



Warrandyte Community Association
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PO Box 75, Warrandyte 3113

Be  Ready Warrandyte

20 May 2013

What will you be doing when a bushfire hits Warrandyte? - Warrandyte Bushfire Scenario Planning Workshop

A bushfire breaks out in Warrandyte so you just pop down to the school to pick up your child:

- Did you know that the police won't let you back if there's a roadblock?
- Have you enough clothes with you for a 5 day stay away?
- Are you, and your children, aware of the school fire plan?

These were the sort of questions put to residents to test their fire plans in the Warrandyte Community association's 'Be Ready Warrandyte' Scenario Planning Workshop.

In a two hour session, CFA's Glenn Cockram took the invited audience through a two grilling, testing their plans from fire breakout to containment.

Glenn is Manager Community Infrastructure, CFA District 14, Northern & Western Metropolitan Region.

Also in attendance to answer questions were all three CFA fire captains and other CFA officers, local police, Parks Victoria and Department of Environment and Primary Industries officers.

"This was a pilot workshop with invited participants who had previously responded to the Bushfire Survey with a request for more information," said WCA President, Dick Davies.

"Consequently most had prepared a fire plan and were fire aware.

"The feedback was resoundingly positive and will be useful for future events.

"Ninety percent of participants said that their plan helped them through the simulation and advised that ,if they couldn't leave early, they now have, or plan to have, a B, C, D contingency plan.

"Most participants said that they would recommend this exercise to friends and neighbours."

Three other issues of concern, which 'Be Ready Warrandyte' will follow up later, were issues around the use of Scanners; Sprinklers – are they proven? And School fire plans – who verifies them?

Bruce Turner, well known in Warrandyte for his facilitation of bushfire forums, assisted Glenn whilst local cartoonists Jock MacNeish and Robert Black captured key issues in eye catching style.

A follow up workshop is planned later in the year.

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.

For further information see www.warrandyte.org.au/fire

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