

Community Recovery News for the Redesdale Area Fires

Number 37 – Friday 12th February 2010

"2 the Xtreme" Youth Festival: come along to the final day of the great annual hip-hop Festival on Sunday, 21st February 9 – 5, at the Castlemaine Town Hall. Free workshops, comp finals and special performances by Talia, Joel and Stephen from *So You Think You Dance* 2009.



FREE Tickets (adults/students/children/family) can be posted out to those who book with Heather Steele 0428 867 654, by the **17th Feb.**

FREE bus travel is available for young people 12 years and over with supervision provided by Castlemaine District Community Health Staff, from the Redesdale Hall at 8.15am and other locations by arrangement. Bus also must be booked by **17th Feb.** (Younger children may also be able to travel on the bus with prior arrangement, for example if older siblings are attending. A consent form will be needed from an adult.)

Book your Tickets for Taste of Gold's Gourmet Picnic:

Sunday 21st March at Redesdale. There will be music, children's activities, carriage rides and a BBQ. This event is a celebration of local producers and their success in rebuilding after the devastation of Black Saturday. It's also listed in the prestigious Melbourne Food and Wine Festival – details at www.tasteofgold.com/. Entry is free,



and there are free hampers for fire-affected residents. Fire-affected residents are entitled to up to two adult and two children's hampers – but you must pre-book by 3rd March by calling or emailing Ian or Kirra – contacts at end of newsletter.

Tennis coaching – thanks to the Recovery Well-being group and the Regional DHS who funded a tennis coaching series during the summer from November to January. 22 children took part and local tennis enthusiasts are hoping to get a Junior Competition happening between local towns. If you'd like to express your interest contact Agnes Mudford on 54 253 142 or Lisa Stables – 54 253 207

Scrap metal: old fencing wire has now been collected from the temporary 'public' sites and will be sold for the fencing recovery effort. No more wire is to be put at these temporary dump sites. If you have any more wire, please deal with scrap metal merchants directly and you can then get the proceeds of the sale.

Salvation Army **Back To School Grant:** grants of \$300 per child to assist families severely affected by the bushfires with back to school expenses. The grant applies to primary or high school aged children. Includes items like school fees, books, uniforms and shoes and the grant will be paid based on the presentation of receipts of goods purchased. Details from your case manager or Major David Simpkin – 5470 5389.

Job advertisement: Youth Participation and Development Worker, to focus on giving young people in the Redesdale bushfire-affected areas a voice in the recovery and seek to develop Rural Social Enterprise and Sustainable Youth participation models for young people. [0.8 eft for 2 years to January, 2012]. See adverts in local papers or contact Castlemaine District Community Health Centre on 5479 1000.

Women Gathering After The Fires: women in the community affected by the fires are invited to attend an evening workshop in Castlemaine on 2nd March. They then may be eligible for funding to run a Women Gathering {"WG"} group in their own community. For more information, contact Kate Mutsaers on 0407 088 397 or Case Managers on 5479 1000.

Castlemaine Football Club have confirmed that they will give one day of labour on odd jobs that people need doing around their yards – eg mulching, small scale rubbish removal. This will happen on Sunday 28th February. Please let Kirra know about specific jobs that you need help with – details at end of newsletter.

First Anniversary Commemoration: over 200 people attended the breakfast at Metcalfe last Sunday, and over 300 were at the mosaic mural unveiling at Kyneton. Many also went to one or both of the church services that day. Some photos are on display at Barfold Hall and many more will appear on web-sites. Thanks to everyone who made the day a great success, through organising or just being there. Thanks also to the CFA and other emergency service workers who came from as far as Bendigo. It was a time both for remembering and moving on. Kathryn Portelli's speech and some photos from the day are available by separate email attachment, or a paper copy can be mailed to you – please contact Ian, at address below. See local press, and Redesdale feature in last Saturday's "Age" [6th Feb] supplement and at <http://www.theage.com.au/national/humbled-by-all-the-help-20100205-nip8.html>

New DPI contact: Stacey Anderson, Animal Health Officer from DPI Bendigo/Kyneton, is filling in as the DPI fire project officer until the end of March, replacing Trevor Pollard. If you have any agricultural question, you can call Stacey. If she is unable to help you directly she'll be happy to point you in the right direction. Stacey can be contacted on mobile 0408 479 060, office 5430 4714 or via e-mail at stacey.anderson@dpi.vic.gov.au.

Sheep health and lice day: Redesdale Hall, Wednesday 10th March, from 9.45am-3pm. The day will focus on lice identification, treatment and prevention along with other topical subjects including pre-lambing nutrition, NLIS issues and weed identification in relation to livestock toxicities. There will be representation from animal health chemical companies and a talk on the safe and effective use of chemicals for lice eradication. A BBQ lunch will be provided. **Please RSVP** to Stacey on the above details above, before Fri 5th March for catering purposes.

"Headspace" launches Your Bushfire Space: web-space for young people affected by the Bushfires to share experiences, ask questions, and find information about how to cope with their bushfire experience. Visit: <http://www.headspace.org.au/bushfirespace/>

Trauma and children fact sheets: Two new fact sheets on the Better Health channel website: 'Trauma and children - newborns to two years' and 'Trauma and children - two to five years' . http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Trauma_theme_page?OpenDocument

VBRRRA 12 month report released: an update on progress made in the bushfire recovery and rebuilding effort over the past year. The 12 Month Report also includes a brief profile of each of the 33 Community Recovery Committees and their experiences over the past year. <http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/publications/489.html>

The next **Community Recovery Committee** will be on **10th March**. Details of agenda and location to follow. Over 30 people attended the 10th February meeting with Ben Hubbard, Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority. Minutes of the last meeting will be sent separately.

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Newsletters are also available at:

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