

23 April, 2010

## MARYSVILLE REBUILDING ADVISORY CENTRE ON TRACK FOR MID YEAR OPENING

Chair of the Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority Christine Nixon said today the new Marysville Rebuilding Advisory Centre & Community Facility in Murchison Street should be open for business in late June.

The state-of-the-art centre, built to new Bushfire Attack Level 29 standards, will provide free step-by-step guidance and advice to help with rebuilding homes and businesses damaged or destroyed in last year's fires.

"Many people whose homes were lost or damaged in the fires are still considering their options," Ms Nixon said. "This centre will be a one-stop-shop where people can access their rebuilding needs – from the very start to the finish.

"From permits and architectural plans to advice on insurance, financial or legal matters – the Rebuilding Advisory Centre will have rebuilding information, all under the one roof."

Ms Nixon said the Marysville RAC and a similar centre in Kinglake have both been made possible through the generous donations of goods and services of approximately 60 businesses in the building and construction industry with VBRRRA working in close consultation at all times with the Murrindindi Shire Council.

She said both centres will be staffed by building experts from the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction Authority and will be opened Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings. Meeting rooms within the Advisory Centres will be made available to the community after hours.

"Understandably, rebuilding after the fires is an incredibly daunting process for most people and this centre will provide the information they need in one place," said Ms Nixon.

"There is already a range of support and information to people in bushfire-affected communities to help them rebuild including an on-the-ground presence through the Mobile Rebuilding Advisory Service.

"Having a permanent centre open its doors in Marysville will make it even easier for local people to find the advice they need," she said.

During the time that the facility operates as a rebuilding advisory centre, space will also be available to interested individuals or groups for short-term tenancies of up to 12 months with the Murrindindi Shire Council running an Expression of Interest for all those interested in using the building.

Preference will be given to activities that:

- Contribute to the recovery effort
- Are 'not for profit'
- Are provided by Shire-based individuals or organisations
- Require a regular presence in the facility

Consideration will also be given to groups whose normal operating premises were lost in the fires.

More information is available at [www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au](http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au), [www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au](http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au) or from the Marysville offices of the Murrindindi Shire Council.



# Media Release

Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery Authority



Ms Nixon said the Marysville Centre will be handed back to the community once the rebuilding effort is complete.

The free Mobile Building Advisory Service is continuing to provide expert advice and information to help with all aspects of rebuilding homes and businesses damaged or destroyed in last year's fires.

Building advisers are available face-to-face or over the phone and operate from Community Service Hubs across all bushfire affected areas.

A roster of operating times is available on the VBRRA website at <http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au>. Appointments can be made by calling 1800 240 667.

\* **Note to Ed:** VBRRA is currently advertising for a full time Office Manager to work in the RAC at Marysville for a 10 month fixed term.