

**BUSHFIRE
RECOVERY**

Redesdale Fire Community Recovery Update No 23

Thursday 13th August 2009

Community Planning Day this Saturday, 15th August, at Barfold Hall from 10.30

Please attend this important and unique event. It is your best opportunity to influence the next steps of the recovery process.

Arrive at 10.30 for morning tea, or at any time after if you can't make 10.30.

Christine Nixon [head of VBRRRA] will launch the memorial mosaic at 10.45am, talk with fire-affected residents and answer questions from 11am.

A delicious hot lunch and children's activities will be provided, *but you must book these; so please call Ian or Kirra on 54 711 821, or 0417 147 058* {SMS is fine too}

The rest of the day [from 1pm until 4pm] is a workshop for people in the fire-affected area, including the wider community. This workshop will shape recovery activities in the fire-affected area and the surrounding region. The plan created on 15th August will be the starting point for allocating money and resources to the long term recovery work.

Please tell us any special dietary needs and if you want to bring your children, let us know names and ages.

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



COMMUNITY RECOVERY COMMITTEE

The next CRC meeting is at 5pm at Barfold Hall on 19th August. Refreshments are available from 4.45pm. This meeting will work on the results of the Planning Day held on 15th August.

Fencing Working Group: Thanks to David Stammers who led the McIvor Neighbourhood House team during the tough winter months. We wish him well in his new endeavours.

If you need **help with fencing**, please call Karl Metcalf on 54 234 132 or 0437 27 40 50. A tractor and post driver from Department of Primary Industry is now in use, and teams from CVA, Corrections and other volunteers are making good progress.

ASSISTANCE and INFORMATION:

Salvation Army and Case Managers will be at Barfold Hall on Thursday 20th August from 10-12. Please feel free to drop in for a range of services and vouchers.

New Donations: donated goods are available to 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 or the Donations Co-ordinator - Stephanie Wigan, 0400 350 808, or stephanie.wigan@dpc.vic.gov.au. Steph will be available for appointments on most Thursday mornings at Barfold Hall from 10am to 12noon.

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 20th August.

Counselling Support: A variety of counselling and support services are available for people affected by the bushfire. Counsellors 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 20th 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 or Jacqueline Brodie-Hanns, Mount Alexander Shire Council, 5471 1807

Fire-recovery staff at Mount Alexander:

land line: 54 711 821; **Mobiles:** Ian: 0417 147 058, Kirra - 0429 388 167.

Email: i.lillington@mountalexander.vic.gov.au ; k.litchfield@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

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 and

http://www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=1961&h=0

