

**EMERGENCY
RECOVERY**

Redesdale Fire Community Recovery Update No 5

23 March 2009

Information for communities affected by the Redesdale Fire: Barfold / Baynton / Glenhope / Redesdale / Sidonia

INFORMATION

RECOVERY

Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission (VBRC) - community consultation sessions

There are two community consultation sessions in Bendigo on Wednesday 25 March. People directly affected by the Bendigo and Redesdale fires are invited to attend one of these sessions in order to meet with members of the VBRC and to discuss what you consider to be the key issues in relation to the fires.

You need to register by calling **1800 842 463**. Choice of session times: 11.30 - 1pm (followed by a free lunch) or 2.30pm – 4pm at Eaglehawk Senior Citizens Centre.

Getting There: We have booked a bus from the Redesdale Hall to the venue [Eaglehawk Senior Citizens] through Organ's Coaches. The pick up time is 10:15 at Redesdale Hall and the departure time is 2pm from Eaglehawk Senior Citizens Centre. The departure time will allow you to eat and mingle. Booking essential, please call Shannon, at Organ's Coaches on 5422 1788, or Chris on 0417 130 885.

Community Recovery Committee (CRC)

This committee met on 19th March and was attended by 18 local residents and 10 representatives of government and other agencies. The CRC exists to discuss the needs and priorities of communities affected by the fire, and develop/support local responses.

The CRC has 4 Working Groups. The Fencing group was attended by 8 local residents and discussed ways to match materials and labour, and how to get more materials. The Local Communication group discussed the need to find out the best ways to share information in the area. The Health and Wellbeing and Roadside Vegetation groups will meet shortly. More information and minutes are available by calling 5422 0337 or 0417 147 058, or email i.lillington@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au.

The next meeting of the **Community Recovery Committee** is on **Thursday 2nd April** at 6pm at Baynton Hall, Darlington Road, via Mission Hill Road. **ALL WELCOME**. Light refreshments will be served at the meeting, so please let us know if you are attending so we can cater for you - **5423 2571**



Key Contact Workers Service. Is trying to figure out what grants and assistance are available making your head spin? Key Contact Workers [also known as Case Managers] are now available to people who have been affected by the fire. If you need help negotiating your way through any issues call 5479 1000 [CHIRP] or 5421 1666 [Cobaw Community Health]. *This service is provided via the Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service*

Emergency Relief Program

The Emergency Relief Program (operated out of the Castlemaine District Community Health Centre – CHIRP) can assist individuals and families who are finding it difficult to make their budgets stretch. The Emergency Relief Program can provide food and fuel vouchers and also assist with utility bill payments. This is a free and confidential service. Call **5479 1000** to make an appointment

Post Fire “Walk & Talk” & Family BBQ: 3rd April 2009 from 4pm, at Barfold: If your land has been affected by the recent fires, this Walk & Talk may be of interest to you. The Dept Primary Industry are offering sessions on:

- Pastures after the fire - “Farm walk”; Animal Health issues to consider, including restocking;
- Water quality, soil management and stock containment; Weed management & chemical use
- Whole farm planning - future possibilities with FarmPlan 21

A free BBQ tea will be provided. RSVP is essential (please!!!) - contact Louise Scott, DPI Bendigo on 5430 4690/0400 854 939. Or email: louise.scott@dpi.vic.gov.au

Fencing

There have been many offers of assistance to help pull down damaged fences / put up new fences, but much of the labour can't be put to good use without access to fencing materials. The CRC Fencing Working Group and Council's Recovery Team are currently trying to source funding for the purchase of fencing materials. More news to follow in the next newsletter.

Property clean up service

There is now a free property clean up service available for fire affected properties. Call **1800 136 762** to register for this service (or talk to your Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service key contact person about accessing this service). If you have started to clean up your property you may be eligible to claim back any costs you have incurred. Call **1800 136 762** for more information.

Please be careful when working in / around burnt or damaged infrastructure. We have some disposable personal protective clothing packs available to help protect you. Call **5423 2571** if you would like some of these packs.

Christine Nixon visit:

Christine Nixon, Chair of the Victorian Bushfire Recovery and Reconstruction Authority, visited Redesdale on Wednesday 18 March. Thank you to the many community members who took time out of their busy day (even at short notice!) to meet with Ms Nixon. Ms Nixon spoke about the process that the VBRRRA will follow and also about some of the key issues that the VBRRRA has already become aware of through talking with other fire affected communities. Ms Nixon indicated that she and other members of the VBRRRA are likely to visit the Redesdale area again in the coming months.

The VBRRRA has just published its first newsletter on its new website www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au

Fencing Fact Sheet - Contact the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on 1800 240 667 for a fact sheet, and/or advice and help on these issues: Damage to fences from bushfires or fire suppression activity; Other damage caused by the creation of fire control lines; Damage to private fences by bushfire; Damage to fences adjoining Crown land by bushfire

