



Volunteers fly high for National SES Week

National SES Week got off the ground when two Northam State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers greeted the sunrise to fly the orange flag on a hot air balloon ride over the Avon Valley.

The Perth Bell Tower also played host to an exciting abseil activity that launched 'Wear Orange Wednesday' (WOW Day).

These were two of the events held across Western Australia between 7-13 November to recognise the tireless efforts of the state's 2,000 SES volunteers.

In a very visible vote of support some city buildings lit up in orange, with Perth's Council House, Trafalgar Bridge in East Perth and the iconic Bell Tower all brilliantly glowing in support of the SES.

Another unique activity was a travelling roadshow through the South West using the local SES mascot *MooSES* to catch the attention of the public and remind them of the great work achieved by local volunteers in the community.

Acting Chief Operations Officer Lloyd Bailey said it was terrific to see the support shown by people for volunteers who wear the orange overalls, from those who joined in the WOW Day celebrations, to FESA staff, parliamentarians and members of the media who wore an orange item of clothing or ribbon to show their appreciation.

"National SES Week gives the people of WA an opportunity to thank their local

SES volunteers for the hard work and dedication they put in to make us all safer," Lloyd said.

"Among the activities was a celebrity challenge to mark WOW Day that involved a dozen media personalities and sportspeople, as well as myself, abseiling six storeys down the Perth Bell Tower.

"It was a great experience, and an opportunity to see up close how well the SES volunteers operate, particularly those who accompanied and assisted us.

"WOW Day is an ideal time for people to show their appreciation for a remarkable group of volunteers who dedicate a considerable amount of their own time to training and preparing for emergencies."

Over the past twelve months, SES volunteers have responded to 560 incidents, including devastating floods, destructive storms and assisting at the State's worst bushfires.

With severe storms becoming more prevalent and the Bureau of Meteorology predicting a 65 percent chance of an above average number of cyclones forming near the Pilbara and Kimberley coastline this season, the WA SES can expect a busy time in the coming months.



1



2



3

1. Hot air balloon over the Avon Valley.
2. Channel 9 reporter Ebony Farranda takes a leap of faith off the Bell Tower.
3. *MooSES* on a pitstop in the South West.