Local Community Recovery Groups

Expressions of interest are invited from people who would like to volunteer for Local Community Recovery Reference Groups for each of the fire affected communities - (Cluster 1: Kinglake, Kinglake West and Toolangi Cluster 2: Flowerdale, Glenburn, Murrindindi and Strath Creek Cluster 3: Buxton and Narbethong Cluster 4: Marysville).

Applications are invited immediately and will be assessed on experience, skills and community involvement.

Bushfire recovery will be enhanced by collaboration between local communities, government agencies, volunteer groups and the corporate sector. If you would like to be an integral part of the recovery process, please forward your expression of interest to email: ehoolies@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or PO Box 138, Alexandra VIC 3714.

Property Clean-up

For the free Federal and State Government funded bushfire affected property clean-up and demolition operation please contact - 1800 136 762 or visit www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-clean-up

Licensed contactors who are interested in taking part in the government funded clean-up and demolition program can contact: firecleanup@grocon.com.au.

Investigators from Taskforce PHOENIX would like to speak to all residents of Marysville to obtain statements to assist with the police investigation. Please ensure you contact investigators on the following mobile telephone numbers:
- 0439 659 297 D/S/C Nicole BEALE
- 0400 093 289 D/S/C Mick KELLY
- 0400 879 650 D/S/C Mark OXNAM

Ongoing Community Meetings

Buxton: Buxton Reserve - 5pm daily
Kinglake: 12 noon daily in marquee adjacent to Kinglake Council Office
Kinglake West: 2pm daily at Kinglake West Marquee next to Uniting Church
Whittlesea Community Update, Activity Centre Laurel Street, Mondays and Thursdays 7pm to 8pm

New Community Meetings

Narbethong Monday 9 March 2009 at 11am at the Black Spur Inn
Marysville Sunday 8 March 2009 at 11am Marysville Golf Club with Victoria Police Deputy Commissioner Kieran Walsh

Case Management

The Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service is providing all Victorians affected by the bushfires with the support they need to access assistance with matters including accommodation, finance, personal assistance, employment, education, counselling, health and legal services during this difficult time.

The case manager will work with individuals and families to determine their needs, prioritise the work that will be conducted, follow up on the agreed actions and report back to families.

Every family will have a case manager whose job it is to locate and access the services they need to get back on track, and will act as the primary contact for the family or individual accessing services.

Note that this is an intensive service designed for people with the highest need. The Government recommends that those who have lost their homes, direct family members, or both, use the bushfire case management service.

The bushfire case management service is available now - call the Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service Line on 1800 050 400 to register and your own personal case manager will call you back within 24 hours.
PROTECTING FARM WATER SUPPLIES

The Department of Primary Industries is prompting farmers to act now before significant rains to protect their dams. Contamination of farm dam water supply is an immediate threat after bushfire. Large amounts of ash, sediment and debris can be washed into dams after rain resulting in stock refusing to drink the contaminated water.

For more information and assistance contact Bruce Radford, Department of Primary Industries, Broadford on 5784 0603 or Carl Walters, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Shepparton on 5820 1115.

CHILD CARE UPDATE

Buildings

Three of the six kindergarten buildings in our shire were destroyed in the fires (Marysville, Flowerdale and Kinglake). The Maternal & Child Health centres at Kinglake, Flowerdale and Marysville were destroyed. The Kinglake Early Learning Centre with its brand new and much anticipated $40,000 outdoor area upgrade was destroyed.

Groups

Most of the staff from the Kinglake Early Learning Centre are working at the activity groups currently being run at the Services Centre and Neighborhood House in Kinglake. Sara is also looking for a suitable venue to restart a group at Kinglake West if it is needed. Some staff are also visiting Kinglake children attending a Child Care Centre at Whittlesea. Please contact Sara Sommers on 0428 581 698 for information on the activity groups.

We are currently trying to get numbers of families who previously used the Kinglake Early Learning Centre and still require child care. Please contact Sara Sommers on 0428 581 698.

An activity group is currently being run in Flowerdale at the Recreation Reserve. This group will probably move to the school if a suitable space is available. Please contact Odette on 5780 1372 for details.

An activity group for Marysville children is currently being held at the Acheron Hall Thursday and Friday. Contact Sherrie for information.

Family Day Care has resumed at the homes of Kirsty Harratt (Kinglake), Angela Milton (Kinglake) and Rachael McLean (Buxton).

Family Day Care is looking for new carers to provide in-venue care at the Flowerdale Primary School and after school care a couple of days a week at the Elldon Primary School. Please telephone Heather on 5772 0362.

Community Service hubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Service hubs</th>
<th>Hours of operation for week ending 9 March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra</td>
<td>58 Grant Street 9am-5pm Weekdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buxton</td>
<td>Recreation Reserve 1.30pm-4.00pm Weekdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narbethong</td>
<td>adjacent to Black Spur Inn 10.00am-12.00 pm Weekdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowerdale</td>
<td>Flowerdale Community Hall Tues 12.00pm-8pm Wed 10am-5pm Fri 10.00am- 5.00pm Sat 10.00am-5.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinglake</td>
<td>Kinglake Ranges Recovery Centre 9am-5pm Weekdays Grants 10.00am-4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinglake West</td>
<td>Uniting Church 9am-5pm Weekdays Grants 1.00pm to 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marysville</td>
<td>Not open yet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alexandra
- Relief centre in Petrinkin Place, Alexandria will be closed 7, 8 and 9 March. Re-open 10 March.
- Bushfire Legal Help representatives will be at the Community Services Hub on 11 March 2009 from 11am to 4pm.
- Drop into the CWA building for to relax and have a chat with some of the ladies from 9.30am to 4pm.

Buxton
- A Maternal and Child Health Nurse will be available at Buxton from 9am to 12pm every Tuesday from 17 March. Contact 5772 1183.
- First aid service is being provided by Ambulance Victoria between 10.00am and 12pm at the Community Services Hub. For all urgent medical issues dial 000.
- A doctor is available to residents on Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Contact the Buxton General Store for appointments - 5774 7301.
- Clothing and tools still available at Buxton Memorial Hall.

Eildon
- Ambulance Victoria has implemented full time paramedic support at Eildon until further notice. For all urgent medical issues dial 000.

Flowerdale / Hazeldene
- Community meetings will be held on Friday evenings at 8.30pm at the Flowerdale Hotel.
- Christine Nixon, Chair of the Victorian Bushfire Recovery and Reconstruction Authority, invites residents of the Flowerdale area to join her at a community meeting on 8 March commencing at 10.00 am at the Flowerdale Hotel.
- A key goal of the Authority is to ensure that local people have a chance to be actively involved in the process of rebuilding and recovery in their communities and this forum is the first step toward building a close working relationship with communities.
- The community meeting will provide information about the Authority, its role and how it will work with local communities. The meeting will also include some information from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund advisory panel.
- Ms Nixon and her team will be visiting around 20 bushfire-affected communities to hold similar discussions over the next few weeks.
- Bushfire Legal Help representatives will be at the Community Services Hub on 11 March 2009 from 4pm to 9pm.
- Opening hours for General Store – Monday to Thursday 7am to 5pm – Friday to Saturday 7am to 7pm – Sunday 8am to 8pm.
- All mail for residents south of the Hazeldene Store is being kept at the store.

Glenburn / Strath Creek
- Christine Nixon will be visiting the Flowerdale Hotel on Sunday 8 March at 10am to have morning tea with community members. Refer to Flowerdale / Hazeldene for further information.

Kinglake Ranges
- Births, Deaths and Marriages will be at the Recovery Centre today between 1pm to 3pm to aid with the replacement of certificates.
- Regional Development Victoria officers will be visiting the Recovery Centre today between 9.30am and 4.30pm.
- Bushfire Legal Help representatives will be at the Community Services Hub on Friday 6 March between 9am and 2pm.
- Information session for primary producers and hobby farmers to be held at the Kinglake West Hall on Wednesday 11 March at 7.30pm. Representatives from the Department of Primary Industry and RSPCA will be in attendance. Topics to be covered will include – feeding livestock, fodder requirements, pasture regeneration, stock containment areas.

Marysville
- Forensic teams will be in Marysville from next week revisiting properties.
- Community meeting Sunday 8 March 2009 at 11am Marysville Golf Club with Victoria Police Deputy Commissioner Kieran Walsh

Narbethong
- A community update meeting is being held on Monday 9 March 2009 at 11am at the Black Spur Inn.
- Regional Development Victoria officers will be visiting the Community Services Hub on Friday 6 March between 9.30am to 3.30pm.
- Playgroup is being held at the Black Spur Inn. For further information contact the Black Spur Inn on 5963 7121.
- First aid service is being provided by Ambulance Victoria between 12.30pm 2pm at the Black Spur Inn. For all urgent medical issues dial 000.

Stay tuned to ABC 774AM or Local ABC 102.9FM or 98.1FM, or community radio UG FM 106.9, 98.9, 98.5 & 88.9 for latest updates
The Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex North fire is now listed as contained. It has burnt approximately 168,452 hectares. Cool weather and drizzle have significantly reduced fire behaviour in the area. Crews will continue patrols over the next few weeks with the focus now moving to rehabilitation assessments and works. Work will include preventing silting of nearby waterways, closing bulldozed control lines that are no longer needed, and channelling runoff from roads and tracks. The Jerusalem Creek Road is open to the Darlingford Waters Marina. This allows access to Jerusalem Creek Caravan Park and Marina, Eildon Ski Club and the Darlingford Waters Marina over the long weekend.

WEATHER FORECAST
Today’s forecast is for cool weather with possible isolated showers and southwesterly winds, reaching a maximum of 22. The forecast for Saturday is mostly sunny with temperatures in the mid 20s with winds shifting from southwesterly to southeasterly throughout the day.

POTENTIAL COMMUNITY IMPACT
Communities are not presently under any direct threat. Residents are encouraged to maintain vigilance and be ready to activate their bushfire plan well ahead of any fire, smoke or wind risk should the need arise.

TRAVEL
Travel in bushfire areas is very dangerous. If you do not need to travel it is recommended that you don’t.

PARKS
Tourists are advised that the following parks are closed: Cathedral Range State Park, Yarra Ranges National Park, Lake Eildon National Park (except for the Fraser Campground, day use only) Tourists are advised that the following State Forests are closed also: Big River State Forest, Delatite Arm Reserve/The Pines and Rubicon State Forest. See Parks Victoria web site for camping opportunities over the long weekend in non-fire affected areas www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

ROADS CLOSED
• Eildon- Jamieson Road – (Restricted access to Enoch Point residents).
• Jerusalem Track Road just past the Darlingford Waters Marina
• Snobs Creek Road – south of the last house
• Rubicon Road – south of the last house
• Maroondah Highway between Narbethong and Healesville – Black Spur closed (Road repairs underway - no access to Marysville)
• Marysville – Woods Point Road (tree clearing and road repairs underway)
• Warburton – Woods Point Road between Reefton and Matlock
• Whittlesea - Kinglake Road between Kinglake and Kinglake West (Restricted access to local residents, reduced speed limits apply, tree clearing and road repairs ongoing)
• Whittlesea - Yea Road between Kinglake West and Flowerdale (Restricted access to local residents, reduced speed limits apply, tree clearing and road repairs ongoing)
• Whittlesea - Yea Road between Whittlesea and Kinglake West (Restricted access to local residents, reduced speed limits apply, tree clearing ongoing)

COLLECTION FOR ACT FIREFIGHTER
More than $2500 was donated by fire-fighters battling the Kilmore East Murrindindi Complex North Fire has been deposited into the Balfour Family Trust. The money was donated by those working on the fire to the trust following the tragic death of ACT Fire Brigade senior fire fighter David Balfour. Anyone wishing to donate money to the Balfour Family Trust can do so at any branch of the Commonwealth Bank.

Joint Media Release
From the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and CFA
Release 5 March 2009, 1900 hrs

The Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex North fire is now listed as contained. It has burnt approximately 168,452 hectares. Cool weather and drizzle have significantly reduced fire behaviour in the area. Crews will continue patrols over the next few weeks with the focus now moving towards rehabilitation assessments and works. Work will include preventing silting of nearby waterways, closing bulldozed control lines that are no longer needed, and channelling runoff from roads and tracks. The Jerusalem Creek Road is open to the Darlingford Waters Marina. This allows access to Jerusalem Creek Caravan Park and Marina, Eildon Ski Club and the Darlingford Waters Marina over the long weekend.