



NEW SOUTH WALES

The Hon. Nathan Rees MP

Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Water

Dear Member

As you are aware, May 12 to 16 is National Volunteers Week.

To mark the occasion I wanted to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the dedicated volunteers of the Volunteer Rescue Association for your hard work and the time you give to help our community.

The members of your 75 community-based affiliated volunteer organisations are well-deserving of recognition for the accredited land and marine rescue and specialist resources they provide.

Communities around this State know they can rely on their local VRA volunteers, who turn out day and night, often in appalling and traumatic conditions, to extricate victims of road accidents, help those in trouble on the water and rescue people from other dangers.

The severe weather that has struck many areas of NSW over the past year has made this one of the busiest on record for the emergency services. In many areas of the State, VRA affiliates provide storm and flood response capability and I want to thank you for your contribution to protecting the community and supporting your colleagues in the other emergency services as you worked side-by-side to respond to these emergencies.

This includes the devastating Hunter and Central Coast storms and floods on the June long weekend last year. VRA volunteers generously gave their time to assist on the response and recovery operation, helping people in real need to get back on their feet.

On behalf of the State Government and the people of NSW, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers for your hard work to help protect and assist so many people through these natural disasters and other emergencies, as well as at many local events in your own areas. Thanks also must go to your families and employers for their ongoing support

Your commitment, courage, professionalism and experience make you a credit to your Service and your community. Congratulations on a job well done.

Nathan Rees
Minister for Emergency Services