



Warrandyte Community Association
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Be Ready Warrandyte

Media Release

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Be Ready Warrandyte – Living with Bushfire Risk Survey: Findings Report Released

Many people who say they have a survival plan have no idea what to do if something unexpected happens when they are threatened by bushfire”, the President of the Warrandyte Community Association (WCA), Dick Davies, said today

Mr Davies was commenting on a detailed analysis of the Be Ready - Warrandyte bushfire readiness survey conducted by the WCA in North Warrandyte, Warrandyte, South Warrandyte and Park Orchards.

“Analysis of the survey findings provides a wealth of information that will guide decision making for several years to come.

“The independent analysis, by RMIT’s Centre for Risk and Community Safety, also contained 12 recommendations to help Be Ready Warrandyte develop a ‘toolkit’ of activities to raise awareness of fire planning and build community resilience now and in the future,” he said.

Mr Davies said the findings report was based on 623 responses to the survey of households in the area.

Key findings are:

- Awareness and concern about bushfire risk appears to be high in the Greater Warrandyte area. Many residents are concerned about the difficulty of leaving safely during a bushfire, particularly in the North Warrandyte area. Importantly, previous research has shown that being aware and concerned about bushfire risk does not necessarily mean that people will take appropriate action to plan and prepare.
- Results suggest considerable variation in household plans and intentions in the Greater Warrandyte area. Many respondents claimed to have a Bushfire Survival Plan but had not considered what they would do if something unexpected happened, what they would do if they had visitors, who takes responsibility for different elements of the plan, or what they would do differently on a weekend or school holiday.
- More people intend to leave as Fire Danger ratings increase, with more than three-quarters of respondents saying they would leave the night before or early in the morning on a Code Red day. Women are more likely to want to leave when threatened by bushfire than men. However, it is important to recognise that intentions are not always an accurate predictor of behaviour during bushfires. Past experience and research suggest that many people will wait until they are directly threatened before taking action.

- Residents of Greater Warrandyte would prefer to get information about preparing Bushfire Survival Plans from a range of sources and in a range of formats. Results highlight the need for diverse approaches targeted to different groups in a locally-relevant way, with a locally-oriented website as a central component.

Full survey results available at the Be Ready Warrandyte website
www.warrandyte.org.au .

The Be Ready Warrandyte project is funded by a Victorian Government's Fire Ready Communities Grants Program. . Manningham Council, Nillumbik Council, the Warrandyte Community Bank and the Community Market Committee have also provided funding support.

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