

Moorabool Recovery—Scotsburn Fire

Newsletter 3 - 31st December, 2015



Rate Payment Assistance due to Fire Damage

Residents who have experienced significant 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.

We are encouraging those who have experienced significant property damage or loss to contact Council on 5366 7100.

Council continues to explore rate options for any affected residents, and further advice will be provided in due course.

Recovery Centre - New Location

A Recovery Centre will be open from 10am to 2pm, and will be located at:

Buninyong Community Centre
407 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong

Thursday 31 December: 10am - 2pm
Friday 1 January: CLOSED
Saturday 2 January: CLOSED
Sunday 3 January: CLOSED
Monday 4 - Friday 8 January: 10am - 2pm



Access to Showers

Fire affected residents can make use of shower facilities at the Buninyong Pool. Pool Passes, towels and soap can be collected from the Recovery Centre.

Cleaning Up Your Property

If your home has been damaged by fire or smells of smoke from bushfires, you should ventilate it by opening the house up to sunlight and fresh air to help remove the odour.

Wash indoor surfaces with mild soap or detergent and water. For persistent smoke and soot, wear rubber gloves and wash with four to six teaspoons of washing powder and one cup of household chlorine bleach added to four litres of water. Remember to always follow the safety directions on the bleach container.

Cooking utensils can be washed with detergent and hot water and polished with a suitable polishing agent to remove discolouration.

Air soft furnishings (upholstered furniture and bedding) outside in the sunshine and wind. Mattresses may be able to be cleaned by a specialist mattress repairer. It is almost impossible to get the smell of smoke out of feather pillows or foam.

Low levels of ash on household surfaces are unlikely to cause short or long term health effects. If anyone in your household is experiencing any health effects from the smoky conditions seek medical advice. (ref: www2.health.vic.gov.au)

Donations

THANK YOU to all those wonderful people and businesses who have donated in any way to help those impacted by the fire. Your community spirit and generosity is inspiring and greatly appreciated.

If anyone wishes to continue to help those affected by the fires, we encourage you to make a cash donation at Bendigo Bank, which has set up an account for fire-affected residents.

Account Name: Scotsburn Bushfire Appeal
BSB: 63300
Account Number: 156382715

Water Tanks and Drinking Water

Residents who are reliant on tank water for their drinking supply are able to access a tank cleaning and tank refill service.

Prior to accessing this service, property owners need to clean the roof at their property so run off doesn't re-contaminate a tank. Alternatively, residents can disconnect their tank from the roof.

After doing this, residents are being asked to register their need for the service at the Recovery Centre in Buninyong, or by calling Council on 5366 7100.

During the fire a large amount of ash may have come into contact with roofs or tanks.

If the water looks, smells or tastes unusual DO NOT use it for drinking (www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au).

Also, you should not source water from a creek that has been affected by bushfire as the water may be contaminated.

This service applies only to residents in the Scotsburn/Elaine areas affected by the fire and is for human drinking supplies only.

Financial Recovery Guidance

Rural Bank and Rural Finance are the agribusiness banking partners of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank and Community Banks.

Farmers affected by the Scotsburn bushfires and in need of financial recovery guidance are welcome to contact our local representatives to discuss their short and long-term needs & solutions, and learn about other support initiatives that may be available to them.

Your Ballarat based Rural Bankers are:

- Gavin Svanosio (0437 957 164) and
- Tania Currie (0428 449 576)

You can also contact Rural Bank on 1300 660 115 or find us at www.ruralbank.com.au, and you can contact Rural Finance on 1300 796 101 or find us at www.ruralfinance.com.au

For non-rural banking, if you need financial recovery guidance please contact Buninyong Community Bank branch manager Randall Dreger on 5341 3096, or Greg veal on 0411 094 462.

Rural Financial Counselling

Rural Financial Counselling provides free, confidential support to those affected by the current fire.

To access please contact Brian Gardiner on 0427 094 675.

Mail Service

AusPost has advised that anyone in bushfire affected areas can have their mail redirected for free for 12 months. For those who don't have an address to re-direct to, it can be redirected to any Post Office. For those who do not have ID, there is a special circumstance form. This form can be filled in at any Post Office.

For more information contact AusPost on 13 13 18.

Rubbish Collection

The next scheduled rubbish collection for normal bins will take place on Friday 8th January, 2016.

Replacement bins will be delivered on Friday 8th January, 2016.

Council has delivered skips to affected areas for residents to use.

Boundary Fences

Fences on Road Reserves - Fences abutting road reserves are the responsibility of the owner of the property.

BlazeAid

BlazeAid work alongside rural families to help rebuild fences that have been damaged or destroyed by the recent fires.

If you require assistance please contact BlazeAid blazeaid.scotsburn@gmail.com or telephone David on 0419 875 432.



Moorabool Shire Council

Principal Office: **15 Stead Street, Ballan** Telephone **(03) 5366 7100**

Postal Address: **PO Box 18, Ballan VIC 3342** Website: www.moorabool.vic.gov.au

Email: info@moorabool.vic.gov.au

Darley Civic & Community Hub: **182 Halletts Way, Darley**

Lerderderg Library: **215 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh**

