

30th March 2009

***Information for communities affected by the
Redesdale Fire:***

Barfold / Baynton / Glenhope / Redesdale / Sidonia

INFORMATION

RECOVERY

Community Recovery Committee (CRC) - The next meeting of the **Community Recovery Committee** is on **Thursday 2nd April** at 6pm at Baynton Hall, Darlington Road, via Mission Hill Road. ALL WELCOME. Light refreshments will be served at the meeting, so please let us know if you are attending so we can cater for you - **5423 2571**. This meeting will look at the terms of reference for the group: this is important because it has to work out what its roles and responsibilities are.

Working Groups:

Fencing: The fencing working group meets on **Tuesdays at 12 at Barfold Hall**, but call Ian on 5422 0337 or Lyal before attending. This group has identified that lack of fencing materials is the number 1 issue. Can anyone help with donations of fencing material, as many boundary fences are still needed? There are skilled volunteers who can put up fencing if the material is there. Please call Lyal Metcalf on 54 234 135 [day or eve] with any offers and requests about fencing.

The **Health and Wellbeing Group** will meet at the **Barfold Hall on Wednesday 1 April at 9.30am**. This meeting is to set a direction for this working group. Please call Phillipa on 54 711 744 if planning to attend.

The first meeting of the **Roadside Management working group** will be at **4pm on Thursday 2 April at Baynton Hall** [address above]

More information, and minutes of working groups are available by calling 5422 0337 or 0417 147 058, or email i.lillington@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au .

Post Fire "Walk & Talk" & Family BBQ: 3rd April 2009 from 4pm, at Barfold: If your land has been affected by the recent fires, this Walk & Talk may be of interest to you. The Department of Primary Industry are offering sessions on:

- Pastures after the fire - "Farm walk"; Animal Health issues to consider, including restocking;
- Water quality, soil management and stock containment; Weed management & chemical use *[continued on next page]*

- Whole farm planning - future possibilities with FarmPlan 21

A free BBQ tea will be provided. RSVP is essential (please!!!) - contact Louise Scott, DPI Bendigo on 5430 4690/0400 854 939. Or email: louise.scott@dpi.vic.gov.au

Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission (VBRC) - community consultation sessions: At least four local residents attended the sessions in Bendigo on Wednesday 25th March. Some residents have now written to the Commissioners asking for a similar session for the Redesdale fire area. We will let you know if this request succeeds.

Key Contact Workers Service:

If you would like assistance in negotiating your way through the maze of information and resources available after the fires, please call one of the Key Contact Workers from Castlemaine and District Community Health Service (Ph: 5479 1000) or Cobaw Community Health Service (Ph: 5421 1666). Key Contact Workers are provided via the Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service and can meet you at a location of your choosing.

Emergency Relief Program

The Emergency Relief Program (operated out of the Castlemaine District Community Health Centre – CHIRP) can assist individuals and families who are finding it difficult to make their budgets stretch. The Emergency Relief Program can provide food and fuel vouchers and also assist with utility bill payments. This is a free and confidential service. Call **5479 1000** to make an appointment.

Health fund fees waived: at least one local resident has had their health fund fees waived or reduced. Ask the companies you do business with if they can be of assistance in any way.

Property clean up service

A free property clean up service is available for fire affected properties. Call **1800 136 762** to register for this service (or talk to your Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service key contact person about accessing this service). If you have started to clean up your property you may be eligible to claim back any costs you have incurred. We still have some disposable personal protective clothing packs available. Call **5423 2571** if you would like some of these packs.

Fencing Fact Sheet - Contact the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on 1800 240 667 for a fact sheet, and/or advice and help on these issues: Damage to fences from bushfires or fire suppression activity; Other damage caused by the creation of fire control lines; Damage to private fences by bushfire; Damage to fences adjoining Crown land by bushfire.

The VBRRRA has published its first newsletter on its new website www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au , or available by calling 5422 0337.

Contributions for this newsletter can be sent to i.lillington@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au

