

8th May 2009***Information for communities affected by the
Redesdale Fire:******Barfold / Baynton / Glenhope / Redesdale / Sidonia***

Fencing Co-ordinator Job: The Victorian Farmers' Federation confirmed this week that they would fund a Fencing Co-ordinator for the Redesdale fire area. You need some fencing experience and organisational/admin skills. Salary: \$30.00 per hour, plus Super, for up to 40 hours per week; travel allowance at 60 cents per km, and phone costs. To apply, send a short resume to Ian Lillington, at PO Box 151 Kyneton, 3444, or ian.lillington@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au before 14th May.

Waterways fencing grants: a new program has been announced to assist landholders with the recovery, protection and maintenance of waterways affected by bushfires from the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA). Priorities include:

- assets or activities on waterways where there has been previous CMA investment;
- assets or activities on waterways contributing to river health where there has not been previous CMA investment
- New works to establish assets or activities contributing to river health

Other areas where there is a threat to the health and/or management of waterways will be considered on a case-by-case basis. To obtain an Expression of Interest form and copy of the guidelines please contact the North Central CMA on 5448 7124. For more information, please contact: Adrian Martins on 5440 1851.

Stephen Ryan, Rural Services Officer from Centrelink, will be at Barfold Hall on Thursday mornings 10am – 12, throughout May. Stephen can provide information about financial assistance that is available, answer questions and assist in making applications. It is not necessary to make an appointment. Stephen is also available for home visits and can be contacted on 5430 5941 or 0414 947 602.

Kyneton Olive Oil 2009 harvest product launch on Sat., Sun. & Monday, 6th, 7th & 8th June 10am – 4pm. A great weekend to sample our award-winning products. Tours of the processing facility; wine tastings (from local wineries); local handmade chocolates, pizza and refreshments. At 2090 Kyneton-Heathcote Road, Barfold. Contact Sam: 0419 191 192 or 54 234 240, www.kynetonoliveoil.com.au

National Volunteer Week – Peter Bachelor MP (Minister for Community Development) is launching a DVD about emergency relief volunteers at the Market Building, Castlemaine, on 14th May, at 11am. All welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

The Rural Women's Network magazine, Autumn 2009, has articles focusing on Women's Wellbeing and the challenges of drought, bushfire and living in a rural area. Copies of the magazine are free and will be available at the Redesdale Shop, Barfold Hall, the school and other locations around the area. The next edition of the magazine will focus on ***Beyond the Bushfires*** and they would be very grateful if women would write to share their stories and experiences for publication. They are hoping this edition will contribute to the healing process as communities move through the task of rebuilding. Deadline for articles is 19th June 2009 and details are on the back page of the Autumn edition. Please call Philippa Calwell 5471 1744 if you would like the magazine posted to you.

Compensation for fencing damaged by fire suppression activities: CFA and DSE will pay the costs of repairing up to 20 metres of fencing at each point that it was cut for fire suppression activity, during or after the fire on 7 Feb. To access the funding you will need to provide an invoice to DSE for the costs and information stating the number of separate places that fences were cut and where these were {e.g. name of road, or some other description of location of the fence}.

Seed is also available for pasture damaged by fire suppression activity. State the number of square metres of damaged pasture to be re-sown.

Send claims for Fencing or Seed to Trevor Pollard, DPI, 53 Mollison St., Kyneton 3444. If you have questions, please call Trevor on 54 211 733 or 0408 345 579.

Farm Planning: a whole farm planning workshop will take place in the Redesdale area. FarmPlan21 is a nationally accredited course that provides you with the confidence and knowledge to make the right decisions for your property. FarmPlan21 addresses personal, financial, production and environmental goals. FarmPlan21 is **free** to farmers who enrol before 30th June, 2009. Contact Nicholas Bate at DPI Bendigo 5430 4497 or 0419 580 934, Nicholas.Bate@dpi.vic.gov.au or Trevor Pollard at DPI Kyneton 54 211 733 or 0408 345 579.

Pasture improvement: if you'd like technical advice on pasture assessment, renovation and re-establishment please contact Trevor Pollard at DPI Kyneton on 54 211 733 or 0408 345 579

These newsletters are now on available on the following webpage:

http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=754&h=0

Free fuel for volunteers: BP have \$250,000 available to assist offset volunteer fuel expenses. If you use a vehicle to undertake volunteering activities, you could receive free BP fuel to help you in your volunteering work. Applications can be made via BP's website www.talkstoppedlongago.com.au Offer closes at 5:00pm on Monday 11th May. Successful applicants will be notified by 1/06/2009 and will receive their BP Pre Pay fuel cards by 30/06/2009.

Community Recovery Committee (CRC) – 16 residents and 16 others attended the lively meeting on 6th May. Minutes are available from Ian – contact info below. **Next Meeting** – it was agreed to use the Baynton Hall every third meeting, so the next meeting will be Wednesday 27th May 2009, at 6pm at **Baynton** Hall. Refreshments are available from 5.45. Meetings will happen every three weeks. Would you like a different time or venue for meetings? For example, would you attend a meeting at a weekend, or on a different evening? Please let Ian know your preference. 5422 0337.

The CRC's Working Groups are meeting regularly – details below.

- **Community Wellbeing:** met on 7th May and are progressing with plans for the 27th June bonfire at Barfold, and for a trip to Luna Park in mid year school holidays. The group has begun distributing the Redesdale Fundraiser funds – about 40 cheques for \$300 each have already been sent. If you are a fire-affected resident and haven't applied for your \$300, you need to complete and return an application form that went out with newsletter #9 or contact Simone - 0421 458 891. For details of next meeting, or if you'd like more information, call Susan on 0400 054 971



- **Fencing:** 53 applications have been approved by Lions for funding fencing materials. Vouchers will be sent out shortly for \$650 per kilometre of boundary fencing. If you are an experienced fencer can you volunteer a day or two to supervise a team of volunteers, or if you have materials but need help in putting up fences, please contact Lyal Metcalf (volunteer co-ordinator) on 54 234 135. The Fencing Working Group meets again on Tuesday 12th 12.30pm, Barfold Hall – *this group is now meeting fortnightly, not weekly.*

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

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.

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

The grants that are most relevant include:

- The Rural Properties Recovery Assistance grant of \$5,000 is available, which **does include fencing**, and is available for properties of 5 hectares or more in the bushfire affected areas that suffered damage or destruction. 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.
- 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 Key Contact Worker but are interested in finding out more about this service, contact CHIRP on 5479 1000 or Cobaw Community Health on 5421 1666.

Community tool bank – The McIvor Neighbourhood House in Heathcote has small hand tools available for use by fire-affected residents. Please contact Clare on clare@mchouse.org.au or call 5431 0930

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

