

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

Redesdale Fire Community Recovery Update No 27

Thursday 17th September 2009

New REPAIR AND RESTORATION PAYMENT finalised: the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund today announced that grants of \$10,000 would be made available to primary producers. These grants are to replace destroyed farm equipment or rebuild fencing. They can also be used to reimburse farmers who have already invested their own money to meet these costs.

In August, changes to ATO laws gave extra flexibility to the Appeal Fund. Farmers who did not receive the Commonwealth's Clean Up and Restoration Grant ('NDRRA Grant'), will be able to receive \$10,000 from the Appeal Fund. This group is made up of primary producers who earned less than 51% of their income from their farming business in 2008/09. The Rural Finance Corporation will administer the *Primary Producers' Repair and Restoration* payments. More information from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Hotline on 1800 180 213 or visit www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal

Fencing Program extended: thanks to support from the Community Enterprise Foundation of the Bendigo Bank, The Conservation Volunteers Australia {CVA} program and the Co-ordinator's role has been extended until December 2009. This means there are skilled people available to help with fence construction until Christmas, but you will need to find the materials – perhaps from the new \$10,000 grant. Please call fencing co-ordinator, Karl Metcalf to discuss planning your fencing replacement - 54 234 132 or 0437 27 40 50.

ON OFFER FROM THE COMMUNITY RECOVERY COMMITTEE:

"Keeping Redesdale on the Map": the tourism businesses in the area affected by the bushfires are proposing an event in 2010 to celebrate the diversity of produce and attractions of the area. This is planned as a one-off event, but could become a regular event to boost the local economy. All directly fire-affected people will be invited to participate in this 2010 event. A preliminary meeting will be held at Barfold Hall on Thursday 24th September at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Please see attached fliers for details of the following events:

- **Elmore Field Day – 7th October:** family day out at the Elmore Field Day.
- **Luna Park – 17th October:** enjoy a fun day at Luna Park

Community meals: there will be community BBQ meals taking place in your local area. These are a 'casual no-fuss' get together. The first one will be breakfast at the Baynton Hall on the Wednesday 23rd September at 7am. All bacon, eggs and juice provided, plus vegetarian options. On Saturday 3rd October there will be a lunch at the Barfold Hall for all the family. There will be more dates announced as we move into spring, so keep your eyes open.

Need help in the garden or around the yard?? Please get in contact with Kirra and register your interest in receiving some help. *Contact details at end of newsletter.*

School Holiday program will run again over the next two weeks – call YMCA - 5445 8300



Photos of the fire and community: we are looking for anyone that has photos of the Fire or the community efforts to share for creating thank-you cards. If interested please contact Kirra.

Barfold Hall Drop-in: Case Managers will be available on Thursdays from 10am – 12, and a free soup lunch is on offer from 12 noon every Thursday.

Horse equipment available: some horse gear is available for those who lost equipment in the fires. For details, please contact Lisa Wheeler at Highlands Saddlery in Kilmore on 0437 093 825.

Can You Help With THE COMMUNITY RECOVERY PROCESS?

You are welcome to join one of the Working Groups who are putting into place many actions that follow from the Community Planning Day in August. The success of these projects depends on working groups taking the lead on these priorities. The Community Plan is available from Ian [details at end of newsletter]. Working group meetings are not long or boring and happen about once a fortnight or less. Please contact Ian if you would like to know more about what is involved. We need a list of volunteers by **25th September** to enable a report to be delivered to the next CRC.

The groups are:

- **Economic development** [tourism, promotion of the district, assistance to businesses]
- **Farm development** and environment [workshops, sharing machinery and skills, revegetation]
- **Communications** [local newspaper, website, welcome pack, improved tele-communications]
- **Memorials** [considering options for suitable activities and structures]
- **Well-being** – this group already exists and welcomes more members
- **Fencing** - this group already exists and welcomes more members

NEW ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES:

See last week's newsletter for more details and/or follow the links given below

- **Safe Removal of Hazardous Trees:** a payment of up to \$4,000 per bushfire-affected property to help assess and remove hazardous trees. *For details please contact your Key Contact Worker/Case Manager; or see the fact sheet and application form at:* www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/Fund-Payments/safe-removal-of-hazardous-treespayment
- **Donated Goods at the Central Warehouse:** some goods are still available to fire-affected households. VBRRA Donations Co-ordinator, Steph Wigan, can email or fax you with a check-list of what's on offer. Steph will be available at Barfold Hall on Thursday 24th September from 10am – 12. Please call Steph first on 0400 350 808.
- **Solar hot water rebate:** a \$1,600 solar hot water rebate to people who lost their homes in February 2009 is now available. Guidelines will be available from the website at www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency or by calling 1800 808 571; and **Free Home Energy Assessments:** access a \$10,000 interest free loan for energy efficiency improvements. This program is certified by the Association of Building Sustainability Assessors. For details please contact Jayson on 0439 539 523 or see <http://www.environment.gov.au/greenloans/> .
- **Transitional Support Payment:** this is to support those who lost their primary residence in the bushfires in their transition to permanent accommodation. For more info, *contact your Key Contact Worker/Case Manager; or VBRRA on 1800 240 667, Fax: 9092 5878, or see* www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au

Fortnightly Newsletter: the next newsletter will be mailed on 1st October. Deadline is 30th Sept.

Recovery staff contact details: 54 711 821; **Mobiles:** Kirra - 0429 388 167; Ian: 0417 147 058,
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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

