

Community Recovery News for the Redesdale Area Fires

Number 40 – Thursday 18th March 2010

Newsletter news: this is an extra edition because there is so much happening. There will be a newsletter next week, on 25th March. After Easter it will return to a fortnightly cycle.

Christine Nixon visit to Mia Mia and Barfold on Tuesday 30th March. Chair of VBRRRA, Christine Nixon, will unveil the new Bridge Connection {BC} Print Machine at 4:20pm and will go on to unveil the special tiles at Barfold Hall. If you'd like to attend the print machine ceremony, please call Bernie or Brett on 54 255 501. The **Mosaic Tile unveiling** is at 5.30. These 10 tiles are a tribute to the service rendered by the Barfold Hall as a recovery centre after the fires. All welcome.

Land Management Working Group [formerly the Fencing and Farming group] - next meeting on Friday 19th March at 6pm for BBQ and 7pm for business; [we will provide the refreshments]. At Clare and Win's, 35 Sievers Lane, Glenhope. Contact Ian for more details – see end of newsletter. **Mulch available** from paddock next to Barfold Hall, can be accessed by fire-affected residents any day over Easter, at 1915 Redesdale Road, Barfold. Please shut the gate. Bring a shovel.

Change of staff: Ian is moving on from his Recovery Co-ordinator role in late April. Ian began this job a few weeks after the fires, first based at Macedon Ranges and then at Mount Alexander Council. Council is working on options for continuing to support the recovery process and we will keep you informed of plans.

School Holiday Program is on offer in Redesdale again and it looks like a great program so call **9403 5090** or visit www.victoria.ymca.org.au/holidayprograms.

Grand Prix - ballot for tickets: fire-affected people can go in a ballot for 100 tickets for the Grand Prix [28 March], but you need to register with VBRRRA by COB Friday 19th March. You must have received a VBAF grant contact Jamie at VBRRRA on **9651 7719** or e-mail: DonationsManagement@dpc.vic.gov.au with the subject title 'Grand Prix'

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.

New Exceptional Circumstances Program: extensions start on 1st April and run through to March next year. All North Central Vic is still declared EC which includes all of the fire affected areas around Redesdale and Bendigo. Therefore, full time farmers in the region who are running their businesses at a loss because of the drought could be eligible for assistance via Centrelink or Interest Rate subsidies. More information from your usual EC contact, or from Greg Cahill, greg-cahill@bigpond.com

Gorse Control Field Day, Glenhope: The Baynton Sidonia Landcare Group has organised this on Saturday 27th March, from 2pm. 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

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.

2010 Premier's Community Volunteering Awards: it's time to nominate an individual or an organisation you think deserves to be awarded for their contribution to Volunteering in Victoria. People are encouraged to nominate organisations who have supported their volunteers and people who have displayed outstanding leadership in volunteering. Nominations close Wednesday 24th March. For more information visit call 1800 092 032 or <http://www.awardsaustralia.com/pcva>.

HAZARADOUS TREES PAYMENT EXTENDED: The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund has extended the closing date for applications for the Safe Removal of Hazardous Trees payment to 30th June. In addition to arborists, VBAF can now accept a report from professional tree removers or council confirming the trees are hazardous to human safety as a direct result of the damage sustained in the 2009 bushfires. Closing date for this payment has been extended to 30 June. For details, see: www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/Fund-Payments/rebuilding-and-recovery-payments/saferemoval-of-hazardous-trees-payment

Regional Soils Forum: Wednesday 31st March, 8.30am – 5.00pm, Bendigo. Bringing together landholders, scientists and policy makers to discuss how we secure the productive and environmental values of our soils in North Central Victoria. A national perspective to point the way forward, considering climate change, contemporary farming systems, and economic circumstances that place pressure on the land. We will look at opportunities for improved plant cover, improved soil carbon sequestration, and the potential to improve soil resilience in an altered climate. Details from Info@nccma.vic.gov.au

Help for smaller business: trained business advisors available to assist small business owners affected by bushfires. There is no cost to the business owner if impacted by bushfires. Advisors are from the Small Business Mentoring Service Inc. (SBMS) – see www.sbms.org.au and most have already assisted small business owners affected by fires. Call 132 215 or Geoffrey Lee 9651 9573.

Help for larger businesses: the Victorian Bushfire Business Investment Fund is a \$10 million government stimulus package to create new jobs and attract business investment in communities affected by the bushfires. Grants of between \$50,000 and \$4 million to support capital costs involved in setting up new businesses and expanding existing businesses to drive jobs, business confidence and growth in bushfire-affected regions. www.premier.vic.gov.au/newsroom/9722.html

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Newsletters are also available at:

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