



Warrandyte Community Association

Be Ready - Bushfire Survival Grant

Warrandyte was 15 minutes away from bushfire disaster had the wind not changed in February 2009 and the message to 'Plan effectively to survive a bushfire disaster' is the key to an ambitious new community project being undertaken by the Warrandyte Community Association (WCA).

The WCA has been awarded a 'Fire Ready Communities Grant' of more than \$86,000 by the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development to undertake a survey of households in the greater Warrandyte area to assess the current level of community awareness and knowledge in regard to bushfire safety preparedness.

WCA President Dick Davies said the project will also include the development of a toolkit and resources targeted to meet the practical needs of the local community based on the key elements of an effective bushfire survival plan.

"There will be community sessions and workshop activities which will include presentations from leaders in bushfire safety and survival field such as representatives from the CFA and the Office of the Fire Services Commissioner."

"A detailed communications plan and online presence will be developed to inform the community of the objectives, progress and outcomes of the project, as well as other relevant bushfire awareness and safety related issues."

Mr Davies said feedback from local Community Fireguard Leaders is that most people do not have *effective* Bushfire Survival Plans.

"They may think that they have a survival plan, but under scrutiny it falls apart and this project aims to help residents plan effectively to rectify this situation."

"It is hoped the community will support the survey so a clear picture can be establish about what the local community does and does not know about bushfire safety and survival."

"It is also important to identify any barriers preventing them from developing bushfire survival plans and will form the basis of a clear strategy outlining how households can be informed and educated about bushfire survival plans in the future," he said.

The Project will be managed by a Project Management Committee consisting of representatives of the Warrandyte Community Association, local CFA brigades, CFA Districts 13 & 14, RMIT University, as well as the Manningham Municipal Emergency Management Co-ordinator and Emergency Management Officer, Fire for Manningham and Nillumbik.

The State Government funding will be supplemented by funds from Manningham Council, Nillumbik Council, the Warrandyte Community Bank and the Community Market Committee.

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