

24 April 2009

***Information for communities affected by the Redesdale
Fire:***

Barfold / Baynton / Glenhope / Redesdale / Sidonia

FUNDS STARTING TO FLOW: please read both sides of this newsletter for details

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund: the Key Contact Workers [also called Case Managers] based at CHIRP and Cobaw Community Health have information about all of the grants available via the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.

The grants that are most relevant include:

- A Rural Properties Recovery Assistance grant of \$5,000 is available, which **does include fencing**. This grant is to assist individual rural landowners in bushfire affected areas who have suffered hardship and who have an increased need due to the damage or destruction of rural and farming property infrastructure. Available for properties of 5 hectares or more in the bushfire affected areas that suffered damage or destruction. Applications are open until the end of 2009.
- A \$50,000 grant is available to homeowners whose principal place of residence was destroyed. A grant of up to \$15,000 (with a possible further needs-based payment of up to \$16,000) is also available for repairs to damaged primary residences. Tenants are eligible to receive grants of up to \$15,000 for home contents if their rental property was destroyed in the fires.
- Initial Home Dislocation Payment: families who lost their principal place of residence or were otherwise unable to return home for more than a week are eligible to receive a grant of up to \$10,000.
- Tools of Trade Payment: a \$5,000 grant to assist people who have lost equipment vital to their trade and employment and are employees working for a registered business.

You can find out more about these grants at <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/home> or call 1800 255 925. If you don't have a KCW but are interested in finding out more about this service, contact CHIRP on 5479 1000 or Cobaw Community Health on 5421 1666.

Loan cars for up to 12 months donated by GM Holden and Nissan. If you lost a car in the fire, you need to call 9096 1093, or email: jlq@dhs.vic.gov.au ; or talk to your Key Contact Worker, or call Ian Lillington [details on page 2]

The Redesdale Bushfire Appeal – This local fundraiser raised approx. \$38,000. The community group who organised this fundraiser at the end of February have asked us to attach an application form (see page 3); as they have agreed to distribute the funds according to the information on this page. You need to complete and return the attached application form by 31 May 2009.

Community tool bank – The McIvor Neighbourhood House in Heathcote has funds to establish a community tool bank. The tool bank will be able to be used by fire-affected residents. We'd like to know what tools would be most useful to have in the tool bank. Please make suggestions as what tools should be included ... these can be more expensive items that you wouldn't normally have in your own shed. Please forward suggestions to Ian on 5422 0337 or Clare at clare@mchouse.org.au

Visit by Federal Member for Maribyrnong (Bill Shorten) – Bill Shorten has indicated that he would like to visit the Redesdale fire affected area on Tuesday 28 April in order to meet with fire affected community members and Council staff. Bill will attend the Fencing Working Group meeting (12.30pm, Barfold Hall), but other community members are also welcome to come along and meet with Bill. This represents a great opportunity for you to have your voice heard by a Federal Member. Light refreshments will be provided.

Stock Containment Areas – Grants of \$1500 per pen [maximum 3 pens] are available to fence areas where your animals can be fed. Contact Geoff Winsall at the Department of Primary Industries on 0418 817 327 (preferably before 30 April) if you are interested in this grant.

Community Recovery Committee (CRC) – The next meeting will be held on 6 May, 6pm, Barfold Hall. All welcome. The CRC Working Groups are meeting regularly – details below.

More information and minutes of the CRC meetings, and its Working Groups, are available by calling Ian on 5422 0337 or 0417 147 058, or via email i.lillington@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au

- **Fencing:** The Fencing Working Group meets again on Tuesday 28 April, 12.30pm, Barfold Hall. Information about funding for Stock Containment Areas, is available from Geoff Winsall on 0418 817 327.
- **Communication:** the McIvor Neighbourhood House will set up a web site for bushfire recovery news. This will be a place where community members can post their offers, requests and issues and where we can provide minutes, and information. *We are still open to suggestions for a name for the website – we need a word or phrase to precede the letters ".org.au".*
- **Community Wellbeing:** The Community Wellbeing Working Group met on 23 April ... minutes to follow shortly. In the meantime, if you'd like more information call Susan on 0400 054 971
- **Roadside Management:** The Roadside Management Working Group met on 15 April and will meet again on 6 May, 4pm, Barfold Hall. This Working Group is preparing a Frequently Asked Questions sheet and will distribute it shortly.

Bunnings rebuilding support: Bunnings are offering discounts on materials and products for people who are rebuilding their homes as a result of loss from the fires. The offer is not available via local Bunnings stores, and queries should be directed to Caroline Edge at Bunnings on 8831 9205 or cedge@bunnings.com.au

Offers and requests

If you want to offer or request any item or service, we can print details in this newsletter. Send information to Ian: email i.lillington@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au or 5422 0337 or 0417 147 058.

*Contributions for this newsletter can be sent to Ian Lillington
email i.lillington@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au or 5422 0337 or 0417 147 058.*



Redesdale Bushfire Appeal

Registration Number: 9789

The **Redesdale Bushfire Appeal** was a great success, with all participating enjoying the night's activities and entertainment. The event certainly gave all those affected, in one way or another by the fires, a chance to come together to share their stories, catch up with family and friends and celebrate the spirit of community that has been strengthened by the effects of the events that took place on the 7th February 2009.

With additional money from Trentham's Lions Club, combined fund-raising efforts total approximately \$38,000. A community meeting was held on the 25th March at 7pm at the Redesdale Hall. At this meeting it was unanimously decided to divide the monies evenly between all those who had property damaged or destroyed by the bushfire and who have registered with the Mt. Alexander Shire-led bushfire recovery efforts. To date, approximately 100 properties have been registered and therefore, the amount allocated to you is over \$300.

If you are someone who had property damaged or destroyed by the bushfire. ***You will find below a form to complete and return by 31 May 2009.*** Funds will then be distributed as per your request, and distributed after this date. You may choose to accept the funds personally, OR donate the same amount to the combined community CFA's, OR the funds can be donated to the fencing fund currently held by the Mt Alexander Shire to assist in re-fencing the many properties in need of this assistance.

This letter is from the Redesdale Bushfire Appeal committee, elected at the meeting on the 25th March 2009, and the committee is not informed of individual's circumstances. The recovery road ahead is long, and sometimes a slower process than people expect. We are confident that with the support from the community and the pride in our region, those affected by the fires will be able to rebuild and continue on with their lives.

Again we would like to thank the communities for their overwhelming generosity and spirit of goodwill in assisting with the fund-raising. Without their assistance this process would not have been possible.

Please complete and return to 13 Nicolle Lane, Redesdale, 3444.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

I accept the funds from Redesdale Bushfire Appeal [*Registration Number: 9789*] and:
(Please tick to indicate your choice)

I wish to accept the donation –

please make the Cheque payable to: _____ OR

I wish to donate the amount to the CFA (Redesdale, Mia Mia, Barfold/Langley, Pastoria) OR

I wish to donate the amount to the fencing fund, held in trust by Mt Alexander Shire Council.

Thankyou

