

Moorabool Recovery—Scotsburn Fire

Newsletter 14
16 February 2016



IN THIS EDITION:

- Insurance Council of Australia information
- Farm Recovery Information and Support
- Recovery Centre Hours
- Smart Building and Living Expo—28 Feb
- Removal of Native Vegetation
- Film Fundraiser— 18 March
- Rate payments assistance

FARM RECOVERY INFORMATION & SUPPORT FROM AGRICULTURE VIC

For more information on recovering after a fire please contact the following Ballarat Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources staff:

Livestock feeding requirements

Phil Franklin on 0417 033 037

Pasture recovery after a fire

Neil James on 0417 353 929

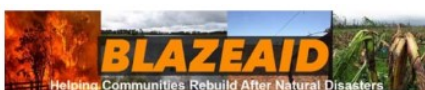
Farm water supply & farm planning

Heather Field on 0438 391 210

Drought feeding and management for cattle and sheep books

Customer Service Centre on 136186

Please visit: www.agriculture.vic.gov.au
and search for “Farm recovery after bush-
fire” for online resources and information.



BlazeAid will be working in the Scotsburn area until the end of March. To register for assistance with fencing, clean up and other property works please contact David on 0419 875 432 or blazeaid.scotsburn@gmail.com before the end of February 2016.

INSURANCE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA ASSISTANCE

The Insurance Council of Australia operates a Catastrophe Information Hotline which can be of great assistance in dealing with insurance questions and issues after an event like a bushfire.

Calls to the Hotline are resolved as quickly as possible or are referred to the appropriate insurer at a high level.

The Insurance Council can assist with advice on claims and elevating a complaint to an appropriate manager within an insurance company.

The number to call is 1800 734 621.

The ICA also has a number of Consumer Tips on its website . These can be found at: <http://goo.gl/g1tBne>

RECOVERY CENTRE HOURS

Buninyong Community House at 407 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong.

Opening Hours

- Monday 15 February, 10am to 2pm
- Thursday 18 February, 10am to 2pm
- Friday 19 February, 10am to 2pm

REMOVAL OF NATVE VEGETATION

As a result of the recent fires at Scotsburn, significant areas of vegetation on public and private property were impacted.

Public land

As part of the recovery operation, VicRoads, Moorabool Shire Council and the City of Ballarat have engaged qualified arborists to inspect vegetation on public land that poses an immediate risk to humans and property.

Any vegetation (native or exotic), which is assessed as posing an immediate risk is being removed. However, due to the scale of the fires this will take some time.

Consideration is being given to retain standing and fallen trees where they do not pose a current or future risk to people and infrastructure (e.g. roads and fences) in accordance with the Moorabool and Ballarat Planning Schemes.

Private Land

In Victoria, under clause 52.17 of the Moorabool and Ballarat Planning Schemes a planning permit is required to remove, destroy or lop standing native vegetation (dead or alive), unless:

- The native vegetation is dead and has a diameter less than 40cm at a height 1.3m above the ground
- The native vegetation presents an immediate risk of personal injury or damage to property and only that part of vegetation which presents the immediate risk is removed, destroyed or lopped
- To enable the construction of a fence on a boundary between properties in different ownership consultation with the

- in the case of a road this will either be the local council or Vicroads (Please note: The combined maximum width of clearing permitted either side of the fence is 4 metres)
- Operation or maintenance of an existing fence on your land (Please note: The combined maximum width of clearing permitted either side of the fence is 4 metres)
- Pruning or lopping for maintenance only and no more than 1/3 of the foliage is removed from any individual plant. This exemption does not apply to the pruning or lopping of the trunk of a tree or shrub.

Below are some useful links that outline further information relating to native vegetation:

- Clause 52.17: <http://goo.gl/Sp500r>
- Native vegetation exemptions fact sheet: <http://goo.gl/EgEs1z>

To assist in the retention of soils, to minimise erosion and to the return of native animals it is advisable that standing and fallen trees are retained where ever possible.

If residents are seeking further information regarding the removal of native or exotic vegetation on private property please contact:

- Moorabool Shire Council Planning Department on 5366 7100
- City of Ballarat Planning Department on 5320 5500
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186

REMOVAL OF NATVE VEGETATION cont.

If you would like an onsite visit to your property contact:

Leigh Catchment Group:

Mob:0455 147 398

Email: leighcg@ncable.net.au

Or visit at 407 Warrenheip St
Buninyong

SMART BUILDING & LIVING EXPO ON SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY

The Smart Building and Living Expo on 28th of February 2016 is part of Australia's biggest Sustainable Living Festival.

The Smart Building and Living Expo provides an opportunity for the community to talk to some of the best local producers and professionals including builders, designers, solar hot water and photovoltaic installers, bushfire attack level ratings, CFA, Landcare, food and lifestyle products.

Talk to some experts in their field and learn more about how to prepare and rebuild to minimise risk and live sustainably.

The Sustainable Living Festival aims to inspire and empower everyday Australians to accelerate the uptake of sustainable living by raising awareness and providing the tools for change by showcasing leading solutions to the ecological and social challenges we face.

The Smart Building and Living Expo will be held at Royal Park in Buninyong (corner of Hedrick and Warrenheip Streets) from 10am to 4pm.



BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

Visit our [website](#) or [telephone us](#) to find bushfire recovery information on:

- Fencing
- Water quality
- Pasture management
- Stock management
- Erosion control
- Native bush recovery
- Native wildlife
- Weed management



Leigh Catchment Group

THE LEIGH CATCHMENT GROUP, UPPER WILLIAMSON'S CREEK AND GARIBALDI LANDCARE GROUPS COULD HELP YOU

- **Access funding and advice** on sustainable farming projects and funding for private environmental work.
- **Find out about** local farming trials and demonstration projects.
- **Get involved in** community planning for public environmental works.

LANDCARE IS ABOUT CARING FOR THE LAND IN A WAY THAT IS RELEVANT TO YOU



Victorian
Landcare
Program



TEL: 0455 147 398 | WEB: www.leighcatchmentgroup.org

EMAIL: leighcg@ncable.net.au

SCOTSBURN COMMUNITY CINEMA FUNDRAISER

Come along and watch **Zootopia** on Friday 18 March from 7pm at the Ballarat Regent Multiplex.

Every dollar raised will go directly to the people impacted by the Scotsburn Fire.

Tickets are just \$15.00 each

Tickets are available at:

- Buninyong Community Bank
- Buninyong Newsagency
- Buninyong Primary School
- Damascus College Reception
- Emmaus Catholic Primary School Reception
- The Ad Group—48 Lydiard Street Sth, Ballarat



RATE PAYMENT ASSISTANCE STILL AVAILABLE

If you haven't contacted Moorabool Shire Council about rate payment assistance, you still have time to get in touch.

Residents who have experienced damage to their homes or a loss of income or livelihood as a result of the Scotsburn fires may be eligible for assistance with paying rates.

Moorabool Shire Council has developed a one page application form for residents to complete to be considered for rate assistance.

The form is available from:

- the Recovery Centre,
- Council offices in Ballan, Darley and Bacchus Marsh
- www.moorabool.vic.gov.au
- Or call the Revenue Services Team via 5366 7100.

Moorabool Shire Council

Recovery Phone Number —0400 324 551

Principal Office: 15 Stead Street, Ballan

Telephone (03) 5366 7100

Postal Address: PO Box 18, Ballan VIC 3342

Email: info@moorabool.vic.gov.au

Darley Civic & Community Hub: 182 Halletts Way, Darley

Lerderberg Library: 215 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh