

Tuesday 4 May, 2010

BUSHFIRE UPDATE

FROM CHRISTINE NIXON

CHAIR

BUSHFIRE RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY AUTHORITY

KINGLAKE MEN'S SHED

Kinglake will soon have a Men's Shed with Premier John Brumby recently announcing \$315,000 from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund to purchase a facility.

Men's Sheds link men to important information and services for a range of health and well being related issues, which they often don't actively seek out themselves.

The Kinglake Men's Shed will be established at the old chocolate factory at 5 Oldfield Road, Pheasant Creek.

A further \$50,000 has been provided by the Department of Planning and Community Development to make improvements and fit out the building with community facilities and rooms.

More information: <http://www.kinglakerangesmensshed.org.au/>

MATERIAL AID UPDATE – MARYSVILLE AND KINGLAKE

The building secured for the Kinglake Men's Shed is currently one of the distribution points for material aid in the Ranges.

An agreement has been reached with the Men's Shed Committee that will see the facility continue as the material aid distribution point until June 24.

By that time, most of the material aid generously donated to bushfire-affected families and individuals will have been distributed.

Following the fires, some 21,000 pallets of household goods including toiletries, clothing and crockery were donated by people and businesses from all over Australia.

The vast majority of these goods have been distributed, with only a small amount of second hand clothing, toiletries and books remaining. Most of these goods should be distributed by June.

After June, remaining material aid will continue to be available from the Salvation Army in Whittlesea and out of the Kinglake Neighbourhood House to holders of blue referral cards.

A community barbecue will be held on 19 June at the material aid centre in Oldfield Road to thank all of the workers and volunteers who have made the centre run so successfully since it began in June 2009, and to mark the end of material aid from the centre.

Similarly, the Marysville material aid distribution point will close on 18 June, when most of the material aid has been distributed and when the lease ends on the facility there.

Currently there is no alternative provider of material aid in Marysville, however, the Authority will monitor the ongoing needs of the community. Marysville residents with blue referral cards will still be able to access material aid from Kinglake Ranges or Healesville.

A barbecue will be held at the Marysville material aid centre on 12 June, again to thank the workers and volunteers for their work in ensuring local households and communities have been able to access goods they needed to help them get back on their feet.

Other material aid points in fire-affected areas will continue to operate as normal.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS EXTENDED

The State Government also recently announced \$800,000 to extend the roles of Community Development Officers in the most bushfire-affected Local Government areas.

The recovery effort is a long-term process and the officers are supporting communities to transition through their different stages of recovery.

STEELY RESOLVE WILL RESOLVE WILL ASSIST BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

Funds raised from recycling steel that was cleared from homes destroyed by the 2009 Victorian bushfires will be made available to Landcare and other community environmental groups to rehabilitate the environment.

Some \$1.584 million has been raised through the *Recycling for Recovery* program.

The Victorian and Federal Government-funded clean up of properties was carried out by Grocon and saw about 3,000 properties cleared, with 11,650 tonnes of steel recycled.

Landcare and other environmental groups will soon be invited to submit funding proposals, to be developed in conjunction with Community Recovery Committees.

Grants may be used for projects such as preventing pest animal and weed species becoming established on public and adjoining private land or replanting vegetation to prevent erosion.

Applications for funding for projects in fire affected areas will open on 14 May, 2010. More information is available by calling the Regional Landcare Coordinator in your local CMA, or Landcare and Community Engagement Policy Officer Allison Long at allison.long@dse.vic.gov.au

MARYSVILLE, KINGLAKE REBUILDING CENTRES ON TRACK FOR MID-YEAR OPENING

The new Marysville and Kinglake Rebuilding Advisory Centres & Community Facilities should both be open for business in late June.

The state-of-the-art centres, 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.

The Centres have been made possible through the generous donations of goods and services of approximately 60 businesses and organisations.

They will be staffed by building experts from the Authority and will be opened Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings. Meeting rooms will be available to the community after hours.

During the time that the facilities operate as Rebuilding Advisory Centres, space will be available to interested individuals or groups for short-term tenancies of up to 12 months. Murrindindi Shire Council is running an Expression of Interest for those interested in using the building.

More information is available at www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au, <http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/reconstruction/rebuilding-advisory-centres.html> or from the Marysville offices of the Murrindindi Shire Council.

The Centres will be handed to the Council for community use once the rebuilding effort is complete.

Don't forget that the free Mobile Building Advisory Service is continuing to provide expert advice and information to help people with all aspects of rebuilding.

A roster of operating times is available on the VBRRRA website at <http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/reconstruction/mobile-rebuilding-advisory-service.html>. Appointments can be made by calling 1800 240 667.

KINGLAKE RANGES PUBLIC FORUM – RECOVERY PROJECTS AND PROGRESS

The Kinglake Ranges Community Recovery Committee is inviting residents to come along for a full overview of reconstruction and recovery projects for the Ranges. It also gives locals a chance to influence additional projects.

The forum and barbecue is on Sunday 23 May, from 10am to 2pm at the Community Hall, Kinglake Central.

FIVE TOWNS TRAIL UPDATE – MARYSVILLE AND TRIANGLE

A series of 'walk and talk' sessions and a community workshop were recently held as part of the proposed development of a trail linking the five Triangle towns of Marysville, Buxton, Narbethong, Alexandra and Taggerty.

The sessions gave people a chance to outline what they see as important for the proposed trail and were the first step in developing a feasibility study for the project.

The results of this stage of the process will be presented back to the community at Buxton Hall on Sunday 16 May between 3.30pm and 5pm and anyone with interest on any aspect of the trail is urged to attend.

For more information contact Jane Tovey, Manager Environmental Recovery, VBRRRA, on 9092 2560 or Jane.Tovey@dpc.vic.gov.au or go to <http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/crc-marysville-and-triangle.html>

MURCHISON STREET PLANS OUT FOR COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Following extensive community consultation, the Master Plan for redeveloping Marysville's main streets has been endorsed by Murrindindi 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 VBRRRA is looking for feedback on the proposed vision and ideas in the plans.



Media Release

Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery Authority



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 or 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

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