



Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority | Edition 08

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latestnews

Creating a long-term vision for Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi

Work is continuing on creating a long-term plan for communities in Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi. *Our Communities Our Places: The Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi Plan and Design Framework (KFT Plan)* is being prepared to shape the futures of eight communities in these areas, and the process is being actively supported by local communities.

In early June, the first in a series of strategic planning workshops was held with around 60 people attending in Kinglake, 45 in Flowerdale and 25 in Toolangi. All attendees provided feedback on what was important for the future of their communities and their aspirations for the places in which they live, work and visit.

Attendees indicated that the character and sustainability of townships, access to local jobs, better connections and communications, supporting a range of lifestyles and managing population growth were all challenges for the future.

A planning team has been appointed to work with communities on developing the plan and the process is being run in partnership between VBRRRA, the Murrindindi Shire Council, the Department of Planning and Community Development and the Community Recovery Committees of Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi.

The next opportunity for community input in the project will come in late July when a forum will be



held to set a vision for the region and local communities, and explore scenarios for how that vision could be achieved. In the meantime the planning team will be researching all of the issues and priorities put forward at the community workshops and working on developing scenarios and future options.

The planning process will provide further opportunities for community discussion, feedback and information sharing. All of these will be advertised widely and there will be project information booths set up in the three local communities.

For more information on the KFT plan call 1800 240 667, email kft@dpc.vic.gov.au or visit www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au

Information sessions for rental property landlords in Marysville and Kinglake

One of the challenges facing bushfire-affected communities as they recover is a shortage of rental housing. The availability of rental property is an essential part of a sustainable local economy, with short and medium-term leases needed to support teachers, emergency service workers, seasonal workers, contractors and local families.

VBRRRA and Leadership Victoria are offering support to landlords who may have lost their rental property in the fires through the *Bushfire Area Rental Recovery Project*. To ensure the project is a success, VBRRRA is hoping to better understand landlords' intentions and what support they may require.

Landlord forums are being held in Kinglake and Marysville, and experts in property, finance and construction will also be presenting and taking questions.

Marysville Forum

Date: Wednesday 14 July

Time: 5pm to 7pm

Location: Marysville Rebuilding Advisory Centre, Murchison Street, Marysville

Kinglake Forum

Date: Wednesday 21 July

Time: 5pm to 7pm

Location: Kinglake Ranges Business Centre, Main Street, Kinglake

To RSVP or for more information call Lily Cortie on 9092 5892 or email lily.cortie@dpc.vic.gov.au

Small business jobs boost continues for Marysville

A successful jobs program, run throughout summer and autumn to support small business recovery in Marysville and other Triangle communities, is being extended to provide a further boost to confidence in the fire-affected township. The initiative will continue throughout the winter months providing further wages subsidies and employment advertising for business owners and incentives to employees such as accommodation.

Participating businesses in the winter program include the Marysville Tavern at Crossways, Cross Country Ski Hire, the Black Spur Inn, Fraga's Café, Maryton Park Bed and Breakfast, Mystic Mountain Ski Hire and Outdoor, the Biota Group and PNL 4WDiving. Jobs in retail, forestry, construction and maintenance, general farm and ski hire hands, ski technicians and waiting will be available. There is also one role for an apprentice chef.

The Salvation Army has provided a further \$15,000 toward the third round of this initiative, which will run from 5 July to 27 August. For more information visit www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au



Bushfire memorial update

A number of Community Recovery Committees (CRCs) and councils are progressing well with their bushfire memorials.

Bendigo Bushfire Memorial: Bendigo's bushfire memorial will be constructed in Richardson Reserve, opposite the historic Gold Mines Hotel. 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. A steel 'Fire Tree' will also form a 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.

Drouin West Memorial: The Drouin West bushfire memorial will comprise a rotunda, paving, seating and memorial stone and plaque in Robin Hood Reserve. Construction will be completed by the end of June 2010, with only the paving left to be installed. Baw Baw Shire Council and the CRC will be discussing dates for an opening event.

Jindivick Memorial: The memorial project developed in Jindivick includes rehabilitation of the Nangara Reserve with construction of a Memorial Walking Trail between Jindivick and Nangara, including a pause place with seats and pillars. Construction of the memorial will be completed by the end of June 2010 and the CRC and council will be discussing dates for an opening event.

Labertouche Memorial: The CRC decided on the construction of a memorial rock wall and seating for its bushfire memorial. Construction of the wall has been completed, with seats and a plaque to be installed. Council and the CRC are discussing dates for an opening event.

Balook Commemorative Project: The Balook Commemorative Project will include commemorative plaques and historic signage as well as a rewrite of the history of Balook called *The Changing Hills*. The project is expected to be completed by December 2010.

Cardinia Shire Council: The council is setting aside an area in the new Pakenham Hall and Library development for a commemorative garden and memorial. The garden will offer a contemplative space for reflection and also provide space for those attending public commemorative events. The park will include indigenous shrubs that reflect the Australian landscape and gum trees with black trunks that reference the Black Saturday bushfires. Council is seeking expressions of interest from local artists to develop an art work for the park. The facility is expected to be opened on the second anniversary of the bushfires in February 2011.

Gormandale Memorial Project: The Gormandale bushfire memorial will consist of community gardens and pathways and is expected to be completed by December 2010.

Yarram Memorial and Commemorative Project: A DVD is being compiled to record the bushfire history of the Yarram district and will comprise interviews with locals. Memorial benches and commemorative plantings will also form part of the memorial process and an amphitheatre will be constructed in the Station Precinct. The project is expected to be completed by December 2010.

Latrobe City Memorials and Commemorative Events: The bereaved community has identified three key memorial project concepts which they would like further developed for memorials and recognition. These include a sculpture in Victory Park, Traralgon, a memorial in the Morwell Rose Garden and a scholarship to be possibly run through the Latrobe City Council Trust. Consultation and development of the concepts is continuing.

Pomborneit Recreation Reserve Memorial: The memorial project for Weerite-Pomborneit in Corangamite Shire includes a way-side stop and reflection area for passing traffic, to be located at the Pomborneit Recreation Reserve. The project will include a defined stopping area, memorial signage, playground, barbeque, barbeque shelter and picnic tables.

School construction update

Middle Kinglake Education Precinct and Community Recreation Precinct: Concrete has been poured for the slabs for the Kinglake Primary School, early learning centre, and multipurpose centre, and work has begun on erecting the frames for the structures. Construction is expected to be completed by January 2011.



Flowerdale Early Learning Centre: Foundation works are underway on the school which will comprise a kindergarten, maternal and child health facilities and multi purpose space for school and community use. Construction is expected to be completed by October 2010.

Strathewen Primary School: Structural work is well advanced and the concrete slab has been poured for the final section of the complex. The school will also house a community facility for use by the local community. Construction is estimated to be completed by September 2010.

Flowerdale Community Hall update

The plans for the Flowerdale Community Hall are continuing, the request for tender has been released and the tender has been aimed at many of the builders who tender for work in regional towns close to Flowerdale. The project will involve upgrade works to the hall's stage, floor and amenities and an extension to house the Community Services Hub. The anticipated completion date of the project is October 2010.

New Useful Contacts Guide

VBRRRA is updating its Useful Contacts Guide which will shortly be mailed to all people affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires. The guide contains a range of useful contact information including personal assistance contacts, Community Service Hubs, material aid shopfronts and State and Federal government departments and agencies.

If you don't receive a guide in coming weeks, please call VBRRRA on 9092 5875 and one will be posted to you. Alternatively, you will be able to download the guide at www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au

Community updates

Cadets lend helping hand

Traralgon South recently hosted 250 Army, Navy and Air Force cadets in May who assisted local landholders with small jobs on their properties, including tree planting, wood splitting and general clean ups. The group camped on the Callignee and Traralgon South Cricket Oval and the weekend culminated in a full parade and celebration.

New wood splitter for Labertouche

The Labertouche Men's Group became the proud carers of a new hydraulic wood splitter that was kindly donated by Rotary. The wood splitter will be put to good use by Men's Group volunteers as they split wood for distribution to fire-affected homes.

Say G'Day Trail, Wandong

Works have commenced on the North Mountain Road section of the Wandong Heathcote Junction Foot Cycle Path network. This section links from Baden Drive to Rail Street opposite the Heathcote Junction Railway station. Preliminary survey and design work has been completed by Mitchell Shire Council and existing mains are being located prior to construction commencing. The project is anticipated to be completed by 31 August 2010.

Men's Getaways

As part of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund's family support package, VBRRRA and the Men's Getaway Committee have organised a number of Men's Getaways to allow men to relax in a supportive environment, establish networks across fire-affected communities and deal with trauma by engaging in enjoyable activities.

To date nine getaways have been held including trips to an international one-day cricket match and AFL football match, community dinners and golf days. Plans are also underway to schedule fishing and skiing weekends, as well as further weekend outdoor events.

The next getaway will be a Mens Getaway Music/Recording Tour to the Maton Guitar Building in



Melbourne on Wednesday 14 July. For more information turn to the Community Noticeboard listings on Page 8. Due to strong demand another getaway is being planned for the Maton Guitar Building. Keep an eye on our Community Noticeboard for more details.

Green Connections

Community consultation is underway for the Green Connections program. This initiative will involve a range of programs targeted at the health and well-being of bushfire-affected individuals by encouraging their participation in environmental fire recovery projects in reserves and parks in the Kinglake Ranges and Marysville and Triangle communities.

The project will bring together the community and key stakeholders to identify priorities for environmental restoration and rehabilitation. Funding will be used to implement priority projects identified by the community.

For more details on the program call Jenny Holliday at the People and Parks Foundation on 9695 9017, email info@peopleandparks.org or visit www.peopleandparks.org/

reminders

Register for Murrindindi Master Contract

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.

Tradespeople are encouraged to register at 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. For more information visit www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au

Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service still available

Staffed by experienced case managers, the Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service has supported more than 5500 fire-affected people and can be accessed by calling 1800 050 400. Case managers talk to callers to determine the nature of their request, link them with the services they need, help them decide what to do next and check back to make sure things have gone smoothly.

If more support is required, a local case manager is allocated to provide ongoing assistance. They can help bushfire-affected people access assistance with matters including accommodation, finance, employment, education, counselling, health, legal services and emotional support. The service is available to all bushfire-affected people up to March 2011, regardless of whether you are a past client or seeking support for the first time.

Bushfire accommodation

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has assisted people who lost their home to find temporary accommodation while homes and communities are rebuilt. A range of services and supports have been made available and DHS is now helping people to move to permanent housing.

To find out more about temporary accommodation and permanent housing assistance, talk to your housing worker or case manager, or call the Victorian Bushfire Accommodation Line on 1800 006 468.



New support groups for parents

New groups to support parents of children affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires are scheduled to commence in Horsham, Kinglake, Wandong and Yea in Term 3, 2010.

The *Parenting Children and Teenagers Affected by Bushfire* program is free for mothers, fathers and carers of children and teenagers affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires. It provides practical strategies tailored to each family's needs and goals. The program will help participants find ways to deal with stress and anxiety in their family, and learn skills and confidence to support their family's recovery.

Programs are also being run in Alexandra, Lilydale, Traralgon, Redesdale, Kangaroo Flat, Flowerdale, Eltham/Hurstbridge, Sandringham and Marysville.

To register or for more information call 1800 780 720 or visit www.parentingafterbushfire.net

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](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au), email 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.

noticeboard

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Chainsaw courses for women

The last course in Flowerdale proved so successful that another one is being planned for the future. If you are interested in registering for a future course call Peter Auty on 0422 867 949.

Murrindindi Shire Youth Activities

Murrindindi Shire Council would like to know what young people need in terms of youth services. The Council is also developing a new youth website and creative young people aged 12 to 25 who are living, working or studying in the Shire of Murrindindi can enter the competition to produce a name and logo for the website. Young people who would like to provide feedback or enter the competition should contact Stuart Coller on 5772 0712 or email youth@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Every Monday evening, from 6pm

Community Dinner

Diamond Valley Baptist Church, 309 Diamond Creek Road, Plenty

A community dinner for \$5 per person encouraging all bushfire-affected families and friends to join for a meal each week to help establish community again in a welcoming environment. For bookings call 9435 9377.



Friday 25 June, 12pm to 6pm

Men's Golf Day

Whittlesea Golf Club, 170 Humevale Road, Humevale

Bushfire survivors and emergency services personnel are encouraged to attend. Bring your father, mate or son along for the day. Cost is \$5 per person and registrations must be received by Wednesday 23 June. To register call Teneil Matuska on 9719 1023 or email teneil.matuska@whittlesea.vic.gov.au or call Shannon Mansbridge on 9719 1000 or email Shannon.Mansbridge@dhs.vic.gov.au

28 to 30 June

St Andrews Youth Carnival

Assorted venues in St Andrews township

Come along and bring your friends for some school holiday fun. Activities include DJing, break dancing, circus skill classes, song writing workshops and BMX ramps. For more information visit www.nyp.com.au or call Ele on 9433 3329 or Denzil on 9433 3327.

30 June

Snow Trip to Mt Baw Baw

Young people from fire-affected areas of Labertouche, Jindivick, Drouin West and Longwarry are invited to attend a free snow trip to Mt Baw Baw. The trip is open to people aged 12 to 17 years and to register call Melanie Simpson on 5120 2119 or Fiona Nelson on 5120 2114.

Tuesday 6 July, 7.30pm

EJ Whitten Legends Football Game

Etihad Stadium, Docklands

Kildonan is organising a bus to take interested guys (aged 18 to 26) to the football. Kildonan will organise admission and transport down to the game, and are looking at having three pick up points in Flowerdale, Kinglake and Whittlesea. Please note that this is an event for over 18s so you will need to provide proof of age. To register call Catherine on 0457 831 006 or Renee on 0457 826 051.

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.

The speakers will be Julie Dunsmore who has worked extensively with bereaved families after disasters and Professor Rob Gordon who has counselled many bushfire communities.

For more information and to register call Veronica Jenkins on 9092 5891 or email veronica.jenkins@dpc.vic.gov.au

Sunday 11 July, 9.30am

Yanga Track Indigenous Plant Out Day

Yanga Track – Weir Park Wetlands, Horsham

The Remlaw fires destroyed much of the indigenous plantings along the Yanga Track. Come and help replant the destroyed plantings, learn about local indigenous culture and enjoy a free lunch. To register or for further information call Jennifer Witney at Wimmera Catchment Management Authority on 5382 1544.

newsupdate



Victorian Bushfire
Reconstruction and
Recovery Authority

Wednesday 14 July, 11am

**Men's Get Away Music/Recording Tour
Maton Guitar Building, 6 Clarice Road, Box Hill**

Register for a musical tour that will excite the 'Rock Star' in you. The tour will visit the Maton Guitar Building in Box Hill and include a Maton Guitar Tour, tour of Channel 9 recording studio, meet and greet of TV and recording artists, viewing of Channel 9 Hey Hey Live Show and advice from recording experts. The tour will commence from one location and will include transport to Melbourne, lunch and dinner. Arrival back at the pick up point will be around 10pm. To register email mensgetaways@dpc.vic.gov.au

17 and 18 July

**Community Leadership Development Forum
The Sebel Heritage Yarra Valley, Heritage Avenue, Chirnside Park**

Members of Community Recovery Committees and community leaders are invited to attend a Community Leadership Development Forum. The forum will provide the opportunity to share experiences, successes and lessons learnt from the bushfires, and include group workshops and presentations by keynote speakers. Six representatives from each CRC have been invited to attend, as well as other community leaders. For more information email crc.leadership@dpc.vic.gov.au or call Louise Evans on 9092 5880.

signup
FOR NEWS UPDATE

If you would like to receive the *News Update* by email or mail, please email yoursay@dpc.vic.gov.au with your email or mail details. Or go to 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 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.