



**Next CRC  
Meeting**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
May 2009  
4pm**

## Hazelwood Jeeralang Community Recovery Committee (HJCRC)

Congratulations to the newly appointed members of the Hazelwood Jeeralang Community Recovery Committee. (HJCRC)  
We would like to welcome but most of all thank them for providing their time and efforts to assist in the local communities bushfire recovery.

**Chairperson – Tony Ferguson** [tferguson@hrl.com.au](mailto:tferguson@hrl.com.au)

### Committee Members

Bernie Ferguson  
[abferg@bigpond.net.au](mailto:abferg@bigpond.net.au)

Peter & Heather Kuijpers  
[kuijpers@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kuijpers@optusnet.com.au)

Peter Steinkellner  
[hardstein@technet.com](mailto:hardstein@technet.com)

John Arkinstall  
[john.arkinstall@sci.monash.edu.au](mailto:john.arkinstall@sci.monash.edu.au)

Peter Ruzicka  
[studna@hotmail.com](mailto:studna@hotmail.com)

Ian & Maureen Spark  
[mspark@net-tech.com.au](mailto:mspark@net-tech.com.au)

Wally Anders  
[wally.anders@vic.australis.com.au](mailto:wally.anders@vic.australis.com.au)

John Anderson & Jan Houge  
[janhouge@gmail.com](mailto:janhouge@gmail.com)

Charles & Audrey Uber  
[cbuber@netspace.net.au](mailto:cbuber@netspace.net.au)

Phill Higgins  
[phillip.higgins@sci.monash.edu.au](mailto:phillip.higgins@sci.monash.edu.au)

Denise Weir

Zelma Mildenhall

Theo & Betty Morsink

### USEFUL CONTACTS

Department of Human Services	5177 2500	<a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency">www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency</a>
Department of Sustainability & Environment	136 186	<a href="http://www.dse.vic.gov.au">www.dse.vic.gov.au</a>
Centrelink	132 850	<a href="http://www.centrelink.gov.au">www.centrelink.gov.au</a>
Latrobe City Council	1800 017 777	<a href="http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au">www.latrobe.vic.gov.au</a>
Red Cross Inquiry Centre	1800 727 077	
Water Management – Gippsland Water	1800 066 401	<a href="http://www.gippswater.com.au">www.gippswater.com.au</a>
Department of Primary Industry	136 186	<a href="http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au">www.dpi.vic.gov.au</a>
Bushfire Information Hotline	1800 240 667	<a href="http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au">www.cfa.vic.gov.au</a>
Lifeline	131 114	<a href="http://www.lifeline.org.au/gippsland">www.lifeline.org.au/gippsland</a>
Go Volunteer	1300 366 356	<a href="http://www.govolunteer.com.au">www.govolunteer.com.au</a>

## JEERALANG NORTH HALL

The condition of the Jeeralang North Hall is currently being looked into by the Department of Sustainability & Environment along with Latrobe City Council for the assessment of structural damage as well as internal cleaning. When such details become available we will be updating the local community.

## FUN FITNESS IDEAS

We are currently looking for feedback and ideas for ways to improve physical activity for 'older adults' within our communities. We would appreciate any ideas about how we can help some of the communities affected by the recent bushfires. Some of the ways that we could assist could be:

- Fitness classes in community halls
- Providing fitness equipment, so that the community can access at their own leisure
- Offering training to interested local champions in things like Tai Chi, Yoga, Fitball, Stretching, Strength Training
- Providing passes to local Leisure Facilities to access things like Water Aerobics, Squash, Fitness Classes, Swimming Activities or group Gym activities.

## Recovery Update

### RUBBISH REMOVAL

- General rubbish, including hardwaste can be disposed **free of charge** at the Morwell Transfer Station between 8am – 12 noon, 7 days per week.  
Names, addresses and car rego no. will be required to confirm that the waste is from fire affected areas.

### FREE COMPUTERS

- Green PC have offered **free computers** to families affected by the bushfires. This is to enable young people to continue with their education and training.  
***Due to high demand, there may be a slight delay in this service.***  
Online request, go to:  
[www.bushfirerelief.infoxchange.net.au/i-need-assistance](http://www.bushfirerelief.infoxchange.net.au/i-need-assistance)  
or call 5633 2868

### COLLECTION OF FIREWOOD

- There have been discussions with DSE regarding residents collecting firewood from areas along the roadside. To ensure that this happens in an orderly manner, DSE are issuing firewood collection permits, free of charge. To assist in the process Latrobe City staff have arranged for some of the cut down timber to be placed at collection points and these are located at:
  - Koornalla at the monument in Traralgon Creek Road
  - Koornalla Park in Traralgon Creek Road south of the monument
  - Factory Road
- Following the Delburn fire, wood was left at the old council yard in Boolarra.

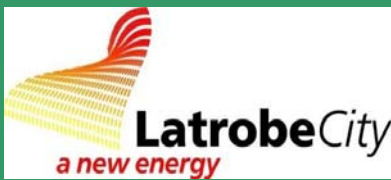
## INSURANCE

At the last Hazelwood Jeeralang Community meeting we welcomed Lawyer from Morwell, Renee Wilson. Renee provided feedback to a range of questions whilst also providing some general information about insurance. Please read below for a break down of information that was covered on the day

- Where a provider denies your claim they must:
  - (a) give you written reasons for the decision to deny the claim;
  - (b) information about its complaint handling procedures
  - (c) where you ask for them, provide copies of reports from its service providers which it has relied on in assessing your claim (unless special circumstances apply).
  
- If you disagree with an assessment in the first instance you need to ask to speak to someone in the provider's internal dispute resolution division.
- If you still disagree with their decision you should contact the Financial Ombudsman Service on 1800 337 444.
  
- Receiving an insurance payout won't necessarily disqualify you from receiving state or federal grants however, the terms of some policies stipulate that in the event of a government grant they may reduce their payout. As a general rule you cannot recover more than the amount of your loss. If the government grant covers the loss claimed under your insurance, your insurer may be entitled to reduce your payout to reflect the amount received from a government grant.
  
- Key standards by which all Insurance Companies must comply are set out in the Industry Code of Practice. This may be accessed at [www.codeofpractice.com.au](http://www.codeofpractice.com.au).

### **Fencing**

- Whether or not your fencing needs are covered by your insurance policy will depend on a number of factors including whether you have business, domestic or farm insurance. You will need to check the specific terms of your policy.
- The Victorian Government will contribute up to \$400.00 of insurance excess payments for fences that border Crown Land. They will also pay 100% of replacement costs for fences damaged by fire suppression activities. The Government will also fully refund rehabilitation of fire control lines.
  
- For legal advice regarding Insurance Law matters call the Bushfire Legal Helpline on 1800 113 432 and ask to be put through to the Insurance Law Unit.



# HAZELWOOD-JEERALANG COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 1  
April 2009

## \$5,000 GRANTS

### Rural landowners affected by the 2009 bushfires may be eligible to receive a one-off payment of \$5,000 from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.

The Chair of the Appeal Fund Advisory Panel, John Landy and the Premier John Brumby announced that the \$5,000 payment would be available to country Victorians impacted by the fires who have five hectares or more. "We have been working extensively to address the issue of providing funding to cover the cost of loss and damage on rural properties," Mr Landy said.

"The Panel recognises the challenges facing rural Victorians affected by the fires and we are continuing to explore ways of providing assistance to rural communities.

"Over 1,000 property owners are expected to receive a benefit from this payment, which can be used for a number of repairs including replacing or repairing fencing or other external structures such as troughs and tanks or for regenerating land.

"It comes on top of a grant of up to \$15,000, announced last week, available for people whose homes were damaged by the fires for repairs or replacement of external structures such as sheds, bungalows and water tanks and pumps that were damaged in the fires.

Rural landowners who have not received the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Clean Up and Restoration Grant are eligible to apply for the \$5,000 Rural Properties Recovery Assistance payment.

Mr Landy said the Appeal Fund Advisory Panel was trying to ensure rural landowners had access to assistance from the Fund.

### **DON'T QUIT**

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low, and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.*

*Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns,  
And many a failure turns about,  
when he might have won had he stuck it out;  
Don't give up though the pace seems slow,  
You may succeed with another blow.*

*Success is failure turned inside out,  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems so far;  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,  
It's when things seem worst, that  
**You must not QUIT***

### Copies of Hazelwood Jeeralang Newsletter can be collected from the following venues.

**Lifeline Shop – Hazelwood Village Churchill**

**Churchill Community Hub, Churchill**

**Traralgon Sth Recovery Centre  
Cats Dve, Traralgon Sth**

If you would like to receive an electronic copy, please email [abferg@bigpond.net.au](mailto:abferg@bigpond.net.au)

We hope you enjoyed the first issue of the Hazelwood Jeeralang Community Newsletter.

If you have any feedback or ideas for future issues please email Tony Ferguson at [abferg@bigpond.net.au](mailto:abferg@bigpond.net.au)  
Thank you ☺

