



NEWSLETTER July 2010

Boolarra Memorial Hall Kitchen Upgrade

The Boolarra Memorial Hall Kitchen Upgrade Project has now been completed. This project was a key priority for the Boolarra Community as the Memorial Hall is regularly used for community events, functions and activities. Funding was obtained through the bushfire recovery process.

The whole kitchen was refurbished to ensure that it meets food preparation standards and therefore can be used for catering purposes. This included a new stove and rangehood, dishwasher, fridge/freezer, sink and benches and kitchen tables. The refurbished kitchen can be seen in the pictures below.

The benefits of this project are many fold and will provide long lasting benefits for the community through the provision of a community venue that facilitates community strengthening and recovery activities as a meeting place where community members can share a meal , enjoy music and other community gatherings.





Plantmark's Family and Friends Day

Plantmark's next VIP Family & Friends Day will take place on **SUNDAY 8th August 2010 (9am–3pm)** at all **three VICTORIAN locations:**

- **LYNBROOK** – 10 Northey Rd
- **THOMASTOWN** – 30 Mahoneys Rd
- **WERRIBEE** – Cnr Duncans & K Rds

Plantmark is Australia's largest wholesaler of Plants and Landscape Products with over 220 growers and suppliers on site. All purchases are to be taken on the day.

There will be a sausage sizzle on the day. Sand & soil suppliers and irrigation products & specialists will be on-site at Lynbrook.

Get all your plants and garden products at this Wholesale Trade Market.

Owner Builder Course

When: Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 August 2010
Time: 9.30 am to 4.30 pm
Venue: Latrobe Convention Centre – Quality Inn
5601 Princes Highway Traralgon

This two day course is aimed at those affected by the recent bushfires and who may be considering rebuilding. Topics include: finance, design, site conditions, planning, regulations, materials, costing, site supervision, insurance and permits.

Reference material supplied, including contract and specification copies. Participants will need to bring pen and notebook.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

RSVP Essential as places are limited to 20.



Please contact Latrobe City Bushfire Recovery to register your attendance on 5128 5771.





Boolarra Winter Vocal Nosh

There are two remaining Community Acapella Soul Singing sessions scheduled for 2010. The next is on Saturday 7 August 2010 and the final one on Saturday 4 September 2010. Both sessions are from 4.30 pm to 7.00 pm in the Cooperating Church building, Tarwin Street, Boolarra.

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

Boolarra Women Walking

Come along and join the Boolarra Women Walking group on the first and third Tuesdays of each month until September. The next walk along the Rail Trail is scheduled for Tuesday 20 July, then 3 & 17 August, and 7 & 21 September 2010. Meet at 10 am at the Cooperating Church, Tarwin Street, Boolarra and bring your own refreshments. Children are welcome. Contact Pam on 5169 6597 or Rose on 5169 6707.

Emergency Alert Fact Sheet

To support the national telephone based warning system, Emergency Alert, a question and answer fact sheet was produced as part of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities campaign in over 30 languages. The language versions of the fact sheet can be accessed at: www.emergencyalert.gov.au

Kids Grieve Too

Groups for children aged 5 – 14 who have lost someone close to them in the Victorian bushfires commenced during term 2. These groups provide children with an opportunity to meet with other bereaved children in a safe and non-threatening setting. For further information regarding these groups or if you know of any children who may benefit from participating in these groups, please contact the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement by telephone on 03 9265 2111 or email support@grief.org.au

Men's Getaway Events

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund has provided funding via the running of events to assist men in dealing with the trauma of last year's bushfires. VBRRA, in concert with the Salvation Army, have formed a "Men's Getaway" committee that will receive applications for funding to run Men's Events. These events will be organised on a small, decentralised basis, around the state, identifying men's activities (such as fishing, dinners, etc) that are of interest to them. To assist in lodging an application a template is available to help in the design of an activity. The event is to be run by those who locally arranged it. The template has been





provided to each Community Recovery Committee so if you are interested please contact a member of that committee or the Salvation Army.

Parenting Children and Teenagers Affected by Bushfire

This is a free, six-session program that is designed to help parents and carers manage feelings of stress and anxiety in themselves and their children, and give them skills and confidence they need to support their 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.

Parents, carers and professionals can register their interest in the program by visiting www.parentingafterbushfire.net.au or contacting 1800 780 720.

Bushfire EAR Telephone Counseling Service

As of June 30 2010, the Bushfire EAR telephone counseling service ceased operating in that name. However, the Bushfire EAR number, 1300 789 978, is operated through the same number as Mensline Australia. This is a 24 hour service for men with family and relationship issues. However, Mensline Australia is still committed to provide a service to men and women around any issue regarding the effects of the 2009 Victorian bushfires. After 30 June 2010, men and women affected by the bushfires will still be provided with counselling if they call Mensline Australia on 1300 789 978.

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 www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/solarhotwater/index

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 to download an application form.

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 that the shelter complies with the national performance standard.

To download a copy of the performance standard for the design and construction of private bushfire shelters visit www.abcb.gov.au

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

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.





Woody Weeds Project Officer

A contract is available for a Woody Weeds Project Officer to deliver a community led blackberry extension program in the 2009 fire affected area of Central Gippsland.

The person must have highly developed communication skills, the ability to plan, implement and evaluate projects and a sound knowledge of woody weed identification and control.

The position requires the contractor to be able to access and use GIS mapping equipment.

Applications are required by 4.00pm 23rd July

For information on the extent of the work and contract rates contact:

Ian Ewart, Chair
Central Gippsland Woody Weeds Group
Ph. (03)5195 5297 Mob 0419 132 016
iewart@bigpond.com



**Central Gippsland
Woody Weeds Group**

