

## BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

# Redesdale Fire Community Recovery Update No 22

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2009

INFORMATION for communities of Barfold, Baynton, Glenhope, Redesdale and Sidonia

**Christine Nixon** will attend the **Community Planning Day** next Saturday, **15<sup>th</sup> August**, at Barfold Hall. Ms Nixon will launch the memorial mosaic project at 10.45am, and will address the workshop and answer questions between 11am and 12 noon. Please arrive at 10.30 for morning tea. The rest of the day [until 4pm] is a workshop for people affected by the fire, and will shape recovery activities in the fire-affected area and the surrounding region. The plan created on 15<sup>th</sup> August will be the starting point for allocating money and resources to the long term recovery work.

A delicious hot lunch and children's activities will be provided, 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 needs and if you want to bring your children, let us know names and ages. Thanks.

**New Donations system via VBRRA:** These donations are for anyone who has received a grant, or is eligible to receive a grant, through the Victorian Bushfire Appeals Fund. A "Useful Contact Guide" is being mailed out to bushfire-affected households. Page 8 has information about accessing donations, mainly from business donors. If you have questions, you can contact your Case Manager. If you don't have a case manager, you're welcome to contact the Co-ordinator directly - Stephanie Wigan, 0400 350 808, or [stephanie.wigan@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:stephanie.wigan@dpc.vic.gov.au). Steph will be available for appointments on most Thursday mornings at Barfold Hall from 10am to 12noon.

**Soup for Lunch this Thursday [13<sup>th</sup> Aug.]:** please join the Case Managers/Key Contact Workers at Barfold Hall on Thursday, from 10am – 12 for any questions you have, or over a bowl of soup from midday until 1pm.

**New fire-recovery staff at Mount Alexander:** Ian Lillington and Kirra Litchfield started work at Mount Alexander on 4<sup>th</sup> August. Kirra will usually work three days per week, and Ian four days. Our contact details are as follows: land line - 54 711 821 [i.lillington@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:i.lillington@mountalexander.vic.gov.au), [k.litchfield@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:k.litchfield@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)  
Ian mobile [as before] - 0417 147 058, Kirra mobile - 0429 388 167.

Kirra writes: "Hi, my name is Kirra Litchfield, Volunteer Development Worker with the Redesdale Fire recovery process. I have just moved here from East Timor where I worked as a Community Development Worker with local government. I am really looking forward to meeting all of the community members and supporting your fantastic efforts."



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

**MEN'S HEALTH MATTERS:** an informative, interactive and fun session of men's rural health, Monday 24 August 2009, 6.00pm - 8.00pm, Redesdale Hall. **A free meal will be provided.** An opportunity to meet one of Australia's leading experts in rural men's health - Peter Strange who has been a pioneer in pursuit of men's health. **Bookings essential** (for catering purposes) **on 5434 6464** by Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August.

**Fencing Working Group:** 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.

**Well-being working group:** next meeting is Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 1pm at Barfold Hall – all welcome. For information about this group, please call Susan Davie on 5434 5514.

### **ASSISTANCE and INFORMATION:**

**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.***

**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.

***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)

