

Community Recovery News for the Redesdale Area Fires

Number 44 – Friday 28th May 2010

The new Community Development Worker has been appointed. Kate Matsaers will begin working with Mount Alexander Shire Council on Monday 7th June. Some of you might know her face as she worked on Bushfire Recovery with the City of Greater Bendigo Council.

Community Recovery Committee will meet on Wednesday 9th of June at 6.00pm at Barfold Hall. Outcomes from the community priority sheets will be discussed.

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

Fencing: The Loddon Prison team 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. Please keep in mind the team is winding up in June and has a very full schedule at the moment.

Rod, who is coordinator of another crew, is working on NCCMA projects has some time available over the next 5 weeks for fencing and some other jobs. This is already funded. Rod's phone number is 0418 381 537.

DPI had provided a post hole driver for the fencing recovery programme as part of Mt Alexander Shire's bushfire relief. The contract for this work has now expired and they are happy to pass over ownership of the post hole driver to a Baynton/Sidonia Landcare group to act as guardian for the post hole driver for future fencing work in the community at no charge. Preference will be given to Bushfire affected residents but it will be available to the general community. When "hiring out" equipment it will be necessary for anyone taking equipment for use on their property to sign it out and sign it back in. The Landcare group will undertake an appropriate maintenance regime on the equipment and will expect users to take reasonable care. You will also need to provide your own tracker. If you would like to use the post hole driver please contact Pip on (03) 5423 7263 or p.j.elston@bigpond.com

Baynton/Sidonia Land Care Group has received funds from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund for a project aimed at restoring fire damaged native vegetation. The project is an idea that was generated at the Community Planning Day last year in August and is in the Community Plan. Letters and emails have been sent out explaining the project and providing you with a form to send to the group if you are interested in participating. If you have not seen a copy of the letter, and you would like to, please feel free to get in contact with Kirra Litchfield.

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: Friday 18th June - **Games and Pie night** at Baynton Hall 6.30 pm- 10- pm all ages 10yrs - 18yrs, BYO iPod. This event is 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.)

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>

The Well Being Working Group has organised for Rob Gordon to come and talk to the community in July. A date is yet to be agreed on but keep it in mind as it is sure to be an interesting event.

Funding for grief and loss counsellors in bushfire affected areas will be extended past the current funding commitment of August 2010. Anyone interested in receiving more information please contact Nerida Melsmith on 0415 060 565.

The Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority will be hosting a state-wide Community Leadership Development Forum. The forum will be at the Sebel Heritage Yarra Valley on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 July 2010. Council and DHS will have representatives attending the forum and we would like to have community members from the CRC and each of the working groups. If you sit on a working group you're interested please contact Kirra Litchfield for more information.

Get Active Program for women over 50: Get fitter at Redesdale Hall, on Friday mornings – 9.30 to 11.30 from 23rd April. Contact Sue Stewart on 5439 2618. Supported by the Bendigo YMCA and City of Greater Bendigo.



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