



NEWSLETTER May 2010

Further Funding Confirmed for Boolarra-Yinnar

There have been further funding announcements for projects that the Boolarra-Yinnar CRC identified as priorities in their Recovery Action Plan.

Funding has been confirmed for the following projects from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund:

- Youth Linkage and Training Program - \$25,000
- Community Enhancement of Boolarra Township - \$12,000
- Yinnar Town Entrance Beautification - \$26,000

This is in addition to the funding confirmed in the February Newsletter, namely:

- Drumming Percussion Project - \$8,000 (approved January 29)
- Arts & Culture Programs - \$12,550 (approved December 1)
- Mill Site Recovery – Restoration & Improvement - \$800.00 (approved December 16)
- Boolarra Folk Festival - \$26,500 (approved January 29)
- Vocal Nosh at Boolarra - \$700.00 (approved January 29)
- Community Summer Events Grant - \$10,000
- Commemorative Events Grant - \$20,000

If you would like further information about the grants please contact Nicole Scott at Latrobe City Bushfire Recovery on 5128 5764 or 0427 563 279.

Latrobe City will manage the funds on behalf of the community. This requires progress reporting and detailed financial acquittals.

Bush Recovery and Weeds Awareness Day

The Boolarra – Yinnar Community Recovery Committee is conducting a community day to learn about the impact of the 2009 fires on the local landscape. A free event, the day will help in identifying plants and weeds on your property and provide information about the impact of bushfires on vegetation recovery. Darcy Duggan, ecologists and weed specialist, will guide the tour, with contributions from other specialist speakers.

The event will be held on Sunday 30 May from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, and will proceed as follows:

9.00 am Meet at the Boolarra Community Hall for a mini bus tour of sites around Boolarra, including the Rail Trail.





- 1.00 pm Lunch at the Boolarra Football Club rooms.
1.30 pm Strategic weed plan talks and weed display with an open forum to discuss our findings and to initiate support for on-ground works.
3.00 pm Days concludes.

Note: Please wear sturdy boots and wet weather gear.

Please RSVP for bus & catering – bookings are essential as seats are limited.

Phone Catheryn on 5169 6625 or Sue on 5169 6546.

Supported by Latrobe City Council, Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and Boolarra South Landcare Group.

Family Movie and Meal Night

This is a social evening for all the family. Have a break from cooking and enjoy some pizza for dinner before watching the movie – The Man from Snowy River.

Assorted cakes, tea and coffee will be provided at the conclusion of the film for those who wish to stay a bit longer and have a chat.

Date and Time: Sunday 20 June 2010 at 5.30 pm
Where: Boolarra Football Club Rooms
RSVP: by Sunday 13 June for catering purposes.

Contact Linda Minter on 5169 6702 or email: tonylindaminter@bigpond.com

Boolarra Winter Vocal Nosh

Community Acapella Soul singing begins on Saturday 5 June 2010 from 4.30 pm to 7.00 pm in the Cooperating Church building, Tarwin Street, Boolarra.

This will be the first of four planned sessions. Other sessions are scheduled for 3 July, 7 August and 4 September.

This is a free activity but you are asked to bring a plate of nosh to share.

If you are interested in this community singing adventure, please contact Rose La Vie on 5169 6707 or email raindancer777@hotmail.com





Update on Rates and Charges for Bushfire Affected Residents

As 30 June 2010 approaches, Latrobe City Council's rate relief for eligible properties comes to an end.

As from 1 July 2010, those people who lost their Primary place of residence will once again be required to pay rates. Rate notices will not be issued until late August/ early September 2010.

Latrobe City Council understands that some of these ratepayers are still experiencing difficulties and encourages those people to contact the Property and Rates Office to discuss the many payment options available. If you wish to get ahead you may wish to make payments towards your rates prior to receiving your Rate Notice. Telephone 1300 367 700.

The Salvation Army, Gippsland Bushfire Recovery Program

The Salvation Army's Community Outreach Bushfire Recovery Program would like to meet the community and run some fun events for those affected by the bushfires. They are asking people to contact them to register interest in attending community events in your area and are also seeking ideas from you for these events.

Contact: Lisa Tanti – Community Outreach Worker
Mobile: 0457 905 605
Email: lisa.tanti@aus.salvationarmy.org

Parenting Children and Teenagers Affected by Bushfire

A practical parenting program is available to help you:

- manage stress and anxiety in your family
- gain new skills and confidence
- support your family's recovery.

The program is running throughout 2010 in Terms 2, 3 and 4 in bushfire affected areas and other areas across Victoria. The program is free of charge, childcare will be available and refreshments will be provided.

To register your interest and find out more:

Freecall: 1800 780 720
Online: www.parentingafterbushfire.net.au





Programs in your local area will be prioritised from the interest received and you will then be sent further information.

Youth News

Quantum Support Services are assisting the young people of Boolarra and Yinnar in setting up a 'youth space and place' otherwise known as a 'youth group'. A Youth Committee has formed and met on 2 occasions so far. The youth committee members are young people from Boolarra and Yinnar that are keen to be involved in the setting up and running of the Boolarra/Yinnar youth group.

Quantum Support Services are providing some 'fun activity days' for young people on the school holidays and the youth committee assists in deciding on which fun activities will be provided. A snow trip to Mount Baw Baw in the June/ July school holidays will be happening for the young people in Boolarra/ Yinnar, so please register your interest to either Fiona or Melanie asap so you don't miss out on a fantastic day! Numbers are limited so don't miss out!

Also if you are/ or know of anybody between 11 and 17 from Boolarra or Yinnar that may be interested in joining the Youth Committee or checking out the youth group please contact Fiona or Melanie on:
Fiona Nelson- ph:51202114, m:0409200315 or email: fiona.nelson@quantum.org.au
Melanie Simpson – ph: 51202119, m:0427852116 or email: melanie.simpson@quantum.org.au

Quadrille Australia at Boolarra

Boolarra Pony Club recently hosted Quadrille Australia. Quadrille Australia Inc, was formed in 2006 by a group of like minded riders who had been performing quadrille on and off for many years. Many of the foundation members of Quadrille Australia have trained with Marji Armstrong of Classical Horsemastership International, who introduced them to the art of quadrille as part of her regular clinics and performed at the first Melbourne Equitana in 1999. Quadrille is a term for a choreographed dressage ride, usually performed to music. 13 riders from Kinglake, Yarra Glen, Mornington Peninsula, ex Boolarra resident and others from around Victoria arrived in Boolarra on Saturday 1 May to rehearse their performance at the Boolarra Pony Club arena. The group camped overnight in the club grounds, with their horses accommodated in the newly built yards which Pony Club members had erected the previous week.



On Sunday, the day of the demonstration, the weather left a lot to be desired. Undeterred though, many spectators enjoyed the performance from the comfort of their cars, while the very keen watched on the sidelines of the arena wrapped up in their winter woollies and rain coats.





Quadrille Australia performed demonstrations which included lunging and in-hand work, followed by a display of classical dressage techniques such as shoulder-ins, half-passes and passage. The riders showed their skills in working harmoniously with their horses to produce very precise and coordinated movements. Overall, an impressive display of horse/rider relationships that have been developed through dedicated training and understanding.

A barbeque lunch was also provided for performers and spectators by the Boolarra Pony Club members. The demonstration attracted many past instructors and pony club members from the district and was a great opportunity for them to see the progress of the Pony Club grounds over the last ten years. A shared interest amongst many, the day set the scene for renewing past contacts and forming new ones, as well as the chance to watch a quality classical riding demonstration. An inspiring day!

This event was a Community Recovery Committee initiative supported by Latrobe City Council and funded by the generosity of the citizens of Australia.



Training Scholarships Available

The Victorian Government, through Skills Victoria, is offering scholarships for people who have been disadvantaged as a result of the bushfires to assist them with their training related costs.

There are 250 scholarships valued up to \$500 per scholarship. They are available for training costs associated with undertaking any nationally recognised certificate, diploma or advanced diploma qualification offered at a Registered Training Organisation in Victoria.

If you enrolled in a nationally recognised qualification on or after 1 March 2009 and you (or your household) hold a Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA) Blue Referral Card or Department of Human Services (DHS) Blue Referral card you are eligible to apply for this scholarship.

Further information regarding eligibility can be found by calling the Bushfires Scholarships Team at Skills Victoria on 03 9637 2635.

Email enquiries: skills@diird.vic.gov.au





Solar Hot Water Rebate

The Solar Hot Water Rebate is a federal government initiative which has been made available to people whose homes were destroyed or left uninhabitable following the February 2009 bushfires. The following criteria apply:

- Homes must be listed with DHS as destroyed or uninhabitable
- The home must be rebuilt on the same site of a home that was destroyed or left uninhabitable following the February 2009 bushfires
- The home must also include a 2000 litre rainwater tank (compliant with Victorian 5-star building standards) which is also connected to the home for toilet flushing
- The home must have been a principal place of residence and must be rebuilt as a principal place of residence

Further details, including an application form and coversheet, can be found at:
www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/solarwater/victorian-bushfires.html

Hazardous Trees

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund has made available a payment of up to \$4,000 per residential property to assist with the assessment and safe removal of trees that have been made hazardous as a direct result of bushfire sustained in the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

The closing date for this payment has changed and you now have until 30 June 2010 to lodge an application. More detail on how to claim can be found on the Department of Human Services website.

Additionally residents can email vicbushfireappealfund@dhs.vic.gov.au or telephone 1800 180 213 for assistance with the process for claiming.

Recovery and Reconstruction Information and Updates

The Victorian Bushfire Recovery & Reconstruction Authority website is a useful source for recovery and reconstruction information and updates. If you would like to register for a regular newsletter via post, email or SMS updates, please register online at www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au and follow the link to “register for newsletter & SMS updates” or telephone 1800 240 667.





Skills and Confidence for Tackling Tough Times Workshop

This is a Community Support Training Project conducted by *beyond blue* for bushfire affected communities. All community members welcome.

- Increase your understanding about how people might be reacting following the Victorian bushfires
- Tips and tools for you to better help yourself and others
- Find out where people might get professional support services

The first workshop will be run by Cath Walker and the second workshop (a repeat) by Annie Townsend, both expert *beyondblue* Facilitators, with plenty of time to raise questions and discuss local issues.

When: Wednesday 23 June 2010
Time: 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm – 3 hours
Where: Boolarra Community Hall

OR

When: Thursday 15 July 2010
Time: 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm – 3 hours
Where: Latrobe Convention Centre (Quality Inn)
Princes Highway, Traralgon

Finger food will be provided. Please advise of any specific dietary or accessibility requirements when registering.

Specific topics to be discussed:

- What are some typical responses to a traumatic event like the Victorian bushfires
- What are some ideas and tips for helping yourself, your family and friends
- What are the common mental health issues following a traumatic event like the Victorian Bushfires
- How can mental health professionals help.

To register for one of the workshops: Contact Latrobe City Bushfire Recovery 5128 5771

This Project is funded by the **Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing** and endorsed by the:



