



21/11/2010

Dear Parents and Guardians

Re: Wollangarra Vehicle Accident

As you may be aware, on the afternoon of Tuesday 16/11/2010, a Wollangarra four wheel drive carrying nine students crashed on the Moroka Rd. The students were on their way to a three day hike in one of the most beautiful parts of the Victorian High Country.

One of the students sustained serious injury and is currently being treated in the Royal Childrens' Hospital. The thoughts of the Wollangarra Council, staff and community are with the family at this difficult time and we send our best wishes for recovery. Our thoughts are also with the other students and their families who have been involved in this traumatic event.

Safety of young people is Wollangarra's primary objective. As such, Wollangarra is treating this accident with the utmost seriousness. The organisation dedicates enormous effort and significant resources to preventing incidents and being adequately prepared to respond in the unfortunate event of an accident.

Wollangarra has detailed operations manuals that are updated regularly and accredited by the Australian Camps Association. Staff and directors spend the first months of every year completing relevant training in Wollangarra operations. Recognising the remote nature of our courses, staff members receive external training in four-wheel driving and Wilderness First Aid. Wollangarra's equipment, including vehicles and remote communications, are selected and maintained according to industry best practice.

In responding to the four wheel drive accident, staff implemented the Wollangarra emergency response plan. This resulted in the mobilisation of many aspects of the emergency services, including Helimed, Ambulance Victoria, SES, Victoria Police and CFA. Wollangarra is cooperating with relevant authorities to better understand the circumstances of the accident.

The Wollangarra Council met on Sunday 21/11/2010 to review the situation. This included consideration of the emergency response plan and other relevant operations. This review will be completed once the findings from relevant authorities are known.

Wollangarra has been operating for 21 years, surviving fire and flood, with this being the first incident of such significance. We are committed to working through this with our schools and community to ensure that Wollangarra continues to provide programs for young people for many years to come.

Thank you for your support and understanding at this difficult time.

Yours faithfully

Ross Richards
Chair, Wollangarra Council