

# Community Recovery News for the Redesdale Area Fires

Number 29 — Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**The 'Rebuilding Together Plan' was released today.** This is Victorian Bushfire Recovery and Reconstruction Authority's (VBRRRA) initial response to the projects identified in the Community Recovery Plans produced by 30 fire-affected communities across the State. Specific projects identified in Redesdale are:

- an upgrade for the community halls in the area;
- creation of options for local producers, traders and craftspeople to sell and promote their wares, including [for example] farmer's markets and art shows;
- improvements to local communications, for example through assistance to Bridge Connection newspaper; and
- improved systems to provide seeds and seedlings for revegetation.

It is important to realise that this is the first round. The VBRRRA announcement states that *"many projects identified in Community Recovery Plans, but not announced in the Rebuilding Together Plan today, will receive funding once they have undergone more detailed planning and community consultation"*. The full plan is 3MB in size [not so good on dial-up connections]. If you would like a printed copy, please contact Ian – details on page 2. Or see [http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/images/stories/4447\\_VBRRRA\\_Statewide\\_Plan\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/images/stories/4447_VBRRRA_Statewide_Plan_WEB.pdf)

**Community meals:** the community BBQ lunch on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October was well attended by many residents, friends and family. There will be breakfast at Metcalfe Hall on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 7am to 9am** with vegetarian and gluten free options. These are casual get togethers, and booking is not needed.

**Elmore Field Day - 7<sup>th</sup> October:** the CRC's Community Wellbeing Working Group organised 2 bus loads of residents, CVA volunteers and recovery staff to attend this event. Here is a report from one of them: *"It was wonderful to be greeted by so many smiling faces as the buses stopped at the Barfold, Redesdale and Mia Mia Halls and the Heathcote Information Centre to pick up participants. Many community members have said they are interested in a similar outing again next year."* Thanks to the many people who made this great day possible. ***If anyone picked up a bag of purchases from the Elmore Field Days by mistake, please would they give Win a call on 5423 4152.***

**Fencing - time is running out to access the Fencing Program:** there may be no subsidised re-fencing support after December, so please call fencing co-ordinator, Karl Metcalf to discuss your fencing needs on 5423 4132 or 0437 274 050.

**Red Cross Info Session - Preparing your Emergency Plan: Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm** Market Building, Mostyn Street, Castlemaine. Information about preparing and planning for an emergency situation. The Red Cross will lead an information session to help individuals and families develop their own personal emergency plan for all hazards [not just fire].

**Fire Prep Forums:** Community Meetings are being run by the CFA in preparation for the coming season. Local meetings: Sutton Grange Hall [Faraday - Sutton Grange Road] on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct from 7 – 8.30pm, and Redesdale Community Hall, 7.00 - 8.30pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. For details of other venues call 5036 2800 or see the CFA website - "select your municipality" at <http://cfaonline.cfa.vic.gov.au/mycfa/Show?pageId=publicCommMeetings>



**Kite Flying Festival:** Mia Mia, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October, with special guest Ted Egan, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ted\\_Egan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ted_Egan) and Central Vic band "Crosswind". Games, stalls, food, kite workshops. Gates open from 9am at the Burke and Wills Winery, Coombes Lane, 3155 Burke and Wills Track; 7km south of Mia Mia. Adults \$10, children free – proceeds to Mia Mia CFA. Information from 5425 5400.

**Family and Youth Pizza and Games Night:** Redesdale Hall and Oval, **Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November** from 5.30pm, with pizzas locally made by "The Redesdale", and served hot at 6.30pm. Children, young people and their families are invited to a FREE pizza and games night. If the weather is fine bring along a picnic rug or chairs and enjoy eating pizza under a tree. If wet, we will gather inside the hall instead. *This is an alcohol free event organised by Heather Steele, (Bushfire Youth Worker - Castlemaine District Community Health), working in the areas of Redesdale, Barfold, Glenhope, Baynton, Sidonia, Mia Mia, Metcalfe and Langley.* RSVP: [hsteele@cdch.com.au](mailto:hsteele@cdch.com.au) or 0428 867 654

**Baynton Sidonia Landcare Group's bonfire night:** Saturday 7th November from 6pm onwards. Details in next newsletter, or call Peter 5423 7235.

**Community Recovery Committee:** an extra meeting may take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October now that the Community Plan has been released. We will confirm this asap.

**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.

**Geelong Summer Music Camp:** Sponsorships are available for bushfire-affected children to attend this day camp in January 2010. The website has full details of the camp, and the flyer attached at the end of this bulletin has information on the sponsorship offer. Visit <http://www.gsmc.org.au/GSMC/Home.html>

**Smoke on roads?** Please tell your neighbours if you are planning to burn off, as smoke around the area may trigger anxiety.

**Free Counselling Services available:**

- Bushfire EAR - immediate counselling, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 1300 78 99 78.
- Castlemaine District Community Health Service (5470 1000) and Cobaw Community Health Service in Kyneton (54 211 666). Unlimited 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](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal)
- Short term counselling through CentaCare. Contact Renee Kelly in the Bushfire Recovery Team on 5438 1300. Can be provided in Redesdale or Bendigo, and appointment times and locations can be flexible to suit you.

**Recovery Staff Contact Details:**

- **Phone:** Kirra 5471 1807; Ian 5471 1821;
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**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](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)

