



Christine Nixon visits Boolarra

Christine Nixon from VBRRRA will be visiting the Boolarra-Yinnar community on Sunday 24th May.

Prior to her visiting Boolarra, Ms Nixon will meet with the Traralgon South & Districts Community Recovery Committee (CRC) and the Hazelwood Jeeralang CRC. She will also take a tour through the bushfire affected neighbourhoods of the Hazelwood and Jeeralang area.

Ms Nixon will be joining community members for dinner to be held at the Boolarra Football Netball Club social rooms on Sunday evening from 6:30pm. Members of the local communities are encouraged to come along and have the opportunity to raise any current issues.

Who can receive case management support?

Any individual or family directly or indirectly affected by the recent bushfires is entitled to receive case management support. This service is being coordinated and delivered through Latrobe City.

The role of a case manager is to help people access a range of services that have been established to meet their immediate and future needs as part of the recovery process.

To register your need, or to make a referral on behalf of other family or community members, please contact Latrobe City 1800 017 777.

Latrobe City Community Visitation Program

Latrobe City Community Development and Case Management staff are currently calling in on local residents to talk to people about their needs and how they are working through the bushfire recovery process.

If you are not at home, a calling card will be left giving you the opportunity to follow up if you wish.

Next CRC Meeting

Thursday
28th May,
7.30pm
Boolarra Hall

Useful Contacts

Department of Human Services	5177 2500	www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency
Department of Sustainability & Environment	136 186	www.dse.vic.gov.au
Centrelink	132 850	www.centrelink.gov.au
Latrobe City Council	1800 017 777	www.latrobe.vic.gov.au
Red Cross Inquiry Centre	1800 727 077	
Water Management – Gippsland Water	1800 066 401	www.gippswater.com.au
Department of Primary Industry	136 186	www.dpi.vic.gov.au
Bushfire Information Hotline	1800 240 667	www.cfa.vic.gov.au
Lifeline	131 114	www.lifeline.org.au/gippsland
Go Volunteer	1300 366 356	www.govolunteer.com.au
Relationships Australia	5175 9500	www.relationshipsvictoria.com.au
Grocon (Property Clean Up)	1800 136 762	
Headspace (Support for youth)	5133 7468	

Temporary Accommodation

Temporary Accommodation can take many forms, typically in the areas affected by bushfire Latrobe City Council has approved temporary accommodation on properties in caravans, adco huts, tents and other types of removable dwellings.

Owners wanting to occupy their properties in temporary accommodation are required to fill out and submit an application to Latrobe City Council's Health Services team prior to occupying the property. We request that the following information is submitted to support the application:

- Make and Type of Caravan or Temporary Accommodation
- Water Supply
- Toilet and Shower Facilities
- Laundry Facilities
- Fire Safety items including Smoke detectors (hard wired), Fire extinguishers and blankets.
- Hygienists Clearance report (GROCON)

Should owners wish to connect the Temporary Accommodation into the existing septic system Council will require an application be submitted to alter the existing septic system.

Temporary Accommodation Permits once issued will expire on 31 March 2011

Further Information regarding Temporary Accommodation in Bushfire Affected areas can be obtained from the Latrobe City Council Fire Recovery Fact Sheet #2 or by contacting Latrobe City Council Health Services on 1300 367 700.

Septic Tanks

Those property owners who wish to connect temporary accommodation or replacement dwelling and/or who believe their septic system may have been damaged/destroyed during the bushfires can contact Latrobe City Council's Health Services Team for assistance.

Health Services holds most of the properties septic tank records which will be made available to property owners in affected areas free of charge. Those with Temporary Accommodation that wish to connect to the septic system are required to submit an application to alter the septic system at no charge. A plumber will be required to inspect the septic and ensure that it complies with the current Code of Practice.

Further Information regarding Septic Tank Systems in Bushfire Affected areas can be obtained from the Latrobe City Council Fire Recovery Fact Sheet #2 or by contacting Latrobe City Council Health Services on 1300 367 700.

Water Tanks

As the immediate health risks have now abated the sampling program of household water tanks following the bushfires has now closed. Those residents in the bushfire affected areas that have concerns regarding drinking water may contact Latrobe City Council Health Services for advice or alternatively read the DHS publication titled *Your Private Drinking Water Supply*.

http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/downloads/your_private_drinking_water_supply.pdf

Residents wishing to obtain their own private water testing can contact local NATA registered Laboratory, for example SGS Traralgon 1300 765 725.

Further Information regarding Water Tanks in Bushfire Affected areas can be obtained from the Latrobe City Council Fire Recovery Fact Sheet # 5 or by contacting Latrobe City Council Health Services on 1300 367 700.

Water Disposal Update

- Traralgon Transfer Station has returned to normal operating hours and is now open from 1pm - 5pm, 7 days per week.
- Burnt waste disposal at the former Traralgon Landfill Site is still operating 8.30-4.30 7 days. (**Note: Traralgon is the only disposal site for burnt waste**)
- The Yinnar Transfer Station is open on weekends only from 10am - 4pm
- Morwell Transfer Station operates from 8am - 12 noon, 7 days per week.
- Boolarra residents need to use the Yinnar Transfer Station or other sites for fire waste (non vegetation)
- Concrete & bricks can be disposed of **free** of charge at Morwell Transfer Station - names & address need to be given

If specific services outside of the above are required by Boolarra-Yinnar residents, this can be organised by arrangement with Wayne Sim at Latrobe City 0418 591 148

Winter Warming Grant

Thousands of bushfire survivors will receive a one-off \$2000 cash payment from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund as part of a \$9 million new winter needs grant to support communities through the colder months.

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund chair John Landy, Premier John Brumby and Commonwealth Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction Bill Shorten announced that a new \$2000 Winter Needs Grant would be automatically paid to individuals who had received payments for destroyed or damaged homes.

"The Winter Needs Grant will assist families and individuals whose homes were lost or damaged to purchase the essentials to ensure they are comfortable through winter," Mr Landy said.

"This grant will go towards essentials for our bushfire survivors this winter, from heaters, blankets and new winter clothing, to covering the cost of gas and electricity bills, having insulation installed or buying-up materials to make home improvements on temporary housing.

"While many survivors are living with family or friends some are people are living in temporary accommodation such as caravans, either on their own properties or the properties of friends. We expect that about up to 4000 will benefit from this grant."

The \$2000 cash grants will shortly begin to appear in the bank accounts of bushfire-affected individuals and families who have previously applied for or received Rebuilding and Recovery grants from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, and householders who received National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

Anyone impacted by the bushfires that has not applied for or received a Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund grant or that believes that they may be eligible for the \$2000 grant or any of the other assistance measures available through the appeal fund should contact 1800 180 213.

Boolarra-Yinnar CRC Members

Colin Brick – Chairperson
Edith Schroeter
Rob Herni
Pat McAllister
Rose LaVie
Elizabeth Griffiths
Terry Rooney
Roy Franklin

Lynne Fowler
Les Hunt
Marietta Herni
Christina Richards
Adrian Gianini
Liz Tyler
Marie Rooney

Rick Teychenne
John Harris
Tim Delany
David Shambrook
Sue Webster
Jen Dentoom
Brian Lawrence