



Australian Government

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience



#ADRC21



Australian
Red Cross

Community Led Emergency Resilience Pilot Project

Australian Red Cross

October 5th, 2021



Resilience
NSW



Red Cross pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Custodians across this country, and to Elders, past, present and emerging. We draw upon their wisdom, knowledge and leadership to guide us in healing hearts and minds.



Community Disaster Resilience

- Recognise every community is unique
- Take a community led approach to work
- Recognise and respect existing strengths and networks within community
- Advocate for diverse community voices.





Community Led Emergency Resilience Project

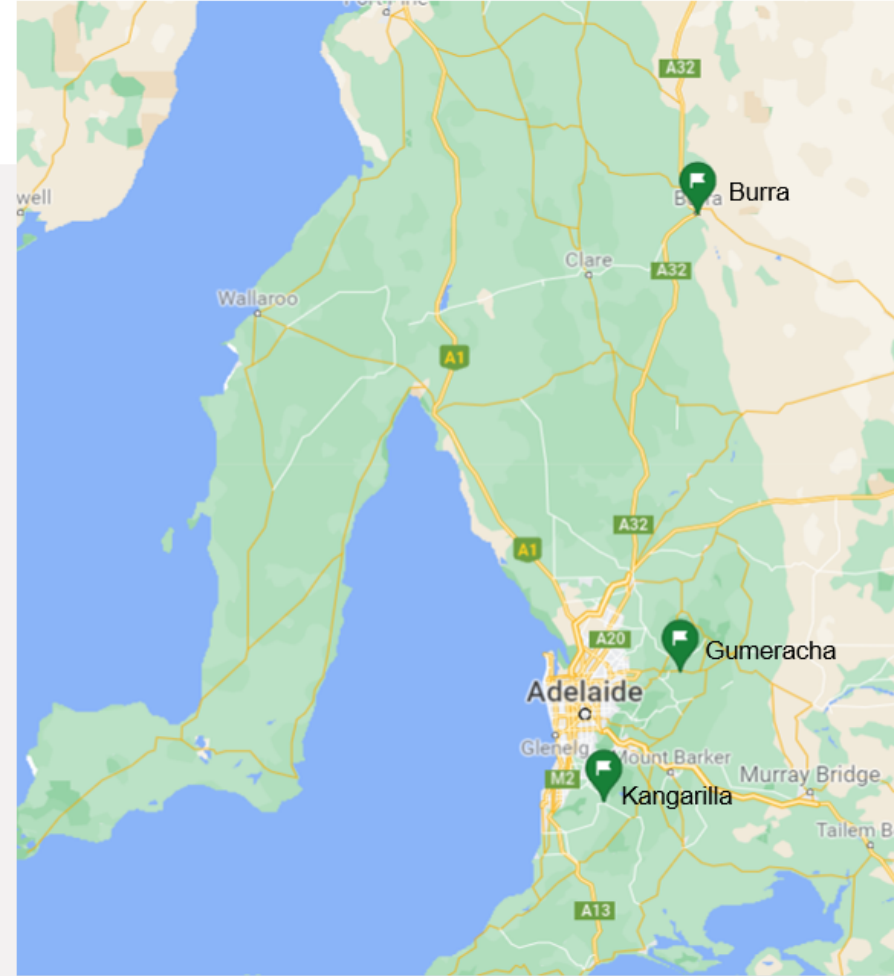
- Whole of Community Approach
- Shared Responsibility
- Capital based
- People at Risk framework
- Community Led
- Place based





Pilot Project

- Funded by the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP)
- South Australian communities of Kangarilla, Gumeracha & Burra
- 18 month project
- Selection Criteria





The Communities



Gumeracha

828 people

84.3% internet connection

Black Summer (2019), Sampson Flat fires (2015), Flood (2004)



Kangarilla

896 people

84.3% internet connection

Mt Bold fires (2007), Flood (2017,2004)



Burra

1013 people

76.1% internet connection

Bina Burra fire (2019), Flood (1983,1969,1915)



Establishing the Community Leadership Group

- Step 1: Research your community
- Step 2: Identify and map existing community leaders and networks
- Step 3: Connect with existing and emerging community leaders through community conversations





Workshops

- series of four, two-hour workshops
- designed to support community leaders to go from talk to action
- creates a 'community action plan'
- establishes working groups to deliver on agreed actions
- continued collaboration with council and agencies





Project Outcomes

Gumeracha community achieved 10 community led initiatives including:

- annual public preparedness & Rediplan event (52 attendees)
- community Psychological First Aid training
- local emergency calendar
- CFS cadets reinstallation
- upgraded town siren

Kangarilla community achieved 11 community led initiatives including:

- community administered facebook group
- public emergency information event (108 attendees)
- school emergency ambassadors group
- regular emergency preparedness articles in local newsletter
- local emergency calendar
- community notice board at post office

This presentation is strictly confidential and may not be reproduced.

Project outcomes.



Kangarilla Primary School students present at community emergency resilience event, Oct 2020

25

Community leaders

Across the project there were 25 active community leaders, from both communities, engaged in the project. Some stepped down at the end of specific projects due to other commitments, and others joined later in the project. The vast majority remained engaged throughout.

21

Community initiatives

21 initiatives were undertaken: 10 in Gumeracha and 11 in Kangarilla. There were additional initiatives listed and planned in each community, with 75 across both communities in total.

93%

Feel more connected

Across both communities, 93% out of 56 survey respondents reported feeling more connected to their community as a result of the project.

94%

Increased knowledge

Across both communities, 94% out of 56 survey respondents reported increased knowledge about what they should do in an emergency.

87%

Better prepared

Across both communities, 87% out of 56 survey respondents reported feeling better prepared to prepare for, respond to and recover from an emergency.



Participant Quotes

“The people of Kangarilla are doing the work in advance so they are prepared to make decisions and take action should an emergency arise, It’s amazing to see how the Kangarilla community has broadened its awareness about the various things that can happen in an emergency. There’s a lot of local knowledge held in the community and the project is capturing it for everyone’s benefit,”





Participant Quotes

“It can be challenging to galvanise a group of people to work towards the same goals, but community connectedness is at the heart of this program. Residents have a role to play just as much as the services that will come to assist in an emergency,”



This presentation is strictly confidential and may not be reproduced or circulated without the consent of the Australian Red Cross Society.



Gumeracha

CLER Leadership Group





Gumeracha outcomes: Community emergency prep event

23RD JULY 2020
7 PM - 8:30PM
GUMERACHA
TOWNHALL



COME TOGETHER TO LEARN AND SHARE WAYS TO
PREPARE FOR AN EMERGENCY
HEAR FROM AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS, CFS AND LOCALS

GUMERACHA TOWN HALL

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER!

RUN BY US | FOR US | ABOUT US

ATTEND IN PERSON OR LIVE ONLINE

PHONE FOR INFO: 08 8389 1711



Government of
South Australia



the power of
humanity





Gumeracha outcomes:

Emergency Resilience Event - July 2020

Community emergency preparedness event + meet & greet

- 52 people in attendance (right after our first covid lockdown)
- community members, farmers, CFS, & Red Cross presented
- Q&A at end of event





Gumeracha outcomes: Invitation to wider community

The Gumeracha Community-Led Emergency Resilience Project

What is the Gumeracha Community-Led Emergency Resilience Project?

In times of emergency, real community spirit shines through. This has happened repeatedly in Gumeracha with recent bushfires, COVID and other emergencies.

The Gumeracha Community-Led Emergency Resilience Project is an opportunity for local residents, community groups, businesses, council and emergency services to build on that community spirit and come together to discuss and plan how as a community we can: anticipate; prepare for; reduce the impact of; cope with; and recover from any emergency occurring within and around Gumeracha.

Why emergency resilience?

Australian communities have a long history of being affected by emergencies: extreme heat, bushfires, storms, cyclones and blackouts are just of the emergencies that can impact a community.

Communities who are better connected, knowledgeable about their risks and vulnerabilities and organised, are better placed to both minimise the impact of emergencies and recover better after they occur.

Get involved! Gumeracha Community Resilience Group

Community members who work, live and play in Gumeracha are invited to join us at our monthly meetings and community forums.

For more information please contact:

Janet Kelly 0428 891 286

Hans Liedig hans@hjl.com.au

Sarah Hunt 08 8408 0400

redcross.org.au follow us    

the
power of
humanity





Gumeracha outcomes: Psychological First Aid training



Understanding Psychological First Aid

For more information contact Red Cross in your state or territory.

Gumeracha Training

Date And Time:
Monday 22nd February
& 1st March 2021
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Location:
Torrens Valley Community
Centre
45 Albert Street
Gumeracha, SA 5233

Psychological first aid is an approach to helping people affected by an emergency, disaster or trauma, which aims to reduce initial distress, meet current needs, promote flexible coping and encourage adjustment.

Understanding PFA is a 4-hour face to face workshop designed to give participants an understanding of the principles of psychosocial support and how and when to provide psychological first aid.

Participants will learn:

- about the psychosocial impacts of crisis events and distressing situations
- how to identify common distress reactions
- how to help promote calm, safety, self-efficacy and connection, and instill hope
- how to provide Psychological First Aid using the 'Look, Listen, Link' principles
- how to look after themselves when in helping roles.

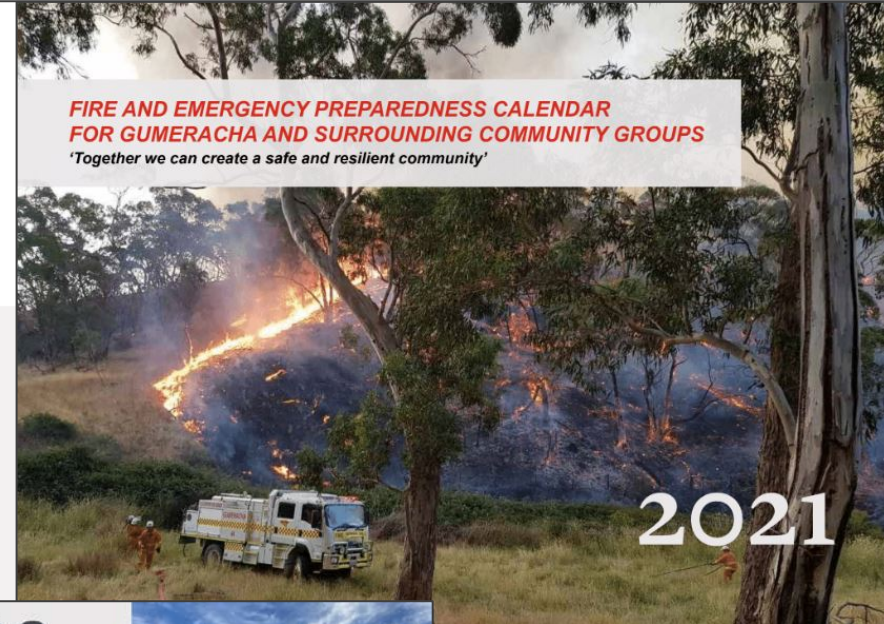
redcross.org.au follow us    





Gumeracha outcomes: Emergency Preparedness Calendar

Gumeracha's calendar working group was chaired by a CFS volunteer, so heavily featured bushfire preparedness, with some other hazards included.



03

While conditions in March can vary, usually some of the worst heat conditions begin to ameliorate. It is still important to stay alert, although grass fuels in paddocks may have reduced, our native vegetation will still be tinder dry. In addition, there are likely to be water shortages away from mains water.



Monthly activities:

- Review and revise the daily weather report and weekly watch.
- Provide additional accessible safe water for pets, livestock, and wildlife ensure containers include a float stick to prevent water from draining.
- Test your equipment. Use all the pumps and hoses for longer than a few minutes to check operation. Look for leaks and check the service of the fuel in external watercourse pumps.
- Ensure adequate hoses left in place safely.



March

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

© Bushfire Preparedness - Photo: Photo: © Shutterstock. All Rights Reserved. © Commonwealth - 131 444
 All Rights Reserved. © 131 444 Bushfire Preparedness - 131 444
 All Rights Reserved. © 131 444 Bushfire Preparedness - 131 444
 See back page for more emergency tips in help prepare your bushfire Survival Plan. Property Preparation and Emergency Preparedness.



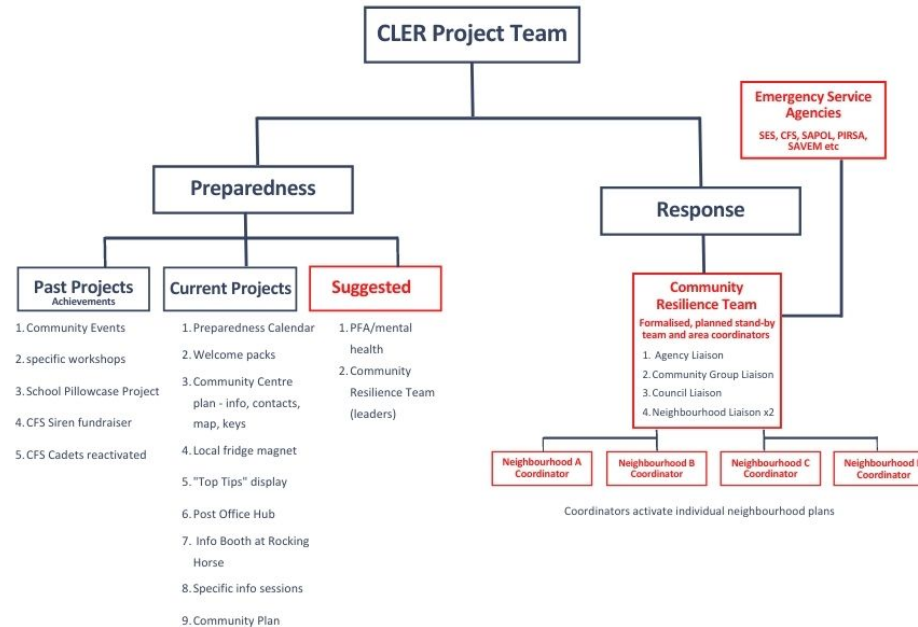
Gumeracha outcomes:

Governance model

Gumeracha decided to form an official group to provide governance and continue planning and implementing emergency resilience actions.

CLER Project Map

Community Led Emergency Resilience





Kangarilla

CLER Leadership Group





Kangarilla outcomes:

Emergency recovery plan

CLER leadership group members created a recovery plan for their community as one of their early actions.

Kangarilla Community Recovery Plan 2020

What is this Plan about?

The Kangarilla Community Recovery Plan is simply an aid to assist the people of Kangarilla to get life back to normal after an emergency impacts the area. This plan is for residents who form the community of Kangarilla

The plan has 4 key recovery messages

- *Recovery is about how we get back to normal*
- *We are in it together so we can get back on our feet.*
- *We are coordinated and responsive to the needs of our community.*
- *We do things safely to get the best possible outcomes.*





Kangarilla outcomes: Community emergency prep event

Community Led Emergency Resilience Event

**20/10/20
6-8.30PM**

**HELP US MAKE KANGARILLA
RESILIENT TO EMERGENCIES**

**WHAT WOULD AN
EMERGENCY IN
KANGARILLA MEAN
FOR YOU?**

- ✓ Get to know your neighbours
- ✓ Learn what emergencies could impact us
- ✓ Hear Stories from recent emergencies
- ✓ Hear from and ask the experts

**FREE SAUSAGE
SIZZLE**

**KANGARILLA PROGRESS
COMMUNITY HALL**

BOOK ONLINE:
kangaemergency-oct2020.eventbrite.com.au

For more information & assistance in booking
call Priah: 0414 289 271

**FAMILY
FRIENDLY
EVENT**

Supported by:
KANGARILLA PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION

CITY OF KANGARILLA

NSW GOVERNMENT 



Kangarilla outcomes:

Community emergency prep event October 2020

Community emergency preparedness event +
meet & greet

- 108 people in attendance
- 30 new homeowners from new development attended
- school students presented their "preparedness pillowcases"





Kangarilla outcomes:

Emergency resilience facebook group

Communications working group within CLER leadership group created a local facebook group to communicate important emergency preparedness messaging.



KANGARILLA
ESTABLISHED 1940
VOLUNTEERS
PROFESSIONALLY PROTECTING
OUR COMMUNITIES FOR LIFE

**KANGARILLA
COMMUNITY**
• EMERGENCY RESILIENCE GROUP •

We have created a new Facebook Group!
To learn more, join the Facebook Group and get your neighbours to join as well!

JOIN US! TOGETHER WE
ARE STRONGER!

[www.facebook.com/
groups/kangarillacommunity](http://www.facebook.com/groups/kangarillacommunity)

What is Community Emergency Resilience all about?
What we can do as a community to prepare ourselves better for an emergency.
What we can do together to return to normal after an emergency.

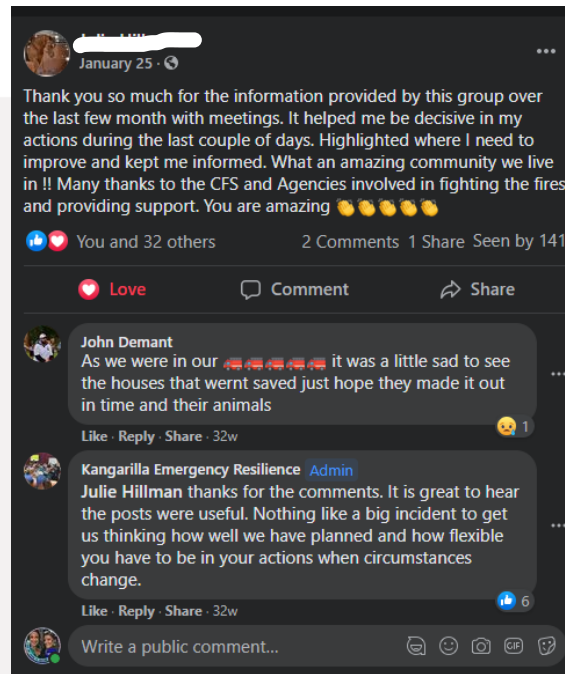
Supported by:
OTYRONKAFARINGA the power of humanity 

RUN BY US | FOR US | ABOUT US



Kangarilla outcomes: Facebook group help

Kangarilla Emergency Resilience
Facebook Group put to the test when
Cherry Gardens fire hit...

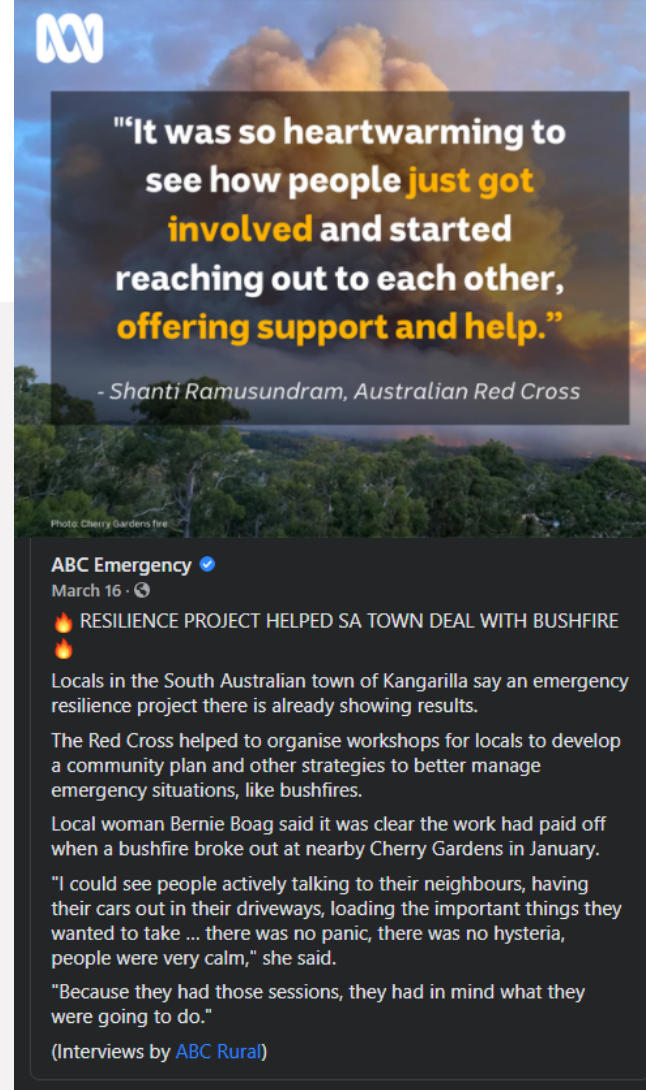




Kangarilla outcomes:

Media reports on project results

ABC media reporting on the organised local response when the Cherry Gardens fire reached the outskirts of Kangarilla.





Kangarilla outcomes: Emergency Preparedness Calendar

Kangarilla engaged the local school students to create artwork for the multi-hazard calendar.



Communication

CFS Alert App:
Keep up to date with events and incidents that may affect our community by downloading the CFS Alert App or accessing the CFS website.

Children and family:
Families should involve their children in planning and what to do in an emergency.

Neighbour's:
Neighbour's should look out for each other with seasonal changes, or accidents and keep in contact during an emergency.

Social Media:
Social media is a powerful communication tool in an emergency as phone networks may not be available or may become congested in some situations.

The Kangarilla Community Emergency Resilience Facebook Group is a great place to share information and keep up to date with events in an emergency. Join the group and please invite your neighbours or anyone else in the community.

November 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Every Friday night is Kangarilla Shop Take Away Night

Useful links:
CFS alert app: <https://alert.es.gov.au/>
CFS website: <https://www.cfs.nsw.gov.au/warnings-and-incidents/>
Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kangarillacommunity>



Evaluation Report

- Evaluation of project undertaken with participants of project, throughout and at end of project.
- Engaging participants in evaluation process in always challenging, effort required.
- Feedback received was overwhelmingly positive, with some revealing where more work is needed.
- Strong support for continuing this community led approach in emergency resilience work.



Community Led Emergency Resilience Project Evaluation Report

South Australia
March 2021





Lessons Learned

1. Public community event successes
2. Communicating project purpose and approach
3. Valuing effective monitoring and evaluation
4. A clear need for governance
5. Local government and agency support is critical
6. Challenges of reaching people at risk





What's Next

- Red Cross plan to expand our work in disaster resilience at a community level
- We are continuing to learn from and build on our work in this space in South Australia, as well as other states and territories (VIC and NSW)
- With ongoing funding from NAB, DRRG & local governments in South Australia, we have been able to continue this work in 15 + communities since the pilot





Australian Government

Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience



#ADRC21



Contact Details



Cristel Chambers & Shanti Ramasundram,
Community Development Project Officers, SA Emergency Services



cchambers@redcross.org.au
sramasundram@redcross.org.au



08 8100 4500

Thank you.



Australian
Red Cross



Resilience
NSW