related to a lot of my experiences. It was also a really great way of making people feel comfortable to approach and talk to me.

On the second day after a few ice breaker activities, we were introduced to Rebecca Weragoda. Miss Weragoda presented the aspect of leadership personalities through four different bird groups. We were asked to answer a number of questions and based on our results we were categorised into either Owls, Eagles, Peacocks or Doves. Each bird had specific strengths and weaknesses distinctive to their personality type. There was no correct style of leadership or bird, they were just different, and we were encouraged to identify and relate to how we can use the strengths and weaknesses of each bird type to our advantage. This may have meant peacocks who are predominantly loud, taking a moment to listen to someone who might not



... speak up as much, like a Dove. Or an Owl who usually works quietly and individually, making a conscious effort to voice their opinion in a group situation. Later in the day, we received a visit from the Commissioner of the NSW State Emergency Service, Mark Smethurst. As you can imagine for Dan, Neeta and myself this was a rare and great opportunity to hear from a leader of our own organisation. Not only did we hear about his advice on leadership but he spoke about his past experiences and how they have brought him into the position he now holds today. Mr Smethurst really introduced a different angle on leadership, due to more than 35 years' experience in the Australian Defence Force. Almost every participant at

“
Not only did we hear about his advice on leadership but he spoke about his past experiences and how they have brought him into the position he now holds today.
 ”

RYLA was intrigued with his stories, and really gained an appreciation for the importance of commitment and the need for change within organisations.

The third day consisted of outdoor activities aimed at facing our fears on the high ropes, working together to

complete an obstacle course, learning to have active and respectful debates and finding time in our lives for mindfulness. The high ropes were a challenge for many, including myself. With the support and encouragement of my leaders and fellow participants I was able to complete the course with pride.



I was so elated that I'm even considering training in vertical rescue in my own local unit, something that was never a priority for me before this experience. In the evening we were introduced to the concept of the RYLarian apprentice. This was a group project shaped around Rotary's core values and was aimed at improving both local and global communities. We were all to present by the end of the week with the winner's project being adopted and implemented. This was an exciting prospect, that something we proposed might actually be applied and make a real difference in peoples lives. This project was judged on creativity, teamwork and presentation. It was a great way to put into practice many of the skills we had been developing throughout the week.

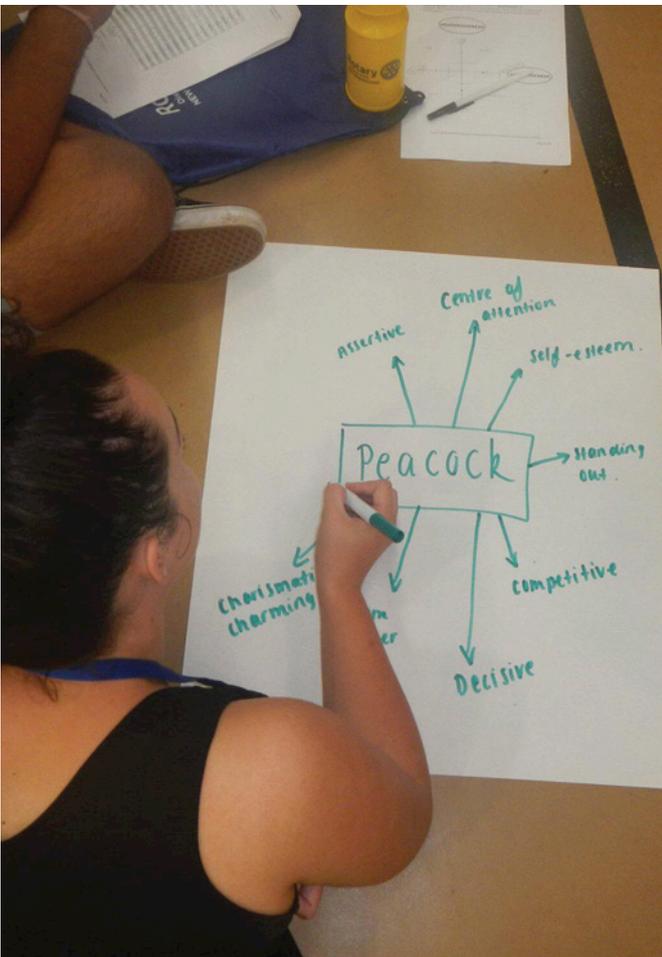
The fourth and fifth day consisted of more guest speakers who each brought their own understanding of what it is to be a 'successful' leader. We were challenged to consider what we deem to be successful, and recognise the many definitions of success. Not only

that, but face the reality of failure, and how we can cope and deal with situations of fear and anxiety when everything doesn't go to plan. These along with a workshop on mental health highlighted the idea that it is ok to not be ok, and that asking for help isn't a sign of weakness, it is a sign that you have the strength to fall down and get back up. This tied in well with a presentation from Brian Horan, which focused on where we would like to see ourselves in 10 years and how the choices we make today effect our future. Mr Horan focused on the problem of young people overloading themselves and the pressure of organisations expecting us to hold 30 years of experience at the age of 20. He recognised this constant pressure can lead to depression and anxiety. He noted that whilst it is important to set goals and work towards them, we need to identify when it is all becoming to much, take a break and a breath of fresh air, and never forget to aim your life towards activities that you enjoy and bring you a sense of purpose in your life.

Our last day felt like it arrived too quickly. We were all exhausted from the long and jam-packed days, but devastated to leave a group of people who we had grown to know so well in such a short amount of time. Many people felt like they knew their fellow RYLA participants better than some of their closest friends, just from the intense workshops and activities held throughout the week. We all were able to gain a better understanding of ourselves, the people around us and were encouraged to hold on to the inspiration given at RYLA to go on and achieve great things in our communities. It was an amazing experience filled with amazing people, that I will never forget.

Dan, Neeta and I would like to sincerely thank the NSW SES Volunteers Association and Rotary for providing us with this incredible opportunity and adventure that we will hold onto for a lifetime.

Madaline Vereker
Member of the NSW SES
Wollongong Unit



NSW SES Volunteers Association Grants

NSW SES Volunteers Association supports Ballina Yetties program



Ballina Unit conducted a second Yetties program in term 4, 2017. Four schools participated with a total of 12 students: 4 girls and 8 boys.

Two of the girls and 2 of the boys have joined as full-time members of the Ballina Unit, with possibly 2 more to join.

During the course, at the start and end of each evening, we had what we call the Paddy Pass. This involved standing in a circle and a Paddy being tossed to each other which included the trainers. The one who had Paddy would say their name and toss to

another in the circle and say their name, and so on. This was a way that we would all know each others name.

At the conclusion of the 10-week program a graduation ceremony was held where the students were presented a certificate and a NSW SES Paddy. The highlight of the presentation was when they received the Paddy – they are treasured by the students.

Twelve Paddys were kindly donated by the NSW SES Volunteers Association. The Ballina Unit would like to thank the NSW SES Volunteers

Association for all the support they have given this youth program, and we look forward to their continued support as this program grows in the NSW SES.

Gerry Burnage ESM JP

Local Controller
NSW SES Ballina Unit

Turn to page 18 to learn more about the Ballina Yetties program.

NSW SES Volunteers Association Grants

Grant helps John Thirkell advance his studies



My name is John Thirkell and I have been a member of the NSW State Emergency Service for almost three years. Over my three years I have experienced many storms and floods, not just in my area but across the state.

For the past two years I have been involved in the Incident Management Team at my unit and have been deployed as IMT across the state. From this I have developed a passion for Emergency Management and in the future want to make a career in Emergency Management.

I am about to start a Bachelor of Emergency Management through Charles Sturt University which will help

me to achieve my goal. I applied for a grant through the NSW SES Volunteers Association and was successful in gaining a grant to go towards my first semesters tuition fees.

I am looking forward to learning more about Emergency Management and how it can inform my practices at both a unit and region level. Currently I am working on a project that will see a Community Action Team form and build a partnership between the community and the Port Stephens Unit.

Part of my studies this semester is in Disaster analysis and risk management which will help me in my project and inform my decision making in the future.



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NSW SES Volunteers Association Grants

A NSW SES Volunteers Association Grant enables Warringah-Pittwater Unit to work smarter



Flash flooding and violent storms are all too common on Sydney's densely populated Northern Beaches. A single east coast low can cause alarming casualties and tens of millions of dollars damage, in just a few hours.

Apart from our six biggest capital cities, there are only three other places in the rest of Australia, that have a higher population than Sydney's Northern Beaches (i.e. greater Newcastle, Wollongong and the Gold/Sunshine Coast). The Northern Beaches population is bigger than Hobart and Darwin.

This massive responsibility, is supported by just two Units; Manly and Warringah-Pittwater. Keeping members safe and able to respond quickly can make a huge difference to

the Community. Something as simple as automating the garage doors can help minimise delays, reduce the time members are standing in the rain, boost morale and significantly enhance safe operations.

Unit members, supported by their Unit Volunteers Association Representative and NSW SES Volunteers Association Sydney Northern Area Representative, recently prepared a submission for a grant to automate several of the doors at their Terry Hills LHQ. The grant was easily approved and installation was completed quickly. A commemorative sign was presented by Area Rep Graham Kinder to Local Controller Wayne Lyne and some of his team, on 30 January 2018 – a great way to start the new year!



NSW SES Volunteers Association Grants

Auburn Unit opens gates with Volunteers Association Grant

The Auburn Unit has a new addition to its facility. We now have automated gates which was a grant from the NSWSES Volunteers Association.

Our unit has been fundraising at local events for quite a while to try and raise funds to automate our Unit driveway gates. This additional funding has made a massive difference to the volunteers and applying and receiving the grant from the Volunteers Association was very timely.

During times of storms and floods, our Volunteers spend countless hours out in the field in adverse conditions. When returning to the Unit HQ our members then need to exit the vehicles to unlock and open the gates to the unit late at night. The automatic gate motor has improved the safety and convenience of the volunteers at Auburn SES.

Before, we'd have to stop in a very busy street during the day or a very dark and quiet street at night and manually unlock and lock the gate to time. It certainly stops the team



getting wet when it is raining especially when they are already cold and tired. The extra benefit is the response times for the Flood Rescue crews when they have a call and they are not wasting time trying to close the gate. Which allows our Volunteers to be fresher and be ready to assist the community

during times of need. Every second counts in a Flood Rescue and minutes can be lost securing the Unit HQ.

Thanks to SES Volunteers Association for supporting the Volunteers at large and our Auburn Unit. It is the little things that go a long way.

MNR FLOOD RESCUE AT WINGHAM

ON THE TUESDAY 6TH MARCH 2018 THE WINGHAM UNIT SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED A VERY COMPLEX, MULTI-AGENCY SWIFT WATER FLOOD RESCUE.



The Unit had been proactively warning people on the day the incident that a number of causeways in the area were closed due to floodwater, however at about 3:37pm a driver with an elderly passenger decided to try to cross.

The driver of the car attempted to cross the flooded causeway with the car stalling halfway across.

The driver exited the car in an attempt to get help and was swept 300 metres down the swollen creek.

Emergency services arrived on scene to find an 87 year old person still trapped in the car with flood water rising.

The Wingham Unit Controller then took command of the situation and with the assistance of all emergency services present coordinated the rescue operation and successfully extricated the trapped occupant.

The successful operation was great example of professional training and excellent relationships with other emergency services leading to actions that saved the life of the trapped person. Well done to Wingham Unit and Wingham Unit Controller Gary Greene.





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BALLINA 'YETTIES' PROGRAM

Youth Education Team Training in Emergency Services

I had an idea about this type of program about 3 years or more ago. I am a member of the YECDG and brought the idea up at a meeting. I was supported by the group and asked to put my ideas together.

I ran this idea past Janet Pettit at the RTR who showed great interest in the idea. Also Tweed Heads Unit showed interest.

I put the ideas to the Ballina Units youth group (all members under 25)

and they came up with suggestions particularly on the age group we should accept. (Students from Years 9 and 10).

I then put a draft program together for the 10 week pilot program, a letter to the schools, and an outline of our aim for the youth.

I invited each of the six high schools in the Ballina Shire to nominate a female and a male from years 9 & 10 to take part in the pilot if they were interested.

One major problem was making contact with the correct person at each high school. That has now been overcome. Once a contact had been made it was easier to communicate with the schools.

12 students were identified by the schools, but at the last moment one could not participate, leaving us with 11 students.

11 students started and 11 finished the 10 week pilot program.



Another issue was that the schools could not give us student contacts. Some had the parents contact me. Eventually all the students were able to be contacted via email or via parents.

All students attended the unit to be fitted for uniforms, with their parent/s or guardian.

All trainers acquired a working with children check and attended a childsafe seminar in Byron Bay.

Uniforms were delivered to region (great service)

Originally it was intended to run in the first school term 2016, however time ran out and it was decided to run in term 2.

A meeting with the trainers took place and the trainers then put their training sessions together.

The program started on the first Tuesday of the school term 2, 26/4/16, and concluded on 28/6/16 with the graduation.

I was very fortunate to have come on board just prior to starting the program. Graham joined the Ballina SES in early 2015. He is a part time teacher now with 35 years' experience as a teacher. He was without question so important to the success of the pilot.

The program was discussed after each night of the program and changes were identified and necessary reprogramming took place.

The graduation was a great success with 80 plus students, their families, teachers, principals, trainers and guests including Todd Burns, Coordinator Youth Engagement, SHQ, Robyn Hordern, Deputy Mayor of Ballina Shire, Regional Controller Andrew McPhee, and Janet Pettit Regional Community Education Coordinator and local newspaper *The Advocate*.

19/7/16 An AAR took place at the Ballina Unit involving SHQ, students,

----- “
The graduation was a great success with 80 plus students, their families, teachers, principals, trainers and guests.
 ----- ”

parents and the trainers. This was conducted by SHQ.

A second program with changes was conducted in term four 2017.

To date 7 new full members have come out of this program. Some teachers and parents have also shown interest in becoming NSW SES members.

The second program included team work, leadership, solving problems, boats, flood awareness, radio operations, first aid, and other SES activities. The group was visited at the unit by a general duties police officer, drug dogs and handler, forensic officer, and an ambulance. They visited the local fire station, and the airport fire station which was the highlight. They watched a plane take off while they were in the firies observation tower, shown through the station and equipment. All were allowed to use the fire canons that are attached the front of the large airport fire trucks.

During the graduation their parents, families, teachers, the Ballina Mayor, local newspaper, representatives from the emergency services that participated in the program were present.

The graduates were presented a certificate and an SES paddy (kindly donated by the NSWSESVA).

BENEFITS TO NSW SES

- » Cadets attend course in the SES environment
- » Trainers are available in the evening
- » Parents bring cadets to unit and pick up after each session
- » Parents and Families are exposed to NSW SES and its roles
- » Cadets are exposed to NSW SES and other emergency services in their roles
- » Teachers are exposed to NSW SES and its roles
- » Best Community Education program that exposes the NSW SES combat roles and its involvement within the local community
- » Exposure to the local community via the schools, and newspaper articles.
- » 100% attendance of students during the program

I would like to thank Todd Burns, Donna McKeon from SHQ. Janet Pettit from RTR, and the members of the Ballina Unit who were involved in the delivery of this program.

Gerry Burnage ESM JP

Local Controller
 NSW SES Ballina Unit

Young Humanitarians Get Prepared for Emergencies



Since last year, Western Sydney high school students have been learning about disaster preparedness, as well as being offered the chance to become an emergency volunteer through the Australian Red Cross Young Humanitarians Project (YHP).

Through the YHP, kids aged 12-17 years-old are learning about the emergency risks they face in their community, and how they can be prepared for them. The education program focuses on personal wellbeing, teaching kids how to prepare their minds for an emergency, and how to connect with their community.

Young people over 17 years-old will have an opportunity develop their skills by volunteering with Red Cross and NSW SES, delivering preparedness education to the community. They also offer invaluable cultural knowledge and language ability - providing key insights as to how emergency information can be shared to migrant audiences.

Most importantly, the YHP aims to harness the strengths and passions of young people to think globally and act locally through humanitarian action.

Part of Multicultural NSW COMPACT alliance, YHP works alongside community partners who are committed to safeguarding Australia's peaceful and harmonious way of life.

The project will continue throughout this year, strengthening the relationship between Red Cross and NSW SES, preparing new migrants for emergencies, and helping to raise cultural awareness for both Red Cross and SES volunteers.



Youth at the NSWSES Bankstown Headquarters.

The education program focuses on personal wellbeing, teaching kids how to prepare their minds for an emergency, and how to connect with their community.

Red Cross YHP collaborates with the Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN), NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS) and State Emergency Services (SES), to work alongside people from diverse multicultural communities to increase disaster preparedness and increase

knowledge for emergencies they may occur in Australia.

If you would like to know more or would like to volunteer with this project, please contact: Minal Bapodara, YHP Project Lead on 0418 860 215 or mbapodara@redcross.org.au

Go to redcross.org.au/prepare to Download our free Get Prepared app and get prepared for an emergency today.



Marrickville SES Awards day

On the 10th of March, the NSW SES - Marrickville Unit had its awards presentation. The day was to celebrate the Unit and its volunteers' outstanding achievements in 2017. The awards presentation was attended by Federal, State, Local politicians such as the Hon. Linda Burney MP, Jenny Leong MP, Clr Darcy Byrne, Clr Pauline Lockie, Clr Marghanita Da Cruz. NSW SES Commissioner Mark Smethurst and Sydney Southern Region Controller Sam Colwell including Controllers from neighbouring Units were also present.

Despite the fact that it was the first time visit to a local SES Unit for many of these dignitaries, they all spoke with high regard of the invaluable work the volunteers put into making the Inner West Community safe. In fact, the fourteen thousand plus volunteer hours put in by the NSW SES - Marrickville Unit in 2017 was worth over \$1 million (in wages) to the Inner West Community. Each speaker also noted the level of professionalism and dedication with which NSW SES volunteers approach their work.

Region Controller Colwell touched on the leadership shown by the Unit,



being one of the first in the Sydney Southern Region to trial the 'day Unit' initiative, while Commissioner Smethurst, challenged each of the dignitaries to become volunteers

through the introduction of the new flexible volunteering model. And Local Controller Michael Carney also thanked the sacrifices made by family and loved ones of SES volunteers.

International Women's Day Forum

On the 8th of March NSW SES celebrated International Women's Day 2018 by hosting its inaugural Women's Forum at the Wollongong State Headquarters. We had 58 attendees from across State Headquarters and a variety of Regions and Units. The Forum was informative, interactive and empowering, with discussions centred around leading in a male dominated workforce, flexible work practices, attracting and retaining volunteer women, and the value of diversity in the workforce.

This forum will see the development of an action plan, the launch of the new Women@NSWSES network, and the release of the Flexible Work policy for consultation. If you are interested in being a part of the Women@NSWSES network, please contact diversityandinclusion@ses.nsw.gov.au





NSW SES at the Mardi Gras 2018 parade

For 10 years NSW SES has glittered and sparkled in the Mardi Gras parade to celebrate diversity in the Service and demonstrate to the community that we are a safe and welcoming organisation where everyone belongs. There is a growing commitment in the wider community to LGBTIQ equality which can be seen through the recent 'Yes' vote, and this

has strengthened our commitment to reflect our community and its diversity in our organisation and as a part of Volunteering Reimagined.

Deputy commissioner Greg Newton attended along with 60 volunteers and SHQ staff, representing 15 Units. The colours of the rainbow were displayed on Burwood's medium storm truck and on our vibrant t-shirt

designs. We embrace our diverse and vibrant network of volunteers and workforce and envisage a safe place for everybody to be proud of who they are.

Genuine diversity starts from within and the LGBTIQ Network has been established to support this. For more information on joining the LGBTIQ Network please contact diversityandinclusion@ses.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Police Force Field Protocol Officers Course

ON THE LAST WEEK OF NOVEMBER 2017, NSW POLICE FORCE PROTOCOL AND AWARDS UNIT CONDUCTED FIELD PROTOCOL OFFICERS COURSE, NO 1/2017. THE COURSE DESCRIPTION IS AS FOLLOWS:



The Course is available to sworn members of the NSW Police Force. Field Protocol Officers duties include the planning, coordination and execution of local official police ceremonies and functions, including parades, openings of police premises, award ceremonies, funerals, dedication of memorial plaques, formal dinners, visits by local/international dignitaries, other ceremonial events and basic drill instruction. They act as a role model in respect to uniform standards and personal presentation to all members of the NSW Police Force.

Although this was designed specifically for members of NSW PF, the Commander, Protocol and Awards Unit extended an invitation to members of other NSW services to participate.

Together with 16 Police officers, a member from each of NSW RFS, NSW Corrective Services, NSW Sheriff's Office, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW SES and Marine Rescue participated in the five day course at the NSW Police Academy, Goulburn.

The nights were mild but the days were rather hot, especially during the hours spent on the bitumen parade ground.

Together with 16 Police officers, a member from each of NSW RFS, NSW Corrective Services, NSW Sheriff's Office, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW SES and Marine Rescue participated in the five day course at the NSW Police Academy, Goulburn.

As well as developing a high standard of foot drill as squad participants, including slow marching, course members were required to display the ability to command a squad on the parade ground. Funeral bearer party drills and procedures were also included in the practical learning. An exemplary standard of dress and bearing was required to be demonstrated and maintained throughout the course.

The formal part of each day's training started at 0700hrs, after breakfast from 0600hrs.

Class room activities included making timed presentations on prescribed topics, syndicate work

to plan and conduct an awards ceremony and an exercise in planning and conducting a formal 'Dining In Night'.

Critique was provided by two RAAF officers attached to the staff of the Office of the NSW Governor.

Instruction included sessions on Australian Honours and Awards, NSW Honours and Awards and naturally, NSW Police Force Honours and Awards and the other matters in the course description.

The course was run by Acting Commander, NSW Police Force Protocol and Awards Unit, Acting Inspector Brook Russell and ably assisted by two additional officers, Rob and Peter.



Inspector Donna Faul, Commander, Protocol and Awards Unit, NSW Police Force, had invited Commissioner Smethurst to nominate an SES member to attend this course and Peter Lalor, Deputy State Protocol Officer participated.

As it happened, two NSW SES volunteers were amongst the sworn Police officers who participated in the course.

My sincere thanks to NSW SES State Protocol Officer Warwick Cary who recommended my attendance, NSW SES Commissioner Mark Smethurst who nominated me in response to the invitation from Inspector Donna Faul NSW Police Force, Commander Protocol and Awards Unit and to Acting Inspector Russell and his staff for the course content and conduct as well as to the other attendees who all contributed to a most worthwhile experience.



Geoff Edwards

On Monday 5th March 2018, we said farewell to our good friend and colleague Geoff Edwards. Geoff was a member of the Port Stephens SES Unit for nearly 5 years. Geoff was a true gent, quiet and unassuming, giving and not expecting anything in return, a quiet achiever. This picture is of Geoff in his natural element covered in sawdust, a true hero that worked his socks off for the community during the 2015 Storm that hit our area. Geoff and his wife Tracy worked tirelessly during that first night of the storms – April 20, 2015 until the wee early hours of the next day, only to return home to find their own home had been extensively damaged.

Geoff was an excellent flood boat operator and loved nothing better than getting out on the water apart maybe from getting on his bike. Geoff would have been the first to volunteer if there was ever to be an off-road bike search team required. Port Stephens Unit is a rescue unit dedicated to helping others, as a testament to Geoff's nature he was a organ donor and helped many others even after he passed away.

Geoff received a Commissioner's Unit Citation for outstanding effort during the storm events in the Hunter Region in April 2015.

Geoff is survived by his wife Tracy, and children Hayden, Brodie and Sherri – all are members of the Port Stephens



SES Unit. Over 30 members formed an honour guard for Geoff, testament to the regard we had for Geoff, he will certainly be missed by our Orange family.

Kim Piper

Kim Piper first joined the NSW State Emergency Service in June 1969, nearly 49 years ago. The unit he joined was the City of Newcastle unit.

After Kim and Roma moved to Booral Kim re-established the Stroud Unit in 1988. There had been an earlier incarnation of the SES in the Stroud area but it had disappeared by the 1970's.

It was thus as a fledgling unit that the Stroud members were involved in the response to the Newcastle earthquake in 1989.

Kim served as the Controller for 5 years. During this time the unit's first vehicle was obtained.

There were then 4 other unit controllers before Kim again took on the job as the Unit Controller for another 5 years. That was in 2002. During this stint as Controller he brought stability back to the unit. Also a large shed was erected and a Dyna truck was provided by Great Lakes Council and was fitted out and commissioned by the unit.

After standing down as Unit Controller in 2007 Kim accepted the role of Deputy Unit Controller.

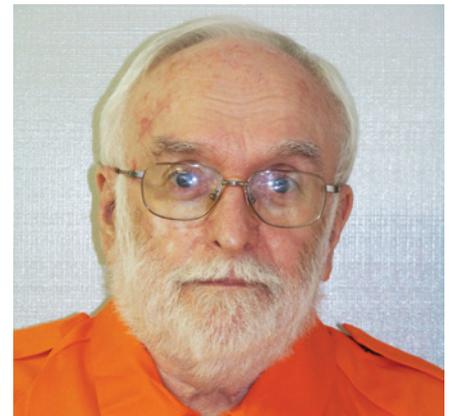
He continued in that role for 8 years until standing down in 2015 due to ill health. During this time he was deputy to two Unit Controllers, Peter Dickison for nearly 2 years, and then myself for 6 years. He also filled the role of Duty Officer within the unit, despite his increasing health problems.

When required he stepped up from Deputy Unit Controller to acting Unit Controller when needed. The most significant such occasion was when Peter Dickison was in New Zealand during the June 2007 storm (the "Pasha Bulka weekend").

Kim had a great interest in radio, he was an accredited trainer of amateur radio operators. Thus, not surprisingly, he trained SES members in correct radio communication procedures, and insisted on correct procedures being maintained.

Often a person who has formed a group of some sort, and been its leader, can be a problem for later leaders. That was definitely not my experience with Kim. I found him a very supportive deputy and a great source of advice, without being intrusive.

Kim's official association with the NSW State Emergency Service ceased



at the end of last year, a remarkable 48.5 years after he commenced. No one can do that without loyal support from those close to them. Roma has been that support, having also been a SES member for nearly all that time too. Both Johnathon and Sarah have also spent time as SES members.

Kim's 48.5 years service with the NSW State Emergency Service concluded at the end of last year. Thus, naturally, Kim received the usual long service awards from the SES, plus the National Medal with the 45 year bar.

However, in addition, in recognition of Kim's service the SES issued a certificate of appreciation to Kim.

Animals Everywhere

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EARTHWORM
OCTOPUS

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GIRAFFE
TURTLE
KANGAROO
BIRD
MOSQUITO
JAGUAR
BEAR
ALLIGATOR

PARROT
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NSW SES Region Headquarters

CENTRAL WEST

79 Corporation Ave, Bathurst NSW 2795
 Ph: 02 6334 8555 Ah: 02 6334 8555
 Fax Op: 02 6334 8500 Fax Admin: 02 6334 8501
 cwr.ops@one.ses.nsw.gov.au cwr.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

CLARENCE-NAMBUCCA

26 Induna St, South Grafton NSW 2460
 Ph: 02 6641 6900 Ah: 02 6641 6900
 Fax Op: 02 6641 6920 Fax Admin: 02 6641 6910
 cnr.ops@one.ses.nsw.gov.au cnr.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

FAR WEST

5 Bradley St, Cobar NSW 2835
 Ph: 02 6879 7100 Ah: 02 6879 7100
 Fax Op: 02 6879 7110 Fax Admin: 02 6879 7110
 fwr.ops@ses.nsw.gov.au fwr.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

HUNTER

72 Turton St, Metford NSW 2323
 Ph: 02 4931 3222 Ah: 02 4931 3222
 Fax Op: 02 4931 3200 Fax Admin: 02 4931 3200
 hur.ops@ses.nsw.gov.au hur.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

ILLAWARRA SOUTH COAST

22-32 Masters Rd, Coniston NSW 2500
 Ph: 02 4251 1200 Ah: 02 4251 1222
 Fax Op: 02 4251 1201 Fax Admin: 02 4251 1202
 isr.ops@ses.nsw.gov.au isr.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

LACHLAN

55 Matthews St, Parkes NSW 2870
 Ph: 02 6863 8100 Ah: 02 6863 8100
 Fax Op: 02 6863 8137 Fax Admin: 02 6863 8139
 lar.ops@ses.nsw.gov.au lar.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

MACQUARIE

160 Bultje St, Dubbo NSW 2830
 Ph: 02 6841 3160 Ah: 02 6841 3160
 Fax Op: 02 6841 3188 Fax Admin: 02 6841 3170
 mqr.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

MID NORTH COAST

14 Arkwright Crs, Taree NSW 2430
 Ph: 02 6592 5800 Ah: 02 6592 5800
 Fax Op: 02 6592 5809 Fax Admin: 02 6592 5808
 mnrc.ops@one.ses.nsw.gov.au mnrc.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

MURRAY

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 Fax Op: 02 6058 5330 Fax Admin: 02 6058 5320
 myr.ops@one.ses.nsw.gov.au myr.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

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206 Fernleigh Rd, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650
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 Fax Op: 02 6932 9180 Fax Admin: 02 6932 9190
 mer.ops@ses.nsw.gov.au mer.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

NAMOI/NOTRH WEST

Namoi Office
 28 Borthistle Rd, Gunnedah NSW 2380
 Ph: 02 6740 2300 Ah: 02 6740 2300
 Fax Op: 02 6740 2330 Fax Admin: 02 6740 2333
 nmr.ops@ses.nsw.gov.au nmr.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

North West Office

418 Frome St, Moree NSW 2400
 Ph: 02 6757 2950 Ah: 02 6757 2950
 Fax Op: 02 6757 2980 Fax Admin: 02 6757 2970
 nwr.ops@one.ses.nsw.gov.au nwr.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

RICHMOND/TWEED

7 Lancaster Drive, Goonellabah NSW 2480
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 shr.ops@ses.nsw.gov.au shr.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

SYDNEY NORTHERN

Cnr Leonard and Hornsby Sts, Hornsby NSW 2077
 Ph: 02 9987 3000 Ah: 02 9987 3000
 Fax Op: 02 9987 3030
 snr.ops@one.ses.nsw.gov.au snr.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

SYDNEY SOUTHERN

Unit 4, 150 Canterbury Rd, Bankstown NSW 2200
 Ph: 02 9766 9000 Ah: 02 9766 9000
 Fax Op: 02 9766 9070 Fax Admin: 02 9766 9060
 sssr.ops@ses.nsw.gov.au sssr.admin@one.ses.nsw.gov.au

SYDNEY WESTERN

Unit 3, 7 St. James Place, Seven Hills NSW 2147
 Ph: 02 8811 7700 Ah: 02 8811 7700
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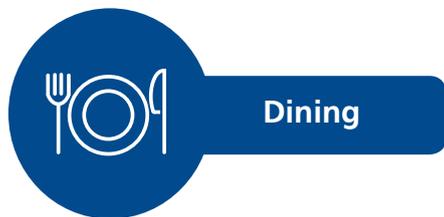
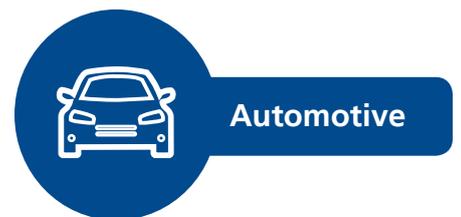
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