



FLOOD NEWS FLASH

21st September 2023

Artwork by Natalie Davey

Stronger together: A Celebration Event

A reminder to save the date for the commemoration event in Fitzroy Crossing on Saturday 7th October, 2023 starting at 2:30pm. There will be live music, interactive stage shows, children activities, inflatable fun, a Dream Time Drone Sky Show and much more!

We want your flood-related photos to showcase how far we have come since Ex-TC Ellie and Associated Flooding. Send in your photos by scanning the QR code or see the Flood Hub staff for assistance.

SAT, OCT 7TH
2.30PM – 10.30PM

STRONGER TOGETHER

FITZROY CROSSING TOWN OVAL

LONG TABLE DINNER
River Bed of the Fitzroy – FX Rodeo Grounds

BREAKFAST ART EXHIBITION
FX Community Centre

BBALL COMP
Event Agencies – Old Fellas – Young people Exhibition Games

ALCOHOL FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY EXTRAVAGANZA
Catering – Live Music – Interactive Stage Shows – Roving Artists – Children and Youth Activities – Inflatable Fun – Art Workshops – Celebrity Chefs – Bush Tucker – Dream Time Drone Sky Show

Event Organiser: Peta Clavis - peta.clavis@sdvkwgwa.gov.au

SHARE YOUR STORIES THROUGH FLOOD-RELATED PICTURES

Stronger Together!

We would like to commemorate and celebrate how far we have come with the recovery West Kimberley after the impacts of EX-TC Elle and associated flooding. Please upload any related photos you would like to share.

If you need any assistance please see our friendly staff at the Flood Hub or call 9191 0904

UPCOMING EVENTS - SEPTEMBER

Event	Date
Flood Hub Markets - Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre	9am-11am, Saturday 23rd Sept
Community Open Mic Event	3:30pm-5:30pm, Thurs 28th Sept





Funding now available for environment, heritage and cultural projects

The state and federal governments this week released details of the latest round of funding to help the Fitzroy Valley community to build back better from the January floods.

The Environment, Heritage and Culture Assets Flexible Grants Program is targeted towards:

- Incorporated associations
- Prescribed bodies corporate
- Charities and non-for-profit organisations
- Primary producers
- Owners or operators of heritage sites
- Local governments
- Government agencies

If you fall into one of these groups, you can now apply for grants to support projects that clean-up, restore, recover from or monitor the long-term impacts to environment, heritage and cultural assets.

This new funding support presents a great opportunity to support on-Country activities that enable Traditional Owners to reconnect with Country that has been impacted by flooding.

The Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development will look after delivery of the program which offers grants in two categories:

- A small grant category between \$10,000 and \$100,000.
- A large grant category between \$100,001 and \$500,000.

Western Australia's Minister for Emergency Services, Stephen Dawson, said "Reconnecting with Country, undertaking clean-up and restoration of heritage and conservation sites and carrying out custodial responsibilities is critical to the wellbeing of Traditional Owners through the recovery."

The minister is encouraging eligible organisations to find out more by visiting www.emergency.wa.gov.au/recovery

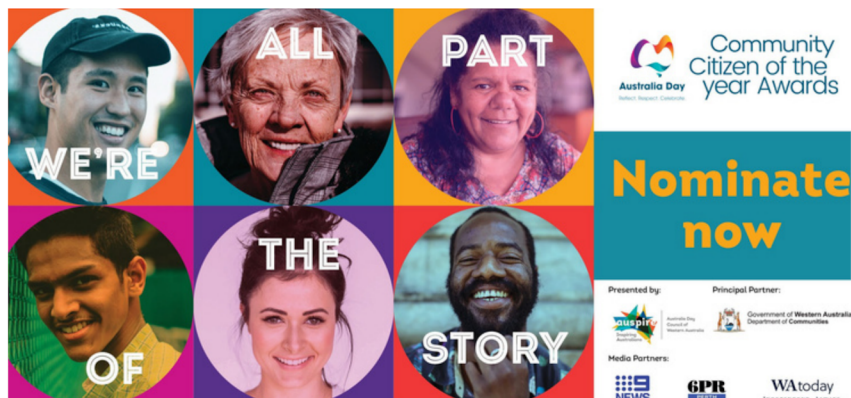
2024 Citizen of the Year Awards nominations open

Mark your calendars – The 2024 Citizen of the Year Awards, presented by Auspire - Australia Day Council WA, are just around the corner! These prestigious awards, supported by Local Governments across Western Australia, are all about celebrating the unsung heroes who make our communities thrive!

We're calling on individuals and groups from all walks of life to submit nominations. Diversity is our strength, and we strongly encourage nominations from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, women, young people, those living with disabilities, and people and groups from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Let's shine a spotlight on the incredible individuals and organisations that make the Shire of Derby West Kimberley a better place for all of us.

Submit your nomination today at <https://www.citizenshipawards.com.au/nominate/>



🌟 Award Categories 🌟

- Community Citizen of the Year (for individuals over 16 years)
- Young Community Citizen of the Year (for individuals aged 16-30 years)
- Senior Community Citizen of the Year (for individuals aged 65 years or over)
- Active Citizenship Award (for community groups or events)



Assembly of God Church in Fitzroy Crossing

Warren, along with his wife Sheena and son Thomas, has led Fitzroy Crossing's Assembly of God church since January 2005 although the church's roots date back to the early '90s. We touched base with them about the impact the floods had on the church, how they rebuilt and the support they received.



The floods affected us much like a lot of the residents. Initially we saw the water on the back fence and decided to have some fun in the river. However, when we got back we realised how high the water had come and started preparing. We moved furniture in the church despite not believing it would come up that high. The church endured 800mm of water damage, which led to extensive repairs, including new walls and rebuilt toilets. We also did upgrades due to wear and tear, such as electrical upgrades and the installation of industrial ceiling fans. We've still got a lot of work to do but it's slowly coming together.

When the floods happened, I sent out a video and letter to the churches around Australia that support us, which resulted in a significant amount of support from people we didn't even know. We received \$70 000 as well as people flying in to support us. We are extremely grateful for the help and support that we have received over this time, particularly John and Amanda from the hardware store in supporting our rebuild. They were extremely helpful in getting building supplies and being able to have things so close was amazing. Also, the Flood Hub keeping everyone aware of what has been going on and all the funding that we have received has really helped.

Looking back on it realising that we went through something significant and listening to other people's stories of what they went through was really devastating. We are used to helping and supporting people and not being able to do something to help was difficult emotionally. We do believe that through our belief and trust in God, He helps us to get through and that has been where we draw our strength from. Despite all the challenges, we hang on to our belief with everything we have.

Volunteer Firefighters recognised for outstanding efforts during the floods

Fitzroy Crossing Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services, who rescued more than 150 people during the Kimberley flood crisis, were honoured with the Firefighting Team Achievement Award at the 2023 DFES WA Fire & Emergency Services Awards on 9 September. The team were praised for their incredible bravery despite the extreme conditions that they worked in.



Above: Ian Cooksey Image by DFES

The Crossing's own Zoe Creach was also individually recognised for her contribution, winning the Firefighting Youth Achievement Award. At just 19 years of age, Zoe is no stranger to lending a hand, having been a member of the Crossing's VFES for three years. VFES captain Richard Oman said Zoe "has been a very valued member of the team", even when the call for help comes at 3am.



Above: Fitzroy Crossing Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services Image by DFES

Ian Cooksey was a well-deserving finalist in the Individual Achievement Award category for his standout contribution during the floods. Ian's local knowledge and compassion made him a local hero during and after the event, volunteering countless hours in rescue and recovery efforts.



Contact Information

Department of Communities Disaster Response Hotline

1800 032 965

Mental Health Help - Fitzroy Crossing

9166 1700

Mental Health Help - Derby

9193 3605

After Hours - Mental Health Support

1800 552 002

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Crisis Support (24/7)

13YARN (13 92 76)

Road Updates

- For information on road updates you can view the latest road report on the Shire of Derby West Kimberley website here: <https://www.sdwk.wa.gov.au/>
- For the latest travel advice on state roads, visit the Main Roads Travel Map at <https://travelmap.mainroads.wa.gov.au/Home/Map> or call 138 138
- For more information on Main Roads' Kimberley Flood Response, visit <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/travel-information/driving-in-wa/kimberley-flood-response/>

Kimberley Floods Recovery Information

For Kimberley Floods Recovery Information please visit www.emergency.wa.gov.au/recovery

Flood Hubs

Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre

4 Flynn Drive
8am-12 noon
Monday - Thursday
(08) 9191 0904

Broome Flood Help

Call 0476 897 424
If you're in Broome and
need help

Derby Housing Office

16-22 Loch Street
10am-2pm
Monday - Friday

Do you have a story to share or updates from your area? We want to hear from you! Contact us by phone (08) 9191 0999 or email media@sdwk.wa.gov.au

