

Moorabool Recovery—Scotsburn Fire

Newsletter 6
14 January 2016



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AUDIO FILES OF DR ROB GORDON EVENT NOW AVAILABLE

The audio files from the Recovery Event with Dr Rob Gordon are now available via the Scotsburn page on www.moorabool.vic.gov.au

To watch videos of Dr Gordon talking about recovery visit <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/crisis-and-emergency/emergency-assistance/travelling-the-road-to-recovery-video-series>



INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Tree Removal and Clean-Up

Removal of hazardous trees on road reserves and over fence lines commenced in earnest on 5 January 2016 with three tree management crews in action.

The priority is to identify and make safe any tree that is considered hazardous to the health and safety of the public. Tree management will continue for the next few months.

Fallen timber is being treated in a number of ways:

- Timber from fence lines is being piled to burn during the winter months. A number of private land owners have requested this.
- Fallen timber on road reserves in the immediate vicinity of houses is being chipped and removed.
- Some fallen timber on other road reserves will be selectively left as habitat logs, the remainder will be chipped or removed.

Road and Infrastructure Works

Gravel sheeting works will commence from the 18th of January on Bridge Rd, Sand Rd and Hopgoods Rd. Routine maintenance, pothole works and minor pavement repairs will be undertaken on Rosenows Rd and Smith Lane as priority.

The fire area is being assessed for damage to safety and directional signage, guide posts, culverts and a range of other items. These items will be prioritised and reinstated over the coming weeks and months.

Forestry

Pine plantation harvesting is scheduled to commence off Bridge Rd and off Sand Rd over the next two weeks. Haul routes for harvested timber include Sand Rd, Bridge Rd and Horsehill West Rd. Gravel sheeting works are being co-ordinated with the Plantation Operators.

VISIT BY MINISTER JANE GARRETT TO SCOTSBURN

Minister for Emergency Services Jane Garrett MP visited Back Creek Farm Campus to speak with affected residents and the BlazeAid volunteers on Wednesday 12 January 2015.



RECOVERY CENTRE HOURS

Location: Buninyong Community House at 407 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong.

Opening Hours

- Friday 15 January, 10am - 2pm
- Monday 18 January, 10am to 2pm
- Tuesday 19 January, 10am to 2pm
- Wednesday 20 January, 10am to 2pm
- Thursday 21 January, 10am - 2pm
- Friday 22 January, 10am - 2pm

REBUILDING HOMES & SHEDS — FAST TRACK

Moorabool Shire Council has implemented a range of Fast Track Actions to make the rebuild process following the Scotsburn Fire as seamless and stress free as possible.

The Fast Track Actions are designed to save the Applicant time and money and to start building as soon as possible.

Moorabool Shire has been pleased to slash processing times to assist with the rebuilding process.

Read the Fact Sheet at www.moorabool.vic.gov.au or call the Planning team on 5366 7100.



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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Parent/Teacher Information Session with Dr Rob Gordon.



An information session is being held on Thursday 28 January in the Buninyong area for parents and teachers of children affected by the recent Scotsburn Fire.

To ensure that schools and teachers involved in the care of your children can be invited to attend could you please reply via SMS – 0400324551 or email info@moorabool.vic.gov.au with the name of the school and teacher for 2016 (if known). You can also drop into the Recovery Centre in Buninyong to provide these details.



TRAUMA & SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN—GENERAL INFO

Summary

For children, a distressing or frightening experience can challenge their sense of security and the predictability of their world. Children's responses to these experiences depend on a wide range of factors.

Children will 'fill in the blanks'

It's a natural reaction to want to shield children from harsh realities. However, keeping a child 'in the dark' doesn't protect them from the emotional impact of a distressing or frightening event. It may even make it worse for them as children are keen observers and will realise that something is wrong, even if no one in the family talks to them about it.

Children's reactions change with age

Every child reacts differently and typical reactions change with age. Your child may not react the way you expect. Depending on their age and stage, they may not have acquired the skills to articulate their thoughts and feelings to those around them. Sometimes, distress reactions surface weeks or even months after the event.

Some common reactions include:

- Sleep problems such as not wanting to go to bed at night or nightmares
- Changes in eating habits
- Going back to behaviours from earlier developmental stages
- Fear at being separated from their parents or carers
- Changes in their relationships with siblings
- Needing to 'relive' the trauma
- Mysterious physical ailments, such as headaches and stomach aches

When to seek professional help

It may help to seek professional advice if:

- The family as a unit is finding it difficult to cope with the impacts and demands of the events and the follow-on
- The child's reactions and behaviours are intense, do not settle in a week or two or become worse, or if new ones develop
- The child talks about harming themselves.

If at any time you are worried about your mental health or the mental health of a loved one, call Lifeline 13 11 14.

Update from Moorabool Shire Council



The following is a summary of the impact from the Scotsburn fire and Council's activities to support the community clean-up and recovery.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Post Impact Assessment Report has confirmed the following losses in Moorabool Shire:

- 11 houses were lost
- 1 house is damaged but habitable
- 1 house is damaged but not habitable
- 55 outbuildings were lost (including sheds, shacks, bungalows, cabins, garages, wool sheds, hay sheds, caravans etc)
- 45 water tanks were affected and required cleaning and refilling
- Approximately 4,000 animals were destroyed following the fires. This includes approx. 3,500 sheep, 7 horses, 6 cattle, 35 poultry, 2 pigs, 2 goats.
- Fencing – the final number is still being determined but will run into the 100's km of fencing.

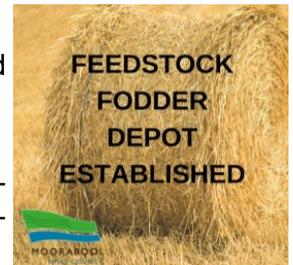
On 1 January 2016, Council's efforts moved from Response to Recovery. Since this time Council's Emergency Response and Recovery Team has been working closely with the affected community. Key areas of focus are:

1. SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS

- The Recovery Centre has been established at Buninyong House, 407 Warrenheip Street Buninyong.
- Rate payment assistance is being offered to fire impacted residents. Residents whose homes have been damaged or businesses impacted are able to apply for rate payment assistance via a one page form available on Council's website, the Recovery Centre and Council Offices.
- Communications & information for residents via SMS texts, Facebook, Twitter, twice weekly newsletters and website content.

2. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Community Recovery Session with Dr Rob Gordon held on Wednesday 6 January 2015.
- Parents & teachers session with Dr Rob Gordon to be held on Thursday 28 January 2016. Details to follow.
- Drinking water made available
- Animal feed depot established
- Donations & Volunteer Coordination



3. CLEAN-UP AND ASSESSMENT

- Impact assessments are still being carried out.
- General rubbish and metal disposal skip bins have been supplied.
- Asbestos kits have been made available via the recovery Centre
- Fencing and farm clean-up by BlazeAid and other volunteers
- Animal disposal point established
- Asbestos clean-up

4. REBUILDING

- Fast Track initiatives implemented

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

- Road works to commence 18 Jan
- Tree clearing continuing
- Road and infrastructure assessments are ongoing

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: www.moorabool.vic.gov.au



@mooraboolshire



Moorabool Shire Council