

Community Recovery News for the Redesdale Area Fires

Number 39 – Thursday 11th March 2010

Christine Nixon to unveil the new Bridge Connection {BC} Print Machine: on Tuesday 30th March at 4:20pm. The super printer now runs the A3 style newspaper and was bought with a grant from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund. If you'd like to attend this brief ceremony, please call Bernie or Brett on 54 255 501. Have a close look at March's BC for details of the centenary of powered flight [page 21] and the youth road show [page 23]. To get a copy of BC call the number above.

Redesdale Gourmet Picnic – tickets still available: the deadline for free hampers for fire-affected residents is now Wednesday 17th March – please call or email Ian or Kirra – contacts at end of newsletter. Entry is free. There will be music, children's activities, 'Fusion', carriage rides and a BBQ. This event is a celebration of local producers and their success in rebuilding after the devastation of Black Saturday. See Melbourne Food and Wine Festival program – details at www.tasteofgold.com



Youth Reference Group: the last group was attended by 5 local young people. More welcome, so come along on Tuesday, 16th March at 4pm at Barfold Hall. Thanks to Heather Steele who has done a great job as local youth worker and who is moving on to a new job. Welcome to Jo Wedgewood who is taking up this role.

Women Gathering on Farms {WGOF} is an annual event, this year from 19-21 March at Inglewood. There are eight free positions available for fire-affected women from the Redesdale area; sponsored by WGOF and our Well-being Working Group. [You need to arrange your own accommodation]. For more details contact Kirra.

Mosaic Tile unveiling at Barfold Hall: 25th March at 12noon. These are tiles that were made as part of the AFTER project, but not suitable for the wall in Kyneton. All welcome. Followed by the next **Well-being group** meeting at 1pm.

Skills And Confidence For Tackling Tough Times: Thursday 18th March, 6pm – 9pm (with refreshments from 5.15pm) at Cobaw Community Health Service, 8 Mollison Place, Kyneton. Targeted at people going about their daily business, who are likely to come into contact with bushfire and drought-affected people (and are therefore often playing a secondary support / safety net role).

- Increase your understanding of people's reactions to the fires and the drought.
- Pick up some tips and tools about how to look after yourself and support others.
- Find out how people can access professional support services

This training will be facilitated by Annie Townsend, an accredited **beyondblue** facilitator. There will be plenty of time to ask questions. For more information or to register, contact Peter Vines at Cobaw Community Health Service: 5421 1666 / 0458 894 801 or peter.vines@cobaw.vic.gov.au

Barfold Hall drop-in – change of dates: the next Thursday 'drop-in' with Case Managers and other support people will be 25th March from 10am - 12. Drop-in sessions will then go to monthly – dates to be advised.

Campaspe Valley Landcare Group Inc. Annual General Meeting: to re-activate the Group Friday 26th March at 7:30pm, at Barfold Hall. All Welcome. Please attend if you wish to see this Landcare Group continue to work towards assisting the District-wide Fire Recovery Programs. Guest Speaker: Ian Lillington, Community Recovery Co-ordinator. Enquiries, Ray Shea: 54 234 282, and John Noonan: 54 234 153.

Gorse Control Field Day, Glenhope: The Baynton Sidonia Landcare Group has organised this on Saturday 27th March, from 2 pm. Short field walk, demonstrations of spraying techniques and spider mites, discussion on other woody weeds (eg briar and hawthorn), and land management. Good opportunities to see "before" and "after" situations. An agronomist from Elders will also be present together with other trained technical personnel. Funding for this event is from North Central Catchment Management Authority. For details, and RSVP if possible, please contact John Baulch, 5423 5151; jwbaulch@westnet.com.au

Land Management Working Group [was Fencing and Farming] - next meeting on Friday 19th March at 6.00pm for BBQ and 7pm for business; [we will provide refreshments]. At Clare and Win's, 35 Sievers Lane, Glenhope. Contact Ian for more details – see end of newsletter.

DPI update: Stephanie Haw from DPI Hamilton has sent letters to landholders in the Redesdale fire area with offers of assistance for rabbit warren ripping. Please reply to Steph by the 19th March.

Memorial Working Group: continues to meet on a regular basis. All welcome. Please contact Kirra for more details.

Sidonia Community Hall?: some residents are looking into building a multi-use hall on the site of the Sidonia Church that was destroyed on 7th Feb. If you'd like to know more, please contact Paul Dettman on 0423 944 526.

Clayton Material Aid - Saturday Open Days: some second hand clothing, toiletries, used books, blankets and bed linen are all that's left at the Clayton Warehouse. It will be open from 10am to 2pm on Saturday 20th and 27th March for those wishing to access material aid. The warehouse will close in April - with any remaining stock of second hand clothing sent out to regional distribution points or to Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul.

Austral bricks offer: up to two million bricks and pavers to help rebuild homes destroyed by the fires. Owner-builders can apply for the first 2,000 bricks and 10m² of pavers free of charge, and the balance of their requirements at discount. Further bricks and pavers will be made available at no charge on a case-by-case basis for community projects and cases of particular hardship. Applications by 16th April. Visit: www.australbricks.com.au/Victoria-Bushfire-Rebuilding-Contribution

Easter School Holiday program: YMCA Victoria in partnership with VBAF is offering free school holiday programs for bushfire-affected communities over the Easter holiday period. Call 9403 5090 or visit www.victoria.ymca.org.au/holidayprograms . Bookings now open.

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Newsletters are also available at:

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