Meeting Minutes 26 October 2026

Attendees

Andy, Vicki, Anne, David, Deb, Kate, Rod

Apologies

Liz, Colin, Michael

Upcoming events

- Community Volunteer Program information and training session 15 November 1pm at Aireys Hall
- Scenario session 24 November with Jamie McKenzie for prospective Community Volunteers
- Phoenix fire simulation with Aaron Ledden on 5 December 2pm at the Aireys Hall for all interested community members
- Market stall to be booked for at least one weekend in January, hopefully with the trailer
- Better Prepared has been asked to speak at the AIDA summer forum on 16 January 2027

Updates

- Torquay Lions Club advised us that our grant application was successful, and they awarded us $4000 for the purchase of Solar generator/battery, portable generator, Starlink Mini and three UHF radios.
    - This frees up some of the Resilience Canopy grant money that was previously allocated to these items.
- Rod agreed to provide an Equipment list of items already purchased and those that are to be purchased with the received grant money.
- This led to a discussion about ownership of this equipment ~ $23k worth. It was agreed that it should be owned by the community as compared to an individual. Therefore, equipment could be owned by an existing community organisation, or a new organisation needs to be set up to. It was not obvious as to which existing organisation would want to take on the responsibility of this equipment so it was agreed that we would work towards setting up an incorporated association – provisionally named Better Prepared: Aireys to Eastern View Community Inc. The logistics of this was discussed and Rod agreed to start the process which will be advertised on Facebook and via email to everyone on our mailing list.
- Post the meeting, it was determined that we should hold a Special Formation Meeting on 23 November where we will meet to resolve to incorporate, approve the proposed rules, and appoint the first management committee. Details are in a separate email.

- It was agreed that we could go ahead and start purchasing the equipment that is covered by existing funds and that it would be vested and become the property of the incorporated association once it is created.

Agency feedback

A series of meetings have been held with the following people/agencies to review our Quick Start Guide to setting up a Community Emergency Hub:

- Steve Cuneen SES
- Wayne Aylmer CFA
    - Have local channel for volunteers and separate channel for CFA to contact volunteers plus Channel 19 to contact CFA (possibly)
- John Digby Anglesea Police
    - Police will be at roadblocks but not at Bushfire Place of Last Resort
- Chad Henry Life Saving Victoria
    - Closed system, no UHF radios, separate to other agencies, support role only
    - Local arrangements may be possible – to explore
- Coby Dowie Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
- Aaron Ledden FFM
- Multiple SCS staff

The Surf Coast Shire were instrumental in arranging these meetings.

Working Group Reports

Community Volunteer Program

- Two training sessions were held on 23/10/2026
- Next training session 15 November 1pm
    - Kate offered to create a poster to put up in shops and Andy offered to share details on Facebook
- Scenario session 24 November with Jamie McKenzie for prospective Community Volunteers
- A WhatsApp group needs to be set up to be used only in emergency situations for Community Volunteers

Education activities

- Emergency Map being developed by Andy. Draft to be ready for review in two weeks
- Phoenix fire simulation with Aaron Ledden is scheduled to be held on 5 December 2pm at the Aireys Hall
- Market stall to be booked for at least one weekend in January, hopefully with the trailer

- Better Prepared has been asked to speak at the AIDA summer forum on 16 January 2027
- Information about Better Prepared and emergency preparedness will be part of the new Information Hub to be created at the Top Shops

Communication

- Members of the Communication Working Group have met to discuss organising neighbourhood networks/catchups
- Rod met with Geoff Brown who thought that getting money to restart the Community Fire Guard Program including Train the Trainer training could support the aims of the Communication Working Group

Resource list

- The Resource Working Group does not appear to have met.
- There was some discussion about creating a Needs and Offers survey and promoting it to the community as a way to start this process.

Stockpile

There was a discussion about the possibility of developing a stockpile of items that could be stored in a shipping container (possibly at the back of the Aireys Pub) which would be available to use in emergencies

- Blankets
- Clothes
- Water
- Food
- Masks
- Toilet paper
- Kids activities
- Stickers for names of kids
- Witches Hats $6 each
- Bunting $5
- Signs on bottom shops
- Trolley for moving storage boxes $65
- Megaphone $90
- BPLR signs at Community Hall and Top Shops on fire days
- Goggles
- Tape

Some of these items could be in the Mobile Emergency Hub/trailer.

Strategy Review

Vicki suggested that it would be good for the group to review its future direction including the role of individual working groups in the new year. It was agreed that this would be a good activity beginning in February 2027