

FLOOD NEWS FLASH

16th November 2023

Artwork by Natalie Davey

RECENT EVENTS

Remembrance Day 2023 - Fitzroy Crossing

On Saturday 11th, the team at Fitzroy Crossing held a Remembrance Day service at the Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre to remember those who have sacrificed for our freedom and peace. Many people gathered to pay their respects as part of the Remembrance Day Service and enjoyed a BBQ breakfast. To all that currently serve, have served and to those that are no longer with us, we say thank you. We will remember them. #RemembranceDay2023



UPCOMING EVENTS

Event

Date

Mixed Touch Football

Every Wednesday - 6pm - 7pm
Fitzroy Crossing Oval



Shire of Derby/West Kimberley Road Upgrades

The Shire of Derby/West Kimberley has been upgrading local roads in the Shire as part of the ongoing flood recovery.

There were 37 roads impacted as part of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie, as well as most orphan roads near those impacted roads.

In collaboration with Main Roads Western Australia, a significant number of roads leading into and within communities around the Fitzroy Valley have already been repaired. The Shire has supported Department of Communities to gain better access into the communities of Burawa, Bungardi, DarlNgunaya, Loanbun and Galeru Gorge.



Milligidee Access Road - 23.05.2023



Milligidee Access Road - 19.09.2023

In addition, the Shire has completed repairs on 9 other roads within the Shire, gaining access throughout the Gibb and other locations through the repair of major roads such as GNG-Gee Fully Rd, Camballin Rd and Leopold Downs Road. The timely repairs to these roads were facilitated by a flexible approach to accessing recovery funding under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The Shire is hoping to complete the repair of several other Shire Roads before Christmas.



Image courtesy of Main Roads

Under a joint working partnership with MRWA, SDWK have engaged local contractors to carry out grading works on a number of rural roads, including the Koorabye Access Road (pictured left). Works are planned to be completed by mid December.

Moving forward, the Shire will work with MRWA to develop a program of works for the maintenance and upgrade of access roads and internal roads in communities throughout the Fitzroy Valley.

These road projects will continue to provide opportunities for employment, business growth and contribute to the ongoing recovery efforts in rebuilding the Fitzroy Valley.



Looking Back on the Floods - Good News Stories: Ian Cooksey

My name is Ian Cooksey, I've been in Fitzroy about 5 years now. Fitzroy is a really great place, it's a great town and an awesome community to work and live.

This year was an odd one. No one expected it to be like this. The locals were talking about it being a big wet season and we had that big rain in November when the river started to flood. I think that was the first time that it had flooded before Christmas. Then Christmas came and a lot of people were out of town, it started to rain quite heavily and some tourists were getting stuck, people were expecting the flood but not as big as it was and people got really scared.



I think it might have been right on the 1st where the water was starting to come over the top of the banks and town was starting to get flooded. The community of Bungardi up the road contacted me and wanted to get some people out. We went out there by boat and that was the first time that anyone had gone into those communities by boat. One person wanted to come back into town with us, but everyone wanted to stay as it was the normal for them. It kicked off pretty hard after that point as people needed to be rescued out of their houses.

I was a DFES volunteer so we were running people out of houses in both DFES and people's own boats. It was fairly challenging doing the triaging of people ringing up as you had to prioritise different people's situation. I didn't get a lot of sleep as the phone rang all through the night with people stuck in their houses. Some of the people we couldn't even get to as we had to wait for the flood levels to go down.

At one stage we were running the boat back and forth and we saw a dog on the roof of the Inn and we couldn't get to it. It turned out it was a dog from Bungardi community and we took the family back out to the community and the same dog was there when we got back.

Getting people back into their houses after everything went down, most people hadn't seen their house in about 7 weeks. We physically took them back out there and the feelings were quite devastating for them as they actually realized they lost everything they owned, cars, clothing, all their belongings were either gone or damaged.

Now almost a year on, recovery is progressing. People are optimistic that things will get back up and running and we've had quite a few developments in the last few months.

The work that people have done, people have put in 100s of days and hours and its been a real community effort to help get the recovery underway was amazing.



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

