



## NEWSLETTER May 2010

### Hazelwood-Jeeralang Community Committee

It is now twelve months since the Hazelwood - Jeeralang Community Recovery Committee was formed and now that its bushfire objectives have been met or nearing completion, the Committee has decided to drop the 'Recovery' from its title and become a community committee. As the committee begins to take steps to refocus its direction John Arkinstall has become the new Chair after Tony Ferguson vacated the seat.

The Hazelwood – Jeeralang Community Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 7.30 pm. Meetings are usually held at the Churchill Community Hub and are of 1 – 1<sup>1/2</sup> hours in duration.

The Committee is looking for new members, especially young people, and everyone is welcome. If you would like to participate or wish to bring issues forth, please let Latrobe City Bushfire Recovery know on 5128 5771.

### Further Funding Confirmed for Hazelwood-Jeeralang

There have been further funding announcements for projects that the Hazelwood-Jeeralang CRC identified as priorities in its Recovery Action Plan.

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

- Being Vocal in Hazelwood-Jeeralang (\$21,200)

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

- Community Bushfire Education - \$25,000 (approved December 1)
- Hazelwood-Jeeralang People and Wellbeing Events - \$35,000 (approved December 1)
- Community Summer Events Grant - \$12,500
- Commemorative Events Grant - \$25,000

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

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.





## 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](mailto:vicbushfireappealfund@dhs.vic.gov.au) or telephone 1800 180 213 for assistance with the process for claiming.

## 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](mailto:skills@diird.vic.gov.au)

## 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](http://www.parentingafterbushfire.net.au)





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

## 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](mailto:lisa.tanti@aus.salvationarmy.org)

## 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.

## 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](http://www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/solarwater/victorian-bushfires.html)

## Hazelwood-Jeeralang Family Fun Day

On Saturday 8 May 2010 the Hazelwood-Jeeralang Community Recovery Committee hosted a family fun day for the local community. The event was held at the Hazelwood North Hall, kicking off at 3 pm and going into the evening.

As promised, the event was great fun for both adults and children alike. By far the most popular activity was rock climbing, with many of the children (and adults) scaling the rock face time and time again. Paper planes were made and then thrown across the tennis courts to see how far they would fly.

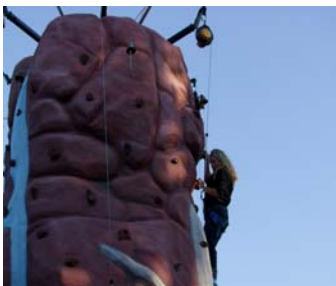


Music was provided throughout the day for all to enjoy. There was even some dancing attempted in the early evening, following the superb two-course meal provided. The food was so yummy that people were going back for a second helping.

Following dinner, the magic show began. There were doves disappearing and reappearing, rope cutting tricks and illusions involving cards and money. Audience participation was a strong part of the show. The children were kept entranced by the many tricks and even the adults were left spellbound.

The community had organised a mass juggling display as part of the evening. This involved everyone in the hall juggling silk squares and trying not to let them drop to the ground. This created many anxious moments and a great lot of activity.

So much fun was had by all that the Community Committee is looking at holding future events and suggestions received so far include a Christmas in July and a Bush Dance. Stayed tuned for further information.





## 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](http://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:



