

OUR ROLE IN WYE RIVER'S BUSHFIRE PLANS

Main bushfire response

It is the Country Fire Authority's recommendation that on days of severe, extreme or catastrophic fire danger you should leave the town early, before fire dangers increase. If that is not possible and the siren sounds, you should take shelter on the beach. Take with you an *emergency box* containing woollen blankets, hats, sunscreen, woollen clothing, medication, toiletries, identification, money, radio and torch. Leave your emergency box in a prominent location (see below).

Community Volunteers

- A system of Community Volunteers will operate over summer. Community Volunteers' main duties will be assisting traffic flow at the township's main intersections during a bushfire if Police are not available to do so. Other volunteer duties include caring and nursing, first aid, radio operation and pet care.
- People can pre-register as Volunteers – a form is attached to this email and copied below. A registration point will be set up outside the clubhouse so people can register when they arrive in Wye River for holidays. It will likely be too late to register at the actual time of a fire threat.
- Community Volunteers will be notified by a group text message if and when they are needed.

A unique new system of Community Volunteers developed by the club and the Wye River CFA Brigade will be in place for the 2009-10 summer. Community Volunteers will play an important role in preventing the traffic chaos that so often occurs during bushfires by assisting traffic flow and guiding parking. Other Community Volunteers may be able to offer medical or other help. Community Volunteers will hold the appropriate qualifications for the role they will perform. The club's radios will be used to keep Community Volunteers up-to-date as a bushfire progresses. Community Volunteers will be issued with hats and high visibility vests marked for the role so people will be able to identify them.

You can pre-register as a Community Volunteer by completing the registration form below and returning it to Peter Mitchell. You can scan and email the form to bookings@thedeckhouse.com.au ; print and post it to Peter Mitchell c/- The General Store, Wye River Vic 3221; or leave in Peter's pigeon hole at the store.

If you have any queries please phone Peter on 03 5289 0222 or email as above.

The role of the clubhouse

Wye River does not have a Neighbourhood Safer Place under the criteria; however, our surf club will play a vital role as an emergency centre for people who are sheltering on the beach. A partnership between the club and the CFA Brigade has seen the clubhouse equipped with a water tank, hoses and pump,

and a roof sprinkler. A new generator will support the clubhouse and bunkhouse if power fails.

Emergency Box

We want every household (including rented holiday homes) to have an emergency box containing protective items, especially a blanket for each person. Sheltering outside on the beach is the safest place but you will still need protection from the radiant heat and an ember attack. Prepare an emergency box containing woollen blankets, hats, sunscreen, woollen clothing, medication, toiletries, identification, money, radio and torch and leave it in a prominent location.

Wye River Community Volunteer Registration Form

Name

Address in the Wye River area

Mobile phone number

Internet address:

Other home address

Home phone number

Occupation:

Skills you are offering

Date of birth

Age

If you have a medical condition (such as asthma, diabetes, heart condition), which may preclude you from a physical task, please state here.

Signature

Date

Please deliver completed form to:

Wye Community Volunteers c/- The General, Wye River, Vic 3221.
If you have any questions please contact: Andrew Hack 0438 890 401,
Roy Moriarty 0418 367 496, Peter Mitchell 0408 521 592,
David O'Brien 0400 577 322, Adam Bordignon 0419 864 598