

Moorabool Recovery—Scotsburn Fire

Newsletter 17
27 February 2016

**REGISTER FOR GROCON CLEAN-UP
CALL 1300 799 232**



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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 bushfire” for online resources and information.

OUTREACH VISITS FROM 1 MARCH

What are Outreach Visits?

Outreach visits are a visit to your property or business to provide information and emotional support to fire affected residents.

The outreach visits enable Council to gather information to help identify if additional services are required and whether any issues need to be addressed.

Who will be doing the Outreach?

The Victorian Council of Churches (VCC) will lead the outreach, supported by the Red Cross.

When will the visits occur?

The VCC and Red Cross and will be in the Scotsburn areas from 1 to 4 March 2016.

What happens to the information they gather?

Your information is kept confidential. Only the information you ask to be provided to Council will be passed on. The information provided to us will assist Council to address issues you may have and to coordinate any additional services for you and your family.

BBQ & Get Together for Scotsburn Community

Come and talk to Leigh Catchment Group and Agriculture VIC about the recovery of your farm or property

Friday, 4 March from 6pm at Scotsburn Hall

Hosted by Upper Williamson's Creek Landcare Group and Scotsburn Hall Committee.

REMOVAL OF NATIVE 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 neighbouring land manager is essential, 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>

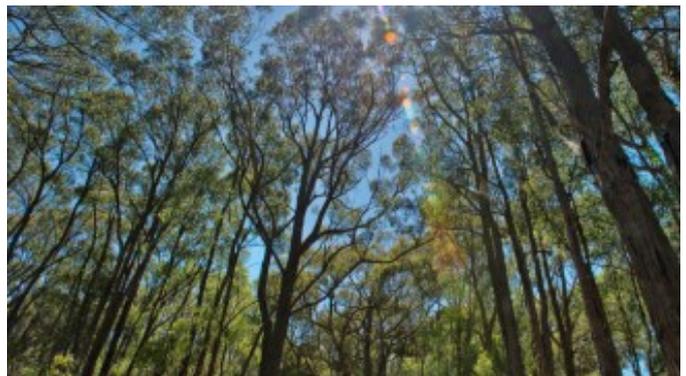
To assist in the retention of soils, to minimise erosion and to the return of native animals it is advisable that standing and fallen trees are retained where ever possible.

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

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



POST FIRE INFORMATION FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS

If you have a septic system there is the possibility that it may have sustained damage during the bushfire. Treatment plants that have concrete tanks should generally be okay, however the effluent disposal/sub-surface irrigation area may require checking to ensure it is OK.

Moorabool Shire Council's Environmental Health Unit can assist owners with an initial assessment of the septic tank system. Should you wish to discuss any related matter or arrange for a site inspection please call 5366 7100.

What should I do with my septic system?

If you have a concrete all waste septic tank, the tank should be able to last prior to a pump-out being required.

If you have a plastic septic tank, it is more likely that system may have been damaged by the heat.

What happens if the lid of my septic is damaged?

If the lid to your septic system is damaged it will be important to obtain a replacement lid immediately due to the safety risk. A temporary lid/cover should be applied to the open tank while in the process of obtaining a new lid.

What about my sub-surface irrigation and lines?

Sub-surface irrigation, pumps and electrical components will probably be damaged due to the exposure of the system to heat and fire. Owners can dig up part of their lines and assess the damage. Once your electricity is reconnected and there is wastewater in the tank, the system can be turned on to ascertain if wastewater is able to get through to the irrigation lines;

however your system may need to be recommissioned by the manufacturer or checked by a licensed plumber. The pump alarm should sound if the irrigation lines are damaged or blocked.

My septic system has trenches

Trenches should generally be okay, especially if in a grassed areas (treed areas will have been exposed to higher temperatures). Damaged trenches may show signs of failure quickly by overflowing out of the distribution box.

What if my system looks okay?

If your system looks okay, you may still like to contact Council for some advice or to arrange an inspection. Any rebuilding process will require detail to be provided by your builder in relation to the type of system and whether any alterations are required.

Protecting your septic system

It is important that your septic system (e.g. septic tank and disposal areas) are fenced off to prevent vehicles driving over them and causing damage. This is considered good preventative maintenance towards the longevity of the system.

Where can I go for further information?

It is best to speak with Council's Environmental Health Officers and arrange an inspection prior to using your system, or if you notice any system failure. Please phone Council's Environmental Health Unit on 5366 7100 to make an appointment, or to obtain further information.

REJUVENATING PASTURES AND PADDOCKS

In response to questions about rejuvenating paddocks and pastures for crops or the return of animals, the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources has provided the following links to information.

Growers focus on protecting cropping soils after fire -

<http://www.grdc.com.au/Media-Centre/Media-News/South/2015/12/Growers-focus-on-protecting-cropping-soils-after-fire>

Paddock Practice: Managing base soils following a fire

<http://grdc.com.au/Media-Centre/Media-News/South/2015/12/Managing-bare-soils-following-a-fire>

Case Study with Steve Whillas

<http://grdc.com.au/Media-Centre/Media-News/South/2015/12/Outside-advice-helped-following-devastating-blaze>

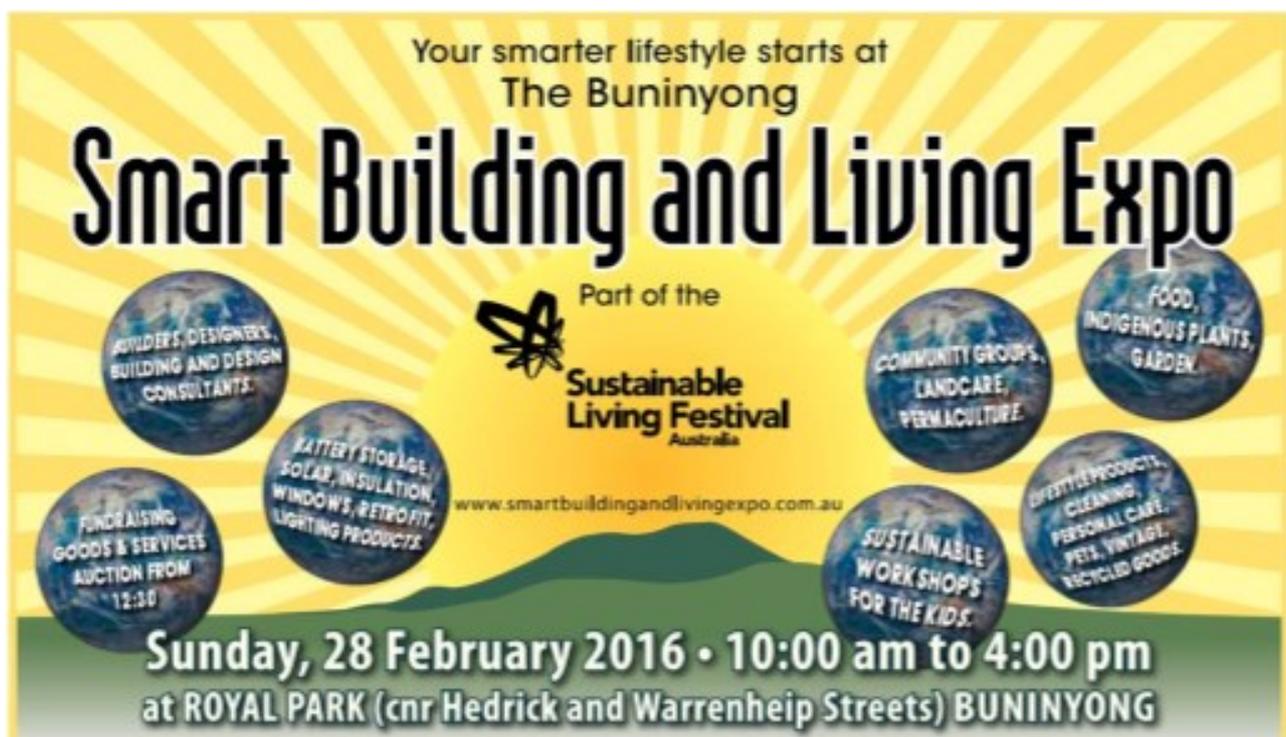
YOUR FIRE RECOVERY—SURVEY

Moorabool Shire Council recently posted out a survey to all residents within the Scotsburn fire area.

The survey will assist Moorabool Shire Council to identify gaps in our recovery process and areas for future recovery needs.

The responses you provide will enable us to plan how best to support the community impacted by the fire with the longer term aspects of recovery. Your responses will also help us plan for services, events and programs that we will endeavour to put in place to assist affected residents with long term recovery.

If you did not receive your survey please contact Michelle Richards on 0400 324 551 or email info@moorabool.vic.gov.au



Your smarter lifestyle starts at
The Buninyong

Smart Building and Living Expo

Part of the
Sustainable Living Festival
Australia

www.smartbuildingandlivingexpo.com.au

Sunday, 28 February 2016 • 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
at ROYAL PARK (cnr Hedrick and Warrenheip Streets) BUNINYONG

Activities include:

- BUILDERS, DESIGNERS, BUILDING AND DESIGN CONSULTANTS
- BATTERY STORAGE, SOLAR, INSULATION, WINDOWS, RETROFIT, LIGHTING PRODUCTS
- FUNRAISING GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION FROM 12:30
- COMMUNITY GOODS, LANDCARE, PERMACULTURE
- FOOD, INDIGENOUS PLANTS, GARDEN
- EXPERTISE PRODUCTS, CLEANING, PERSONAL CARE, PETS, VINTAGE, RECYCLED GOODS
- SUSTAINABLE WORKSHOPS FOR THE KIDS

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

Lerderderg Library: 215 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh

Website:



@mooraboolshire



Moorabool Shire Council