

Barwon Heads Association

Monday 16th November 2015
Senior Citizens Centre 7.30pm

Minutes

1. Welcome by Chair Sandra Gatehouse
2. Attendees: Sandra Gatehouse, Richard Hastings, Sarah Jackson, Paul Fox, Jeremy Gaylard, Kay Schapper, Brenda Miles, Jan Anderson, Dawn White, John Romeril, Michael Palmer, Jenny Wallace Smith, Julie Shaw, W Beckwith, Virginia Ronaldson
3. Guests – Helen Woods, Ian Beswicke, Bernadette van Nourdenberg
4. Apologies: Judith Brooks, Geoffrey & Ann Waite
5. Sandy Gatehouse welcomed Helen Woods Captain of the Barwon Heads CFA, Ian Beswicke Operations Officer, **and** Bernadette van Nourdenberg from CFA Community education.

Barwon Heads is deemed a low risk fire area, however there are areas of high risk, in particular Stephens Pde, parts of the 54 acres and the western end of town.

Barwon Heads has no designated safe area because there is no single spot that meets criteria to be deemed so.

Ian explained that we are probably safest in our homes in Barwon Heads as there is a low fuel load in town.

Bernadette expressed that the beach is not always the right place to be due to tides, lack of preparation (water, clothing, etc), darkness, traffic getting there and that maybe the centre of town is appropriate. Your own home is also likely to be safe.

Bernadette explained the difference between a Total Fire Ban day (legislative) and Fire Danger Ratings (the way a fire would behave and how difficult to control) and that we can expect 3-4 days warning of a Code Red day.

Our guests stressed the importance of being prepared:

- Develop a plan with your neighbours

- Create a defensible space, remove inflammable objects from around the house, break up fuel continuity, carefully select, locate and maintain trees – (pick up the CFA brochure Coastal Garden or download from the CFA website cfa.vic.gov.au/plants)
- have a battery operated radio for use if the power goes down
- install the CFA App on your mobile phones (FireReady)
- watch the long term weather forecasts and have a plan for the high risk code red days
- if you are elderly or alone be prepared to spend the day with friends or family
- understand the wind and the potential impacts of a change from northerly to south westerly winds
- always wear appropriate clothing and if you are in your car ensure you have suitable clothing with you (proper boots, long sleeved tops made from natural fibres, long pants etc).
- have a plan wherever you may be, for example, on a holiday
- knowing your neighbour
- keep items such as medication and ID in a spot where you can easily grab them if you need to leave
- if you leave take water, food and clothing with you
- don't rely on mobile phones working

COGG Fire Prevention officers monitor land around developments such as Warralily to ensure grass is being kept short.

The fire escape at Stephens Pde is bolted shut, this needs to be fixed.

Please go to the CFA website cfa.vic.gov.au or visit the CFA in Barwon Heads or Ocean Grove to pick up information.

6. Other Business

The meeting agreed to a request from Sandy to start the meetings at 7:00pm.

Sandy asked all present if they had any ideas for future meetings, and offered to promote community dates in our monthly newsletter.

The meeting was advised that our next meeting will be a week earlier on the 14th December at 7:00pm at the Bowling Club. (We understand this will clash with the Liberal Party meeting on this night).