

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

Redesdale Fire Community Recovery Update No 25

Thursday 3rd September 2009

WORKING GROUPS and COMMUNITY RECOVERY COMMITTEE {CRC}

The next CRC meeting is this Wednesday [9th September] at 6pm at Barfold Hall. Please note later starting time as some residents have requested the chance to make use of daylight now spring is approaching. Refreshments available from 5.45pm.

Please attend if you can - the CRC will be putting into place many actions that follow from the Community Planning Day on 15th August. A summary of the Plan developed that day is available from Ian – contact details at the end of this newsletter. The CRC will now meet monthly on the second Wednesday of each month.

The Community Well Being Working Group is organising the following spring calendar:

- **Elmore Field Day – 7th October:** family day out at the Elmore Field Day. All welcome. Transport, entry costs and meal will be provided free of charge. Contact Kirra to book – details at end of this newsletter.
- **Luna Park – 17th October:** for adults and children. All the fun of the fair! Contact Kirra to book – details at end of this newsletter.

The Upper Campaspe Combined Landcare Groups - have received some funding for a restoration project in the fire-affected area. If you have previous Landcare projects on your property that were affected by the bushfire, you are invited to submit an Expression of Interest for the restoration of the site. For further information please contact Kirra.

Mosaic Memorial Project: great pictures of the unveiling [by Christine Nixon] on this website: <http://kpmosaicwords.com/AFTER.php> [scroll down]. Also: everyone is invited to contribute material for a tile in the mosaic. Co-ordinator Kathryn Portelli is looking for any poets in the local community. Do you have a poem you wrote about your experience with the bushfire? If so, it can accompany the mosaic. For more information, contact Kathryn on kportelli1@bigpond.com and 54 235 281.

Fencing Volunteers from Asia, Europe and the USA: the community has had an overseas team from Europe and Asia working last week and a group of super-fit / super-trained Californians are expected in the next two weeks. Thanks to Conservation Volunteers Australia for bringing this together. Please stop and say 'hi' and thank them for their efforts.

For fencing help - please call Karl Metcalf on 54 234 132 or 0437 27 40 50. Teams from CVA, Corrections and other volunteers are now working on neighbour/neighbour fences as most roadside boundaries are complete.

Barfold Hall Drop-in: Case Managers will be available on Thursdays from 10am – 12, and a free soup lunch is on offer from 12. The VBRRA Donations Co-ordinator, Steph Wigan, will be available on most Thursday mornings by appointment – but call first on 0400 350 808.

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



Counselling Services: details are provided below about three counselling and support options for people who want to talk over any issues with a counsellor.

1. Bushfire EAR - specialised counselling and referral service for people affected by the bushfires - immediate counselling when people need it, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Bushfire EAR also has an option of a call back service to provide people with on-going support. They will speak to men and women about any issues related to the Victorian bushfires. Phone 1300 78 99 78.
2. Free counselling through 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 direct from a GP referral. The Bushfire ATAPS program gives you access to unlimited free sessions.
3. The Bushfire Psychological Counselling Voucher Program gives residents six free counselling sessions if you have received grants paid by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund. This program includes children over five years of age and operates for the next two years. You can use your vouchers at any stage. You will need to apply for the vouchers and make an appointment with a counsellor of your choice from a list of service providers. Individuals, couples or family counselling will be available and you can choose to see psychologists, social workers or occupational therapists. The service will be available through your local community health services and other private service providers. Please talk to your case manager or www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal. If you have not received any Victorian Bushfire Appeal Grants you are still be eligible for this voucher program if you were directly affected by the bushfires. Please visit the DHS website for application forms or talk with your case manager.

'Take a Break Camps', run by Uniting Church Camping, offer families and couples from communities affected by the bushfires an opportunity for some rest, relaxation and family holiday fun. All meals and accommodation at the holiday camps are provided free of charge. Some vacancies still exist for camps running at Grantville Lodge during the upcoming September school holidays. To find out more information, call Elissa on 9251 5246 or visit www.takeabreakcamps.org.au

Roses offer from Heritage Roses Australia: Heritage Roses Australia (HRA) have offered to source cuttings of heirloom or historic roses for people who lost roses in the bushfires. The cuttings will be provided free of charge, and can be posted via conventional mail from the start of winter 2010. The HRA members that are coordinating donations are: Shirley Yates: alanshirley@optusnet.com.au or on 0423 364 698 Jill Collins: normancollins@bigpond.com or on 9775 4549.

Bushfire preparation workshop in Hepburn – how to reduce fire-risk without burning off. Hands on work, instruction and discussion including the use of low impact techniques for fuel reduction as alternatives to burning. Spring Creek, 10am - 1pm on Sunday, September 13th [cost \$15/adult]. Please book on 5348 3636, and you will be given details on what to bring and where to meet. Hosted by Hepburn Relocalisation Network. And, advanced warning for Fire Forum with local expert Joan Webster - Friday, October 2nd at the Daylesford Town Hall. More details coming soon.

Bush Fire Recovery staff at Mount Alexander:

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

