

Community Recovery News for the Redesdale Area Fires

Number 48 – August 2nd 2010

Community Recovery Committee will meet at 6pm on Wednesday 11th August at Mia Mia Hall.

Dates for next working group meetings:

- Community Well-Being group – Thursday 12th August at 12pm at the Barfold Hall
- Land Management group - Wednesday 18th August at 7pm at the Barfold Hall
- Communications (Bridge Connection & web-site development) call 54 255 501

Land Management Working Group:

- Completed and submitted Recycling for Recovery grant application for \$43K
- Plans to organise a bus trip to the Chilton State Forest to be inspired by other bio-link projects

The Well Being Working Group:

- Planning to arrange more “Women Gathering After Fires” workshops within the local area
- Organising a men’s getaway event for the end of September

Parenting after the bushfires: Castlemaine District Community Health, in collaboration with Cobaw Community Health, is facilitating a program in Kyneton for parents with children and teenagers affected by the bush fires. The program, featured recently on the 7.30 Report, is a venue for parents to learn practical strategies and approaches in helping their children cope with stress. The program also aims to work with any parents whose children might be experiencing difficulties such as stress at school, anxiety or self-esteem issues. The free, six-session program will run Monday evenings 6.30pm to 8.30pm commencing 9th August. Childcare is available. Enquires and bookings to Rob Gill on 0488 026 446.

Free bus trip to other fire affected areas: Some residents have expressed an interest in a trip to other bushfire affected areas. The Well Being Working Group will organise a trip mid week and/or on a Saturday if enough people were interested. ***To express your interest please contact Kate Mutsaers on 5471 1821.***

Funding available for community projects: The Community Recovery Committee (CRC) is pleased to advise that funding of \$82,000 has been made available through the Department of Planning and Community Development for community projects in Bushfire affected areas. For more information please contact Kate Mutsaers on 5471 1821.

Youth Program:

Parent representatives wanted for the Youth Project Steering Group.

The project is in full swing now, and we are keen to have two local parents involved to advise on appropriate ways to develop opportunities for young people in your community. The group meets at 3pm on a Tuesday, once per month at the Barfold Hall. **Please contact Mike Hall at CHIRP 5479 1000 or 0457 524490 / email: mhall@cdch.com.au**

The Blokes To Get Away: Pajero 4WD Club of Victoria is offering a relaxing weekend of good food, good surrounds and some activities which involve instruction in Four Wheel Driving in the Blackwood area. ***Must be over 18 years of age and have a blue referral card or received a bushfire related government grant.*** This is a free event supported by VBRRRA and the Well Being Committee. The expected date for the getaway is Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th September. For more information call Vivienne Bourke on 0429 708 707.

Women Gathering After Fires: Marie Noonan is holding Beading classes in the Barfold Hall at 10.30am on Friday 6th August. All Welcome.

Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service (VBCMS)

Peter Vines (COBAW) and Peter Gladman (Castlemaine District Community Health - CDCH) have now both left the VBCMS. Regional case managers came together for a farewell for the two Peter's to thank them for their work with the bushfire recovery effort.

Currently

CHIRP:

- Elaine remains in a full time position and Vivienne has reduced her hours to three days a week working on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays.

Cobaw community health:

- Evelyn Chittleborough has been appointed. Evelyn comes with extensive experience in counselling and grief work and will be working 2 days a week (Thursday & Friday).
- The VBCMS team leader at COBAW is Jeannie Jones and can be contacted on Tuesday and Wednesdays.

The VBCMS will remain open until 1 March 2011 with the current case managers providing support to clients during that time.

CentaCare:

Philippa Calwell has just started at CentaCare as the new Bushfire Recovery worker. Funded until June 2012, her role is to support the social and emotional needs of the Bendigo and Redesdale fire affected communities. Philippa will be working closely with individuals, families, communities and other support agencies providing outreach counselling and getting involved in community development projects. Part of the role will also be to identify any gaps in the support that is needed at this stage in the recovery process. Philippa will be out and about getting familiar with the communities in the coming weeks. If you would like to get in touch call Philippa at CentaCare on 5438 1300 or mobile 0427 564 695

Funding for grief and loss counsellors in bushfire affected areas will be extended beyond the current funding commitment of August 2010. Anyone interested in receiving more information please contact Nerida Melsmith on 0415 060 565.

Post hole driver for fencing recovery: Contact Pip on 03 5423 7263 or p.j.elston@bigpond.com

If your contact details have changed or you no longer wish to receive the newsletter please contact Kate Mutsaers (contact details below)



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