



Bush Fire Recovery NEWSLETTER

The Road to Recovery

Sunrise Breakfast a great success

A **BIG SHOOT OUT** to Rodney and Debra Tyler for hosting the last sunrise breakfast at their farm and to the Lions Club for their continued support to the community through the recovery phase.

There is nothing like the fresh farm eggs from Deb's Fouracre Fresh Free Range Eggs! Thank you to Colin from Redcross and Donna for your wonderful coordination skills that keeps us all focused.



Thank you from Andrew Hastie and Tony Abbott

At the initiative of Andrew Hastie with the cooperation and support of the Association of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades WA State President, Dave Gossage AFSM, a thankyou morning tea was held for the Volunteer Emergency Services at the Drakesbrook Hotel recently. Volunteers from the Shires of Waroona, Harvey and Murray were in attendance and had a great time mixing and sharing their stories with Tony who is a volunteer firefighter as well.



OUR Resilient Community – *Moving forward*

Hills Community Bans together

It is great to see the various communities across the Waroona shire coming together to Recover, Plan and Prepare for the future. The Shire of Waroona Fire Recovery Coordinator was recently invited to join the Hills community for one of their gatherings to share experiences and discuss information sharing.

The community resilience shown by the residents is truly inspiring. We encourage everyone to join in with their respective communities. It is a great way to get to know your neighbours, build new friendships and look out for each other in times of need, especially when you are not home.

We would like to acknowledge Sarah Hulls passion and commitment in coordinating the group activities and Fred Hull for his leadership and guidance.



Everyone should be thinking about the up and coming fire season.

- What is your Plan?
- Does your family know what the plan is? Have they practiced it?
- What will you do if something happens when you are away from your property?
- Do you know your neighbours?
- Do your neighbours know where your pumps and gear is?
- Do your neighbours know how to work your equipment if you are not around?
- What are the escape routes from your property? What if the roads are blocked how will you get out?
- Where are all the water points?
- Are your firebreaks at a standard that you would feel safe being on if there is a fire?



The Waroona CRC is holding an information session on the 20th September 2016, flyer attached where you can get more information to assist you in being prepared.

Email: wccsdo@westnet.com.au

Call: 9733 3011

OUR Resilient Community – *This is my story*



Joe Commisso reflects on his journey in the Fire

At the time I was concerned about the fire close by and the easterly winds, naturally with a fire close by it wouldn't take much for things to go wrong. Sadly my fears were realised when the fire hit Waroona. A spot fire started in ALCOA property so we went with my tractor and discs to create firebreaks and start tackling the fire from the flanks.

A series of outbreaks occurred as a result of embers falling in and around Hamel town site. Returning home – ***“by then fires had broken out throughout Hamel, along old Hamel stops, spread into farmland surrounding the water line. I prepared our home, turned sprinklers on, extended fire breaks etc.”***

Our community spirit kicked in with the Vitale family coming out to help, both families including wives and kids helped drive machinery and use fire equipment to prevent and extinguish fires throughout Hamel.

We used tractors and discs and fire units to protect properties on Buller & Coronation Road including Rocky and Sue Caruso place which was defended 3 times over a period of 2 days. Spot fires and break always were a constant problem.

“We all helped put out a fire on a neighbour’s house and then were joined by other long time locals such as Dimasis, LeRoys, Angis, Carusos, Vitales, Ferraros, Deleos, Wards, Hulls – we simply banded together as a community and went from property to property helping out wherever needed.”

Working tirelessly throughout the night creating firebreaks and extinguishing fires and completed shifts along with son Josh as members of the Waroona West Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, we helped evacuate elderly neighbours when the fire came as close as across the road, no power, no water, limited food as a result of road blocks which were a constant source of frustration and inhibitor to common sense community protection and decision making .

“I don’t know how they housed 15 people (Commisso & Vitale families) living under the same roof for 5 days – with no showers, electricity, food etc — Lucky there were high supplies of Italian sausage and watermelon”

Joe’s son in law returned from working up north with a fire unit to assist us with the major task at hand. The community resilience shone through with no damage to property . They were able to stop fire on other side of road and obviously a lot of smoke and ash damage as everyone else experienced to all buildings.

“We are not put off by there being another fire in a short frame of time, we wouldn’t even consider moving, we love our community.”

One thing that we were surprised about and will be more aware of in the future is how far and quickly the fire jumped from Waroona to Hamel. If there is potential of fire outbreak in Hamel next time, within 10km of his house, he will be coming home immediately. He would never have believed that a fire would spread from scarp to sea, something that hasn't been seen in generations.

Joe said; ***“I am very proud of how the community came together to help – particularly a small area like Hamel and encourages others to be more fire aware and prepared for every fire season.”***



Prioritise your wellbeing.

You are going through a highly stressful experience. It is normal that you might be having strong emotional reactions such as sadness, anger, anxiety and frustration. You may also be finding it hard to concentrate, think clearly or make decisions, this is also normal after an emergency event. It takes time, but stress reactions will fade if you have the right information and look after your wellbeing. Get more information by visiting:

<http://redcross.org.au/self-care.aspx> Or if you feel you need more individual support contact the Emergency

Service resilience officer on;

0417 457 583

Bonfire Night for fire affected residents

BONFIRE NIGHT

@

DRAKESBROOK FINE WINES

Lot 22 Prince Rd, Waroona WA 6215

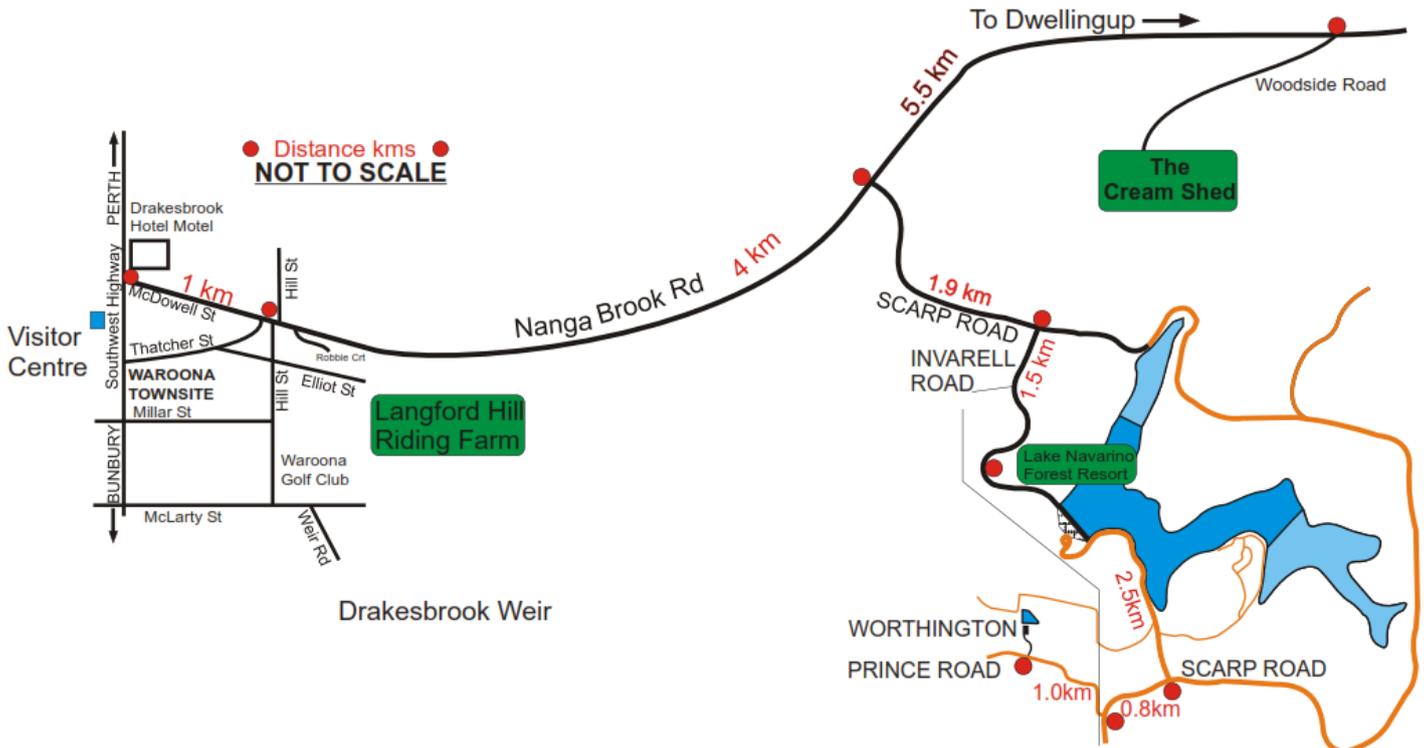
SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER
6pm

LAMB SPIT ROAST

BYO Chair or picnic rug & a plate to share

For families impacted by the January 2016 bushfires

RSVP: Trish or Bernie on info@drakesbrook.com.au



Please note: This map is not drawn to scale.

Where distances are shown between the dots these can be relied on as being fairly accurate.

OUR Resilient Community — *This is your story*

Invitation to participate
in the creation of a special book to record memories
of the January 2016 bushfires



If you were in the Yarloop, Harvey, Waroona Fireground during this incident and would like to share your story or thoughts.

We would love to hear from you.

Please register your details with the Shire of Harvey

☎ 08 9729 0323 or ✉ recovery@harvey.wa.gov.au



Proudly Supported By:



Contact the Waroona Shire Fire Recovery Coordinator and share your story **0403 410 651**.



Stories from the Fireground

REGISTRATION FORM

| | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|--|
| FIRST NAME: | | SURNAME: | |
| POSTAL ADDRESS: | | | |
| <i>Please tick box for best contact and circle time of day preferred</i> | | | |
| HOME TELEPHONE: | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Morning Afternoon Evening |
| MOBILE: | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Morning Afternoon Evening |
| EMAIL: | | | |

The Shire of Harvey is assisting with the coordination of the collection of stories and thoughts from people who wish to share their experience of the January 2016 bushfires. There are several ways that you can share your story.

Please indicate below what best suits you.

| | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|
| 1. | HAND WRITTEN: I will hand write my bushfire story. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. | TYPED: I will type up my bushfire story and submit it electronically. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. | VOICE: | |
| | • I would like to tell my story and have someone write it for me. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | • I am happy to have my story recorded on digital media (tape). | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. | PHOTO: Do you have a photo that relates to your story? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. | OTHER: (Poem, anecdotes, thoughts) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Were you in the Fireground at the time of the fire?

Did you or do you live in the footprint of the Fireground?

Please Note: Not all stories collected may be able to be used in the book as we have a limit of 250 pages. All stories collected will be held as an historical collection in the Shire of Harvey for future historical purposes. Once you have registered your interest, a story collector will make contact with you to arrange a time and place to meet.



CONTACT US:

Call (08) 9729 0323 to register.

Email completed form to recovery@harvey.wa.gov.au

Mail to Shire of Harvey, PO Box 500, HARVEY WA 6220 OR

Drop it in to the Bushfire Recovery Centre, 1 Becher St, HARVEY



HORSE
CATTLE
POULTRY
CHILDRENS
HALL
EXHIBITS

SATURDAY 2016
8TH OCTOBER



**Bill Wyllie
Memorial
FIREWORKS**
FREE
ENTERTAINMENT
ALL DAY

86TH ANNUAL
WAROONA
SHOW
www.waroonashow.com.au

BIGGEST
one day
COUNTRY SHOW
IN AUSTRALIA

SIDE SHOW
ALLEY
ANIMALS
LOG CHOPS
COOKING
DEMO'S
SHEEP
DOG TRIALS



WAROONA SHOWGROUNDS
CASH ONLY PAYMENT AT GATES
PARKING AT REC CENTRE WITH BUS
SERVICE TO SHOWGROUNDS
GATES OPEN 8AM
ENTRY PRICES
ADULTS \$15
AGED PEN/CHILD \$10
Australind train service arrives
Waroona @ 11am and departs 3.55pm

**WAFARRIERS
ASSOC**
HOSTING THE
AFBA
NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS



Get in Touch, Stay in Touch
Shire of Waroona is located at 52 Hesse Street,
Waroona, WA 6215
Postal Address: PO Box 20, Waroona WA 6215

Phone: (08) 9733 7800
Fax: (08) 9733 1883
Email: warshire@waroona.wa.gov.au
Website: www.waroona.wa.gov.au

ARE YOU BUSHFIRE

READY??



JOIN US FOR A

FREE EXPO STYLE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

SUPPORTED BY THE SHIRE OF WAROONA, VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE
BRIGADES, LOCAL RESOURCES & FESA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

20 September 2016



5-7PM



Waroona Community Resource Centre

10 Henning St, Waroona

Bookings & Enquiries Please Contact 08 9733 3011