



Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority | Edition 07

4 June 2010

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- Page 1: Local contractors sought for Murrindindi Rebuilding Works**
- Page 2: Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi Plan and Design Framework (KFT Plan); Latest updates on bushfire recovery; Taskforce Phoenix regular update**
- Page 3: Bushfire-affected households – rebates, grants, incentives and advice; Jeeralang North students get connected; New standard for bushfire shelters**
- Page 4: 2010 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards; YMCA bushfire school holiday programs; Comment on Draft Kinglake National Park Master Plan**
- Page 5: Toorourrong Reservoir Park Master Plan; Bendigo bushfire memorial; Reminders**
- Page 6: Reminders**
- Page 7: Community Noticeboard**
- Page 8: Sign Up; Your Say; Stay Informed**

## latestnews

### **Local contractors sought for Murrindindi Rebuilding Works**

Local tradespeople are encouraged to take part in a bushfire reconstruction program that will rebuild and restore community assets valued at more than \$15 million across the Murrindindi Shire.

The Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRRA), in partnership with the Murrindindi Shire Council, has appointed Bovis Lend Lease to oversee a two-year program to rebuild community and council infrastructure.

Bushfire rebuilding projects to be rolled out over the coming months include the Marysville Community Centre construction, Gallipoli Park restoration, Murchison Street and Town Amenity project, Narbethong Community Hall construction and Strath Creek projects including restoration of Pioneer Reserve, and upgrades to the Community Hall and tennis facilities.

Tradespeople are encouraged to register at [www.regionalindustrylink.com.au](http://www.regionalindustrylink.com.au) which will entitle them to participate in the pre-qualification process being run by Bovis Lend Lease for projects in Murrindindi Shire. As part of the pre-qualification process, businesses will be asked to submit information on their resource capacity, licensing, previous performance, and quality processes. Responses will then be used to establish a panel of pre-qualified businesses which Bovis Lend Lease will target for formal tendering processes.



Free workshops will be held at the Marysville Community Golf and Bowls Club on Thursday 10 June from 2pm to 5pm and the Kinglake Ranges Business Centre on Thursday 17 June from 2pm to 5pm. These workshops will provide contractors with information on work opportunities in Murrindindi as well as tips on tendering for jobs.

To register to attend the workshops call Sarah Light on 0427 767 378.

For more information on the Murrindindi works program and employment opportunities visit [www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au](http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au)

### **Our Communities, Our Places:**

#### **The Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi Plan and Design Framework (KFT Plan)**

Work is now underway on creating a long-term plan for communities in the Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi.

*Our Communities, Our Places: The Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi Plan and Design Framework (KFT Plan)* will guide future land use, the growth of towns, economic revitalisation, the provision of services and infrastructure, as well as establish design guidelines for the future character of small towns and settlements.

It will aim to create safer, more resilient towns that are sustained by high natural environmental values and a vibrant local economy.

The need for a plan that incorporates this vision was identified by communities as an important recovery priority. Funding was provided as part of the \$193 million *Rebuilding Together* plan in October 2009.

A planning team has been appointed to work with communities on developing the Plan. This process will be run in partnership with the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, the Murrindindi Shire Council, Department of Planning and Community Development and the Community Recovery Committees of Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi.

The planning process will provide many opportunities for community discussion and feedback, starting from June 2010. All of these consultation sessions will be advertised widely.

You can also get information by linking to the website:

<http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/rebuilding-kinglake-ranges/kft-plan.html>;

calling in at project information booths which will soon be established in Kinglake (initially at the Council library and then in the Rebuilding Advisory Centre when it opens in coming weeks), Flowerdale (at the Integrated Planning Office) and Toolangi (at the Neighbourhood House); or by contacting us at: [kftplan@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:kftplan@dpc.vic.gov.au)

### **Latest updates on bushfire recovery**

Fact sheets with an update on reconstruction and recovery efforts in all bushfire-affected areas are available at [www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au](http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au) go to Local Community – Recovery by Community.

The fact sheets include the status of projects funded by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (VBAF), community events funded through VBAF and projects funded by Commonwealth, State and Local government.

### **Taskforce Phoenix regular update**

Victoria Police has provided the first of regular updates regarding Taskforce Phoenix in the VBRRA *News Update*, to inform bushfire-affected communities on current investigations.

Taskforce Phoenix headed by Superintendent Paul Hollowood made submissions to the Bushfires



Royal Commission (BRC) regarding the tragic deaths of 173 people on February 7, 2009.

While all submissions will be considered by the Royal Commission in making their final recommendations, police investigations into the cause of the Black Saturday bushfires are continuing.

So far, Victoria Police has put more than 106,327 hours of investigative work into the fires on Black Saturday and as of February, investigators had taken 4000 statements from witnesses and they continue to gather evidence with a further 500 to 1000 statements expected to be taken.

A committal hearing against the alleged arsonist in Churchill began on May 31, while the alleged arsonists in Bendigo will be facing a mention listing on June 23.

Meanwhile, the investigation into the Murrindindi fire continues and police are still appealing for anyone with information to come forward.

Anyone with information regarding the bushfires is asked to contact **Crime Stoppers** on **1800 333 000** or visit [www.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au)

### **Bushfire affected households - rebates, grants, incentives and advice**

A range of rebates, grants and other incentives including sustainable building advice are available to residents rebuilding their homes after the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

There is currently a rebate available to eligible homeowners installing a solar hot water system in rebuilt homes. For information contact 1800 808 571 or visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/solarhotwater/index.html>

A Victorian Government grant is also available for installing water tanks in eligible rebuilt homes. To qualify, applicants must have been eligible to receive a Destroyed Homes Payment.

Rebates/grants are only available for permanent new homes and for further information on Victorian Government rebates/grants contact 1300 366 195 or go to [www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/rebates](http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/rebates) to download an application form.

### **Jeeralang North students get connected**

Residents of Jeeralang North and district met in the early morning of 31 May to celebrate the reconnection of the school bus route to its terminus at the Jeeralang North Hall. The school bus route was previously unavailable to Jeeralang North, which suffered the loss of three homes in the February 2009 bushfires.

Four families were represented at the celebration, and six children departed for the bus trip to their schools. Their celebration was shared with other children further along the bus route.

A temporary bus shelter is planned to be included as part of the upcoming renovation of the Jeeralang North Hall, which was partially destroyed in the Black Saturday bushfires. The renovated hall will incorporate a bus turning circle and provide shelter.

### **New standard for bushfire shelters**

A new national performance standard for private bushfire shelters has replaced interim regulations that were introduced in the aftermath of the February 2009 bushfires.

Under the national standard released by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) private bushfire shelters are now required to be a separate building, rather than part of a home or dwelling.

A building permit is required for a private bushfire shelter and a permit is also required from a fire safety engineer stating that the shelter complies with the national performance standard.



It should be noted that private bushfire shelters cannot be guaranteed to save lives and the safest option is still to leave early. To download a copy of the performance standard for the design and construction of private bushfire shelters, visit [www.abc.gov.au](http://www.abc.gov.au)

For more information on being Fire Ready visit [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

### **2010 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards**

Nominations are open until Friday 23 July for the 2010 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards. The awards acknowledge senior Victorians whose contribution and services to the community are exceptional.

During the Black Saturday bushfires, one of last year's award winners, Dr Malcolm Calder, 77, saved two houses on his Steels Creek property with the help of his son James. As the former Head of Botany at the University of Melbourne, Dr Calder is currently developing a research project with ANU looking at the impact of fires in his local community.

Since the Black Saturday bushfires, Dr Calder has also been inspiring locals and raising awareness in his local community about the regeneration of native fauna in the area by using indigenous vegetation. His ultimate goal is to create a sustainable environment that is fire retardant.

Seniors over 60, who are Australian citizens, reside in Victoria and who have made an exceptional contribution to the community can be nominated for the award in four categories. To nominate a senior, visit [www.seniors.vic.gov.au](http://www.seniors.vic.gov.au) or call Seniors Information Victoria on 1300 134 090.

### **YMCA bushfire school holiday programs**

YMCA Victoria and the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund are offering free school holiday programs for bushfire-affected communities over the June/July holiday period.

Primary age programs will be held in Alexandra, Churchill North, Healesville, Hurstbridge, Kinglake West, Redesdale, Traralgon South, Wandong, Yarra Glen and Yea. Secondary age programs will be held in Alexandra, Warragul, Whittlesea and Yea.

Bookings close Thursday 17 June and families are advised to book early as the programs are very popular.

Families who have been displaced by the fires and who have relocated to an area where a free program is not being offered can apply for reimbursement of fees.

For more information on reimbursement as well as program activities and dates, visit [www.victoria.ymca.org.au/holidayprograms](http://www.victoria.ymca.org.au/holidayprograms) or call 9403 5090.

### **Comment on Kinglake National Park draft Master Plan**

Parks Victoria is developing a long-term master plan for Kinglake National Park. With most visitor facilities lost in the 2009 fires and with the advance of urban development, there is a need to carefully plan for how the park is set up for future visitors.

Local residents and visitors are invited to comment on various actions proposed in the plan including:

- A new lookout structure at Mt Sugarloaf
- Better linking tracks between the townships and the national park
- A new layout for the picnic area at Masons Falls
- More accessible walking tracks at key locations including Jehosaphat Gully

The draft Master Plan will be on display at various venues including the Kinglake Library from Monday 7 June to Friday 16 July.



On Thursday 17 June from 2pm to 8pm, Parks Victoria will be at the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House (6 McMahons Road, Kinglake) to answer questions, explain the plan in greater detail and receive comments. A staffed display will also be at the Kinglake Farmers Market on Sunday 27 June 2010.

To view the plan and make comments visit [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/3kinglake.cfm](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/3kinglake.cfm)

### **Toorourrong Reservoir Park Master Plan**

The Toorourrong Reservoir Park was badly affected in the Black Saturday bushfires with 100 per cent of the park (12 hectares) burnt in the Kilmore-Murrindindi fire.

In order to bring new life to the park, a Master Plan is being developed which will include reconstructing the ornamental pond, re-establishing the picnic areas to accommodate large groups and restoring access for visitors with limited mobility.

Parks Victoria is keen to consult with community groups and individuals on further improving accessibility and to ensure the park continues to cater to visitor's needs.

For more information contact Andrew Shannon at Parks Victoria at [ashannon@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:ashannon@parks.vic.gov.au) or call 13 19 63.

### **Bendigo bushfire memorial**

A memorial to commemorate Bendigo's experience during the Black Saturday bushfires will be constructed in Richardson Reserve, opposite the historic Gold Mines Hotel.

The final design was approved after extensive consultation with the community and an assessment panel comprising residents directly affected by the fire, representatives from the Department of Planning and Community Development, City of Greater Bendigo, Bracewell Street Fire Community Recovery Committee and the Long Gully Neighbourhood House.

The memorial will reference the timeline of events before, during and after 7 February 2009 through a sculptural wall centred around the themes of destruction, remembrance and renewal. The wall will also include a sealed window featuring items that were salvaged from the fire as well as photographs or art tiles prepared by local artist, Kerry Punton. A stand alone 'Fire Tree' designed by well known local artist Anton Hassell and constructed from steel will stand some five metres tall and also form part of the memorial.

Construction is due to commence later in the year, with the project expected to be delivered prior to the second anniversary of the Black Saturday fires. The Bushfire Memorial Project and upgrade of Richardson Reserve is a joint project funded by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (\$104,000), the City of Greater Bendigo (\$90,000) and the Community Recovery Fund (\$45,000).

## reminders

### **Sign up for hazardous trees payment**

Applications for the safe removal of hazardous trees payment will close shortly on 30 June 2010.

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund offered a payment of up to \$4000 per residential property to assist with the assessment and safe removal of trees that were made hazardous as a direct result of bushfire sustained in the 2009 Victorian bushfires.



If you have trees that you consider may be hazardous to human safety, you have until 30 June 2010 to lodge an application. To apply, go to the [Department of Human Services website](#), email [vicbushfireappealfund@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:vicbushfireappealfund@dhs.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 180 213.

Most local council websites have a list of qualified arborists who can assess and remove dangerous trees which have been impacted by the bushfires. Contact your local council for more details.

### **Watch out for weeds**

Farmers are warned to be vigilant of weed invasion as the incidence of infestation dramatically increases during and after an emergency such as fire, flood or drought.

To minimise the chance of weed infestation landowners can follow a number of rules:

- Spread feed in a confined area away from drainage lines (stock containment areas) to reduce the likelihood of weeds being spread throughout your property
- Monitor feed-out areas regularly and be suspicious of unfamiliar plants that germinate
- Use the weed identification skills of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), your local council and Landcare staff to help identify and control suspect plants.

For more information call DPI on 136 186.

### **Applications closing for Business Investment Fund grants**

Applications for Victorian Bushfires Business Investment Fund grants will close on 30 June.

Grants of between \$50,000 and \$4 million are available to meet the capital costs of setting up new businesses or expanding an existing business in a fire-affected region. Applicants are required to meet a minimum of 50 per cent of the overall project cost. There has been a high level of interest in the fund and applicants are strongly encouraged to submit competitive bids with respect to their level of contribution.

Copies of the Victorian Bushfire Business Investment Fund guidelines and application form are available by calling the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or online at [www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au](http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au)

### **Material Aid Update – Marysville and Kinglake**

A reminder that the Pheasant Creek and Marysville material aid centre will be closing when the lease ends on the facilities. Marysville will close on 18 June and Pheasant Creek on 25 June.

By then, most of the material aid generously donated to bushfire-affected families and individuals will have been distributed. After June, any remaining material aid will continue to be available from Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul stores and the Kinglake Neighbourhood House to holders of blue referral cards.

Community barbecues will be held on 12 June at the Marysville material aid centre and on 19 June at the Pheasant Creek centre to thank workers and volunteers and mark the end of material aid from these facilities.

A list of material aid centres is at <http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au/people/material-aid.html>

# newsupdate



## noticeboard

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Every Monday, 10am to 11.30am**

**Weekly Coffee 'n Chat for bushfire-affected residents  
The Glen Café and Store, 5/36 Bell Street, Yarra Glen**

For more information call Dorothy on 0427 949 698.

**Saturday 12 June to Monday 14 June, 10am to 4pm**

**Beyond Age photography exhibition and multi media presentation**

**Taggerty Mechanics Institute Hall, corner Maroondah Highway and Taggerty-Thornton Road, Taggerty**

From CFA volunteers to church wardens, shearers to scone makers, older members of the Shire of Murrindindi continue to play their parts in helping communities rise from the ashes. These are their portraits and some of their stories.

**Saturday 12 June, 9am to 1pm**

**Taggerty Community Market**

**Taggerty Mechanics Institute Hall, corner Maroondah Highway and Taggerty-Thornton Road, Taggerty**

Come and see a showcase of local food, wine, crafts and creative talent. For more information call Noelle Matthews on 0421 351 571.

**Thursday 17 June, 5pm to 7pm**

**Building Contracts workshop – Kinglake Ranges residents**

**Kinglake Ranges Business Centre, Main Street, Kinglake**

Are you about to rebuild your home and not sure what your building contract actually means? Do you want some helpful hints to negotiate your building contract? Have you started rebuilding and not sure what your builder is allowed to charge you for? Our Rebuilding Workshop will try to answer these questions and provide you with some practical information for negotiation of your building contract and management of your building relationships.

**Friday 18 June, 6pm**

**Flowerdale Fancy Dress Community Dinner**

**Spring Valley Road Recreation Reserve**

Dress as your favourite character or super hero, socialise with your friends and dance the night away at a free family night. Dinner will be served at 6pm and the band will play from 8pm onwards.

**Saturday 19 June, 10am to 4pm**

**Salvation Army Youth and Music Project**

**Strathewen Community Centre, Bowden Spur Road, Strathewen**

The provides young people with an opportunity to write, record and perform their own music.

**Saturday 10 July, 10am to 3.30pm**

**Gathering for Recovery – Bereaved Community Recovery Forum**

**Etihad Stadium, Docklands**

This second forum will bring the bereaved community together to share experiences, find out more about recovery, receive an update on reconstruction, and hear from the Bushfire Royal Commission and the Coroners Court.

# newsupdate



Victorian Bushfire  
Reconstruction and  
Recovery Authority

The keynote speaker will be Julie Dunsmore who has worked extensively with bereaved families after disasters, including the Bali bombings.

For more information and to register call Veronica Jenkins on 9092 5891 or email [veronica.jenkins@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:veronica.jenkins@dpc.vic.gov.au)

## **Kildonan Uniting Care Services in Kinglake**

Kildonan Uniting Care offers a range of programs for young people in Kinglake. These include the Kildonan Youth Space, Kinglake Homework Program and Bushfire Recovery Support for 18 to 26 year olds. For more information on any of these programs call 8401 0100 or drop into the Kildonan Kinglake Office at 19 Kinglake-Whittlesea Road, Kinglake.

signup  
FOR NEWS UPDATE

If you would like to receive the *News Update* by email or mail, please email [yoursay@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:yoursay@dpc.vic.gov.au) with your email or mail details. Or go to [www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au](http://www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au) and select the 'Register for Newsletter & SMS Updates' button on the left hand side of the homepage.

yoursay  
HAVE YOUR SAY

If you have a suggestion or would like to contribute to future editions of the *News Update*, please email [yoursay@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:yoursay@dpc.vic.gov.au) or phone 9092 5875.

stayinformed  
DO YOU WANT TO STAY INFORMED?

You can stay up-to-date with the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority's latest efforts by registering for the SMS service. Send an SMS with the words 'Update' and the postcode of the area you'd like to hear news about to 0429 558 099, standard SMS charges apply to the initial registration SMS.