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## ATO ADVICE FOR BUSINESS OPERATORS AFFECTED BY THE SCOTSBURN FIRE

If you've been impacted by the recent bushfires, you don't need to worry about your tax affairs right away.

The ATO understands that you may need time to deal with more immediate concerns and can help you sort out your tax affairs later, including giving you more time to lodge or pay.

If you have records that have been damaged, the ATO may also be able to help you construct your tax records.

Phone the ATO on **1800 806 218** if you need assistance and to discuss your situation.

## PASTA & MAGIC AT SCOTSBURN

The Upper Williamson's Creek Landcare Group and the Scotsburn Community Hall Committee have arranged for a magical treat for the next community evening on Friday 6 May.

Appearing will be Adam Laurence and his magic show. Adam will be performing 45 minutes of hilarious, baffling and amazing magic. This is fun for the whole family.

Recognising the cooler weather, a pasta dinner has been organised.

**Pasta night - Friday 6th of May 2016 from 6pm at the Scotsburn Hall**



## EVENING WITH THE FIREFOXES

Thank you to everyone who attended the evening with the Firefoxes on Wednesday. There was a great turnout and we hope you all found it enjoyable and useful.

## PROTECTING WATER SUPPLIES WITH SEDIMENT FENCES

**Heather Field, Land Management Extension Officer, Ballarat**

After a fire it is important to protect your water supply from contamination. The biggest danger is runoff containing debris, manure, ash and soil from burnt paddocks. If your dam or waterway is at risk, a quick and simple way to help keep your water clean is to build strategically placed sediment fences at the inflow points.

Sediment fences made out of fabric, shade cloth or straw should be in place as soon as possible after the fire so you are prepared before the next rain. The aim of a sediment fence is to slow runoff down so that any material drops out before it reaches the water.

Large amounts of soil and manure with high nutrient content can cause algal growth such as blue-green algae, which is toxic to stock.

It is worth looking closely at each dam and making some assessment of what is likely to wash into it when the first heavy rain comes.

Decide where your fences will go and how many you will need by assessing the catchment size, steepness of the slope and contours of the surrounding area.

Leave the fences in place until ground cover is established again, when they should be removed so as not to become a hazard in long grass.

A practical 'how to' video on how to build a sediment fence from wire, straw or mesh is available at: <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/fire-and-emergencies/recovery-after-an-emergency/farm-and-land-recovery-after-bushfire>



Image: example of a sediment fence

**Scotsburn Hall Committee &  
Upper Williamson's Creek Landcare Group  
invites you and your friends to the:**

## **Scotsburn Fire Community Get Together & Pasta Dinner**

This event is for the whole community, to help support those affected by the Scotsburn Bushfire.

**Friday, 6th May, 6pm—10pm**

(Or the 1st Friday of the Month, unless advised)

**Food & Drink supplied**

**Scotsburn Hall, Midland Hwy (next to Primary School)**

***Featuring: The Adam Laurence Magic Show***

*Free entertainment for the Kids - Adam Laurence Magic Show. 45 minutes of hilarious, baffling and amazing magic.*

**All members of the community are welcome to attend .**



**Contact:**

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## FUNDING FOR NATVE PLANTS - LEIGH CATCHMENT GROUP

Through the Back from the Brink project, Leigh Catchment Group has funding available for interested people to plant Silver Banksias, Black Sheoaks, Yarra Gums, and local Snow Gums.

Back from the Brink is the Leigh Catchment Group's major on-the-ground project. It was funded by a *Communities for Nature* grant. Two Landcare groups became concerned at the disappearance of Silver Banksias, Black Sheoaks, Yarra Gums, and local Snow Gums from the landscape. The mission: to return those species to the landscape.

### Background

This three year project would not be possible without the vision of Upper Williamson's Creek and the Napoleons/Enfield Landcare Groups, who both noticed a change in their landscape.

Upper Williamson's Creek saw fewer and fewer Silver Banksia's available to plant, even though it had been a common plant until recently. Apparently Silver Banksia's were easy to cut and good as firewood which was why it was becoming less common. The Napoleons/Enfield Group were concerned about the paddock trees - Black Sheoaks, Yarra Gums and local Snow gums - that were dying in significant numbers without replacements.

Together with the Leigh Catchment Group, they joined forces to reinstate the natural landscape.

It began with locating seed sources so that we could responsibly collect seed and propagate new plants.

To date we have held two seed collection workshops for the Landcare groups and after seed collecting at selected sites. There will be further propagation workshops. The workshops will become open to anyone interested and we will, of course, need more land to plant up and planters to do so.

One of the Landcare members was ahead of the game and has already grown 500 Silver Banksias and these are being grown on to planting size ready for next autumn. Further plants will be provided by the local nursery, Ballarat Wild Plants who is keen to support this project. Further information and progress of this project is available via [www.leighcatchmentgroup.org](http://www.leighcatchmentgroup.org) and through the Smart Living Centre in Lydiard Street, Ballarat which provides information on all aspects of sustainable living, including protecting our biodiversity.

If you are interested you will need to commit to having the plants and fencing in the ground by mid-June. We will work with Landcare groups to help you plant these trees.

Contact: Jane Bevelander  
Leigh Catchment Group  
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Image:  
Silver  
Banksia

### Moorabool Shire Council

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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)



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Moorabool Shire Council