

Community Recovery News for the Redesdale Area Fires

Number 31 — Thursday 12th November 2009

All women are invited to the **Rural Women's Network Lunch**: Thursday 19th November from 12 noon, at Barfold Hall. Meet with other women from your area, have fun, laugh and share in some delicious food. **Special guest: Monica Dullard** Award Winner at the 7th Melbourne International Comedy Festival show - one of Victoria's favourite live comics with her chatty relaxed stand-up style and hare-brained characters. Supported by the Victorian Government's Department of Planning and Community Development. Kids' corner available. Bring ideas for future women's activities. **RSVP** to Ellen White on 0448 533 032 or ellen.white@dpcd.vic.gov.au by Tuesday 17th Nov. for catering purposes.

Dealing With Anxiety in Preparation for the Summer: an informal workshop and lunch on Saturday 28th November, at Redesdale Hall from 12 noon. Led by local psychologist and facilitator, Dr Susie Burke, who is part of the Australian Psychological Society's expert panel on recovery. For anyone in the community, whether directly affected by February's fires or not. If this date doesn't suit, please let us know and we will look at running a second session. **Bookings essential for catering – to Kirra** – details at end of this newsletter.

Caring For Country - Natural Resources Management Grants: these are for community members who are replanting as part of the Bushfire Recovery effort. Adrian Martins, of the North Central CMA will be at Barfold Hall on 25th November from 12pm – 2pm, to answer any questions and help people with grant applications. Grant application form is at <http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/> or contact Kirra.

Christmas gifts for children – advance notice: CentaCare and the Community Wellbeing Working Group has entered into a partnership with Curves and Toyworld for the distribution of donated Christmas gifts to local children. Any parent / caregiver in the local community who is finding it hard to 'make ends meet' is welcome to access the donated gifts - this service is not restricted to people who have a 'blue card'. This service will operate on an honesty system ... one gift per child ... there will be no records kept as to who accesses this service. ***If you would like to donate a gift for this service, please contact Deb Simpson at CentaCare on 5438 1300***

Don't panic: be prepared flyer: helpful tips for being psychologically prepared are at the Barfold Hall, and at: <http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Psychological-preparation-for-natural-disasters.pdf>

Fire ecology website: a new website has recently become available from the Department of Sustainability and Environment with detailed information about fire ecology and the recovery of natural values. Visit: www.dse.vic.gov.au/fireecology



Revisit The High Ground Planting (Greens Lane) 11am, Saturday 5th December. 1pm at the Baynton Hall for BBQ and further information. For more information please call Clare 5423 4152 or Louise 0417 415 362.

Places available at the Portsea camp: The RSL has kindly made 60+ places available for bushfire-affected children at the Portsea Camp. The RSL is covering the cost of registration. The Camp will be held in early January 2010 for 6-7 days and is for nine to twelve year olds. Please contact your case manager for more details.

Recovery Working Groups and the Community Recovery Committee [CRC]: the next CRC meeting is Wednesday, 9th December at Barfold Hall at 5.45pm. The Well-being Working Group meets Thursday 3rd December at 1pm at Barfold Hall, and the Fencing Group meets on Tuesday 1st December at 12.30 at Barfold Hall. The Tourism Working Group is progressing plans for a major Picnic event for March 2010, and meets at 10am on Friday 20th November at Barfold Hall.

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.

Two possible services for those who lost homes:

The Architects' Bushfire Homes Service has been established to assist people who lost their homes in the February 2009 bushfires. The service is provided by architects who are offering their services to assist people at no cost. You can register to participate by calling 8620 3866 or by emailing vic@raia.com.au and **Archicentre**, James Hardie and Wood Naturally Better are offering a free design service, normally valued at over \$2000, to people wanting to re-build their homes after the fires. This service is available until 31 December 2009 and includes:

- A site meeting with a registered architect to establish your specific needs
- A Bushfire Attack Level ("BAL") assessment
- A review of local planning and building controls
- A concept design, including a floor plan and elevation sketches
- Recommendations on construction materials and ember resistance measures

For more information call 1300 134 513 or visit: <http://www.archicentre.com.au/rebuild/index.htm>

Free Counselling Services available:

- Short term counselling through CentaCare. Contact Renee Kelly in the Bushfire Recovery Team on 5438 1300. Can be provided in Redesdale or Bendigo, and appointment times and locations can be flexible to suit you.
- Nerida Melsmith, is a Grief and Loss specialist and can talk with anyone in relation to their fire experiences. Nerida is available on Wednesday and Thursday each week – including at Barfold Hall on Thursdays from 10am – 12. Or call Nerida on 0415 060 565.
- Bushfire EAR - immediate counselling, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: 1300 78 99 78. The Bushfire Psychological Counselling Voucher Program gives residents six free counselling sessions if you have received grants paid by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund. For more information, see the DHS website www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal
- Castlemaine District Community Health Service (5470 1000) and Cobaw Community Health Service in Kyneton (54 211 666). Unlimited sessions.

Recovery Staff Contact Details:

- **Phone:** Kirra 5471 1807; and 0429 388 167; Ian, 5471 1821 and 0417 147 058
- **Email:** i.lillington@mountalexander.vic.gov.au ; k.litchfield@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Newsletters are also available at: 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

