

# Community Recovery News for the Redesdale Area Fires

*Number 41 – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010*

**Community Forum – Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> April: to review the Redesdale Fires recovery program and set future directions.** Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 12 noon for lunch, and 1pm-5pm for the forum, at Metcalfe Hall.

It is important to attend because this is your chance to say what you want to happen over the next 12 months. If you can't be there on the day, you can write to us [see end of newsletter]. The forum will be facilitated by an independent professional, who will attend the following meetings as part of their preparation. [You are also welcome at any/all of these meetings]:

- Well-being working group, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1pm, at Barfold.
- Land Management working group, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 3pm, at Clare and Win's, [35 Sievers Lane, Glenhope]; and
- the next CRC meeting, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 5pm for dinner and 6pm for business at Baynton Hall, Darlington Road, Baynton [via Mission Hill Rd]

**Christine Nixon to visit Mia Mia and Barfold** next Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March. Chair of VBRR, Christine Nixon, will unveil the new Bridge Connection *super* Print Machine at 4:20pm, and will go on to unveil the special tiles at Barfold Hall at 5.30pm. A light meal will be provided at Barfold. If you'd like to attend the print machine ceremony, please call Bernie or Brett on 54 255 501.

**Fencing update:** thanks to Karl Metcalf who completes his fencing co-ordination role this week. The Loddon Prison crew have done a great job over the last year and can continue to take on some fencing jobs. To see if they can help with your fencing needs, call Tony Pritchard from Loddon Prison on 0448 548 711.

**Mulch available** from paddock next to Barfold Hall. This can be accessed by fire-affected residents any day over Easter, at 1915 Redesdale Road, Barfold. Please shut the gate. Bring a shovel. Call 54 234 156 if you need more information.

**Campaspe Valley Landcare Group Inc. Annual General Meeting:** this Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jwbaulch@westnet.com.au)

**Sidonia Hall?** some residents are looking into building a multi-use hall on the site of the Sidonia Church that was destroyed on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. Please contact Paul Dettman on 0423 944 526.

**Feedback to VBRRRA:** VBRRRA would like to know about your experiences as a member of a CRC and/or working groups, and to get an indication of any skills training you need, and to know if you'd like to get together about their with members of CRCs from other areas. You can do this survey on line at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YGTG6NV> or contact us for a printed copy [details at end of newsletter]. Survey to be completed by 14<sup>th</sup> April.

**New Youth Team coming on stream:** welcome to Mike and Jo, who are based at CHIRP in Castlemaine, and Jess, Kath and Amanda who are based at Kyneton. These are all part-time staff with a brief to work with young people in the fire-affected areas and other parts of the Shires of Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander. More details in next newsletter.

**Barfold Hall Drop-in:** will restart on 22<sup>nd</sup> April from 10am to 12 noon.

**Memorials:** the next working group meeting will be in April. Contact Kirra for more information.

**Round 2 Natural Resource Management Grants:** The North Central CMA is starting a 2<sup>nd</sup> round funding program to assist private landholders and /or registered community organisations with the recovery, protection and maintenance of natural assets affected by bushfires which occurred in 2009. Applications will be accepted up until funds expire, or 1<sup>st</sup> June, whichever comes first. Assistance available to applicants to complete forms if required. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact Adrian Martins at North Central CMA after reading the guidelines before completing an application. Details from [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au)

**New Exceptional Circumstances Program:** extensions start on 1<sup>st</sup> 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, Rural Finance Counsellor, [greg-cahill@bigpond.com](mailto:greg-cahill@bigpond.com), 0439 879 267.

**Regional Soils Forum:** Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> 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. Opportunities for improved plant cover, soil carbon sequestration, and the potential to improve soil resilience in an altered climate. Details: [Info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:Info@nccma.vic.gov.au)

**Help for 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](http://www.sbms.org.au) and most have already assisted small business owners affected by fires. Call 132 215 or Geoffrey Lee 9651 9573. **AND** the Victorian Bushfire Business Investment Fund is a \$10 million government stimulus package for larger businesses to create new jobs and attract business investment in communities affected by the bushfires. [www.premier.vic.gov.au/newsroom/9722.html](http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/newsroom/9722.html)

**Recovery Staff Contact Details:** Kirra 5471 1807 & 0429 388 167; Ian 5471 1821 & 0417 147 058  
Email: [i.lillington@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:i.lillington@mountalexander.vic.gov.au) ; [k.litchfield@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:k.litchfield@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)

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