



President's Forward

What a year it has been! Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support since I took up the presidency in November. The support has been truly overwhelming.

Secondly, I wanted to give you all a quick update on what we have achieved in the Association recently, and where we will be headed 2018.

The Constitution has amendments passed at the last AGM and included changed to the structure of the organisation. For as long as I can remember, we have had Representatives that cover specific geographic areas that aligned with the SES's regions. We have decided to move away from that model and instead have 'Volunteers Association Representatives'. They will have the ability to operate in any area, region or project rather than having a fixed, stagnant role.

Amendments also include the addition of 'voting members' - this means there will be a change in terminology for the ACNC requirements, but for the membership there will be changes to the way that elections are run - there will be more on this as we work out the full direction of the new structure.

Some more 'back-of-house' changes were made with regards to staff numbers on the Board - limited to two, and the terms of Board positions have also been changed slightly - with a maximum of two, 3 year terms for Board members and the Vice and Secretary positions having an additional limit of only two, 1 year terms. This is to ensure that the Board doesn't get stale and is an ongoing representation of our broader membership.

Through 2017 we also saw changes to the structure in place for our grants process - formerly know as scholarships and grants. We increased the application time to be rolling over the year and an online process. We are going to be continuing to let our members know this process to assist with the streamlining of the grants program and to make it equitable for all.

A new Strategic Plan for 2018-2020 was also passed at the 2017 AGM and this is providing some really exciting scope for development of the Association.

A couple of areas where we will be focusing are:

1. Our reputation and brand - and tweaking it to make it more reflective of who we are and what we do.
2. Our culture - we have done a lot of work around the 'right person, right role' philosophy and how that will change the way we currently do business.
3. Business security - ensuring that we can meet the welfare needs of our people through a diversification of income.

There are also the normal business functions that will continue and they are along the lines of online communication, our merchandise programs, member services and events.

We have a very busy 12 months ahead of us and as I have said, I am really looking forward to seeing just what this Association can produce for its members.

I would like to wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year period, and I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible throughout the state - be it through official Volunteers Association events or just a casual coffee.

Our Board, reps and office are here if you need anything, and I encourage you to give us a call.

Until next time,

Kim Davis ESM
President

