

**Inaugural Community Safety Field Day.
Sunday 20th May 2007 at Stromlo High School Oval, Waramanga**

This event was an initiative of the Bushfire Community Development Network, formed after the 2003 Canberra bushfires and convened monthly by 'Communities@Work'.

This group represents fire affected urban and non urban communities and focuses on community development initiatives. A key issue to emerge is the need to educate and better prepare the community in the event of an emergency.

The objective of the Community Safety Field Day was to engage, educate and support the community in a practical but fun way about emergency issues to create a greater sense of community safety and preparedness. The day provided fun and interactive displays and activities that the whole family was able to participate in.

The Community Safety Field Day encompassed all aspects of an emergency from preparedness through to recovery and self healing. Participation in the Community Safety Field Day provided Neighbourhood Watch an opportunity for our organization to promote its services and contribute to developing safer communities.

The Community Safety Field Day was supported by the ACT Fire Brigade who used the event as a training exercise for the 30 Community Fire Units comprising 700 volunteers in Canberra. Community Fire Units trained in a diverse range of modules throughout the day.

Extract from the McLeod Report into the Operation Response to the January 03 Bushfires.

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One theme that runs through this report is the need for a greater involvement of the ACT community in helping itself with personal and property protection. This involves the authorities working in a closer partnership with the community, helping citizens to better understand the nature of the fire risks they face, what they can do about improving their personal and property protection, and what kind of assistance they can expect from government agencies

**Ursula Macdermott
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