



Hi everyone,

Notes from meeting held on 2 February at Aireys Pub



This update is going to everyone who said they'd like to be actively involved, as well as those who attended last year's workshops (where we have your email details). There is a few pages of notes, but we want to make sure those who weren't there also feel like they have a good summary of what was discussed so they don't feel left out of left behind.

Firstly, **thank you** to the thirteen people who came along to the Pub on Monday night: Julie, Helen, Ian, Kate, Vicki, Maur, Anne, David, Kate, Colin, Liz, Rod, Andy.

It was great to see the energy in the room.

If you couldn't make it, we look forward to seeing you at a future meeting (**our next two are 6pm on 16th March and on 13th April** in the brewery room at the Aireys Pub).

1. Kicking off the meeting

We opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and then by thanking everyone for attending and noting apologies.

Andy gave an overview of the meeting, to focus on purpose and function of group/project and not to decide on the specific actions or priority areas (as this will be the focus of the larger community workshop/forum in May this year). We are also holding these meeting at the pub for now because we don't want it to be overly formal, we want to enjoy a meal whilst we meet and also support the local economy.

Next, we went around the room and people introduced themselves and also shared one idea they had about how our community could be better prepared for the next emergency/disaster, as a way of checking in to the meeting and conversation.

Ideas included: *An emergency box in key locations, satellite phone / comms, street/neighbourhood groups, support for vulnerable members in our community, education campaign, stockpile of resources etc.*

2. How we got here

We started by reminding ourselves how this work began. It really kicked off with the community workshop on 1 July last year, followed by the meeting on 5 September. The outcomes of those sessions were captured in the Harvest Report and in Nick Guyett's follow-up notes.



After that, a few of us attended a [Resilience Canopy](#) training program in Armstrong Creek. Through that process, Julie Martin, Andy Bell, Nick Guyett and Rod Brooks decided to build on the momentum already created and move this forward as a genuinely community-led effort to help Aireys Inlet–Eastern View be better prepared for emergencies.

Since then, Andy and Rod spoke at the AIDA Summer Forum and hosted a stall at the Aireys Market. They spoke with around 115 people and gathered lots of useful ideas, along with contact details from those keen to stay involved.



The good news is that we were successful in securing a grant, which means we now have some funding to support practical actions that the community believes will make the biggest difference.

To ensure we don't lose the valuable insights gathered so far and to keep everything connected, we've pulled together the Harvest Report, the September meeting notes and the market ideas into one combined "Master Reference" document. If you'd like a copy, just let us know. As the group/project continues to build we will develop up the resources and systems to support it, so we can all access this kind of information.

3. Our Purpose

We are a small group of local residents / community members, and we're working to help the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View community be better prepared for emergencies like bushfires, floods, heatwaves, and power outages.

We know that in a major bushfire or emergency, we might be on our own for a while—especially with the Great Ocean Road closed. Local agencies have been honest with us: in a major event, they might not be able to get into the township immediately. We also know that those

communities who are better prepared and respond better in the first few days of an emergency, usually have a better and quicker recovery post event.

We need to be our own 'first responders' for those first critical hours or days (like happened in Lorne and Wye River in the recent floods) - neighbours helping neighbours may matter more than ever. The CFA and others do a great job in helping us prepare our individual or household plans (we heard numerous examples of this from attendees at the meeting) but we need to develop a better plan at the community level for how will prepare for the next fire, flood or prolonged power outage.

We're starting a community-led process to build a practical preparedness and a community resilience plan, shaped by local knowledge and with support/guidance from key agencies including the CFA and VicPol. We're building a network and taking small scale community action so that when the next heatwave, flood, or fire hits, we're not just waiting for help - we're ready to help each other.

4. How we plan to work

Our goal remains to build an inclusive process. All previous workshop participants and new sign-ups were invited to this session, and we will continue to reach out to the broader community as our governance and project take shape.

To make this work, we'll need a mix of people and organisations:

- Local residents and community groups, along with others who want to support the effort
- An auspice organisation (likely Anglesea Community House) to manage grant funding and insurance
- A small group of people who can fill support roles to help keep things moving and provide admin required for funding purposes etc.
- Key agencies such as CFA, Surf Coast Shire and Police, so we complement their work rather than duplicate it and can draw on their expertise
- Funders who are willing to back practical preparedness initiatives

How we'll move forward together

Our proposed approach is focused around:

1. building community awareness and buy in (Feb – April)
2. holding space for community to come together on all this (April – June)
3. to move forward with community led actions and action groups (July onwards)

To do this we are proposing:

- Monthly catchups at the Aireys Pub to stay connected and coordinate actions
- Ongoing outreach to involve more of the community including direct contact with key agencies and wonderful humans.
- Developing up a website and domain name (see below)
- Holding a larger community workshop to confirm our purpose, learn from other communities, review ideas gathered to date and any news ones too, and agree on priorities and a strategic direction.
- Developing a clear process for deciding which projects/actions receive funding
- Develop small action groups around agreed priorities, depending on available time and resources (including people power).
- Seeking additional funding as needed to support further community priorities

There was general agreement in the room on this approach.

Some key questions raised during the meeting were:

Q) How is this any different to what say the CFA or Surf Coast Shire are telling us to do in terms of making a plan?

A) We aren't looking to duplicate services or complicate things. We plan to work with all key agencies to ensure what we do is complimentary to their approach. Much of the key messages and initiatives that the CFA or Shire have at the moment look at individual or household plans. We are looking at neighbourhood and community

plans and preparedness – e.g. How we might create a plan to look out for those in our neighbourhood/community who may need assistance in an emergency because of their age or medical conditions? How we might best prepare to support the tourist population if they are here on the day of a bushfire? What resources might better equip key locations in our community to support people during or post the event?

Q) How will we ensure the information we share give accurate and what is our risk/liability if we are telling people what to do?

A) Good question and one we will need to keep coming back to as the project progresses, but we plan only point to information shared by key agencies rather than creating our own. E.g. Making sure people have downloaded the VicEmergency App, sharing CFA resources etc. We are also investigating insurance coverage and will continue to update you on this.

Q) But if our plan is to leave early, and no one is here then how will this help?

A) Leaving early is a great plan, but as we saw recently with the flash flooding event, we may not have the opportunity to leave early. Also, there are many actions we can take in preparing for emergencies that don't actually require specific people to be here on the day but can benefit those who are here.

Q) Have we considered broader community engagement, to foster community awareness and buy in?

A) Yes, this in where much of our focus will be in the coming months to ensure we have reached out to as many people and agencies as possible ahead of the next community workshop/forum. More info to come on this including our new website which will be key.

Q) How will the allocation of funding be determined, by whom and what process?

A) We haven't worked this one out yet. We only just got confirmation of the funding last week. But our first thoughts are that we would like to be a community-led decision, that is sense checked by agencies, and facilitated by our Auspice organisation and the admin/support roles that help our group function. But yeah, great question!

Next steps

- We are keen to lock in the name for the group. We discussed Aireys Prepared – but felt like it was too Aireys centric. We talk about Better Prepared: Aireys to Eastern View but noted the betterprepared.com.au wasn't available also we like the idea of including community in the title... so we landed on Community Prepared – Aireys to Eastern View.
- But since the meeting we have found that we could get the url of betterprepared.info so we wanted to check in with those at the meeting to see if, **are you ok going with:**
- **Better Prepared: Aireys to Eastern View Community** (as the name for this group and project with the url of betterprepared.info)



- *Please contact Andy asap with your thoughts, concerns or objections.*
- We will also create a simple website so people can find information about what we're doing.
- We're looking for volunteers to join the Coordination Group to help support and strengthen the work started through the Resilience Canopy program. Please let us know if you'd like to be involved.
- Before our next meeting, we would like everyone to review the list of local organisations and individuals identified as important to this process in last year's workshop (see list below). If you think someone is missing, please let us know.

Upcoming meetings

- 16 March – 6pm at the Aireys Pub
- 13 April – 6pm at the Aireys Pub
- 2 May – 11.30 am – 3.30pm Community Workshop at the Aireys Pub

These meetings are open to anyone interested, so please feel free to invite others.

Immediate actions

- Let us know if you'd like to volunteer for a support/admin function role to help this group/project function by emailing Rod. We need people interested in tracking our finances, communication, event setup, fundraising – no specific skills required, but many hands make light work.
- Suggest any organisations or individuals we should include in our engagement process in addition to the list below:
 - AIRAR
 - School leadership and community
 - CFA
 - Tourism and traders
 - Pub
 - Uniting Church
 - SLSC
 - AIDA
 - Medical clinic
 - Painkalac Valley Network
 - Local residents
 - Surf Coast Shire
 - Red Cross
 - SES
 - Accommodation e.g. Airbnb, hotel, caravan park
 - Community Garden
 - Tennis club
 - Footy Eels
 - AIDA
 - AITTA

- RATES
- GORCAPA
- Telco contacts e.g. Telstra
- Caravan park
- Once we have set up the website etc. we will email out again and would love your assistance in sharing this through your network.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks again to the 13 people who attended the Pub to help kick off this next phase!

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 16th March.

Thanks / Nyatne,

Rod & Andy

Better Prepared: Aireys to Eastern View Community

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