



Christine Nixon visits Hazelwood-Jeeralang community

Approximately 65 people attended the Churchill and District Community Hub on Sunday afternoon, 24 May 2009, to meet with Christine Nixon and staff from the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRRA). Ms Nixon provided an update on bushfire recovery and reconstruction across the State and listened to the issues for local residents. This was followed by a tour of part of the affected area with the CRC Chair, Tony Ferguson and Cr Ed Vermeulen.

Trees and clean up remain the most important issues for the area. As a result of the meeting and subsequent tour and discussions, VBRRRA have offered to provide financial support for the community in response to removal of unsafe trees. Latrobe City is currently working with representatives of the CRC to develop a simple, fair and equitable implementation process for the management of these resources.



Latrobe City is currently putting the final touches to the Recovery Action Plan (RAP) to be submitted to VBRRRA on behalf of the CRC. This will occur once the draft has been adopted by the CRC.

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.

Waste 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.

Jeeralang North Hall Update

On Tuesday 19th May, a rebuilding committee was established for Jeeralang North, they will be working very closely with the Hazelwood-Jeeralang Community Recovery Committee.

John Arkinstall was appointed chairperson with Judy Mele and Heather Kuijpers sharing the secretary position.

The Jeeralang North Hall rebuilding committee are currently communicating with Latrobe City Council and Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The rebuilding committee are open for any suggestions on local needs for this facility in the short and long term. They will also be looking for community input for the design. If you would like to register to help them out please contact Judy Mele 5166 1682 or Heather Kuijpers 5166 1494.

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.

Resolving Disputes and Telephone Advisory Service

ADR Gippsland – Appropriate Dispute Resolution

What is Mediation?

Mediation is an informal problem-solving process in which the parties who are in dispute meet together and with the guidance of two skilled impartial mediators discuss the issues in dispute, identify options, consider solutions and work toward a mutually acceptable agreement.

Appropriate Dispute Resolution Gippsland:

ADR is a free service provided by the Department of Justice and is located at the Morwell Justice Service Centre, 25 Ann Street Morwell. The ADR program provides a confidential mediation and dispute resolution advice service to anyone with a dispute.

What types of disputes does the ADR team handle?

The ADR team deals with a wide range of disputes, including:

- Neighbourhood disputes including problems with fences, trees and noise.
- Civil actions before the Magistrates' & County and Supreme Courts.
- Disputes involving bodies corporate, clubs and incorporated organisations, workplace, shared households, family (excluding Family Law matters), accident damage to motor vehicles, planning issues, environmental issues, trader/trader disputes and commercial matters.
- Facilitate multi-party group matters.
- Appropriate Intervention Order applications/cases in the Magistrates Court.

How does mediation get started?

Dispute Advisory Service – self-help tips and advice

- Simply phone or visit the ADR team at the MJSC in Ann St, Morwell and experienced staff will discuss the problem with you, to look at ways to resolve the dispute yourself, without legal action.
- They also discuss mediation as a way of resolving your dispute and assess it for suitability.
- If you choose to use the mediation service the arrangements will start immediately.

Mediation Service – Arranging a face to face meeting

When you request mediation:

- First they take all details of all people involved in the dispute.
- A written invitation is sent to the other parties to invite them to attend mediation.
- If no response within 10 days a reminder letter is sent and if, after a further 10 days there is still no contact, their involvement ceases. You will be notified if this happens.

Not every dispute is suitable for mediation and the ADR team can assess and advise which cases are appropriate.

Access: Simply call 1800 658 528 for advice and assistance.

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	
Appropriate Dispute Resolution	1800 658 528	