

Boolarra Yinnar Bushfire Recovery Golf Day

All members of the community are welcome

Sunday 23rd August 2009

- Mirboo North Golf Day
- 8.30AM Assembly
- 9.00AM Shotgun Start
- 4 Man Ambrose Event
- Social Golfers Most Welcome
- \$5-00 Fee covers Green Fees and Lunch
- Prizes for Winning Teams

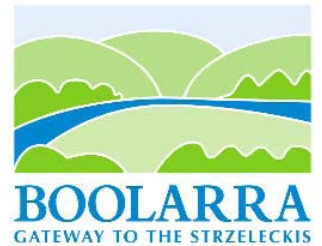
Register individually or as a team by calling:

Trevor Hornibrook - 5163 1263 or 0402 105988 or **Graeme Colbert** 5169 6460 0413 485237

All teams must include at least one player with a VGA handicap

All Boolarra, Yinnar and District residents are eligible to play.

Get in quick to avoid disappointment!



ABC Broadcast from Boolarra Primary School

To mark the six months that have elapsed since the Delburn fires swept through Boolarra, Darlimurla and the outskirts of Mirboo North and Yinnar, Gerard Callinan conducted the ABC Gippsland morning show from the Boolarra PS, on Friday 31st July.

Gerard spoke to a number of guests, including Les Hunt from the Boolarra Community Development Group, Rusty McGlade wearing a number of hats, Jenny and Garyelle provided a report on Christmas in July, Mandy Peters, Tina Larrad and Wendy Jones collectively gathered the courage to represent the school and John Harris and Norman Walker from Yinnar and Mirboo North also spoke.

Gerard was very happy with way the broadcast went, and was full of praise for the way Boolarra and district is working together to recover from the damage caused by the fire.

Gerard had also attended the Community Recovery Committee meeting the night before, and saw at first hand the effort and planning that is going into the recovery process.

Street Celebrations

Congratulations to Sue Webster for her efforts in organising small community get-togethers for different streets and roads on the outskirts of Boolarra affected by the fires. There has been a lot of very positive feedback, along with the comment that many people weren't ready for a big function, but the opportunity to share thoughts with their neighbours who had been through the same trauma a short while ago was very valuable.

Community Bus for Boolarra

A massive thank you to GEF and the Agnew Gold Mine Company who have donated a 10 seat community bus to Boolarra. We will shortly be talking to Peter Linton from Yinnar to get advice on procedures for operating and booking the bus. Hopefully we will be able to develop a sharing arrangement with Yinnar to maximise the benefits from the two buses.

Local Arborist Contact Details

- Tremendous Landscapes (John Ruyg): 0437791099
- Flemings Tree Service: 5176 6276 or 0412 862 796
- East Gippsland Tree Services (David Tarling): 0409 023 540
David comes from Bairnsdale. If you have a group of people wanting arborist services he could possibly come down for a day.

Community Service Hub

Community Service Hub, Cats Drive, Traralgon South 3844
Open: Monday-Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm

Hub Captain: John Worters

Ph: 5195 5011

Mob: 0400 399 024

Fax: 5195 5012

Email: hubtraralgonsouth@bigpond.com

Traralgon South Relief Centre

Cats Drive, Traralgon South
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat: 12pm – 4.30pm
Thurs & Sun: CLOSED

Everyone is encouraged to call in during opening hours.

Our wonderful volunteers have asked if anyone has a spare hour or two to come down and assist with sorting out of all the goodies that are available, it would be much appreciated.

New items keep coming in!!

Community Recovery Website Information

- Callignee www.callignee.vic.au
- Boolarra www.boolarralink.com.au
- We will rebuild www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au

Pakenham Garden Club – Donation of Plants

Pakenham Garden Club extends an invitation for you to enjoy a day with us at 315 Pakenham Rd Pakenham, Map reference M315 E11

When: Tuesday 8 September, 2009

Time: 11am onwards

Lunch will be provided

A wide selection of donated plants will be available to you.

RSVP: 1st September (for catering purposes) to Nicole Scott at Latrobe City
nicolesc@latrobe.vic.gov.au or phone 5128 5781

Bushfire Update From Christine Nixon

CHAIR: BUSHFIRE RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Free Toilet and Shower Scheme

Free portable toilets and shower units will be available to bushfire-affected property owners living in temporary accommodation on their land, thanks to the generous donations made to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.

The Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (the Authority) will oversee the hire, installation and management of the amenities, which will be available to people who are living in temporary accommodation on the property where their principal place of residence was destroyed in the 2009 fires.

Portable single toilet and shower units will be fully installed at no cost to property owners, although the ongoing cost of consumables such as gas refills and water supply will be the responsibility of the property owner.

Grocon, who were contracted by the Victorian and Commonwealth governments to undertake the bushfire clean up, will continue their work in affected communities by assisting with project coordination in the rollout of this initiative.

Grocon and its network of Community Liaison Officers will liaise with property owners through the next phase of recovery.

The same on-line and telephone register used for the free government-funded clean up will be used to apply for the toilet and shower scheme. Property owners who did not previously register for clean-up can still register for free toilets and showers.

Those who are eligible for this scheme and have already commissioned toilets or showers are still able to participate. They should register, stating their specific details, and the Authority will come to an arrangement with the existing hirer, replace the existing units or assist by providing part or all of the rental costs.

The Authority will deal directly with the Appeal Fund so that only one application system will apply.

People will be able to register to receive a toilet and/or shower under the scheme from Wednesday 15 July via www.wewillrebuild.com.au or by calling 1800 240 667.

Clean-up Register Closing

With the property clean-up largely finalised some two months ahead of schedule, new arrangements will be put in place from August 7 for those remaining people wanting their property cleared or who are seeking a reimbursement for clearing costs.

From that time, the Authority and Grocon will manage any remaining property clean-ups on a case-by case basis.

To arrange this, people will need to ring the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667, rather than registering via the Authority's website.

For more information about these or other forms of assistance available to bushfire affected people: 1800 240 667 / www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au

New needs-based system for large donations

Many big businesses and corporations have dug deep to provide around \$8 million worth of larger donations to assist individuals and families get back on their feet, including free flights, holiday accommodation and shopping vouchers.

Some of these generous donations have already been distributed but there are still a significant number available.

We are putting in place a new system to ensure these donations are disbursed fairly to as many bushfire affected people as possible, depending on their needs.

Under this needs-based system, each item will be given a certain points value and each household will be given an initial allocation of 1000 points to use in accessing these items according to what they most need.

Donations Coordinators are now on the ground in communities to administer this new system, working with Case Managers. Households are encouraged to work closely with their case managers in deciding which of the donated goods and services are going to be of most benefit to them.

Any bushfire affected person who was approved for or received a grant from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund will be able to access donations under this system.

The Authority sought advice from the Australian Red Cross and other aid agencies on the easiest and fairest way to distribute the many generous donations on offer and this was deemed to be the best approach.

Distribution of many of these goods and services will be staggered over a number of months, rather than all being made available at once. This ensures that people at different stages of the recovery and building process can access items when they need them.

These donations are just one part of the package of assistance available to help bushfire affected individuals and families get back on their feet. They come on top of ongoing material aid for essential items and the full range of grants available through the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.

Temporary Accommodation Guide out now

A guide to temporary housing options for people affected by the bushfires is now available from Community Hubs and Material Aid Centres.

The rebuilding process could take years rather than months, so it is important that people are as comfortable as possible as the rebuild process gets underway.

A range of temporary accommodation options is available to bushfire affected people while they rebuild or make decisions about their future housing. The guide outlines the various accommodation alternatives and the way people can access them.

It will be available from Wednesday 15 July at Community Service Hubs, through Case Managers and housing workers, at local council offices, online at www.dhs.vic.gov.au and by calling the Victorian Bushfire Accommodation Line on 1800 006 468 to get a copy.

New Referral Card

After hearing feedback about the need to replace the 'blue forms' handed out in the days after the fires, the Authority will be providing a new blue referral card to bushfire affected households.

This will ensure those who need access to material aid can continue to do so. The card will also be useful for case managers and our Donations Coordinators when matching individual household's needs with particular goods or services.

The card will be mailed out in coming days, along with a new guide that contains all useful contact information – including telephone numbers for community service hubs, material aid, donations, the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, local councils and the Rebuilding Advisory Centres.

Information sessions for people bereaved through the Victorian Bushfires

You, your family and friends are invited to attend an information session to receive an update on the bushfire reconstruction and recovery effort, bushfire coronial process and information on support services.

DATE: Friday 21st August 2009
LOCATION: Churchill & District Community Hub
Phillip Parade, Churchill
TIME: 6.30pm to 8.00pm

For further information phone the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority Information Line: 1800 240 667 or visit www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au

Questions and Answers For Bereavement Session

1. Information Session Sponsor details?

This is a joint initiative between VBRRRA, Coroner's and DHS.

2. RSVP process?

Explain that for catering and setting up of venue purposes could we record the caller's name (only if they are agreeable for this to be noted), the numbers of individual/family attendees and intended information session location.

3. Who can attend these sessions?

People bereaved through the bushfires and their family members and friends (i.e. people who have lost someone close to them).

4. If I can't attend any of the sessions, where can I get further information?

- In relation to VBRRRA information, see the website: www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au.
- In relation to the Coroner's presentation, contact the State Coroner's Office Counselling and Support Service on (03) 9684 4395 or (03) 9684 4396.
- In relation to the trauma and grief presentation, contact Anne Giljohann on (03) 9265 2111 or 0447 710145.
- In relation to the presentation about support services, see the attached resource flyer.

All other enquiries can be directed to Kim O'Shaughnessy on (03) 9092 2516, Genelle Ryan on (03) 9096 9270, and Anne Giljohann on (03) 9265 2111 or 0447 710145.

Christmas in July Review – By Garryelle Rose

The Christmas in July dream was created in early February 2009 after the bushfires. Jenny Dentoom spoke to me with her 'dream' and I supported her vision and we set about making it become a reality. We organized a meeting in May, and started having fortnightly meetings at Boolarra primary school. As the event drew closer we had weekly meetings at the Boolarra hall.

We decided to have the food catered for when we realized that funding was available from the bushfire relief fund, but we also made delicious homemade Christmas mince pies, curried nuts, and gluten free 'Christmas puddings' dipped in chocolate at our monthly 'community kitchen' gathering, organized by Gabrielle Francis. There was also Chocolate



fondue, and three beautifully decorated Christmas cakes, one also gluten free.

The committee asked for donations for a raffle, with proceeds going to Boolarra CFA. Thank you to Twila Cecil for organizing this. Thank you to Brigadoon cottages, Newborough, who donated a joy fight. Santa won this prize, what a change from flying reindeer! Out there outdoors donated surfing lessons, Jeremy Fleming Jewellers, Traralgon donated stunning gemstone earrings, B well, Traralgon donated a massage, DayDreams body and soul, Warragul donated a \$50.00 voucher, Coles, \$20.00 voucher, Murray Goulburn, Leongatha a windcheater, and loganberry plants from Boolarra.

The Boolarra community was in the Christmas spirit in the lead up to the event with the local shop and P.O decorated. There were wonderful wooden decorations outside the P.O as well- and what a coincidence! It was Santa with his pants on fire, with a reindeer holding a fire extinguisher putting it out! (the manager of the P.O is also our local fire chief at Boolarra C.F.A !)

Friday night 24th July, and the hall had many volunteers arrive to set up tables, and decorate the hall. 2D Christmas tree shapes decorated with native foliage adorned the walls. A beautiful huge sign was hoisted into position on the stage. It was made from gum tree branches, and then decorated in native foliage, with JOY written in golden wattle. There were also many crazy willow pots, entwined with fairy lights and holly, all the

above being lovingly created by Kristy Mills. For the tables we had garlands of willow, decorated in native foliage, holly and tiny golden cones, with little fruit candles in the centre. In the entry stood our wonderful 'real' Christmas tree, resplendent in Gold, green and red, which you could smell as you were being served mulled wine.

Tracy Summerton did a wonderful job as MC and we were entertained by Boolaria, our local choir, led by Heather James.

The second last song was

original words by John Cooper. Many dressed up for the occasion in their finest or fanciest, and prizes were won by 'Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, and the Plum pudding man.

We had a group of local youth serving food at the tables. The caterer, 'the party man' was really impressed with their enthusiasm and their courteousness, and they did an excellent job. The band, The Bridge, plus John Werner had many of us up dancing, and towards the end of the night, the hall was rocking. We have had lots of positive feedback, and the Christmas in July event really did lift everyone's spirits! The word JOY really sums it up, as it means -----A STATE OF BEING.

Thank you to the Australians who all donated money. You have given us much JOY!

From the committee Jenny Dentoom, Emma Cooke, Kristy Mills, Garryelle Rose, and Gabrielle Francis.



Nesting boxes

A successful wildlife nesting box installation program has just been rolled out with Latrobe City Council distributing 140 nest boxes to 45 land-holders in and around fire affected areas. The program was organised by Latrobe City with the support of Maffra and Districts Landcare Network and a Caring for Country Grant along with ITC Timber in Heyfield who supplied the timber. A variety of boxes including bats, possums, sugar gliders, rosellas, parrots, tree creepers and owls were made with assistance from the Fulham Prison Crews who did a great job in constructing the boxes. On the evening of Tuesday 4 August a Nest Box Information Session was held with guest speakers Rolf Willig (DSE) and Steve Kurek (Landcare) talking about the different animals that rely on hollows and nesting boxes for habitat and how to maximise the chances of the boxes being used by the appropriate native animals. It was a fantastic forum to learn more about how nesting boxes can be a viable habitat alternative whilst the fire affected areas are recovering.

It is hoped that through the Work for the Dole program that another similar program can be run to further assist in the rehabilitation and recovery of fire affected areas.