

### IN THIS EDITION:

- Farm recovery resources
- Scotsburn Community BBQ Update
- Next Community BBQ—Friday, 1 April
- Rob Gordon session— 12 April
- Firefoxes Australia visit—27 April
- Re-fencing after a fire
- Pasture recovery
- Ongoing community support

## WESTERN BULLDOGS VS FREEMANTLE

Thanks to the generosity of the Western Bulldogs Football Club, free tickets for the Bulldogs vs Fremantle match on Sunday 27 March were made available to residents.

We hope everyone who attends the match has a great day of footy.



## RECOVERY CENTRE EASTER OPENING HOURS

The Recovery Centre will be closed on:

- Thursday 24 March; and
- Monday 28 March.

## FARM RECOVERY RESOURCES

Many of you have been speaking to Council about farm and pasture recovery information and resources.

We've been in touch with Agriculture Victoria who have provided fact sheets and information on:

- Sheep Feed
- Feed requirements for beef cattle
- Beef cattle—hay requirements for short term maintenance
- Pasture recovery after a fire
- Re-fencing and sediment fences
- Stock Containment Areas
- Water quality testing
- Soil erosion

We have also sourced a number of Youtube clips with information on:

- Farm recovery
- Erosion
- Fauna
- Weeds
- Native Environment

The Youtube clips were produced by the community affected by the Black Saturday fires.

The fact sheets and links to Youtube clips are all available from Moorabool Shire Council's website on the Scotsburn page or via <http://goo.gl/2sSCNa>

## SCOTSBURN COMMUNITY BBQ

The most recent Community Get Together at the Scotsburn Hall on 4 March was another terrific night with around 100 locals enjoying the dinner and taking the time to relax.

The Scotsburn Hall Committee and the Upper Williamson's Creek Landcare Group will be running more of these events on the FIRST Friday of each month with key themes each time.

**NEXT BBQ: Friday, 1 April from 6pm**

Contact: Andrea Mason, 0427 338 482 or [scotsburnhall@gmail.com](mailto:scotsburnhall@gmail.com)



Image: Scotsburn Community BBQ

## RETURN OF DR ROB GORDON

**12 April 2016**

Dr Rob Gordon will return to the Buninyong Town Hall on Tuesday 12 April from 7.00pm.

All are welcome to attend the session. For further information call Michelle on 0400 324 551

## ON GOING SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY

The Scotsburn Community remain firmly in the community's and business community's thoughts.

Generous offers of assistance are still coming through regularly and these are distributed or offered broadly to all.

We would like to thank Sovereign Hill for providing some family passes for this community.

Buninyong and District Community Bank and Bendigo Bank also provided 85 free tickets valued at \$1,275 for the screening of Zootopia on Friday night.

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
GENEROSITY

# Moorabool Recovery—Scotsburn Fire

Newsletter 21  
24 March 2016



## FIREFOXES AUSTRALIA VISIT

**- 27 APRIL**

Firefoxes Australia is a grassroots support group that emerged following the Kinglake fire in 2009.

In the years since, Firefoxes have reached out to thousands of women, men and children in Australian communities affected by fire, flood and cyclone.

The Firefoxes are focussed on supporting women to identify 'what they want or need to create a new normal and realise their dreams'.

The Firefoxes generally find that responses relate to the need to feel safe and connected, the desire to have fun (to laugh again, indulge, to form friendships), and to build a stronger, healthier, more informed self.



Firefoxes also share their recovery journey with the communities they visit.

**On Wednesday 27 April the Firefoxes will be at Buninyong Town Hall from 6pm.**

## FIREFOXES AUSTRALIA

**Women rising together from Black Saturday**

w. [www.firefoxes.org.au](http://www.firefoxes.org.au)

e. [firefoxesaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:firefoxesaustralia@gmail.com)

t. 0427 398 867

fb. Firefoxes Australia

## RE-FENCING AFTER A FIRE

Take the time to consider your internal fences as part of a broader assessment of your property. Planning now may save you dollars in the longer term, and make your enterprise easier to manage.

### **Will your new fence work with your land classes and land use?**

Land class fencing allows you to better manage the different areas of your farm. Benefits include protection of soils and remnant vegetation with improvements to pastures and productivity. There are 8 land classes, ranging from arable to non-arable.

Land class fencing goes hand-in-hand with a grazing management plan, appropriate to land capability. Such a plan can offer more control over grazing pressure along with better use and management of pastures.

### **How can the fence work best for your enterprise?**

A primary consideration is water supply and livestock access. A new land class fencing plan presents an opportunity to re-design your farm's watering system. Stock type and class will determine the style of fencing you require.

### **What are the movement patterns of your stock?**

Consider the behavioural traits of your stock and ease of moving them. Does a wagon-wheel arrangement work best around centre gates? Or is some other fence configuration better for your stock type and landscape? Will laneways be of value, for stock movement as well as safe vehicle access for either farm or emergency equipment? If so, how best can they be interconnected?

**Read the full fact sheet on the Scotsburn page under Farm Recovery Resources.**

# PASTURE RECOVERY AFTER FIRE

Most fires have a drastic effect on a pasture. Fire changes the botanical composition and will retard the pasture leading to a reduction in the growth and carrying capacity of the pasture in the following season. Fire changes pastures in different ways according to a number of different factors.

## Fire intensity

"Cool-moderate" burn - most dead plant material burnt, some seed and perennial grasses and clovers survive unharmed. There will usually be a small residue (or stubble) of unburnt pasture remaining. Generally "cool-moderate" burns occur where there is little dry grass cover before the fire.

"Hot" burn - all dead plant material, many seeds, young and weaker perennial grasses destroyed. The topsoil usually appears charred and bare. Hot burns occur where there is a heavy plant cover, for example, lightly grazed pasture or crop stubble.

"Very hot" burn - the soil is virtually sterilised. All plant material and seed is destroyed as the fire burns into the top organic matter layer of the soil. Very hot burns occur under hay bales, windrows, on sheep camps, on soils with a thick root mat or where an intense fire emerges from bush areas onto pasture land.

The soil below 15 mm deep is usually not changed by more than 10°C and returns to its original temperature within five minutes. These figures suggest that plants that bury their seed or that have growing points below the surface should be best able to survive the effects of a fire.

## Effect on soil fertility

A grassfire can change the fertility of the soil in the short term. Amounts of the nutrients that were previously tied up in standing plant material are released by the fire and returned to the pasture in the ash. .

The amount of nitrogen available to the recovering pasture is generally reduced as the fire burns some of the organic matter near the soil surface. As a result many burnt pastures show symptoms typical of nitrogen deficiency (pale to yellow leaves) during the following winter.

During the recovery of pastures after the 1983 Cudjee fires, it was very evident that pastures with a good fertiliser history responded much faster and to a greater degree than those with a poor history.

## Effect on carrying capacity

As well as the loss of standing feed, a fire reduces the regrowth and so the carrying capacity of the pasture in the year after the fire. In general, the cooler the burn, the earlier and better the autumn break, the higher the proportion of improved perennials in the pasture before the fire and the higher the soil fertility: the higher will be the carrying capacity in the year after the fire.

**To read the full Pasture Recovery fact sheet and get suggestions for pasture recovery visit [www.moorabool.vic.gov.au](http://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au) and select the Scotsburn page.**

---

## 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](mailto:info@moorabool.vic.gov.au)

Darley Civic & Community Hub: 182 Halletts Way, Darley

Lerderderg Library: 215 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh

Website: [www.moorabool.vic.gov.au](http://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au)



@mooraboolshire



Moorabool Shire Council