

Community Recovery News for the Redesdale Area Fires

Number 28 - Thursday 1st October 2009

Community meals: there will be a community BBQ lunch, this Saturday, 3rd October at 12noon at Barfold Hall. Everything provided. Bring your friends and family. In the following weeks, there will be breakfasts at the Redesdale Hall on Thursday 8th October, at Paul Dettman's {Burke and Wills Track, Glenhope} on 15th October, and at Metcalfe Hall on Wednesday 21st October. All breakfasts run from 7am to 9am with vegetarian and gluten free options. These are casual, no-fuss get togethers, and booking is not needed.

Elmore Field Day - next Wednesday, 7th October: only a few places left: a family day out at the Elmore Field Day. All welcome. Transport, entry costs and meal will be provided free of charge. Contact Kirra to book on 0429 388 167;

Luna Park Day Trip - last day to book is Friday 9th October. Bookings essential to Bree Allwood at the McIvor Neighbourhood House on 5431 0930 or Fax: (03) 5433 3738.

Fencing Program extended, but time is running out: the Community Enterprise Foundation of the Bendigo Bank presented the Conservation Volunteers Australia {CVA} with \$71,000 last week, and the Department of Primary Industries has funded an additional lease of a tractor and post driver. BUT there may be no subsidised re-fencing support after December, so please call fencing co-ordinator, Karl Metcalf to discuss your fencing needs on 54 234 132 or 0437 27 40 50.

Primary Producers' Repair and Restoration Payment - Guidelines and application forms now available: Previous grants for farmers have been restricted to those who got more than 51% of their income from their farming activities, but this new grant is mainly aimed at those smaller farmers who don't meet this criteria, (though farmers who qualified for the Clean Up and Restoration Grant can also apply and get an extra \$5000 to cover their losses).

To qualify for the new grant, you have to be a primary producer. If your last Tax Assessment Form shows a primary production income or loss, then you are deemed to be a primary producer. You don't need an ABN for your farming business to qualify for this new grant.

If you would like some help in deciding if you qualify, or help to fill out the application form, contact Greg Cahill from the Rural Financial Counselling Service in Bendigo on 5447 9267. More information is available from the Rural Finance Corporation by ringing 1800 255 925 or visit their website – www.ruralfinance.com.au.

Heathcote's Annual Wine and Food Festival: 3rd and 4th October from 10.30am to 5pm at Heathcote Showgrounds, Chauncey Street. <http://www.heathcotewineandfoodfestival.com.au/>

Job Available: Community Development Worker based at McIvor Neighbourhood House, in Heathcote. The job is 12 hours per week and includes work on Redesdale Fire Recovery. For details, contact Clare de Kok on 54 310 930.



CentaCare – new support for Redesdale Recovery: CentaCare is a Bendigo-based agency providing services which are responsive to individuals, couples, families and communities. CentaCare has been involved in supporting the bushfire recovery in the Redesdale and Bendigo communities since July. Free short term counselling is now available through CentaCare. This service can be accessed by contacting Renee Kelly in the Bushfire Recovery Team on 5438 1300. Counselling sessions can be provided in Redesdale or Bendigo, and appointment times and locations can be flexible to suit you.

Other Counselling Services available:

- Bushfire EAR - immediate counselling, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 1300 78 99 78.
- Free counselling through Castlemaine District Community Health Service (5470 1000) and Cobaw Community Health Service in Kyneton (54 211 666). Unlimited free sessions.
- The Bushfire Psychological Counselling Voucher Program gives residents six free counselling sessions if you have received grants paid by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund. For more information, see the DHS website www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal

Smoke on roads? please tell your neighbours if you are planning to burn off, as smoke around the area may trigger anxiety. A series of Community Meetings are being run by the CFA in preparation for the coming season. For details call 50 362 800 or see the CFA website - <http://cfaonline.cfa.vic.gov.au/mycfa/Show?pageId=publicCommMeetings> where you click on "select your municipality". One meeting is Redesdale Community Hall, 7.00 - 8.30pm on 22nd October. More details in next newsletter.

DIMBOOLA: if you are receiving this by post, you will find enclosed an invitation to attend a preview performance of the loveable Australian production "Dimboola" on 25th October. This is free for fire-affected residents, but seats are limited, so you must RSVP on 54 310 930, **and** you need to take along the invitation on the day. If you get the newsletter by email, please send a return email, or call 54 711 821 and we will send you your invitation.

Community Recovery Committee: the next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th October, at 6pm at Barfold Hall. Please arrive at 5.45 for refreshments. Some working group news follows:

- **Communications** – discussion has begun about setting up the web-site <http://redesdalemiamia.vic.au> which is possible through a State-wide program to create 'local domain' websites. The town of Newham [near Hanging Rock] has done this – see <http://newham.vic.au> . Would you like to be involved in a similar project?
- **Memorials** – there will a meeting tonight – 1st October. This is a short meeting to set terms of reference and a further meeting will be arranged for a few weeks, with more notice given. If you want to confirm details for that meeting, please call Kirra.

Barfold Hall Drop-in: Case Managers will be available on Thursdays from 10am – 12, and a free soup lunch is on offer from 12 noon every Thursday.

Fortnightly Newsletter: the next newsletter will be mailed on 15th October. The deadline for that issue is 14th October.

Recovery staff contact details: landline - 54 711 821; and Kirra - 0429 388 167; Ian: 0417 147 058, **Email:** i.lillington@mountalexander.vic.gov.au ; k.litchfield@mountalexander.vic.gov.au.

Back copies of these newsletters are available on the following web-pages:

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

