

Community Recovery News for the Redesdale Area Fires

Number 43 – Friday 23rd April 2010

Community Forum: this took place on Saturday, 17th April and was attended by 18 residents and 12 others. This Forum discussed how the community recovery program is governed, and went through a summary of how the community plan had evolved, what money had been spent and what remains. This summary is enclosed/attached, with a form asking for your priorities for funds that are still to be spent and **needs to be returned by 14th May** to email/postal address at end of this newsletter.

You will read on the information sheets that the Redesdale Area Fires Recovery Community Program has brought, or will bring, over \$1.3 million into the area, plus another \$965,503 was received by individuals in the form of Personal Grants from the Victorian Bushfire Action Fund.

Thankyou from the Recovery Co-ordinator: As most of you know, the time has come for me to move on from the all-absorbing Redesdale fires recovery role. This started as a three-month contract and suddenly, 40 newsletters and 14 months has gone by. What has impressed me most has been your team work and great support. All of you have contributed in so many ways to the recovery [your recovery] from 7th Feb 2009, and have been a great help to me in one way or another. So thankyou. I will still be living in Castlemaine and hope to see you around. *Ian Lillington*

Handover arrangements: you can contact Kirra until 30th April, when she takes two weeks leave, and then you can contact Mandy until 14th May on 54 711 700, or Glenda Jenkins at DHS on 5434 5555. Thank you for your patience during this period.

Dates for next working groups:

- Community Well-Being group - Thursday 6th May at 1pm at Barfold Hall.
- Land Management Group Wednesday - 12th May at 1.30 at Barfold Hall.
- Communications [Bridge Connection & web-site development] call 54 255 501

Due to staff changeovers and leave, the **May CRC has been cancelled**. The next CRC will take place on Wednesday 9th June. Venue to be advised.

Fencing: Thanks to the Loddon Prison team who are providing labour for fencing under their supervisor, Tony Pritchard. At present there is no charge for Prison Crew labour, but you have to provide materials. Tony's number is 0448 548 711 and he'd like to hear about your fencing requirements. At the last meeting, the Land Management group agreed to ask all fire-affected residents: 'what do you want from the Land Management group, and what speakers and workshops you'd like'. Please call Clare Claydon with your suggestions on 54 234 152

Round 2 Natural Resource Management Grants still open: The North Central CMA has a funding program to assist landholders or community organisations with the recovery, protection and maintenance of natural assets affected by bushfires which occurred in 2009. Closes when funds expire, or 1st June, whichever comes first. Assistance is available to applicants to complete forms if required. Potential applicants are asked to read the forms and then contact Adrian Martins at North Central CMA, 5448 7124. Details are at www.nccma.vic.gov.au

Youth Program: Saturday 24th April - **Family picnic and 20/20 cricket match** 1– 5pm at Redesdale recreational reserve. **And** Friday 21st May - **Teens Night Music** and international food, Barfold Hall 7-10pm. Open mike, karaoke , prizes, with FREE international foods & drinks. All events are supervised, and alcohol free. To let the youth committee know if you are coming, please call Jo Wedgwood on 0457 520 167, or Mike Hall, 0457 524 490 (so we buy enough stuff for everyone.)

Climate Change 101: Making sense of climate change - free workshop for rural women in the City of Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shires. A chance to find out everything you've wanted to know about climate change with well known environmental educator Ian McBurney. Thursday 6th May, light meal at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. 268 Napier Street, Bendigo. Bookings are essential. RSVP by Monday 3rd May to Jenny Pendlebury phone 54346479, email j.pendlebury@bendigo.vic.gov.au.

Boost the productivity of your sheep enterprise, and interact with other likeminded producers – Friday 7th May at 4pm at Avington Merino stud at 504 Sidonia Road Sidonia. BBQ to follow. We will be evaluating the potential for a BWBL group in the Heathcote, Redesdale & Kyneton areas. For more information or to register your interest please contact DPI's Chris Cordiner on 0427 105 298 or Avington Stud Manager Alistair Calder on 0400 072 703.

CRC members' support Christine Nixon: at the last CRC, some community members stated they would write to the media to support Christine Nixon and ask her to stay on as chair of VBRRA. One resident also spoke on ABC local radio about this. On 16th April, Ms Nixon sent the following statement to be passed on to all fire-affected communities.

As you most probably know, there has been significant media commentary over the last few weeks in the wake of my appearance before the Bushfire Royal Commission. While commentary in the media has included calls for my resignation, I want to tell you I intend to stay on in my position as Chair of VBRRA.

There will be some people in your community who are disappointed and angry with my decisions on 7 February 2009 and they are of course entitled to their opinion. As I have said publicly, with hindsight I would have done things differently. However it is the Royal Commission which will ultimately decide what impact my actions and decisions as Chief Commissioner of Police had on that day.

I want to thank those of you who have provided your support to me both privately and publicly – it has been encouraging and heartening during a difficult time. Finally, if you, your CRC, or your community, have any questions or want an opportunity to discuss any concerns, please contact me.

Kind regards, Christine Nixon

Rainwater tank grants for bushfire destroyed homes: A one-off grant will be provided to residents rebuilding homes to purchase and install rainwater tanks. To claim the grant, residents will need to have been eligible for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Destroyed Homes payments. Current building standards must be met, and tanks must be plumbed into all toilets in the house. To be eligible for the grant, residents must provide a Plumbing Industry Certificate and an invoice/receipt for the rainwater tank. The grants will be available until 30 June 2011. For info, visit: <http://www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/saving/home/rainwater/rainwater-tank-grants-bushfire-destroyedhomes>



Contact Details: Kirra 5471 1807 / 0429 388 167; k.litchfield@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
Mount Alexander Shire Council, PO Box 185, Castlemaine, 3450

Newsletters are also available at:

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