

Friday 29th May 2009***Information for communities of Barfold / Baynton /
Glenhope / Redesdale / Sidonia*****INFORMATION****RECOVERY**

Firewood for fire-affected residents: you can cut firewood this week on 29th and 30th May, at 1915 Redesdale Road, just north of the Barfold Hall. This wood was stacked there when the main road was cleaned up. Some wood has been removed by CFA for fundraising; and the remainder is available to fire-affected residents. Bring chainsaw and trailer and protective clothing. *[apologies for short notice; we will give more warning of the next opportunity.]* Call Elaine on 54 234 156 for more info.

New fencing opportunity through Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA). Conservation Volunteers Australia has funding from the Community Enterprise Foundation of the Bendigo & Adelaide Bank to provide volunteers and fencing material to landholders in the Redesdale Fires area. You have to organise the strainer post/end assemblies – and then the CVA provides labour and fencing wire. To take up this offer, you need an expression of interest form from Ken Beasley, CVA, 0427 533 028, or fax 5444 0288, or kbeasley@cva.org.au, or from Karl – see next paragraph.

Fencing Co-ordinator for Redesdale Fire Area: Karl Metcalf has been appointed by the Victorian Farmers' Federation as Area Fencing Co-ordinator, until late August 09. A steady flow of volunteers continues to be available, but there is a need for people with skills to supervise the installation of end assemblies/strainer posts. If you have fencing materials and need labour, or if you can offer fencing skills, please contact Karl on 54 234 132 or 0437 27 40 50. If no reply, leave a message and Karl will get back to you.

\$300 per household from Redesdale Fire Fundraiser: the deadline has been extended to Friday 5 June. If you are yet to claim your \$300, please contact Simone: 0421 458 891.

The Community Recovery Committee (CRC) met on Wednesday 27th May, and was attended by 14 residents and 12 others, including Pam Williams, Director of the Bushfire Recovery Unit at DHS in Melbourne, and Cr Henderson of the Coliban Ward of Mount Alexander Council. ***Some donations for fire recovery are held by Mount Alexander Council. The CRC is seeking ideas on what this money is to be spent on, and seeking residents to form a working group to decide on allocation. If you want to be involved in this group, or want more information and minutes of the CRC meetings, and its Working Groups, please call Ian on 5422 0337.***

Mosaic tile mural for the Redesdale fire memorial: details of this project are on the coloured flier on page 3. You are invited to contribute in some way. The mural will be made up of tiles with a dark or light grey background and a gum leaf motif. A

darker background represents people who had greater fire damage. The gumleaf cavity is to be filled with contributions of china or glass from you, and each tile in this project will be as visually unique as every individual home in a community is.

Distorted finds of china or glass will become a permanent part of the tile mural on the north side of the Shire Hall in Kyneton. If you lost your home, or the fire burned sheds and outbuildings, you can provide glass or ceramic pieces to go in the middle of the tile. For more information on how you can be involved, please call Kathryn Portelli, memorial project manager, on 5423 5281 or 0407 887 498.

Why not write for the Rural Women's Network magazine? The Autumn 2009 edition is available at Barfold Hall. This excellent publication is a good read for men and women in rural areas. The next edition will focus on ***Beyond the Bushfires*** and they are seeking women to write about their stories and experiences for publication. This edition will contribute to the healing process as communities begin the task of rebuilding. Deadline for articles is 19th June 2009 and details are on the back page of the Autumn edition. Please call Philippa Calwell [5471 1744], if you would like the magazine posted to you.

Storyboard: a website to encourage story telling about the fires: Storyboard is a safe place to archive your precious images and record local histories. www.rav.net.au/storyboard

ASSISTANCE and INFORMATION:

For more help on grants and services, please contact your Case Manager/Key Contact Worker at the Community Health Services in Castlemaine [5479 1000] and Kyneton [5421 1666].

- **Winter Needs Payment:** The \$2000 grants will go into the bank accounts of anyone who applied for Rebuilding and Recovery grants Bushfire Appeal Fund, and householders who received National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. If you have not applied for or received a Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund grant or that believe that you may be eligible for the \$2000 grant, contact 1800 180 213, or your Case Worker/Key Contact Worker.
- **Stephen Ryan**, Rural Services Officer from Centrelink, continues to attend at Barfold Hall on Thursday mornings 10am – 12. Stephen can provide information about financial assistance that is available, answer questions and assist in making applications. It is not necessary to make an appointment. Stephen is also available for home visits and can be contacted on 5430 5941 or 0414 947 602. And Centrelink's "**Drought Bus**" is in Heathcote on 1st June, 10 to 4.30, at the RSL Hall, 127 High St. Heathcote.
- Do you need a **Statutory Declaration** signed? Case Manager, Wendy Droney, is a JP and can sign Statutory Declarations at Barfold Hall on Thursday mornings, 10am-12noon.

Planning approvals process contacts:

- Mount Alexander: Ray Christy - Tel. 5471 1762 / 0428 129 697, and fax: 5471 1749;
- City of Greater Bendigo contacts: Peter Hargreaves - 5434 6441; Jim Banfield – 5434 6344; Mitchell Shire - 5734 6200 - ask for any planning or building staff;
- Macedon Ranges Shire – 5422 0333 - ask for any planning or building staff.

WORKING GROUPS:

- **Community Wellbeing:** The group meets fortnightly at Barfold Hall. The next meeting is on Thursday 4th June. For more details contact Susan on 5434 5514 or 0400 054 971
- **Fencing:** The main need is for people with skills and equipment to put in end assemblies. If you can help, Karl on 54 234 132 or 0437 27 40 50. The Group meets again on **Tuesday 2nd June**, 12.30pm, at Barfold Hall.
- **The Economic Development** working group has been formed. This group will liaise with local and state economic development staff to access support for businesses who are recovering from the fires. For more information, contact Lee on 54 253 101.

