

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**The Community Planning Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August** is a unique and important opportunity for the community to have an influence on the recovery process following the fires. **Christine Nixon** will be in attendance. The plan will be created by people affected by the fire - whether your property was damaged by the fire or not, and will shape recovery activities in the fire-affected area and the surrounding region. The day will build on work already done by the Community Recovery Working Groups (social, economic, fences/buildings and environment).

The planning day will be run by an experienced facilitator who has already worked with some of the communities worst affected by the February fires. Delicious food available, so RVSP to Melissa Fowler at Mount Alexander Council on 54 711 786, or email [m.fowler@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:m.fowler@mountalexander.vic.gov.au) Please tell us any special dietary or other needs.

**Counselling Support:** A variety of counselling and support services are available for people affected by the bushfire (see flier attached to this newsletter). Please note that counsellors through ATAPS (Allied Psychological Services) are working from Castlemaine District Community Health Service (CHIRP) and Cobaw Community Health Service in Kyneton. You can access this service through the Case Managers at CHIRP (5479 1000) or Cobaw (5421 1666) or your GP can make a referral.

***The service is free and gives you access to an unlimited numbers of sessions.***

**Dinner at the Bendigo Community Reference Group:** residents of the Redesdale fire-affected area are invited to dinner with the Community affected by the Long Gully/Eaglehawk fires. Two course meal with entertainment and drinks available at bar prices. The dinner will at the **Bendigo and District RSL**, Havilah Rd., Long Gully on **7 August at 6:30pm.**

**RSVP** by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Aug to Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre on 5442 1165.

**Local Government Support for the Recovery Process:** local Councils are the first line of response in emergencies and four Councils have been working closely together on the Redesdale fires. Initially, Macedon Ranges Shire provided resources to employ a Fire Recovery Officer. For this financial year, that role moves to Mount Alexander Council. Ian Lillington and Kirra Litchfield start work at Mount Alexander on 4<sup>th</sup> August. Welcome to Kirra who comes with existing emergency management experience. More details and contact information will be provided in the next newsletter.

The current mobile number – 0417 147 058 – will continue in use.

**The Community Recovery Committee (CRC)** met on 29<sup>th</sup> July. Minutes are available on request. The CRC is the place that decisions are made about the way that money and resources are used. The CRC also hears reports from the Fencing, Well-being and Economic Working Groups. If you want to raise an issue but can't attend, please contact Ian Lillington on 0417 147 058.

**Fencing Working Group:** met on 28<sup>th</sup> July. The next meeting is Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 12.30 at Barfold Hall – all welcome. A tractor and post driver from Department of Primary Industry is now in use, and teams from CVA, Corrections and other volunteers are braving the cold wet weather. If you need **help with fencing**, please call Karl Metcalf on 54 234 132 or 0437 27 40 50.

### **ASSISTANCE and INFORMATION:**

**Did you lose a sheep dog** in the fires? The DPI had some kelpie puppies available – contact Trevor Pollard on 0408 34 55 79 or [Trevor.Pollard@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:Trevor.Pollard@dpi.vic.gov.au)

**FREE Food Handler's Certificate training session in Redesdale** on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August from 10am – 1pm at the Redesdale Hall. This session is open to all – workers and volunteers alike – however there are some registration documents required. Bookings can be made to Berni Campbell of the excellent Bridge Connection on [willbernhouse@yahoo.com.au](mailto:willbernhouse@yahoo.com.au) or Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns, Mount Alexander Shire Council, 5471 1807

**CLEAN UP REGISTER CLOSING:** new arrangements will be put in place from 7<sup>th</sup> August for those remaining people wanting their property cleared or who are seeking a reimbursement for clearing costs. From that time, the Authority and Grocon will manage any remaining property clean-ups on a case-by case basis. To arrange this, people will need to ring the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

**NEW REFERRAL CARD FOR BUSHFIRE AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS:** a new blue referral card will be supplied to bushfire-affected households. The card will begin to be mailed out in coming days, so look out for them in early August. The card will ensure those who need access to material aid can continue to do so. They will be posted along with a comprehensive guide of useful contact information – including telephone numbers for community service hubs, material aid, donations, the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, local councils and the Rebuilding Advisory Centres. For more see [www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au](http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 240 667.

**Case Managers/Key Contact Workers** are available at Barfold Hall on Thursdays, from 10am – 12 noon; including a Justice of the Peace if you need documents to be signed by a JP.

**Salvation Army support:** The Salvation Army are available at Barfold Hall on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>, from 10am – 12 noon; with a range of vouchers and assistance available. The same service is available at the Salvos in Castlemaine on Fridays from 9am – 12 noon.

***Back copies of these newsletters are now available on the following web-pages:***

[http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page\\_Id=754&h=0](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=754&h=0) and

[http://www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page\\_Id=1961&h=0](http://www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=1961&h=0)

