

MATDG THE STORY SO FAR

MATDG Report to
the Community



MARYSVILLE AND TRIANGLE
DEVELOPMENT GROUP
Marysville • Granton • Hamelburg • Buxton • Taggerty

MATG, c/o 41 Dyes Lane, Buxton, 3711
www.marysvillecommunity.net

Getting Started

The Marysville & Triangle Development Group was formed to be an interim community group to represent and work for the bushfire-affected communities of the Triangle region following Black Saturday.

Experts who were experienced in similar national disasters all made the point that the communities that recovered and prospered fastest after a natural disaster were those that worked as a united group rather than waiting for outside assistance (e.g., Andrew & Nicola Forrest of the Australian Children's Trust and the CEO of VECCI).

MATDG began when the Hon. Fran Bailey, Federal MP for McEwan, recognised the need for a community-based group to assist in the rebuilding and reconstruction efforts. She asked Jim Roennfeldt, President of the Taggerty Community Progress Group, to quickly involve other influential representatives of local community groups. The group that was to become the nucleus of MATDG met for the first time in mid February and established a charter and an operational strategy.

The four principles of the charter substantially guided the activities of the Group from the very start.

- *Consultation and communication*
- *Initiative(s) from the community, not above it*
- *Aim for 'better' rather than for 'replacement'*
- *Build confidence, and hence build aspirations*

The Marysville and Triangle Development Group (MATDG) was formed in the first week after the fires to assist in the rebirth and rebuilding of the Marysville and Triangle Communities.

All members are unpaid volunteers giving their time and expertise freely to assist the community to rebuild following Black Saturday

The original MATDG members were later supplemented by other citizens who were committed to the same principles.

Despite the natural difficulties thrown up by the effects of the bushfires, MATDG has persistently pursued and facilitated the community's interests. Under the circumstances, its achievements (summarised later in this brochure) have been considerable.

The Group and the community was supported in this effort by the Australian Children's Trust, particularly the four volunteers who worked within the community (two of whom remain with us and will be with us as long as required). Mr Kim Wilkie, an ex-Federal Parliamentarian, also volunteered his services. Although Kim is from Perth, he made – and continues to make – himself available to serve the Triangle community.

What has been done....

MATDG is now approaching 250 members and is increasingly a focal point for planning, activity and a number of targeted and open donations for Marysville and the Triangle District. The AGM and formal elections will be on 13th June 2009.

The transition from an interim body to a recognised community voice is underway.

Major achievements to June 2009

1. Brought the Community together after the fires

- Thursday 19 February, 500-600 met at the golf club, further meetings with police etc, dinner by Alex. Lions
- Sunday 22 February, 400-500 a meeting was held with Major General John Cantwell
- Monday 1 March, 200-300 First meeting of business community

2. Facilitated a number of activities

- Largely through Kim Wilkie and the ACT, designed and built the temporary village
- Organised a number of containment fences
- Involved in the storage and distribution of donated goods, and able to bring community and government groups together for an agreed future approach
- Arranged a future central distribution point of donated goods within the Triangle
- Through Judy Jans, organised planting of many bulbs and gardens
- Ordered and commenced selling T shirts, wrist bands and car stickers for the benefit of the Triangle community
- By acting as advocates, facilitators, advisers and helpers, MATDG volunteers made representations on behalf of members of the community to influential people to find solutions and answers.

3. Commenced community consultation

- Saturday 18th April 100-200 people were at a second meeting of business interests
- Overwhelming support for urgent reestablishment of business in the car museum



Premier Brumby and Christine Nixon (VBRRA) at the Village Opening, Sunday 17th May

- Sunday 3rd May, 400 attended the first workshop facilitated by the ACT and lead by Nigel Bell, to start the design process for Marysville.

4. Communicated community needs to many groups:

- Lobbied both Federal and State Government re farmers needs
- promoted use of local contractors to Christine Nixon and Grocon. Successfully bridged a communication gap between local contractors and Grocon and organised training for local contractors
- promoted acquisition of car museum to Federal/ State Governments, council, service clubs and potential donors as the best means to rapidly restore essential services and businesses within Marysville
- liaised and cooperated with other fire affected areas through meetings sponsored by Sheik Mohammed of Dubai.

But to be truly effective MATDG needs your help...

What needs to be done....

Since Black Saturday MATDG's function has been a constant alertness to and consideration of the Triangle folk who have been temporarily unable to participate in the recovery other than at a personal level. The time is now right for everyone to have their say about the future through the MATDG group.

There is a huge amount of work to be done, and it is important the community determines what needs to be done, in what order and by whom.

To this end, the second community workshop– the “Phoenix” workshop– is being planned with the assistance of Nigel Bell, MATDG, VBRRRA, ACT and the VBRRRA urban consultancy team. The current plan is for an intensive workshop on 26th– 28th June.



Community consultation “Celebration Workshop” May 3rd

How will it be done....

We need to ensure the community is represented by the right people. The open election on 13th June will move the interim MATDG committee to an elected group recognised as the voice of the people of Marysville and Triangle. Answering to this committee are community advisory groups under 7 headings. Temporary convenors have been appointed to bring these groups together. These groups and contacts are as follows:

- Community Wellbeing, contact Dr Lachlan Fraser 0438 642 426 or snow.doc@hotmail.com
- Business, Employment and Training, contact Graeme Brown 041 8149912 or gcc@virtual.net.au
- Recovery Reconstruction (incorporating building, storage & distribution etc), contact Ken Adams 5963 3247 or info@scenicaccommodation.com.au

- Communication, Consultation and Marketing, contact John Cann 0409 357 809 or johncann@optusnet.com.au
- Gardens and Landscaping, contact Judy Jans 5963 4030 or home@sigmaconsultancy.com
- Innovation and Sustainability, convenor to be notified
- Finance, contact Jim Roennfeldt 57747575 or roennfeldt1@bigpond.com

The volunteers in these groups will be called upon to assist with the various projects that will be the rebuilding of Marysville and Triangle

“Make sure you have your say– get involved in an advisory group.”