

7<sup>th</sup> April 2009

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

***Barfold / Baynton / Glenhope / Redesdale / Sidonia***

RECOVERY INFORMATION

**Fencing support: The Lions District V1-4** [which includes the fire-affected area] is offering a relief fund to people with fences affected by the Redesdale fires. It is for *fire-damaged fencing along roadsides and crown land (eg creeks)*. These grants will be available at \$400 per km or part km. The grants will come in the form of a voucher [from Lions], that will be able to be used at Elders and Landmark in Kyneton. If you have already bought fencing materials you will also be able to claim the voucher to offset existing bills.

**To apply, you need to write a letter to address below and state:**

- your name,
- phone number,
- the address of affected property,
- the location of the road or crown land that is to be fenced;
- the length of fencing to be constructed.

***Make application by letter, to arrive before 21<sup>st</sup> April, to  
Mr. A Crilly, Lions District Governor, PO Box 1813, Swan Hill 3585***

**Community Cabinet in Redesdale and Bendigo:** the Victorian Government Cabinet will meet in the fire-affected areas on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April. Ministers will have some time to meet residents and business owners. The Community Reception is open to the public – on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 4.00pm to 5.30pm at Bendigo Stadium, Marong Road, Bendigo. Details are attached.

We will arrange a bus to Bendigo, from Barfold and Redesdale Halls, if there are enough bookings. To book on the bus, please contact Ian Lillington on 5422 0337.

**Community Recovery Committee (CRC)** – the CRC met on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at Baynton Hall, and was attended by 24 people. The Committee discussed reports from the working groups [see below], and agreed to adopt the terms of reference for the group as circulated, with provision for them to be updated later. The next meeting of the CRC is Wednesday 15 April, 6pm, Barfold Hall. All welcome.

## Working Groups:

**Fencing:** The fencing working group met on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April and meets again on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 12 noon at Barfold Hall.** Please call Lyal Metcalf on 54 234 135 [day or eve] with any offers and requests about fencing.

**Communication:** the McIvor Neighbourhood House will set up a web site for bushfire recovery news. This will be a place where community members can post their offers, requests and issues and where we can provide minutes, and information. ***Please suggest a name for the website – we need a word or phrase to precede the letters ".org.au".***

The **Health and Wellbeing Group** met at the Barfold Hall on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April and discussed a wide range of ways that support can be provided. The group meets again on **23 April at 9.30am at Barfold Hall.** Please call Susan on 04 000 54 971 if you are planning to attend.

The **Roadside Management working group** met on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and will meet again on 15<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm at Barfold Hall. Last week, staff from relevant government departments and local residents had a full and informative discussion. Notes of the meeting are available from Ian – details below, and a sheet of Frequently Asked Questions will be distributed shortly.

**More information and minutes** of the CRC, and its working groups, are available by calling 5422 0337 or 0417 147 058, or email [i.lillington@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:i.lillington@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au) .

**Offers of Assistance:** anyone who is looking for help can visit the VFF website [www.vff.org.au](http://www.vff.org.au) or call 1300 882 833

**Business Relief Fund** to help support small businesses indirectly affected by the fires. Small businesses in bushfire affected areas that were not burnt out but are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the bushfires may be eligible for grants of up to \$5,000, and a possible supplementary grant of up to \$20,000. Details and application forms at [www.vecci.org.au](http://www.vecci.org.au) .

**Two government schemes for primary producers:** Primary Producers whose properties have been physically affected in the 2009 bushfires are eligible to seek assistance in the form of grants and/or concessional loans. Info here: [Clean-up and Restoration Grant](#) & [Bushfire Assistance Loan](#) or call Donna Collier at RDV on 5442 4100.

**Emergency Relief Program** - Emergency Relief Programs are operated out of the Castlemaine District Community Health Centre – CHIRP and COBAW Community Health. This 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** [Castlemaine] or 54 211 666 [Kyneton] to make an appointment.

*Contributions for this newsletter can be sent to [i.lillington@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:i.lillington@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au) or by phone 5422 0337. I am away from Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April inclusive.*

