



NEWSLETTER May 2010

CADETS 'Bob a Job' Weekend

Fire Affected Residents! Get your Job Lists Ready!

The Army Cadets will be available once again to assist landholders in a variety of tasks on the weekend of Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 May. The Cadets will assist with jobs such as tree planting, gardening, digging trenches and drainage, weed management, cleaning, firewood collection and stacking and clearing tracks in local reserves. Each task group will comprise of 8-10 Cadets with Army Supervisors. The tasks will be undertaken all day on Saturday and up to midday Sunday.

Property owners need to consider their specific task requirements beforehand and either complete the task sheet at the Traralgon South Community Hub or forward them to the Traralgon South District Association, RMB 3132, Traralgon South 3844.

There will be a Community provided BBQ after the hard work is completed. Property owners will be required to assist to help the Cadets. These are young cadets aged 14-17 years, many from urban environments, so please keep this in mind when planning tasks to ensure they are able to have a positive experience and complete the work required.

BBQ Date and Time: Sunday 30 May, 11.15 am
Where: CATS Cricket Ground, CATS Drive, Traralgon South
RSVP : Please call Latrobe City Bushfire Recovery 5128 5771

Further Funding Confirmed for Traralgon South and District

There have been further funding announcements for projects that the Traralgon South and District CRC identified as priorities in their Recovery Action Plan.

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

- Identity Building & Community Enhancement of Koornalla-Le Roy and Callignee Townships - \$36,000
- Traralgon South & District Men's and Community Shed: Construction and Program Coordination - \$252,860
- Traralgon South & District Community Information and Website Enhancement - \$30,000
- Traralgon South Hall Refurbishment - \$500,000
- Koornalla and Le Roy Parks - \$402,550
- Skills Development and Environmental Restoration in Traralgon South & District - \$20,000
- Enhancing Community Volunteer Skills and Future Emergencies - \$45,000





These are in addition to the funds confirmed in the February Newsletter, namely:

- CATS Cricket Club kitchen upgrade - \$64,978 (approved December 1)
- Traralgon South Walking Track and Trail - \$185,000 (approved December 1)
- Community Health and Wellbeing activities - \$54,800 (approved December 16)
- Community Education, Fire Plan and Preparedness - \$40,000 (approved December 16)
- Community Rebuilding and Support Events - \$70,000 (approved December 16)
- 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 these grants please contact Deb Brown at Latrobe City Bushfire Recovery on 5128 5775 or 0400 808 968.

Project groups will be formed for each of these projects and expressions of interest from the community are now being sought. If you wish to be part of a project group or groups, please register your interest with Latrobe City Bushfire Recovery on 5128 5771.

Traralgon South Community Service Hub

Change of Service Hours

As of **Monday 10 May 2010**, the operating hours of the Traralgon South Hub have changed. The **new** service hours are: **12.00 pm to 5.00 pm each Monday & Friday.**

The Hub will **not** operate on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday or Sunday. Messages can be left on the Hub telephone (03) 5195 5011.

The Hub will continue to operate until **Friday 28 May 2010**. After that date, services previously provided at Traralgon South Community Service Hub can be accessed as follows:

Centrelink	Cnr Chapel and Elgin Streets, Morwell	132 850
Bushfire Case Management Service		1800 050 400
Bushfire Housing Line		1800 006 468
Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund		1800 180 213
Building Advisory Service		0400 661 360
Latrobe City Council		1300 367 700

Tool Library will continue to operate and arrangements will be finalised shortly.

Information, updates and publications about all aspects of recovery will continue to be provided by the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 and online at www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au





Men's and Community Shed

The Traralgon South and District Shed project is underway, and will be completed over the next four months. The project (which officially started as a Men's Shed) will be open to all members of the community. The shed will garage the community van, trailers and wood splitters. It will house the equipment and items owned by different community groups and clubs within the District and also the tools that are loaned to community members from the current Tool Library. A fully operational workshop will be set up for all community residents to utilise. A multi purpose room will provide community based workshops, activities, and training for men, women, teenagers and primary school children providing skill development opportunities and be a place to meet and gather whilst participating in an activity or working on an individual project.

The project manager is Tony Harrup and he has two teams to help deliver the project - a project control team and a project delivery team who will work with the Community Recovery Committee, the Traralgon South District Association, the Callignee/Koornalla/Le Roy/Traralgon South Community and other user groups. The community shed project is a high priority in the Traralgon South and Districts Community Recovery Action Plan.

This project has been discussed at several meetings with the Traralgon South and District Association (TSDA), Community Recovery Committee, Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, major contributors and Latrobe City Council.

The project will be managed by the TSDA, and initially the Community Recovery Committee in partnership with Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund supporting bushfire recovery. The project has the support of Latrobe City Council. Several different organisations have committed funding toward the project and a number are involved in helping it get established.

The shed will be owned and operated by the TSDA who have entered into a lease agreement with LCC for two nine year terms, a total of eighteen years. The shed becomes a community owned asset and will be a focal point initially in post Bushfire Recovery Activities.

An information evening was held on 10 May at the Traralgon South Hall where design drawings were on display and feedback was positive.

Traralgon South Hall Refurbishment

Since the fires, the Traralgon South Hall has become even more important to the community, and is being used as a place for social support with more groups using the building.

The Traralgon South Hall project is another high priority in the Traralgon South & Districts Community Recovery Action Plan, is consistent with the Latrobe City Council Municipal Recovery Plan, and aligns with the Latrobe 2021 Strategy. This project has been discussed at several meetings with the Traralgon South Hall Committee and the Community Recovery Committee.





The first Traralgon South Hall was built in 1980, and has been a vital gathering place for the community since then, hosting meetings, community and private functions, sporting and group activities. The current Hall was built approximately 30 years ago and is in need of extensive refurbishment to meet current community needs as well as the needs of the community in future years. The Hall is also used by council and government authorities in times of need. Latrobe City's Recovery Centre operated from the Traralgon South Hall after the bushfires in 2009.

This project contributes significantly to immediate, short, medium and long term outcomes for the community. The project will be managed by Latrobe City Council Project Officers supporting bushfire recovery and the Traralgon South Hall Committee. Latrobe City Council has extensive experience in managing projects, and contract management procedures are in place to ensure works are scheduled realistically and that regular project reporting, risk identification and risk mitigation, milestones and compliance dates are met.

Based on consultations with the Traralgon South Hall Committee, initial concept plans and initial costing have been completed and agreed. An information evening was held on 10 May at the Traralgon South Hall where design drawings were on display and feedback was positive. If you would like further information, please contact Deb Brown at Latrobe City Bushfire Recovery on 5128 5775 or 0400 808 968.

Tim Cope Inspirational Speaker – Youth Session

Tim Cope – National Geographic Adventure Honouree 2007 and Australian Adventurer of the year 2006 – is an adventurer from Gippsland dedicated to sharing personal discoveries to the wider community.

You are invited to attend an inspirational session with Tim Cope targeted at youth.

Date: Thursday 27 May 2010
Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Place: Monash University Auditorium, Northways Road, Churchill

RSVP: Latrobe City Bushfire Recovery on 5128 5771 by Thursday 20 May

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.

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

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 and follow the link to “register for newsletter & SMS updates” or telephone 1800 240 667.

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





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

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.

No Dig Veggie Patch Workshop

Come along and join in a Callignee Community Funded Workshop on how to make your own 'no dig' Veggie garden – this Saturday 22 May from 10 am to 1 pm at Michelle and Brain Atkins and their family's property at 75 Factory Road, Callignee. Bring your own plate to share for morning tea.

This is a Community Project brought to you by Centacare, ECG and Salvation Army.

RSVP to Jane Weekes at Centacare on 5133 3180 or Jodey Meers at Salvation Army on 5174 4979.





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 :



