



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 10 July 2009

YPRL Helps Bushfire Affected Share Stories Online

Yarra Plenty Regional Library is encouraging anyone with a story about the Black Saturday bushfires to share their stories and photographs at Mill Park Library from Monday 20 July to Sunday 26 July.

The library has set up a special area for the week where people can record their stories and upload photographs online on the Wikinorthia website with the help of Mill Park Library staff.

Local History and Genealogy librarian Liz Pidgeon says the goal is to record people's stories, no matter what their experience has been, surrounding the Black Saturday event. "It's important to record the event, as well as give people an opportunity to share their experiences — We're hoping that helping people share their stories will assist the healing process, since sharing stories of the bushfires is something psychologists recommend."

The library also has a list of questions to help prompt stories. Liz Pidgeon suggests when writing their experiences, people can consider things like where they were on the morning of Black Saturday, how they felt, what the first sign of danger was, and include descriptions of places as well as events, etc.

Wikinorthia has been designed to document life in the northern suburbs of Melbourne and is a partnership between Moreland, Darebin and Yarra Plenty Regional Library services. "Wikinorthia is an online depository to record and preserve people's stories and photos for the present and the future," Liz Pidgeon said.

Stories can be prepared at home and brought to the library on a USB key, entered using the library computers, or emailed to Liz Pidgeon at lpidgeon@yprr.vic.gov.au.

The Wikinorthia website can be accessed from any computer with Internet access at <http://www.wikinorthia.net.au>

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

- Please contact me on 9401 0755 to organise an appropriate time for pre-event photography.
- A Black Saturday story and photograph recorded on the Wikinorthia website is available for publication.

For further information:

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