Forty SES volunteers and instructors recently descended on Lynton Station at Point Gregory, south of Kalbarri for the Midwest regional exercise.

The weekend consisted of a range of activities designed to test volunteer skills, technical competencies and physical conditioning, as well as teamwork and organisational ability. It was not all hard work though, as participants got the chance to relax at an evening barbecue and enjoy the social aspect of the weekend.

District Manager Midwest Tim Dalwood said there was a strong training emphasis to the exercise and having the units work together reaped practical benefits.

“Search and rescue scenarios in particular give the volunteers an experience that is as close as possible to a real life situation,” Tim said.

“People learn from each other’s skill sets and when several units mix, you get an exchange of ideas and different ways of doing things coming to the fore.

“A big focus of the weekend is for volunteers from different units to get to know each other.

“The Midwest is such a big region that volunteers often do not meet until they are called out to a major incident.

“The camaraderie evident throughout the weekend will be really important when these SES members find themselves face to face at a future call out.”