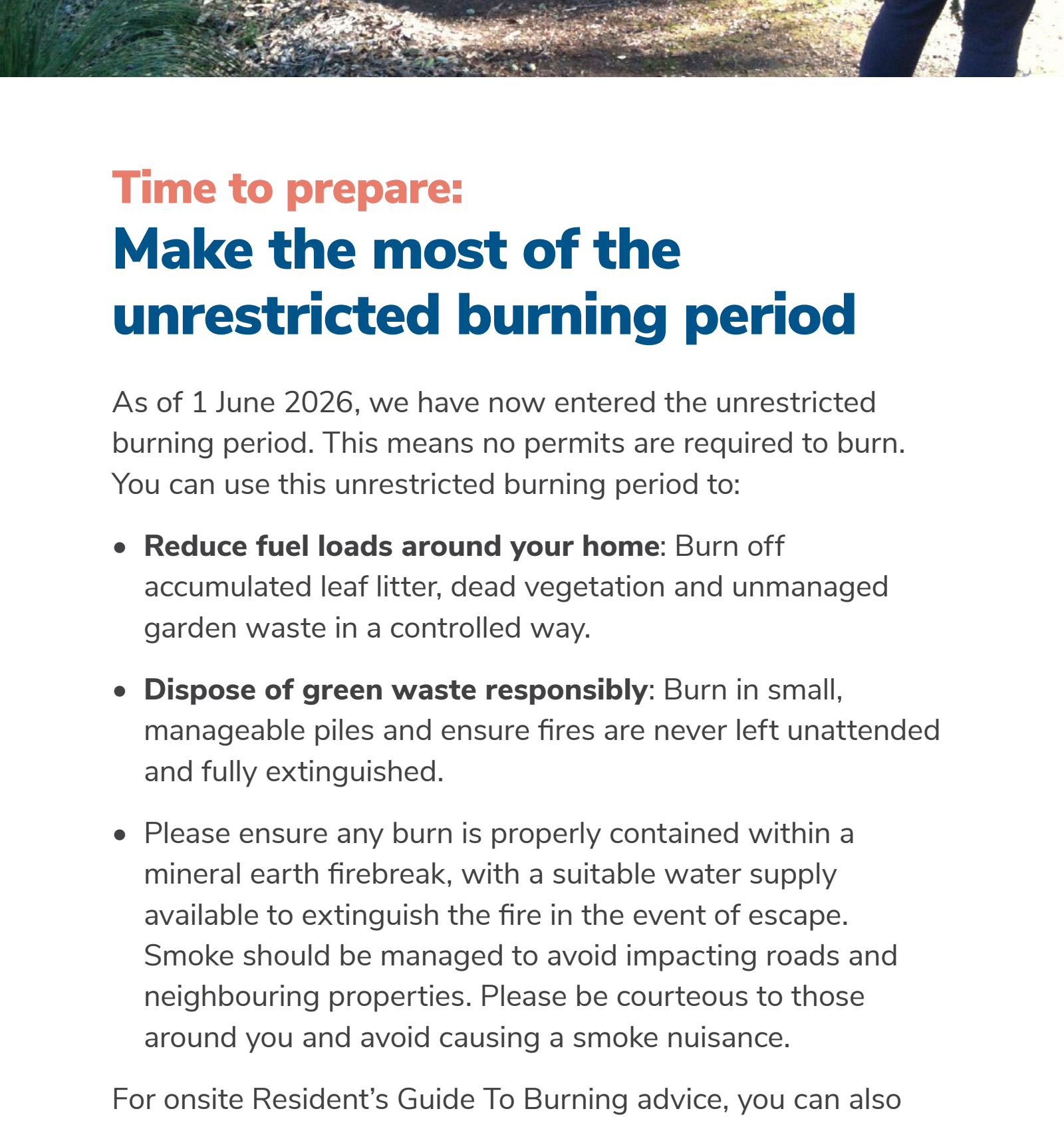


Safe Hills

Community Safety and Emergency Services



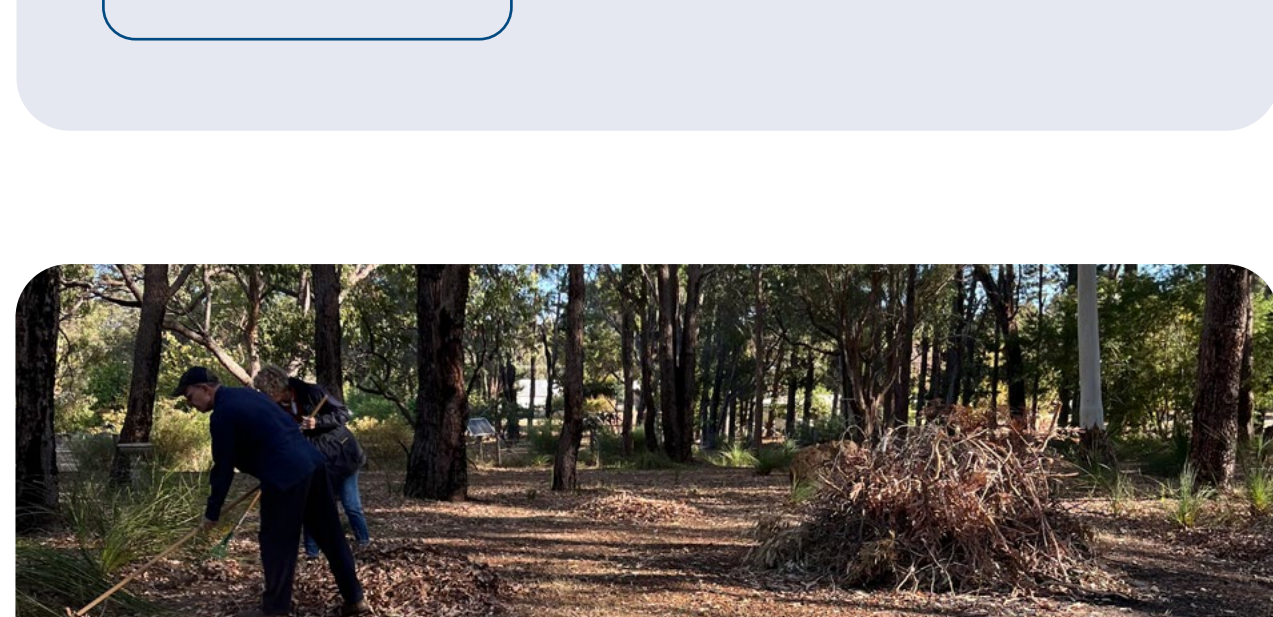
Time to prepare: Make the most of the unrestricted burning period

As of 1 June 2026, we have now entered the unrestricted burning period. This means no permits are required to burn. You can use this unrestricted burning period to:

- **Reduce fuel loads around your home:** Burn off accumulated leaf litter, dead vegetation and unmanaged garden waste in a controlled way.
- **Dispose of green waste responsibly:** Burn in small, manageable piles and ensure fires are never left unattended and fully extinguished.
- Please ensure any burn is properly contained within a mineral earth firebreak, with a suitable water supply available to extinguish the fire in the event of escape. Smoke should be managed to avoid impacting roads and neighbouring properties. Please be courteous to those around you and avoid causing a smoke nuisance.

For onsite Resident's Guide To Burning advice, you can also email via button below or call us on 9290 6696.

[Email us](#)



Beyond burning: Ongoing property maintenance matters

It is also the perfect time of the year to focus on property maintenance to be bushfire-ready for when the warmer months return. A little work now can save a lot more later. Here's some quick tips to prepare your home over the coming months:

- **Maintain Asset Protection Zones (APZs):** Clear and tidy areas immediately surrounding your home to reduce fire intensity and provide defensible space.
- **Prune trees and shrubs:** Remove overhanging branches, especially those close to roofs, walls and powerlines, and keep vegetation well spaced.
- **Check and maintain firebreaks:** Ensure firebreaks are cleared to required standards and accessible for emergency vehicles.
- **Inspect gutters, roofs and structures:** Clear debris from gutters and roofs to prevent ember ignition in the warmer months.
- **Test water sources and equipment:** Confirm hoses, pumps and tanks are working and accessible for emergency use.
- **Update your bushfire plan:** Use the quieter season to review emergency plans and ensure your household knows what to do.

For personalised onsite advice contact the Shire's Emergency Management Team via email button below or call 9290 6696.

[Email us](#)



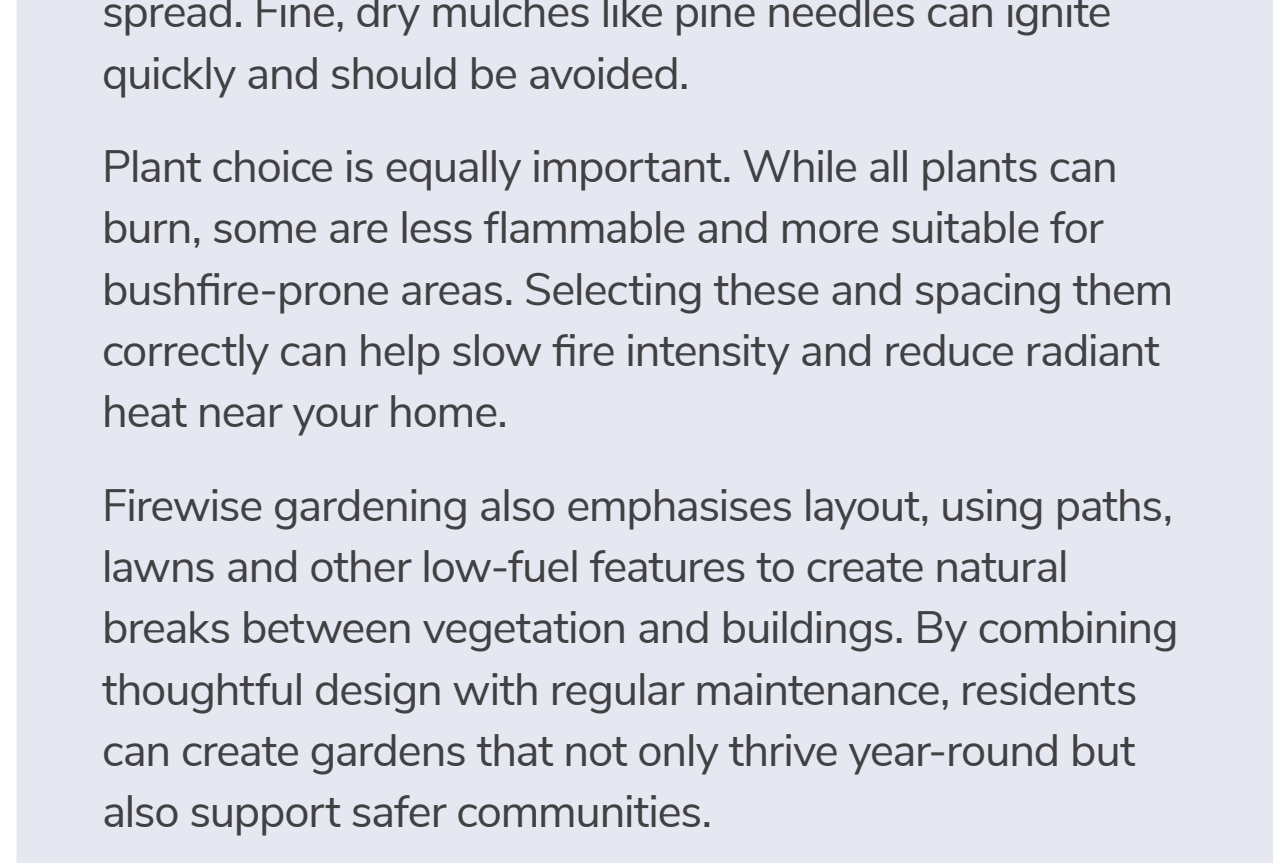
Smart burn piles: Safer practices for local wildlife

Creating burn piles is a practical way to manage green waste in rural and semi rural parts of the Perth Hills, but without care they can unintentionally harm wildlife such as quendas, echidnas and reptiles that shelter in leaf litter and branches.

The safest approach is to build and burn on the same day, preventing animals from settling in. If a pile has been sitting, rake it apart just before burning or gently disturb it with a long tool to encourage wildlife to move out. For larger or older piles, use a staged "small fire" approach, burning material gradually from one edge. Keep piles within recommended size limits (1m²) and maintain a cleared three metre buffer.

Before lighting, check the conditions. Do not burn on high or above fire danger days, avoid wind speeds over 15 km/h, notify neighbours, ensure sufficient water is readily available and wear protective clothing.

The unrestricted burning period began on 1 June, but due to a dry summer the deeper ground layers may still be dry and hold heat. Burns can therefore smoulder and escape unexpectedly and rain does not always make it safe so the burn requires constant supervision. Ensure you fully extinguish the pile and continue checking the area for heat or smoke after the burn. If wildlife is injured, call the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055.



Winter Home Fire Safety: Simple Steps to Stay Safe

As temperatures drop, the risk of house fires increases, with heating appliances and indoor activities becoming more frequent. However, most home fires are preventable and you can reduce your risk with simple maintenance and safe habits.

A key priority is ensuring your smoke alarms are working. Smoke alarms must be in good working order, correctly installed and no more than 10 years old. Test them regularly and replace batteries or the unit if needed. Only a functioning alarm can provide the early warning needed to escape safely.

When using heaters and fireplaces, keep anything flammable at least one metre away and never leave heaters running unattended or overnight. Heating systems are a leading cause of winter fires, often due to poor maintenance or incorrect use.

It's also important to inspect and clean chimneys and flues before use. Built-up soot and debris can ignite, increasing the risk of chimney fires.

Finally, take time to check electrical appliances, avoid overloading power boards and switch off items when not in use. Pair this with a practiced home fire escape plan to ensure everyone knows what to do in an emergency.

By staying proactive this winter, you can keep your home warm and safe. Check out the DFES website for more ways to protect your home.

[Tips to protect your home this winter](#)



Creating firewise gardens in the Perth Hills

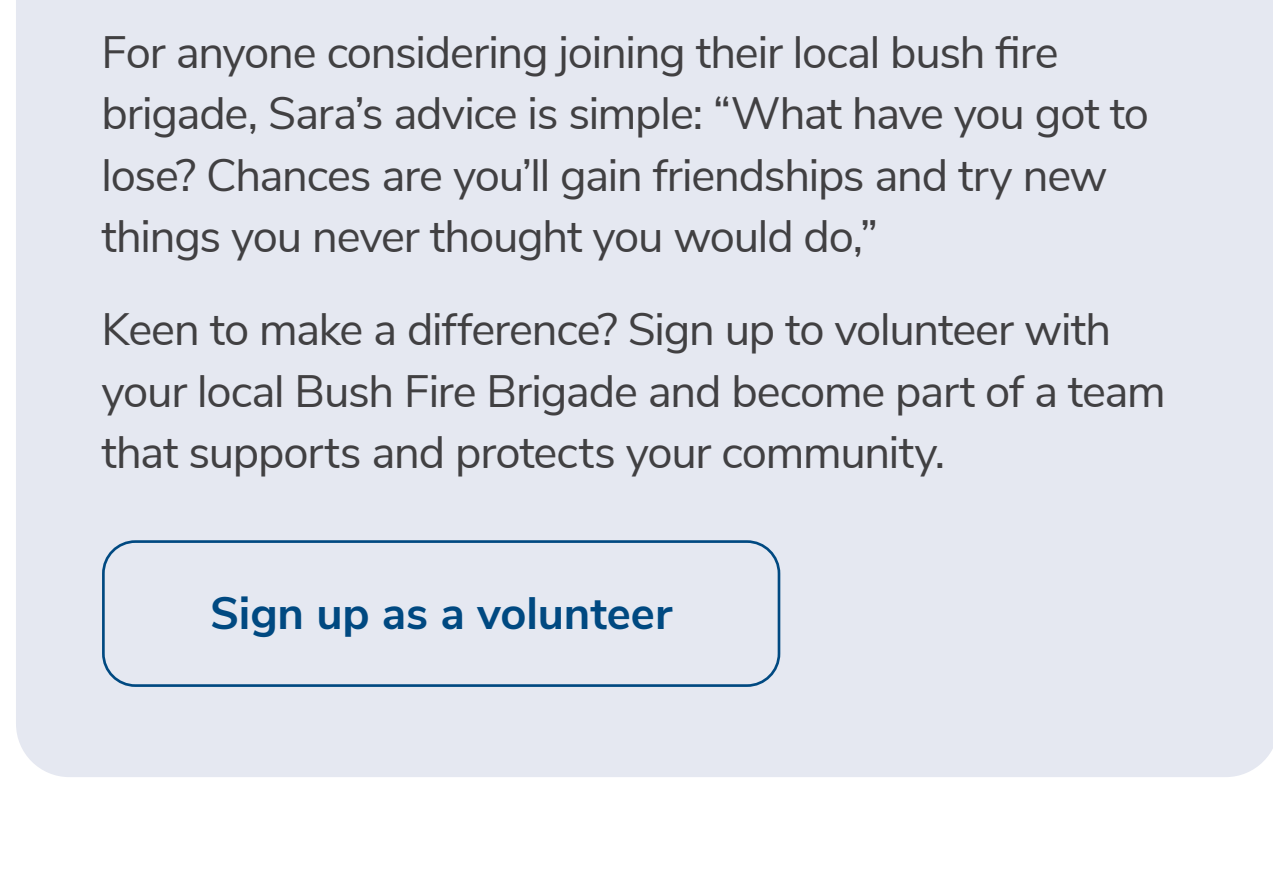
It's a great time of the year for planting, and in a bushfire-prone landscape like the Perth Hills, your garden can play a powerful role in protecting your home. Firewise gardening focuses on smart design, plant selection and ongoing maintenance to help reduce bushfire risk while still creating a healthy, attractive outdoor space.

A key starting point is mulch. While mulching supports soil health and water retention, not all mulch is equal. Within your Asset Protection Zone (APZ), opt for non-combustible materials such as gravel or stone. When organic mulches are used, they should be used kept moist, limited in size and well-separated to reduce fire spread. Fine, dry mulches like pine needles can ignite quickly and should be avoided.

Plant choice is equally important. While all plants can burn, some are less flammable and more suitable for bushfire-prone areas. Selecting these and spacing them correctly can help slow fire intensity and reduce radiant heat near your home.

Firewise gardening also emphasises layout, using paths, lawns and other low-fuel features to create natural breaks between vegetation and buildings. By combining thoughtful design with regular maintenance, residents can create gardens that not only thrive year-round but also support safer communities.

[Check out our firewise plants list](#)



Honouring Local Bushfire Brigade Volunteers

Former Shire of Mundaring Councillor Colin James and local resident Emeritus Professor Mark Bush have been recognised in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours for their outstanding contributions to our community.

Mr James received the Australia Fire Service Medal (AFSM) for distinguished service as a member of an Australian fire service, recognising more than four decades of volunteer service in emergency management, bushfire preparedness and community safety.

Mr James began volunteering with the Darlingford Bush Fire Brigade in 1980 and has held numerous leadership positions throughout his service, including captain and lieutenant. He remains an active member of the brigade's Fire Support Group.

Emeritus Professor Mark Bush was also appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his significant service to engineering, tertiary education and his significant contribution to the local community through his long-standing involvement with the Parkerville Volunteer Bushfire Brigade. Professor Bush has volunteered at the Brigade since 2013 and continues to serve as a Lieutenant and Fire School Trainer.

Their achievements reflect an extraordinary commitment to making a positive difference, and we are proud to see their contributions recognised at a national level

Celebrating 30 Years of Community Safety and Training

The Mundaring Firefighters School has reached a significant milestone, celebrating 30 years of operation and dedication to community safety. Established in 1996, the school has trained an estimated 9,000 volunteers in bushfire response and emergency skills, strengthening the region's resilience over three decades.

The anniversary was marked last month with a special event recognising the vital role of volunteers and trainers. A commemorative plaque was unveiled, and attendees gathered to reflect on the school's impact and shared commitment to protecting the community.

Shire President Paige McNeil said the anniversary reflects the strength of local partnerships and the commitment of volunteers.

"The Shire of Mundaring spans a large bushfire prone area in the Perth Hills, where preparedness and training are essential to community safety," President McNeil said. "Our community is safer because of the dedication of our volunteers and trainers who have supported the Mundaring Firefighters School over the past three decades."

The milestone highlights not only the school's long-standing contribution to keeping residents safe, but also the dedication of those who continue to support emergency services.

Volunteer Spotlight Sara Hartshorn-Feist

Sara Hartshorn-Feist has been a valued member of the Glen Forrest Bush Fire Brigade for just over three years, driven by her passion for helping others and a strong connection to her local area near John Forrest National Park.

Starting out in recruitment, Sara encouraged others in the community to volunteer, and this year she stepped into the role of Lieutenant—an honour she is proud to hold as part of the brigade's leadership team.

For Sara, the most rewarding part of volunteering is the strong sense of camaraderie, trust and friendship within the team, along with the opportunity to give back to the community. The highlight of her volunteering journey also includes the community events like the Christmas Santa Runs, where seeing the smile on the kid's faces makes it all worthwhile.

For anyone considering joining their local bush fire brigade, Sara's advice is simple: "What have you got to lose? Chances are you'll gain friendships and try new things you never thought you would do."

Keen to make a difference? Sign up to volunteer with your local Bush Fire Brigade and become part of a team that supports and protects your community.

[Sign up as a volunteer](#)

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