

Community Recovery News for the Redesdale Area Fires

Number 30 — Thursday 29th October 2009

Visit the Donations Warehouse: a trip to the warehouse in Clayton is being organised by the Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre next Wednesday 4th November. Places available but expected to go quickly. The bus will pick up people if required – to book call the neighbourhood centre on 54 430 998. It's a whole day trip - the actual tour takes 3-4 hours once people are there. [see page 2 for more info on donations]

Family and Youth Pizza and Games Night: FREE - Redesdale Hall and Oval, **Friday, 6th 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 pizza and games night. If fine bring along a picnic rug or chairs and enjoy eating pizza under a tree. If wet, we will gather inside the hall. *This is an alcohol free event organised by Heather Steele, (Bushfire Youth Worker - Castlemaine District Community Health).* RSVP to hsteele@cdch.com.au or call 0428 867 654 so we know how many pizzas are required!

Recovery Working Groups and the Community Recovery Committee [CRC]: the next CRC meeting is Wednesday, 11th November at Barfold Hall at 5.45pm. The Well-being Working Group meets Thursday 5th November at 1pm at Barfold, and the Fencing Group meets on Tuesday 3rd at 12.30 at Barfold. ***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.

Bonfire Night, Saturday 7th November from 6.00pm, at 652 Mission Hill Road, Baynton [Peter & Glenyse Stone's place] run by the Baynton-Sidonia Landcare Group. Please bring your own chair/rug, something to share – nibbles, salad or dessert and warm clothing! Landcare Group will provide a BBQ (meat and vegetarian). RSVP Tuesday 3rd November for catering, to Carl on 54 237 110 or Peter 54 237 235.

Women's Fire Recovery – celebration of the 75th issue of the Rural Women's Network magazine will take place at Barfold on 19th Nov. More details in next newsletter on 12th Nov.

Women's Retreat - November 13th, 14th and 15th at the Mantra Erskine Resort in Lorne. There are 350 places for women affected by the 2009 Victorian Bushfires. You'll need to get in quick as there has been strong interest in the event. Log on to www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au and click through from the front page where you'll find lots of information and an online registration form. This weekend is run by local women for local women and supported by (VBRRA).

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.

Don't panic: be prepared flyer: The Australian Psychological Society has produced helpful tips for being psychologically prepared for bushfire season. Copies will be brought to the Barfold Hall soon and are at: <http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Psychological-preparation-for-natural-disasters.pdf>



Have you accessed any donations yet? Businesses and individuals have made a wide range of donations for fire-affected people. Distribution is being co-ordinated by VBRRRA. To find out what is on offer, contact Steph Wigan on 0400 35 0808. If you are not sure about whether you are eligible, contact your Case Manager or Steph.

CFA Boundary re-alignments: Mick Bourke is CFA's Chief Executive Officer. He began in the job in September 2009 after seven years as the head of Victoria's EPA. In a recent blog he wrote: "the CFA Board at its 28 September ... decided that ... CFA will introduce [before this fire season] a command and control structure for Bushfires in Victoria which is geographically aligned with the state regional boundaries and the local government area boundaries. There is more in Mick's blog, at: http://www.cfaconnect.net.au/index.php?option=com_myblog&show=Seizing-Opportunities-to-be-Ready-for-the-Future-.html&blogger=mbourke&Itemid=8

Commercial radio stations to be official emergency broadcasters: a new agreement between the State Government and Commercial Radio Australia means that the following commercial radio stations will broadcast of emergency warnings during bushfires and other emergencies: 3BO [93.5 FM], Star FM [91.9 FM], Easymix [1071 AM and 98.3FM]. ABC Local Radio continues its emergency broadcasting services as before on 91.1FM.

Scholarships for training in skills and vocations for bushfire-affected people have been donated by a range of training providers to assist those recovering from the bushfires. Successful applicants will have access to accredited training and qualifications. Details from Martin on 0408 881 917 or: http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/images/stories/ACPET_Available_Scholarships.pdf

A Poetry and Prose booklet is being compiled by the Centre for Grief and Bereavement. They are looking for contributions from people affected by the Redesdale Area fires. For more details, contact Nerida on 0415 060 565 or email nmelsmith@three.com.au .

Wignells Wood Heaters: offering bushfire-affected families and individuals special store discounts to assist with the replacement and installation of solid fuel and wood heaters and wood stoves lost in the fires. For more information, please call John Zarb on 9417 3315.

Free Counselling Services available:

- Some of you will have met Nerida Melsmith, who is a Grief and Loss specialist and can talk with anyone in relation to their fire experiences. Nerida is available on Wednesday and Thursday each week – including at Barfold Hall on Thursdays from 10am – 12. Or call Nerida on 0415 060 565.
- 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

Recovery Staff Contact Details:

- **Phone:** Kirra 5471 1807; Ian 5471 1821;
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- **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

