

Moorabool Recovery—Scotsburn Fire

Newsletter 4
6 January 2016

COMMUNITY RECOVERY EVENT & BBQ
WEDNESDAY 6 JAN FROM 6PM



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FREE INTERNET & PC ACCESS AT RECOVERY CENTRE

Council has installed a computer & printer at the Recovery Centre, 407 Warrenheip Street Buninyong. The computer and internet is available free of charge for residents affected by the fire.

Free computer access is also available at the libraries :

- Ballan—143 Inglis St
- Ballarat—178 Doveton St Nth
- Bacchus Marsh—215 Main st

EXPECTED PHYSICAL RESPONSES TO FIRE

It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions following a distressing event.

A natural disaster such as a fire can be traumatic to those involved and the extended community.

People deal with trauma in different ways and reactions can be mental, emotional or physical.

Dr Rob Gordon will join the Scotsburn community for a Community Recovery Event on Wednesday 6 January 2016 from 6pm at Buninyong Town Hall.

A community BBQ will follow.

Dr Gordon will be on hand to talk about the impacts of the fire on people and emotions and how to recover.

For more information www.moorabool.vic.gov.au

The Government's Better Health Department has good advice on how to cope with trauma. Examples of common reactions to trauma are:

- feeling as if you are in a state of 'high alert' and are 'on watch' for anything else that might happen
- feeling emotionally numb, as if in a state of 'shock'
- becoming emotional and upset
- feeling extremely fatigued and tired
- feeling very stressed and/or anxious
- being very protective of others

Go to www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au for more information.



Image:

Dr Rob Gordon

RATE PAYMENT ASSISTANCE DUE TO FIRE DAMAGE

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.

NEXT SCHEDULED HOUSEHOLD RUBBISH COLLECTION

Friday 8th Jan, 2016.
General waste

BIN REPLACEMENT

Residents who had their bin burnt in the Scotsburn fire can get a replacement bin free of charge from Council. Please contact Moorabool Shire Council on 5366 7100 if you require new bins.

If a bin can't be delivered to your property due to lack of access, Council contractors can work out an alternative drop-off point with you.

Pre-ordered replacement bins will be delivered by Friday 8th January, 2016.

RECOVERY CENTRE HOURS

Council has opened a Recovery Centre for all residents affected by the Scotsburn Fires, at the Buninyong Community House located at **407 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong.**

The Recovery Centre coordinates services for people in our community who have been affected by the Scotsburn fires.

Date Times

- Wednesday 6 January 2016
10.00am - 2.00pm
- Thursday 7 January 2016
10.00am - 2.00pm
- Friday 8 January 2016
10.00am - 2.00pm



BlazeAid

BlazeAid works 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.



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WATER TANK CLEANING

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.

DRINKING WATER LOCATIONS

Moorabool Shire Council and Central Highlands Water have placed three water carts in the fire-affected area for residents affected by the fire to access clean drinking water.

The locations of the drinking water tanks are:

- Buninyong Recreation Reserve – 401-409 Cornish Rd, Buninyong
- Corner of Fishers and Pryors Roads, Scotsburn
- Corner of Midland Highway and Clarendon-Blue Bridge Road, Scotsburn

COMMUNITY LED FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- Film Fundraiser – Friday 8 January 2016 from 6.30pm at Grenville Hall
- Bushfire Relief Fundraiser – Sunday 17 January from 4pm at Irish Murphy's, Ballarat
- Bushfire Fundraiser – Saturday 23 January 2016 from 10am at Woody Yaloak Equestrian Centre. www.bushfirefundraiser.com.au

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

The Victorian Government provides financial assistance to people impacted by fires through two main grants:

1. Emergency Relief Assistance, which provides payments of up to \$520 per adult and \$260 per child (up to a maximum of \$1,300 per household) is available to help meet immediate needs, including emergency food, shelter, clothing, and personal items.
2. Emergency Re-establishment Payments which are available to eligible households, provide up to \$32,500 per household for clean-up, emergency accommodation, repairs, rebuilding (a principal place of residence), and replacing some damaged contents..

Anyone who has been affected by the bushfires and is suffering personal hardship and distress should call the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line on 1300 799 232 to find out about the assistance that is available.

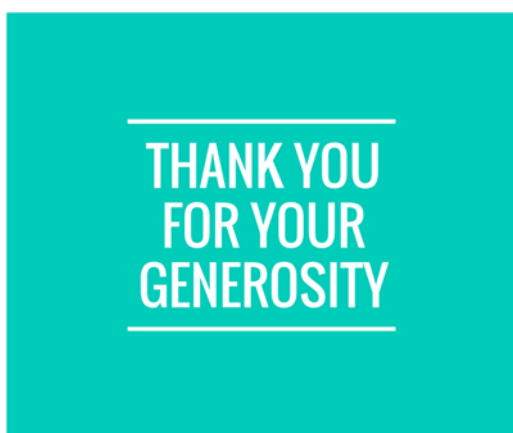
Information about the assistance can be found on the Australian Government's Disaster Assist website at www.disasterassist.gov.au and through Emergency Relief and Recovery Victoria (www.recovery.vic.gov.au or 1300 799 232).

DONATIONS

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

Thanks to your generosity, families affected by the fires were provided with some gift vouchers on Christmas eve.

We encourage people to make cash donations at Bendigo Bank. Account Name: Scotsburn Bushfire Appeal BSB: 63300 Account Number: 156382715



FEEDSTOCK FODDER DEPOT ESTABLISHED

Thanks to the generosity of a local landowner and the work of the Victorian Farmers Federation, we have established a feedstock fodder depot for residents requiring feed for stock.

Donations of feed and hay can also be accepted through the depot.

To register to collect feed or to make a donation of good quality feed, please contact Shannon Walsh, Community Safety Officer via Customer Service on 5366 7100.

ELECTRICITY & GAS SAFETY

As you return home, you may have to deal with power outages or interruptions. The following suggestions may help:

Power blackouts

- Switch off all electrical appliances, especially those that have heating elements.
- Unplug 'surge-sensitive' equipment, such as computers and video recorders.
- Keep one light switch turned on so you know when the power returns.
- Telephone your electricity provider for updates on the status of the blackout.
- Turn on a battery-operated radio and listen to a local radio station for information.
- Check on your neighbours to see if they need assistance, particularly if they are elderly or have a disability.

Community members returning to damaged properties should be mindful of asbestos. Asbestos kits are available from the Recovery Centre for pick up.

Gas cylinder safety

- Heat damaged cylinders should be checked by a registered gas professional.
- Do not transport a gas cylinder that has been subjected to fire or severe heat - ask your LP Gas supplier to collect it

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**

Bacchus Marsh: **182 Halletts Way, Darley**

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

 **Moorabool Shire Council**

 **@mooraboolshire**