

# Media Release



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## State Emergency Service Volunteers Compete with the Best

State Emergency Service volunteers from across New South Wales competed this weekend in one of Australia's most challenging bush-navigation events, the Wilderness Rescue Navigation Shield (NavShield). The annual event is run by the NSW Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue (the search and rescue arm of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs, NSW), and tests bush navigation, teamwork and stamina as teams find their way on foot through rugged terrain to checkpoints spread over about 100 square kilometres. Teams must carry their own food, water and shelter.

This year's event, held about 130km north of Goulburn, included teams from the NSW, Victorian and ACT State Emergency Services, the Armed Services, Police, Rural Fire Service, Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs and several rogaining clubs. In the gruelling two-day event, three NSW SES teams came in the top 20 (out of 53 teams), with Shoalhaven SES (on the South Coast) coming fourth overall and first in the SES Division. In the one-day event, five NSW SES teams were in the top 20 (out of 49 teams), with Blue Mountains SES third overall.

"Participation in NavShield is a great contribution to our volunteers' operational effectiveness," said Chas Keys, NSW SES Acting Director General. "It improves search and rescue skills, as well as promoting teamwork, fitness and confidence. Most importantly, the event offers a chance for emergency-services volunteers to come together, share experiences and get to know each other. This can be a major advantage during combined operations when teams need to work together to get the job done."

**End**

**For further information contact: Laura E. Goodin, Public Relations Officer, 02 4224 2209**

*The worst in nature  
the best in us*

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