

Taking it to the streets

Bushfire Street Meets is a new initiative that has taken off around the State.

It has been developed by Bushfire Ready groups and volunteers to help educate the community about bushfire safety in their local area.

Community Engagement Manager Vivienne Gardiner said Local Government, Bush Fire Brigade volunteers and operational firefighters had worked together to provide the community with relevant bushfire information for the 2011-12 season.

“Street meets are essentially informal neighbourhood meetings that allow firefighters to talk to residents in a direct and personal manner about fire safety,” Vivienne said.

“Interacting on a face to face basis like this is the most effective way of getting our prevention messages across.

“It is also an ideal atmosphere for people to ask questions relevant to their own area and raise concerns or ideas.

“The activities are usually held in a local park or on the side of the road to encourage greater community participation, and we have conducted them in both metropolitan and regional areas.”

Feedback from residents who have attended sessions in Canning Vale and Wireless Hill this year stated it was an excellent project and very informative.

A new Wandri resident said it had sparked their interest in learning more about bushfire safety.

Mundaring Community Fire Manager Mark Casotti has firsthand knowledge of the initiative and said the street meets were ideal for communicating local issues and engaging people on their individual household preparations.

“The street meets are a useful avenue for networking which is the essence and key to the Bushfire Ready program,” Mark said.

“This type of local activity is proving very successful in helping to bring neighbours together.

“It allows the involvement and input of a wide range of people, and in some cases residents are meeting for the first time.

“Many quickly establish a rapport that can lead to positive fire prevention activities and enhanced community safety in their area.”



A series of Bushfire Street Meets attracted good crowds.

