



For immediate release
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Operation Saving Lives aims to educate Central Coast kids about fire safety

Local children, youth and adults will soon have an opportunity to learn about fire safety and prevention thanks to *Operation Saving Lives*, an interactive community initiative supported by the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation.

Run by community minded volunteers with fire safety knowledge, the program will operate out of a donated Red Bus Services bus and feature a house simulator and learning space to teach participants about everyday household fire hazards.

Wallarrah 2 Community Foundation provided a \$5,000 grant to help with the development of the simulator, including the funding of a generator, smoke machines, wiring and supporting audio-visual equipment.

Retired Firefighter Chris Wallace, said that Wallarah 2 Community Foundation's grant has played a vital role in developing a more interactive and professional program for participants to enjoy.

"Previously, we were utilising a plastic cubby house and simulator that I had built on a trailer. Our new set up will be much more spacious and hands on, increasing opportunities for education.

"The response from the community so far has been fantastic – there are many local organisations that have approached us with wanting us to bring the bus to their events already. We are really excited to roll out the program, as soon as we finalise work on the bus.

"Without the support and assistance of Wallarah 2's grant program we would not have been able to even think about commencing this important project for the community. We are most grateful for the support that they have given us. Without their support, we would definitely have not been able to do this," added Mr Wallace.

Peter Smith, Community Manager of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project said that projects such as *Operation Saving Lives* are essential for the wellbeing and safety of our community.

"This initiative has been led by a group of passionate volunteers who are committed to educating our community about household fire dangers and what to do if a house fire occurs.

"By helping community members identify these hazards, we are working to create a safer Wyong Shire and potentially preventing serious injury or death. We wish *Operation Saving Lives* all the best as they finalise this important project," added Mr Smith.

A total of 14 grants were awarded to community initiatives that benefit the Wyong Shire LGA as part of the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation 2015 grant process. The 2016 Community Foundation grant program is now open for applicants. For further information, please visit www.wallarrah.com.au.

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For more information or interviews contact Katey Small at Brilliant Logic:
ksmall@brilliantlogic.com.au | 02 4324 6962 | 0422 639 093