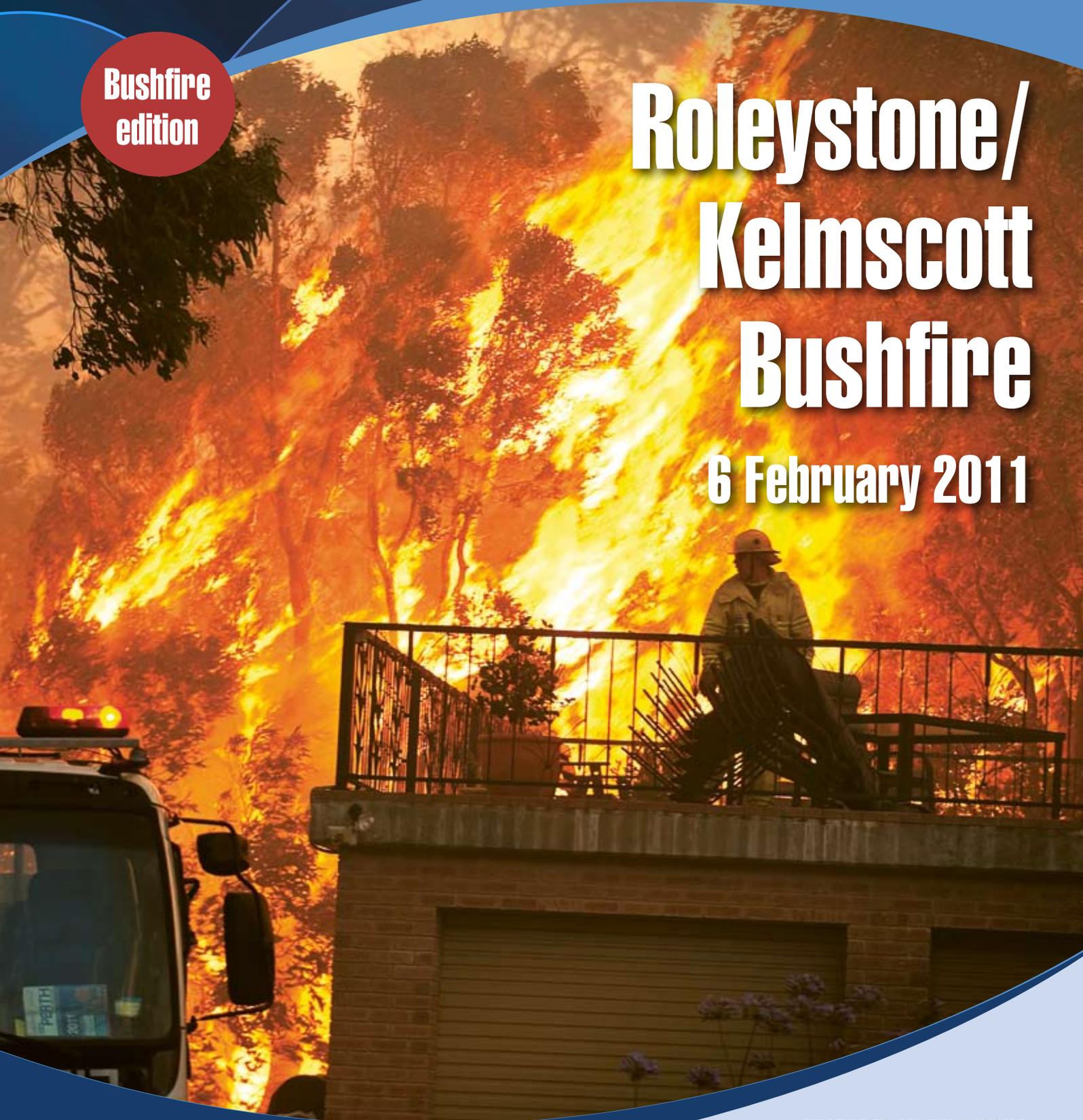


# City Views

CITY OF  Armadale

VOLUME 33  
APRIL 2011

**Bushfire  
edition**



## Roleystone/ Kelmscott Bushfire

**6 February 2011**

[www.armadale.wa.gov.au](http://www.armadale.wa.gov.au)

**FEATURES IN THIS ISSUE:**

Buckingham Bridge reopens  
Business and community give generously  
Large scale demolition underway  
Unusual items go to Museum Collection

# BUSHFIRE EDITION



3000 people attended the first residents meeting on February 7 at the Armadale Arena

## Key bushfire **statistics:**

- 150 fire fighters on the ground at bushfire peak
- 200 police all up in attendance
- 69 homes completely or significantly destroyed
- 71 properties partially or incidentally damaged
- 590 homes, including 4,000 people, evacuated
- 405 hectares of land burnt
- Almost 2000 cubic metres of burnt green waste mulched
- 1,200 offers of assistance
- 96 media interviews conducted, including TV, radio and newspapers
- Around 10,000 community update flyers distributed
- 3,000 people attended first residents' meeting on 7 February
- 8,035 calls to the City in three weeks following the fire
- 68 private properties tree assessments taking 73 hours
- 133 skip bins placed in the fire zone for cleanup
- 2,269 trees removed as a direct cause of the bushfires

## Rangers to the rescue

Thousands of people were evacuated during the fire emergency, but some treasured family pets and livestock were left behind.

City of Armadale Rangers came to the rescue, feeding and watering many animals until families could return home.

Creatures cared for included horses, cows, sheep, cats, chickens, ducks, rabbits, tawny frogmouth owls, dogs - and even a pet python!

Rangers are used to handling animals like dogs and cats and from time-to-time they retrieve lost livestock wandering the roads, but the recent bushfire presented unusual challenges.

One of these included feeding the python a dead mouse for dinner.

## Bridge reopens



The collapse of Buckingham Bridge was a dramatic image from the bushfire.

A new, temporary bridge was opened three weeks after the fire – congratulations to Main Roads WA for their speedy work restoring this section of Brookton Highway. A permanent structure will be built by Main Roads over the next year.

## Mayor's Message



I have said "thank you" many times in my life, but never have I meant it more than in the wake of February's horrifying and destructive bushfire.

The actions of fire fighters, police and emergency services personnel saved lives and prevented the loss of hundreds of homes and properties.

A short drive through the Kelmscott and Roleystone fire zone confirms just how lucky we were to have such wonderful people defending and protecting houses in the worst of conditions.

In spite of the herculean efforts of all involved, 69 families lost their homes and others suffered damage to their property. The resulting sadness and trauma will take a long time to heal.

My appreciation for the FESA and volunteer bushfire brigades, their professionalism and dedication, is absolute and I'm sure those who directly experienced the gut-wrenching events of Sunday 6 February agree with me.

I have been buoyed by the number and extent of donations from our community, ranging from cash to home wares, furniture, services, vouchers and even accommodation. Let's not forget the people involved with the recovery effort – they have been superb – both our staff and the agencies that have helped us

Volunteers have come out in force to assist with clean-ups and provide support.

The State and Federal Governments have also helped, making available vital funding through the WA Natural Disaster Relief Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) program.

Thank you all.

The most positive aspect to emerge from the bushfire disaster has been the incredible community spirit demonstrated by so many people.

Neighbours helping neighbours; people whose possessions were incinerated speaking positively about rebuilding and their future in the City of Armadale.

It is a long road to recovery, but we are here to help and I believe this experience will help make our community even stronger than it already is.

**Cr Linton Reynolds AM JP**  
**City of Armadale Mayor**

## Art for Recovery

The City is looking for people to help produce a number of public community artworks to commemorate the event of the fire. Whether you are artistic, or not, we're looking for people to be involved and provide input. Please call 9399 0682 to register your interest.

## Message from the CEO, Ray Tame

I would like to personally acknowledge the dedicated firefighters who so bravely fought the biggest bushfire we have seen in this State, their efforts were incredible.

In addition to our local crews from Armadale, Roleystone and Bedfordale, we had crews from as far and wide as Augusta/Margaret River, Rosabrook, Witchcliffe, Bassendean, Belmont, Brookton, Broomhill, Tambellup, Bunbury, Busselton, Canning, Claremont, Cockburn, Corrigan, Dardanup, Fremantle, Gingin, Harvey, Dongara, Joondalup, Kondinin, Kulin, Lake Grace, Mandurah, Melville, Moora, Mundaring, Murray, Nannup, Perth, Plantagenet, Mt Barker, Middleward, Narrikup, Geraldton, Serpentine/Jarrahdale, Gosnells, Kwinana, Rockingham, Stirling, Subiaco, Swan, Victoria Park, Victoria Plains, Kallingerie and New Norcia, Wagin, Waroona.

Unfortunately, one fire brigade volunteer from Keysbrook was seriously injured whilst fighting the bushfire. I would like to wish Pam Storey all the best with her recovery and to let her know we are thinking of her.

## Demolition under way

Excavators and dump trucks have been busy in the hills fire zone since March conducting demolition works.

The City successfully gained several million dollars' worth of additional funding to cover the cost of demolition for those properties thought to contain asbestos or CCA (treated pine). The funding is supplied by the WA Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements program (WANDRRRA), which is jointly provided by the State and Federal governments.

Covering demolition costs is a significant boost for those people faced with a major rebuilding process. Many insurance policies do not include demolition fees.

The City has hired former chief engineer Ken Brown to act as Project Manager and has also engaged an independent organisation to monitor the air in the region, to test for dust particles.

Demolition is expected to be completed by the end of May 2011.



## City provides a helping hand

The City of Armadale has been working hard to assist people in the wake of the bushfire.

In the hours after it tore through parts of Roleystone, Clifton Hills, and Kelmscott, the City established an evacuation and recovery centre at its recreation facility, Armadale Arena.

A One-Stop-Shop of support services, which included provision of food, drinks, bedding, donated clothing, information and advice from a range of organisations, the Arena was also the principal meeting place for people whose homes were destroyed or damaged in the fire.

The City held many community meetings at the Arena and Council staff were on-hand for several weeks providing advice.

A multi-agency recovery committee and welfare, finance and communications sub-committees were established, to coordinate important matters relating to the bushfire and affected residents. Latest bushfire information via Community Update newsletters has been available in printed form and on the City's website [www.armadale.wa.gov.au](http://www.armadale.wa.gov.au) since 7 February. The website has also been a prime source of fire and recovery information, such as disaster relief funding, road detours, demolition and waste arrangements, for the community.

Once restrictions on access to properties in the fire zone were lifted, the City began its clean-up process, providing staff and contractors to remove burnt vegetation from verges, tree assessments for residents, building assessments for homes and pools, skip bins for household waste etc.

In addition, the City removed burnt car bodies and waived landfill fees for those disposing of trailer-loads of refuse.

The City held several demolition and waste information sessions at the Arena and demolition and clearance licences were arranged free of charge.

Other roles undertaken by City staff have included recording details of more than 1200 offers of assistance and responding to individual donors, coordinating emergency relief payments, assisting and liaising with state government agencies and welfare and community groups and staging community events, such as the Big Thank You BBQ



# Community gives generously

Big-hearted Western Australians have donated money, goods, services, time and energy to assist families whose homes were destroyed and damaged in the bushfire.

From the people who rushed food and clothing supplies to the evacuation centre at Armadale Arena on Sunday 6 February, to large corporate donors and children who gave their pocket money to fundraising appeals, compassion has been widespread.

The City of Armadale has received about 1,200 offers of assistance from individuals, organisations and businesses.

These offers have ranged from furniture, white goods and clothing, to discounted childcare, accommodation, pet supplies and horse agistment.

Harvey Norman has provided furniture vouchers worth \$100,000 for people whose homes were destroyed or damaged; IKEA has made a similar commitment of \$75,000, along with Pine Discount Furniture Company for \$65,000.

Donations to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund continue to be made. Many individuals and businesses have contributed generously, including the State Government, who have added \$1 million.

A number of groups and individuals have organised charity events such as concerts and sausage sizzles.

Members of Armadale Lions Club volunteered at Armadale Arena from day one of the fire and have continued to support families and City programs and events.



More than 1200 offers of assistance have been made from individuals, organisations and businesses

Regular City contractors donated equipment and staff time, while the Department of Corrective Services brought teams of minimum security prisoners and offenders on community work orders for clean-ups in City reserves. Bunnings provided a crew of 20 people for a fire clean-up, along with 125 vouchers worth \$100 for people whose homes were destroyed or damaged.

The City of Armadale has also received fantastic operations support from fellow local governments: City of Cockburn (customer service officer); City of Wanneroo (building surveyor); City of Swan (community development officer); City of Gosnells (Parks officer) and City of Whittlesea, Victoria.

Radio ABC 720 acted not only as the fire emergency broadcaster – reporters and producers were based at the City's Administration Centre for two weeks following the fire, conducting interviews with residents and City staff and broadcasting important recovery information. James Lush's Saturday morning show was held in Rushton Park, Kelmscott.

Commercial station 6PR also broadcast frequent reports and sponsored The Big Thank You BBQ.

Local politicians including Federal Member for Canning, Don Randall, State Member for Darling Range, Tony Simpson and the Member for Armadale, Tony Buti, have provided active support for the City and its residents.

Thank you from the City of Armadale.



## US sailors clean up Kelmscott

Generous US Navy personnel swapped the decks of guided missile destroyer USS Shoup for the burnt verges of Kelmscott on 16 February, giving up a day of shore leave to help bushfire victims.

Twenty three sailors, led by Commander Matthew Roberts, volunteered to clean up burnt debris around Bromfield Avenue, Kelmscott, in searing summer heat.

Commander Roberts, whose mother is Australian, saw images of the fire on news reports while still at sea and contacted the US Consulate with an offer of assistance.

The Navy personnel, wearing distinctive yellow t-shirts, spent almost six hours removing blackened vegetation from verges and properties.

They enjoyed lunch at Migrant Park and received a welcome boost when Perth-based US Consul General, Aleisha Woodward and Armadale Councillors Linton Reynolds and Henry Zelones, dropped in for a visit.

The City's regular contractors, Beaver Tree Services, Roads 2000 and Byford Bobcats, contributed to the clean-up by donating bobcats, trucks, chainsaws, a wood chipper and several operators on the day.

The City of Armadale formally thanked Commander Roberts and his crew with a letter of appreciation and donated USS Shoup caps and t-shirts have been framed for posterity.



## Your Local Libraries

**The City of Armadale libraries have several school holiday programs.**

### Communicare Critters

**Thursday 28 April, 1.00-2.30pm  
Armadale Library**

Come along and create Communicare Critters at the Armadale Library. Make pet rocks and other critter animals from gumnuts, egg cartons and salt ceramics. Suitable for primary school aged children, and parents must stay with their children during the activity. Phone 9399 0125 to book your place.

### Animal Picnic

**Friday 29 April, 10.30-11.30am  
Seville Grove Library**

The Seville Grove Library will be having an Animal Picnic with Barn Babes. There will be a range of animal such as lambs, goats, chickens, ducks and rabbits. In some cases you will be able to touch and feed these animals. Phone 9399 0800 to book your place.

### Sand Wizard

**Monday 2 May, 2.00-3.30pm  
Kelmscott Library**

Sand Wizard will be at the Kelmscott Library on Monday 2 May. This is a creative hands on activity suitable for boys and girls, where you can decorate your own Sand Wizard Animal Design, with a rainbow of colours. Phone 9399 0810 to book your place.

#### Armadale Library

7 Orchard Avenue, Armadale  
Tel: 9399 0125

#### Kelmscott Library

2800 Albany Highway, Kelmscott  
Tel: 9399 0810

#### Seville Grove Library

78 Champion Drive, Seville Grove  
Tel: 9399 0800

## Message from the Chief Bushfire Control Officer, **Brian Watkins**

Dozens of horrifically burnt and blackened properties in the Kelmscott hills are a stark reminder of the bushfire disaster which changed our lives on 6 February.

It could have been so much worse.

With the dedicated and at times, extraordinary, efforts of our volunteer and career fire fighters, no lives were lost and literally hundreds of homes were saved.

I would like to pay tribute to these courageous and committed fire fighters, many of whom were locals and knew the people whose houses were destroyed.

This is a traumatic time for the entire City of Armadale community, but it is also a chance to reflect on the need to adopt a shared responsibility to protect ourselves from the risk of bushfire.

Living in the Perth Hills is a lifestyle choice for many of us. However, the risks of this choice cannot be ignored.

If you live in a high bushfire risk area, you can expect several days a year in which you, your family and your house may be threatened by fire. Therefore, you need a practical Bushfire Survival Plan to know exactly what you and your family will do on these days.

A Bushfire Plan will increase your survival chances and help protect your home

For residents this means:

- Maintaining adequate fire breaks on your property and always keeping it clear of excess vegetation;
- Having a Bushfire Survival Plan in place.
- Joining a Bushfire Ready Group in your area

Contact a local Bushfire Ready Group coordinator for more information: Ian Thompson (Bedfordale) on 0407 795 561 or Chris Cairns (Roleystone) on 0417 983 019.



*Bushfire prevention is a year-round responsibility and necessity. It is far more than a weekend clean-up just prior to the bushfire season. It is extremely important for all property owners to regularly conduct hazard reduction work around their property.*

## What NOT to do during a **TOTAL FIRE BAN**

You must not light a fire in the open air, or use any equipment in the open air likely to emit sparks.

This includes lighting wood fuel BBQs, pizza ovens and candles and using angle grinders, welders or lawn mowers.

## Events bring community together

Hundreds of people who helped during the devastating February bushfire to save lives and properties and provide community support came together for a Big Thank You BBQ hosted by Armadale Council at Rushton Park.

About 300 people representing organisations such as the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, Volunteer Bushfire Brigades, WA Police, Salvation Army, St John Ambulance, State Emergency Service, Red Cross, Department for Child Protection and

Centrelink, enjoyed a catered barbecue meal, refreshments and entertainment. The event was sponsored by Radio 6PR and Suncorp.



The City hosted and organised outdoor, twilight concerts at Kelmscott, Roleystone and Armadale and the 20th annual Minnowarra Festival, which attracted large crowds to its three CBD sites.

Featuring entertainment, music, craft stalls, Scitech shows and exhibits, Freestyle NOW skate and BMX demonstrations and interactive fun, the Minnowarra Festival showcased talented Armadale youth through the Battle of the Bands competition final.



## Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund – apply for assistance now

If your home was destroyed or damaged in the February 6 bushfire, now is the time to apply for assistance from the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund.

The Perth Hills Fire Appeal was established to assist the hundreds of people who suffered significant hardship in the disaster and has already raised \$2.8 million.

Application forms can be accessed on the City of Armadale website [www.armadale.wa.gov.au](http://www.armadale.wa.gov.au), by calling the City on 9399 0197, or by visiting the Administration Centre, 7 Orchard Avenue, Armadale.

Assistance is available to City of Armadale residents who suffered personal hardship due to the loss or damage to their residence, property, furniture or personal effects as a result of the bushfire.

Completed application forms can be lodged in-person at the Administration Centre, by email [info@armadale.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@armadale.wa.gov.au) or by post addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, City of Armadale, Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund, Locked Bag No 2, Armadale 6992.

### Useful Council Numbers

#### City of Armadale Administration Centre

**Tel:** 9399 0111  
**Fax:** 9399 0184  
 Email: [info@armadale.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@armadale.wa.gov.au)  
 Address: 7 Orchard Avenue, Armadale WA 6112  
 Opening hours: Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm

#### City of Armadale newsletter

*City Views* provides residents with information about Council policies, services, activities and community events. We welcome your articles and suggestions.

**Next deadline: 20 May 2011**  
 Email: Michele McGinity at [mcmcginity@armadale.wa.gov.au](mailto:mcmcginity@armadale.wa.gov.au)  
 Tel: 9399 0634

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## Councillor Contact List

### Heron Ward



**Cr Linton Reynolds AM JP, Mayor**  
 Tel: 9495 1707



**Cr Donna Shaw**  
 Tel: 0430 529 723

### Jarrah Ward



**Cr Pat Hart**  
 Tel: 9496 1634



**Cr Caroline Wielinga**  
 Tel: 0488 900 307

### Lake Ward



**Cr Jeff Munn JP CMC Deputy Mayor** Tel: 9397 1247



**Cr June MacDonald**  
 Tel: 9399 1738

### Minnawarra Ward



**Cr Keith Lethbridge**  
 Tel: 0437 336 296



**Cr Matthew Norman**  
 Tel: 0403 130 264

### Neerigen Ward



**Cr Guenter Best**  
 Tel: 9399 4371



**Cr Bob Tizard**  
 Tel: 9497 3469

### Palomino Ward



**Cr Laurie Sargeson**  
 Tel: 9399 4002



**Cr Wayne Mauger**  
 Tel: 9399 4798

### River Ward



**Cr Ruth Butterfield**  
 Tel: 9390 1459



**Cr Henry Zelones JP**  
 Tel: 9495 4073

**City of Armadale**  
 7 Orchard Ave, Armadale  
 Tel: 9399 0111 Fax: 9399 0184  
[www.armadale.wa.gov.au](http://www.armadale.wa.gov.au)

## BUSHFIRE EDITION

# Young achiever urges community involvement

Blake McCarthy has a message for young people.

As the recipient of this year's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award, for a person under 25yrs and winner of the National Apprenticeship of the Year Award 2009, Blake has been recognised for his volunteer work in the local community.

Blake has been a volunteer firefighter for four years and assisted with the recent Roleystone/Kelmscott bushfire.

"I was involved in patrols on the second day after the firefighters had gone through and we were putting out spot fires. It was pretty devastating, but the community spirit is strong", said Blake. "The best thing about volunteer work is that people really appreciate it and it's great for team work and for your normal work, it gives you the edge.

"My message to young people is get involved, set your goals and put 100% into all your endeavours. Never let anything stand in your way and help when help is needed."

If you would like to become a volunteer for local emergency service groups such as the City's Volunteer Bushfire Brigades or the SES, contact Armadale Volunteer Services on 9399 0629 or [volunteering@armadale.wa.gov.au](mailto:volunteering@armadale.wa.gov.au)



## City of Armadale Council and Committee Meetings

April, May and June meeting cycles are displayed below. All meetings are held in the City of Armadale's Administration Centre, 7 Orchard Avenue, Armadale and are open to the public.

### April 2011

Mon 11 April	7pm	Technical Services
Tues 12 April	7pm	Community Services
Mon 18 April	7pm	Development Services
Tues 19 April	7pm	City Strategy
Wed 27 April	7pm	Council meeting

### May 2011

Mon 9 May	7pm	Technical Services
Tues 10 May	7pm	Community Services
Mon 16 May	7pm	Development Services
Tues 17 May	7pm	City Strategy
Mon 23 May	7pm	Council meeting

### June 2011

Mon 13 June	7pm	Technical Services
Tues 14 June	7pm	Community Services
Mon 20 June	7pm	Development Services
Tues 21 June	7pm	City Strategy
Mon 27 June	7pm	Council meeting

*What is it? A Sunbeam mixer with glass bowls and beaters, melted in the fire, will be part of the Museum's collection.*



## For the record

The 2011 Roleystone-Kelmscott bushfire is a significant event in the history of the City of Armadale.

The City's History House Museum is endeavouring to collect objects from the bushfire so there is a record of what happened.

With your help we will be able to help future residents and visitors understand what occurred on 6 February, 2011.

Examples of objects that could be donated include: burnt crockery, melted glass or metal, household and personal items, evaporative air conditioner, items that survived the fire and photographs of milestone events afterwards, such as street barbecues, rebuilding etc.

If you are interested in donating something to the museum, please contact the City of Armadale on 9399 0111 and ask to speak to the Curator.