

**BUSHFIRE  
RECOVERY**

# Redesdale Fire Community Recovery Update No 13

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009

## *Information for communities of Barfold / Baynton / Glenhope / Redesdale / Sidonia*

**Community Recovery Committee (CRC):** the next meeting will be Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009, at 5pm at **Baynton** Hall. Refreshments are available from 4.45. **Please note changed time.** Details of the CRC's Working Groups are on page 2.

**New fencing opportunity through Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA).** Conservation Volunteers Australia is working with the Community Enterprise Foundation of the Bendigo & Adelaide Bank to provide volunteer assistance and fencing material to private landholders in the Redesdale. You have to organise the strainer post/end assemblies – and then the CVA provides labour and fencing wire. To get an expression of interest form, contact Ken Beasley, Program Manager, 0427 533 028, or fax 5444 0288, or [kbeasley@cva.org.au](mailto:kbeasley@cva.org.au) .

**Funding announced for Volunteers Project:** Community Development Minister Peter Batchelor announced a grant last week to support Mt Alexander Shire Council's Redesdale Fire Volunteers Project. Speaking in Castlemaine, the Minister said: "As part of the Redesdale Fire Volunteers' Project, a coordinator will be employed to enhance the links between existing volunteer networks, identify resource and support needs and support the Redesdale Fire Community Recovery Committee". More details next week.

### **Reminders of deadlines**

29<sup>th</sup> May - deadline for Expressions of Interest for Waterways fencing grants. For more information, please contact: Adrian Martins on 5440 1851.

31<sup>st</sup> May - \$300 from the Redesdale Bushfire Fundraiser: contact Simone - 0421 458 891

31<sup>st</sup> May - Compensation for fencing damaged by fire suppression activities – contact Trevor Pollard, DPI, 53 Mollison St., Kyneton 3444. More info from Trevor Pollard on 54 211 733 or 0408 345 579.

**Winter Needs Payment:** for heaters, blankets and winter clothing, gas and electricity bills, having insulation installed or buying materials for home improvements on temporary housing. The \$2000 grants will go into the bank accounts of anyone who applied for Rebuilding and Recovery grants Bushfire Appeal Fund, and householders who received National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. If you have not applied for or received a Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund grant or that believe that you may be eligible for the \$2000 grant, contact 1800 180 213. More information about grants can be found on page 3.

RECOVERY  
INFORMATION



**Stephen Ryan**, Rural Services Officer from Centrelink, continues to attend at Barfold Hall on Thursday mornings 10am – 12. 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. And Centrelink's "**Drought Bus**" is in Heathcote on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 10 to 4.30, at the RSL Hall, 127 High St. Heathcote.

**Planning approvals process:** Mount Alexander Shire has formed a working group to oversee the smooth and efficient approvals process for planning, building and environmental health permits in accordance with relevant legislation.

- MASC contact: Ray Christy - Tel. 5471 1762 / 0428 129 697, and fax: 5471 1749;
- City of Greater Bendigo contacts: Planning – Peter Hargreaves - 5434 6441; Building – Jim Banfield – 5434 6344; Env. Health – Jeremy Draper – 5434 6245;
- Mitchell Shire - 5734 6200 - ask for any planning or building staff;
- Macedon Ranges Shire – 5422 0333 - ask for any planning or building staff.

Do you need a **Statutory Declaration** signed? Case Manager, Wendy Droney, is a JP and can sign Statutory Declarations for you at Barfold Hall on Thursday mornings, 10am-12noon.

### 'Winding down before breaking down – why survivors need to stop and rest'

You can read this helpful article on page 4 of the newsletter at this link:

[http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/images/stories/documents/4116VBRRANewsletter\\_Issue3\\_V3.pdf](http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/images/stories/documents/4116VBRRANewsletter_Issue3_V3.pdf)

or call or email Ian Lillington [contact details below] for a copy.

**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 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2009. Contact Nicholas at DPI Bendigo 5430 4497 or 0419 580 934, [Nicholas.Bate@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:Nicholas.Bate@dpi.vic.gov.au) or Trevor Pollard at DPI Kyneton 54 211 733 or 0408 345 579.

**STORYBOARD** – a website to encourage story telling about the fires: sharing stories has the power to engage people, assist communities to collectively deal with trauma and create stronger networks so that we are self-determining, aware and resilient. Storyboard is a safe place to archive your precious images and record local histories. [www.rav.net.au/storyboard](http://www.rav.net.au/storyboard)

### ***The Community Recovery Working Groups are meeting regularly – details below.***

- **Community Wellbeing:** The group met on 21<sup>st</sup> May and are progressing with plans for the mid winter celebration on 27<sup>th</sup> June. For more details contact Susan - 0400 054 971
- **Fencing:** The group meets weekly and has been organising the process of finding a Fencing Co-ordinator, developing the CVA process [see page 1] and managing volunteers. The main need is for people with skills and equipment to put in end assemblies. If you can help, please also contact Lyal on 54 234 135. The Fencing Working Group meets again on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May**, 12.30pm, Barfold Hall.
- **An Economic Recovery** working group has been discussed. This group would liaise with local and state economic development staff to access support for businesses who are recovering from the fires. For more info contact Ian on 5422 0337.

*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](mailto:i.lillington@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au)*



**Bushfire Appeal Funds – increased eligibility:** you are encouraged to look closely at the following information as it may be possible to get a grant that you were not eligible for before.

*If you are unsure about applying, ask your Key Contact Worker [KCW], also known as Case Manager for help. Case Managers based at the Community Health Services in Castlemaine [5479 1000] and Kyneton [5421 1666] have information about all of the grants available via the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.*

- **Rural Properties Recovery Assistance grant** (\$5,000) *includes fencing*, available for properties of 5 hectares or more in the bushfire affected areas. The amount and sources of your income are not relevant. 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.
- **Primary Producers Grants** (\$5,000 up to \$20,000). Over 50% of the income has to come from the farm (in a normal year) and the applicant has to spend the majority of his/her time working on the farm. If you can show that because of the drought, the farmer had to take an off-farm job to survive, then RFC may allow you this grant, but the farm has had to show it has been a commercial operation in its own right. You can apply for the Rural Property Grant if you were knocked back for the PP Grant. However, you cannot get both grants for the \$5K.

#### **Other grants:**

- 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 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 also out more about these grants at

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/home> or call 1800 255 925.

***These newsletters are now on available on the following webpages:***

[http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page\\_Id=754&h=0](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](http://www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=1961&h=0)

