Hi everyone,

At our Better Prepared meeting on 26 October (the Minutes can be read here and on our website), those attending agreed that we have reached an important point in our development. With around $20,000 of grant-funded equipment soon to be purchased and our activities continuing to grow, we believe it is time to consider establishing **Better Prepared: Aireys to Eastern View Community as an incorporated association**.

Why incorporate?

Incorporation would give Better Prepared a formal legal structure and allow the organisation to operate in its own right, rather than relying on individuals or another organisation to act on our behalf.

As an incorporated association, Better Prepared would become a separate legal entity that continues regardless of changes in its membership. Among other things, this would enable us to:

- own and manage equipment and other assets in Better Prepared's name;
- enter into agreements and contracts;
- open and operate our own bank account;
- receive grants, donations and other funding directly (without always needing an auspice organisation);
- apply for funding opportunities that require applicants to be incorporated;
- provide greater protection for individual committee members from personal liability; and
- establish clear arrangements for governance, financial management, accountability and decision-making.

Importantly, incorporation would not change the community-led nature of Better Prepared. Our regular monthly community meetings, working groups and Community Volunteer Program would continue to be open to all people who want to contribute. The incorporated association and its committee would provide the governance and accountability needed to support this broader community activity.

Special Formation Meeting – 23 November

Our next meeting will therefore be a **Special Formation Meeting**:

Monday 23 November
6.00 pm
Aireys Pub

At the meeting, we propose to formally consider and vote on:

1. establishing **Better Prepared: Aireys to Eastern View Community Inc.** as an incorporated association;
2. adopting the proposed purposes and rules of the association;
3. confirming the initial membership of the association as restricted to committee members;
4. appointing the initial committee and office bearers; and
5. authorising a person to lodge the incorporation application with Consumer Affairs Victoria.

We encourage as many people as possible to come along and be part of this next step for Better Prepared.

The proposed rules are the Model Rules for an Incorporated Association provided by Consumer Affairs Victoria. Please have a look at them before the meeting, particularly if you are interested in joining the committee.

Proposed Rules

Interested in joining the committee?

We would also like to hear from anyone interested in being part of Better Prepared's first committee. The committee will be responsible for governance, finances and ensuring the organisation operates properly and pursues its agreed purposes. It will be distinct from our broader community meetings and working groups, where most of the practical planning and implementation activities of Better Prepared will continue to occur.

If you are interested in joining the committee—or would simply like to know more about what would be involved—please let me know before the meeting.

There is no expectation that people involved in Better Prepared need to become committee members. We want to retain the informal, inclusive and community-led approach that has brought so many people into the project while putting in place the governance structure we now need to manage our growing responsibilities.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the proposal before the meeting.

Thanks again for everyone's contribution to Better Prepared. Reaching the point where we are purchasing equipment and putting our plans into practice is a significant milestone for the community.

Rod & Andy

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