

We still need to be careful, even though fire restrictions have ended.

Fire restrictions for North Eastern Victoria finished on 1st May but we still have to be careful about our fire activities.

With the fire restrictions lifted now seems like a good time to burn off all the green waste which has been accumulating over summer. But it has to be done safely. Think about what you are going to do and ask these questions.

- Is it a windy day? Will the wind spread the fire or blow embers around.
- Is there anything near or above the fire which could catch fire?
- Do I have appropriate fire fighting equipment ready to go to control the fire?
- Is the fire going to be really large? Could I do several smaller burns?
- Have I notified Vicfire on **1800 668 511** that I'm doing a burn off so that my smoke won't generate a response from the fire brigade?
- Will I stay and supervise the fire till it's out?

You also have to know that there may be local municipal bylaws about burning off. Check with your local council that you are not in an area impacted by bylaws.

Your fire is your responsibility. If your fire escapes and damages other peoples property you will be held liable. Be smart, be safe and manage your fires carefully.

For more information on fire safety call the Victorian Bushfire Information line on 1800 240 667 or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au

For media information please contact:

CFA Community Education Coordinator Alex Caughey

Bus: 5799 1517

Mob: 0409 430 801

Mitchell Community Health continues to respond to the needs of bushfire affected communities by providing counselling and personal support to the residents of Murrindindi and Mitchell. The organisation is responsible for coordinating all bushfire counselling and personal support services for both municipalities and is committed to the health and wellbeing of the community.

Who can use our services?

Anyone, and the support we provide includes help with:

- problem solving
- adjustment to changed life circumstances
- getting back on track

Where are we?

Currently, staff are located at recovery sites and community service hubs and appointments

can be made for face to face counselling at:

- Alexandra
- Broadford
- Buxton
- Flowerdale
- Kinglake Central
- Kinglake West
- Marysville
- Narbethong
- Seymour
- Wallan
- Yea

To access counselling and personal support services contact the Service Access and Care Coordination Team on **1300 773 352** or speak with a Mitchell Community Health staff member at your nearest recovery centre or community service hub.

Other services available through Mitchell Community Health include:

- Debriefing for individuals, community groups and businesses
- Education for individuals, community groups and businesses on responses to trauma
- Access and referral to other local health and support services
- Financial counselling and health services

Mitchell Community Health provides high quality community based services in the Murrindindi and Mitchell Shires that can assist you to enhance your physical, emotional and social wellbeing.



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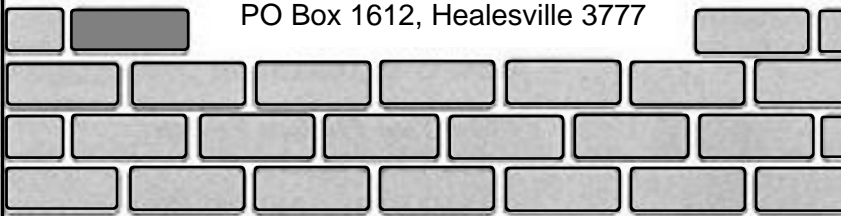
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MAYORS CHAIR

It is with great excitement this Mayor's Chair comes to you this week. You have probably all heard that the Federal Government is paying a large portion of the RAIL TRAIL – the 134 kilometre trail that runs through Murrindindi, Mitchell and Mansfield Shires. The Government is contributing \$13.2 million of the \$14.2 million dollars required.

The Rail Trail stretches across disused rail lines through Trawool, Kerisdale, Homewood, Yea, Moleworth, Cathkin, Alexandra, Koriella, Kanumbra, Merton, Woodfield, Bonnie Doon, Maindample and Mansfield. Funding has been made available for bridge and culvert repair, road crossings, car parks, rest stops, amenities – with access for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and importantly emergency and maintenance vehicles. All of us here in Murrindindi welcome this investment and faith in the future of our Shire – bringing a welcome boost to employment, the economy and future business in the fire affected areas. Sincere thanks to all concerned with raising the recognition of the needed funds – and all their hard work and dedication. Thank you.

Also last week, Labour State Regional and Rural Development Minister Jacinta Allan came to Kinglake West to announce a \$51,000 grant to upgrade facilities at the Mechanics Hall complex. The multi purpose building will have showers, a kitchen and toilets – and the main building will also benefit from security doors, decking, landscaping and fencing. Work will start immediately – and this also demonstrates the faith in our

community by the State Government. Our thanks for this grant, which will greatly improve one of the Shire's busiest meeting points and social hubs.

If anyone from Murrindindi fire affected areas is looking for a free five day getaway, the next "Take a Break" camp will be held from Monday July 6 – Friday July 10 at Grantville Lodge Westernport. A full week of accommodation and meals – families and couples are welcome – maybe just the tonic mid-winter. The website for further information is www.takeabreakcamps.org.au – where you can also register for the week's break. Registration is essential as numbers are limited.

The HOPE09 Youth Live Music Event is scheduled for May 29th (7pm – 10pm) in the "BIG TENT" – behind the Library in Kinglake. Tickets are only \$3-00 – call 0413 974 993 for further information.

This past week Councillors have attended the visit by Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare; the Local Government of Victoria Annual Forum; a visit from State MP Jacinta Allen at Kinglake West; the Rural Women in a Changing Climate Forum and held numerous radio interviews, particularly on ABC Kinglake and UGFM

Surround yourself with people who support you and inspire you to be your best. Friends who remind you of who you are when you forget, and friends who will lovingly be honest with you, will support you in your dreams. Vicky White.

Buxton Rural Fire Brigade

News Update



Siren at Fire Station

There has been much discussion recently in the media regarding the use of sirens at CFA fire stations.

The fire siren has been the traditional method of calling volunteer fire fighters to the fire station when the fire brigade is required to respond to an incident.

An incident might be a fire, small or large. It could also be a road accident, or hazardous material mishap. It could be in another town (e.g. Thornton), not in Buxton.

In the last 2-3 years, the CFA has also been using pagers to alert our volunteers of incidents. However, for various reasons, not all of our members carry pagers.

The current practice at Buxton is for the siren to be activated during daylight hours. This allows the volunteers greater flexibility and a better chance of being alerted to an emergency call. Volunteers might be abruptly departing their workplace or home to attend.

During the aftermath of Black Saturday, the siren at Buxton was turned off for several weeks to avoid causing confusion. The concern at the time was that if the siren was activated then the roads might become clogged by cars evacuating and this might have delayed the fire fighters attending the station.

The Buxton siren has been operating again in daylight hours since March.

The debate about how the community could be notified of large scale emergency situations will no doubt be discussed at the upcoming Royal Commission. Residents should be reassured that the Buxton fire brigade will comply with any recommendations that may be made in the future.

At present, if members of the community would like to know what is happening when the fire siren is heard, log onto http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/incidents/incident_summary.htm for the latest updates.

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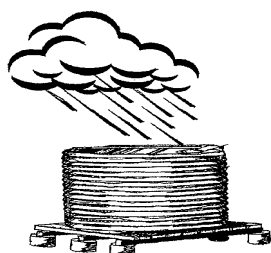
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4th Murrindindi Visitor Information Centre Volunteer Summit a great success

Over seventy volunteers from the Visitor Information Centres (VIC's) across the shire of Murrindindi attended the 4th Annual VIC Summit, held on Tuesday 21 April 2009 at the Yea Golf Club.

The Summit organised and funded by Murrindindi Shire Council's Tourism Unit in conjunction with the VIC Coordinators Network provided a free day for volunteers. It presented a great opportunity for volunteers to get together for fun, networking and professional development. This year's venue proved very popular, and provided a great opportunity for those volunteers who had never been there to have a look around at this fabulous facility. The venue changes each year enabling the volunteers to visit different areas within the shire.

Whilst the idea behind the Summit is to provide relevant information and networking opportunities for the attendees, it is also Murrindindi Shire Council and the VIC Coordinators Network's way of saying a big thank you to the wonderful service that all of the volunteers provide to visitors to our region.

The program for the day took on a recovery focus given the huge impact on the Tourism industry within the shire after the Black Saturday bushfires. Feedback received from previous Summits was also taken into consideration, with the main request being to focus on local information from a range of sectors. With this in mind, speakers from a variety of Government and private enterprises were called on to share their knowledge and expertise.

Attendees were treated to a Yea Wetlands informative morning session with an interpretive talk and either a Wetlands walk or a visit to the Cheviot Tunnel. Later at the Golf Club, Fiona Brooke from Tourism Alliance Victoria highlighted their part in the recovery process. This was followed by an invaluable talk from Paula Rathberger from Northern Grampians Shire and Kylie Schurmann from Grampians tourism, emphasizing their previous experience with their own fires in 2006 and sharing valuable information and tips on how they dealt with the tourism recovery process after their fires and being positive on the products that we still have.

A further presentation by Geoff Proctor from MRTA reiterated some of the issues that the ladies from the Northern Grampians mentioned as well as identifying MRTA's role in the recovery process.

The afternoon consisted of a Plenary Session, with a panel of experts from Kerrisdale Mountain Railway and Museum, Lake Mountain Alpine Resort, the Alexandra Truck Ute and Rod Show and Parks Victoria. This demonstrated the various opportunities available to visitors to the region. There were many questions asked from the audience, and through the evaluation forms filled out on the day, this session rated the highest and most popular.

Special thanks must be extended to the following sponsors for the day, The Alexandra Eildon Marysville Standard and the Rotary Club of Yea.

If you have some spare time and would like to find out more about volunteering at your local VIC, contact your local Centre Coordinator, who will be sure to fill you in.

Alexandra/Marysville VIC	Pat Longland	5772 1100
Eildon VIC	Don Hewitt	5774 2909
Yea VIC	Sandra Hanley	5797 2663

We look forward to another successful VIC Volunteer Summit in 2010, and hope to see you there.

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An Afternoon of Openings, Sun 17 May, Marysville

Regional Arts Victoria, Murrindindi Shire, Marysville Cultural Community and Marysville and Triangle Development Group would like to invite you to attend a special function to be held on **Sunday 17 May 2009 in Marysville**. A number of new initiatives are being launched on this day. These include:

- a newly established community radio station, Radio Marysville, funded with the support of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
- Marysville Temporary Village, funded through federal, state and philanthropic funds

The official program of launches will commence at the Temporary Village at 2:00 pm and conclude at 3:00 pm. The official proceedings will be broadcast by Radio Marysville around Australia via the community radio network.

Regional Arts Victoria's Patron, the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser, will be in attendance. A number of other special guests have also been invited. We invite you to join us for Regional Arts Victoria's Annual General Meeting at the Marysville Golf Club at 1:00 pm for 1:20 pm. Following all these activities there will be an informal picnic at the Village which will conclude at 4:00 pm. Non-residents of Marysville will be asked to 'bring a plate' that they can share at the picnic with Marysville residents. This is an opportunity for everyone who has enjoyed the hospitality of the many guest houses and businesses in Marysville over decades to say thankyou and return the favour.

We all look forward to seeing you there.

Lindy Allen

Director, Regional Arts Victoria

Part-Time Vacancy **Business Recovery Officer** 12 month appointment



As a consequence of a State Government Grant, a part-time position (2.5 days per week) has been created at the Murrindindi Shire Council for a positive and enthusiastic person to fill the role of Business Recovery Officer within Council's Economic Development Department. The position is initially funded for 12 months, with a possibility to extend to 2 years subject to funding and has become available as a response to the devastating February bushfires.

The Business Recovery Officer will support the Economic Development function of council by focussing on the specific needs of businesses affected by the impact of the bushfires and on broad economic recovery. The successful applicant will report to the Manager, Economic Development and will play a key role in "implementing" council objectives as they relate to supporting the rebuilding and recovery of the business sector.

Key duties include working with local businesses in their re-establishment and rebuilding efforts, the provision of timely and relevant information as well as advocacy and referral support to new and existing small businesses.

The successful applicant will be a positive, forward thinking and creative person with proven business, administrative and customer service skills and experience. A person with small business experience would be highly regarded.

The successful applicant will work from the Alexandra council office and operate predominantly in the eastern side of the shire. The role will also involve after hours work. A current driver's license is essential. For a position description contact Lisa Wallace on (03) 5772 0318 or via email on lwallace@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Enquiries and written applications addressing the key selection criteria should be marked Confidential and directed to Bob Elkington, Manager Economic Development, Murrindindi Shire Council, PO Box 138, Alexandra 3714 or 03 5772 0367. Applications must be received by close of business Monday May 11, 2009.

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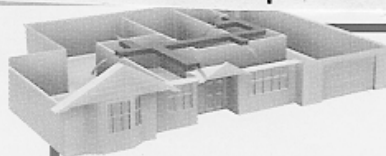
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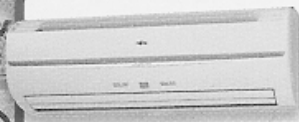
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