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# Media Release

## **Keppel's Hut rises from the ashes**

The historic Keppel's Hut, which was destroyed in the Black Saturday bushfires, is back.

Originally constructed by one of Marysville's pioneering families, the Keppels, the popular tourist attraction is again open to the public.

"The hut and surrounding area provide a beautiful setting for day visitors to view the forest as it bounces back from last years fires," said Department of Sustainability Environment Project Co-ordinator, Murray Sutton.

"The forest regrowth is thriving at the moment and the hut is really looking good especially after the recent landscaping work."

Located in the Marysville State Forest, Keppel's Hut is a 27 kilometre drive from the heart of Marysville via Mt Margaret Road.

Keppel's Hut was one of a number of huts the Keppel family constructed in the Marysville area from the late 1880s.

"Originally the huts were built as camps for drovers moving cattle and sheep from Marysville to Lake Mountain and its surrounds during the warmer months."

Cattle grazing ceased in the 1960s and the hut burnt down in the winter of 1983 before it was rebuilt by the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands with the assistance of the local community.

"Since then the hut has been a popular attraction for recreational enthusiasts including horse and bike riders," Mr Sutton said.

"We recommend using a 4WD vehicle and calling into the Marysville Information Centre to get the latest information before setting off.

"Visitors should also check the DSE and Parks Victoria online interactive bushfire recovery map when planning any trips in State Forests or National Parks affected by fire."

Toilet and BBQ facilities will be installed later in the year following the replacement of the nearby horse yard that was also destroyed in the fire.

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