

Tuesday 20 April, 2010

## BUSHFIRE UPDATE

FROM CHRISTINE NIXON

CHAIR

### BUSHFIRE RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY AUTHORITY

#### **Residents invited to have their say on 'Marysville Heart' – first workshop this Wednesday**

The Marysville Heart project is about creating a new public space in the centre of town with the capacity for cultural and/or commercial activities. It aims to be a special place in Marysville that provides long term cultural and economic benefits to the local community.

Individuals and community groups are being invited to put forward proposals for the Heart until 17 May. Options will also be on display for the community to consider and provide feedback on at the Marysville Information Expo on 1 May.

Prior to that, there will be **two workshops to discuss criteria and options for the Heart – Wednesday 21 April, 6-9pm, Marysville Golf Club and Saturday 24 April, 11am – 1pm, Kim's Kitchen, Marysville Temporary Village**. People are invited to attend either one.

More info: <http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/crc-marysville-and-triangle/marysville-heart.html>

#### **Toilets and Showers Extension**

Bushfire affected people rebuilding on their property will now be able to have the **use of free portable toilets and showers until 30 November 2010**.

The program was previously set to finish on 31 July this year – but will now be extended to ensure people who are still rebuilding or have yet to begin the process can access free toilets and showers after this time.

Anyone with toilet and/or shower units on their block that they received under the scheme can continue to keep them free-of-charge for as long as they need, up until 30 November 2010. If you need the units after this time, you can enter into a contract with the supplier.

Register for the free portable toilet and shower scheme via [www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au](http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au) or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

#### **Feedback sought for Five Towns Trail**

Following the Marysville Phoenix workshop last year, the local community expressed their desire for a shared walking/cycling trail to connect the five towns of the triangle – Marysville, Narbethong, Granton, Buxton and Taggerty.

A feasibility study is being undertaken and community input is being sought for the plan. If you would like to contribute your thoughts, an **Open Community Workshop will be held on Thursday 29 April at Marysville Golf Club from 6pm to 8pm.**

A series of local 'walks and talks' will also be held at the times and locations below:

Date	Consultation Program	When and Where
<b>Wednesday 28 April</b>	Short walk and talk with any Buxton residents about any trail ideas	9-10am Start at the Reserve outside the Hub
	Short walk and talk with any Taggerty residents about any trail ideas	9-10am Start near the General Store
	Short walk and talk with any Granton residents about any trail ideas	1-2pm Start near Staplecross
	Short walk and talk with any Narbethong residents about any trail ideas	1-2pm Start at the Hub
<b>Thursday 29 April</b>	Short walk and talk with any Marysville residents about any trail ideas	9-10am Start at Marysville Pool

More information is on the [www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au](http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au) website or contact Jane Tovey: (03) 9092 2560/[jane.tovey@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:jane.tovey@dpc.vic.gov.au)

### **Marysville Community Information Expo**

Marysville and Triangle Community Recovery Committee is having a community get-together and barbecue to celebrate rebuilding and recovery achievements. It will be a chance for people to catch up with friends and neighbours, hear about progress to date and find out more about plans for the future.

There will be updates on Marysville Heart, Community Centre Stage Two, Taggerty and Narbethong projects, the restoration of Steavenson Falls and the Economic Leadership Group. People will be able to tour the new school and there will be activities for the kids.

The Expo is on at **Gallipoli Park, 1 May, from noon to 4pm.**

### **Murchison Street Plans out for Community Feedback**

Following extensive community consultation, the Master Plan for redeveloping Marysville's main streets has been endorsed by Murrundindi Shire Council's Section 86 Committee and is now out for final public comment **until Wednesday 12 May 2010.**

The project seeks to restore the character and heritage significance of key streets in the town. The landscape works will be complemented by civic works such as public art, street furniture and the creation of pedestrian friendly links.

The knowledge of local residents, business owners, workers and visitors to the area is important and VBRRA is looking for feedback on the proposed vision and ideas in the plans.

Please submit feedback by Wednesday 12 May 2010 to: **Marysville – Murchison Street and Town Amenity Project Murrindindi Shire Council PO Box 138, Alexandra VIC 3714** or via email to: [msc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:msc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au) or [markus.terjung@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:markus.terjung@dpc.vic.gov.au)

For further information or to view the plans go to <http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/crc-marysville-and-triangle/murchison-street-and-town-amenity-project.html> or contact Markus Terjung on (03) 9651 7733 or [markus.terjung@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:markus.terjung@dpc.vic.gov.au)

### **Kinglake Ranges Cultural and Community Facility Project**

The Kinglake Ranges communities are being invited to a public feedback meeting to consider two major issues – the Kinglake Ranges Cultural and Community Facility Project and separate plans for a new youth facility.

The meeting, to be run by the Community Recovery Committee, is on at the **Kinglake West Mechanics Institute on 28 April at 7pm.**

The Kinglake Ranges Cultural and Community Facility Project will see a dedicated arts and learning facility developed for the area.

The new facility will provide community members with opportunities to participate in the arts, performance, exhibitions and multi-media production. It will also provide vocational and adult learning classes that link to the Neighbourhood House and major providers such as NMIT and RMIT, as well as offering community and school education programs.

Optional concept designs will be presented at the meeting based on consultation already undertaken with groups representing the arts, education and Kinglake National Park representatives.

Members of the Kinglake Ranges communities are invited to discuss the options and provide input to the next stage of the project. Following this, market research will be conducted to provide an accurate measure of potential use of the proposed facilities. A further public meeting will be held in June to communicate more detailed plans.

The meeting will also be informed about plans for a new facility for use by young people in Kinglake.

### **Kinglake Ranges Recovery Projects – Progress So Far**

A full overview of recovery projects for the Kinglake Ranges will be presented by the Community Recovery Committee at a **public forum on 23 May at the Kinglake West Mechanics Institute Hall from 10am to 2pm.**

The forum will cover which projects have been completed, are in progress, are due to begin, and importantly, which ones still have a chance to be funded.

This is community members' chance to get a comprehensive overview of progress to date and to influence additional projects. A barbecue will be provided.

## **Evaluation of Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service**

The Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service (VBCMS) has provided support to many households affected by the February 2009 bushfires. VBCMS is now looking to see how helpful the service has been to bushfire-affected Victorians, how it could be improved and what support should be provided in future emergencies.

To do this, people are invited to take part in a short survey. The survey is open to all people affected by the bushfires, whether they used the case management service or not.

To complete the survey online visit <http://www.vbcmssurvey.com.au>, you can also get a paper copy from your local Community Service Hub or Case Manager. The **survey closes on 26 April 2010**.

Focus groups are also being held for people who used the case management service. You can register to take part by providing your contact details at the end of the online survey or by contacting the evaluators on 8663 4903. If you participate, you will be paid for your time. Contact Urbis on 8863 4903 or email [vbcms@urbis.com.au](mailto:vbcms@urbis.com.au) for more details.

## **Kids Grieve Too (KG2) – Support Groups for Children**

*Kids Grieve Too* or *KG2* is a peer support group program designed to meet the special needs of children aged 5 to 14 years who are bereaved through the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

The Kinglake group began on Wednesday 10 March and will be held fortnightly initially. The Kinglake group begins at 5pm and finishes at 6.45pm. For more information or to register for the group please phone Sandra Hatton on 8401 0142 or Leigh Ford on 8401 0109.

*KG2* groups are also starting in Term 2 in Ringwood/Lilydale, Hurstbridge/Eltham, Gippsland and North Melbourne. For further information or to register your interest in a group, please phone the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement on 9265 2111 or email [support@grief.org.au](mailto:support@grief.org.au).

## **Safe Removal of Hazardous Trees – Latrobe Council area**

In response to local community concerns regarding wood piles left on private properties, the Authority and Latrobe City Council have set up a Steering Group to address the issue. The Steering Group is gathering information from landowners who may need help with this.

Contact: Steve Tong 5128 5790 or Deb Brown 0400 808 968 (Latrobe City Council) or Colin Brick 5135 5804 or Liz Tyler 5169 6691 (Boolarra-Yinnar Community Recovery Committee).

**Remember:** When having hazardous trees cut down, people need to make sure they let the contractor know before starting the job if they want trees removed from their property.

## **Rainwater Tank Grants**

A one-off grant will be provided to residents rebuilding homes after the 2009 bushfires to purchase and install rainwater tanks. To claim the grant, residents need to have been eligible for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Destroyed Homes payments.

Grants will be provided on the following basis:

\$1000 for a tank 4000+ litres connected to all toilets and laundry

\$900 for a tank 4000+ litres connected to all toilets

\$500 for tank 2000-3999 litres connected to all toilets (connection to laundry optional)



# Media Release

Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery Authority



The grants will be available until 30 June 2011 and **claims must be lodged by 30 September 2011**. For further information, please contact Sustainability Victoria on 1300 363 744 or email [rebates@sustainability.vic.gov.au](mailto:rebates@sustainability.vic.gov.au)

**Media Inquiries: VBRR Media on 9092 5856 or 0428 634 194**