Volunteers Appreciated

Spencer gave an overview of the West Waroona Volunteer Bushfire Brigade and promoted the need for all farmers and equipment to be registered with the brigade so when the community comes together we know where we can draw our equipment from quickly to help protect us all.

Local MP Murray Cowper was on hand to speak about the recent release of the Ferguson Report. To view the report click [https://publicsector.wa.gov.au/waroona-bushfire-special-inquiry](https://publicsector.wa.gov.au/waroona-bushfire-special-inquiry)

It’s Okay Not to be Okay...

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:


Or if you feel you need more individual support contact the Emergency Service resilience officer on; 0417 457 583

Farmers Breakfast

Braving the cold start to the day was no problem for the farming community, just another day really. Thanks to Donna and Mike for hosting the breakfast on their farm the community was able to come together again on their journey of recovery.

A big shout out to the CSBP for sponsoring the event and providing the cooks!! Great job Lance, Reid and Dan.

There is a positive mood in the camp with many farmer recently finishing their seeding programs.

Whilst there is still fences to rebuild and burnt out buildings to be pulled down and much clean-up still to do, its great to take time out to reflect on the experiences and challenges the community faced during adversity.

Shout Out

A special thanks to the continued support of the Lions and Rotary Clubs, not to mention the team from Department for Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS), Red Cross, Local MP’s and the Waroona shire who continue to support us!
Forest Edge Fire Recovery—Tanya and Graeme reflect………..

January 7th – lightning strikes, 20 minutes to pack up and go. Being told there was no help available is confronting enough, then to have the Fire Ball jump the house and burn out the water pump and shed in the height of the fire, your adrenalin kicks in.

Graeme thought he could stay and save some things but it was far too hot to be in front of the house especially when you run out of water. He had to chase down a neighbour to get a lift to safety. Clearly there was too much force to be able to defend and adrenalin makes you focus. Sonia had no contact with Graeme for some time and 2 of their children tried to return home to help but couldn’t get through the road blocks. In times of emergency the simple things we take for granted and rely on everyday, such as power are lost, so the simple task of charging the phone which has all your information and contacts on are lost. We found it frustrating not knowing what was left and what wasn’t. We found information by Facebook from a neighbour’s post. Finally and emotional a family reunion occurred at Pinjarra road block.

Like so many, there are no grants or funding available for private enterprise to aid the rebuild. This seems to have been a common theme throughout the recovery experienced by many across the shire.

The future is a staged project to get some things built before Winter with our key focus to reopen in 2017. We would like to acknowledge and thank everyone for the overwhelming support from community, both financially and physically.

The sincere community spirit and support in Waroona and beyond is appreciated.

Department for Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS) Waroona Bushfires Recovery Information

The CPFS Recovery Team is available to help and support you or someone you know.

Whether you are single, are a couple, have children or don’t have children the Recovery Team is for all residents of the Yarloop, Harvey and Waroona communities.

Lori, David and Patrick are working in the Harvey and Waroona areas and can offer a listening ear as well as information, practical assistance and accessing services.

Patrick works Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the Waroona area and you can either meet Patrick at the Waroona Community Resource Centre or arrange an outreach visit.

If you would like to see a counsellor at no cost to you ring David on 0417 457 583 or Patrick on 0437 223 299.

The Team are here to help you so come and visit us or ring Lori, David or Patrick for a chat or an appointment.

Red Cross has a New Kid on the Block

Colin Anker is employed by Australian Red Cross on a fulltime basis as a Recovery Project Officer for Harvey/Waroona shires. Colin recently returned home to the Leschenault area after 7 years in Tasmania.

“It’s great to be back home in the South West and helping the local community after the bushfires” Colin said.

Colin has been a volunteer for the past 3 years for Australian Red Cross. “I’ve volunteered for Red Cross’ Community Visitors Scheme and Emergency Services. Being recently activated for the Tasmanian bushfires and registered evacuees at the Deloraine evacuation centre. Last year I helped with the Cyclone Marcia recovery efforts in Queensland as Red Cross’ Situation Unit Manager. I look forward to working with the local communities in the Harvey and Waroona Shires” Colin said.

Get in Touch, Stay in Touch

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