

Community Recovery News for the Redesdale Area Fires

Number 38 – Wednesday 24th February 2010

Last chance to book tickets for the Redesdale Gourmet Picnic, on Sunday 21st March. There are free hampers for fire-affected residents who are entitled to two adult and two children's hampers – but you must pre-book by Wed 3rd March by calling or emailing Kirra – contact at end of newsletter. Entry is free. There will be music, children's activities, carriage rides and a BBQ. This event is a celebration of local producers and their success in rebuilding after the devastation of Black Saturday. See Melbourne Food and Wine Festival program – details at www.tasteofgold.com



Other great local festivals: Vaughnbury Music Festival, Sunday 28th Feb at Vaughan Springs. **Taradale Festival** – 7th March from 10am at the Mineral Springs Reserve. Call 54 232 302 for more information. **Harcourt Apple Fest** - over the long weekend from Friday 5th March to Sunday 8th March – see www.harcourtapplefest.org.au

Pizzas at Baynton Hall: Friday 5th March, 5.30pm – 8pm – all welcome to a **FREE** pizza and games night at the Baynton Hall. To be sure of plenty of pizza, you must RSVP by 2nd March to Heather (0428 867 654). The pizzas will be provided by "Caponis Pizzeria", and served hot at 6.30pm. Hopefully if the weather is fine, we can eat outside. BYO chair. A variety of games will be offered on the night provided by Rob Chapman from the Redesdale Hall Committee. *This is an alcohol free event organised by Heather Steele (Bushfire Youth Worker - Castlemaine District Community Health)*



Youth Job closes this Friday: Youth Participation and Development Worker, to focus on giving young people in the Redesdale bushfire-affected areas a voice in the recovery and seek to develop Rural Social Enterprise and Sustainable Youth participation models for young people. [0.8 eft for 2 years to January, 2012]. See adverts in local papers or contact Castlemaine District Community Health Centre on 5479 1000.

Castlemaine Football and Netball Club will be working on odd jobs that fire-affected people need doing around their yards – eg mulching and small scale rubbish removal - this Sunday 28th February. If you need help please let Kirra know on 5471 1807.

Women Gathering After The Fires: women in fire-affected community are invited to an evening workshop with meal provided on Tuesday 2nd March from 6pm to 9pm at Buda Historic Home and Garden, 42 Hunter Street, Castlemaine. You may then be eligible for a grant to start a group for women around a particular interest, or support an existing group in your own community. It's an opportunity to learn more about how to start and run a group and what support you will receive if you decide to apply for the grant. Transport can be arranged to this session. For more information, contact Kirra [5471 1807] or Case Managers. Please RSVP for catering purposes.



Salvation Army **Back To School Grant:** grants of \$300 per child still available to assist families affected by the bushfires with back to school expenses. The grant applies to primary or high school aged children. Includes items like school fees, books, uniforms and shoes and the grant will be paid based on the presentation of receipts of goods purchased. Details from your Case Manager or Major David Simpkin – 5470 5389.

Sheep health and lice day: Redesdale Hall, Wednesday 10th March, from 9.45am-3pm. The day will focus on lice identification, treatment and prevention along with other topical subjects including pre-lambing nutrition, NLIS issues and weed identification in relation to livestock toxicities. There will be representation from animal health chemical companies and a talk on the safe and effective use of chemicals for lice eradication. A BBQ lunch will be provided, so **RSVP** to Stacey on 0408 479 060 before 5th March for catering purposes.

Easter School Holiday program: YMCA Victoria in partnership with VBAF is offering free school holiday programs for bushfire-affected communities over the Easter holiday period. Call 9403 5090 or visit www.victoria.ymca.org.au/holidayprograms . Bookings open on 1st March.

Skills And Confidence For Tackling Tough Times: Thursday 18th March, 6pm – 9pm (Refreshments served from 5.15pm to 6pm) at Cobaw Community Health Service, 8 Mollison Place, Kyneton. This training is targeted at people who, in going about their daily business, are likely to come into contact with bushfire and drought-affected people (and are therefore often playing a secondary support / safety net role). The need for this training has been identified because some people from local businesses and community organisations have expressed a lack of confidence when bushfire and drought affected people have talked with them about their experiences.

This training will be facilitated by Annie Townsend, an accredited *beyondblue* facilitator. There will be plenty of time to ask questions. For more information or to register, contact Peter Vines at Cobaw Community Health Service: 5421 1666 / 0458 894 801 or peter.vines@cobaw.vic.gov.au

Scrap metal: old fencing wire has now been collected from the temporary 'public' sites and will be sold for the fencing recovery effort. No more wire is to be put at these temporary dump sites. If you have any more wire, please deal with scrap metal merchants directly and you can then get the proceeds of the sale.

Community Recovery Groups: at the last CRC, the **Fencing and Farming** working group was requested to broaden its brief to all aspects of land management, and this will be discussed at the next meeting on Tues 2nd March at 12 noon at Barfold Hall.

The next **Community Recovery Committee** will be on 10th March at **Mia Mia Hall** [note venue], with light refreshments from 5pm and business starting at 5.30pm.

The next **Well-being group** meetings are at 1pm at Barfold Hall on Thursdays 25th Feb and 11th March. Everyone is welcome at any of these meetings – for more details, contact Ian.

Recovery Staff Contact Details: Kirra 5471 1807 & 0429 388 167; Ian 5471 1821 & 0417 147 058
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