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LOCAL THEFT

We have been advised that there have been a number of recent thefts and attempted thefts in the area.

It's great that residents have been advising neighbours of these incidents.

Please call 000 should you require assistance following a theft or attempted theft at your property.

VISIT BY DR ROB GORDON

Next week

Dr Rob Gordon is returning to speak with the community affected by the fires of the last season.

Join Dr Gordon on **Thursday 17 November** for a light supper and a conversation about recovery and rebuilding.

Dr Gordon will be discussing how the community is travelling 11 months after the fire and preparing for the coming fire season.

The event commences at 7pm at Buninyong Town Hall.

Supper will be available from 6.30pm.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Location
16 November	Ladies Morning Tea	10.30am to 12pm	Village Place, 309 Learmonth Street Buninyong
17 November	Dr Rob Gordon	7pm	Buninyong Town Hall
18 December	Anniversary Picnic	TBC	Buninyong Gardens
11 December	Art Exhibition Opening	2pm	Village Place, 309 Learmonth Street Buninyong
January / February TBC	Family Day Trip	TBC	TBC

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR FIRE AFFECTED TREES

David Elms, Arborist

For anyone that missed the information provided by David Elms at the Scotsburn Get-Together, the following is information that David provided earlier in the year.

The following can be used as a guide when assessing the risk of fire affected trees for potential failure.

These notes should only be used as a guide and if you are unsure, please contact a suitably qualified arborist to properly assess the trees. Your local council arborist should be able to recommend a suitable arborist if required or you can search the yellow pages for consultant arborists.

Tree risk assessment can be a dangerous task and all potential hazards should be considered before this is carried out and appropriate measures taken to help reduce the risk.

Appropriate personal protective equipment should be used at all times.

Removal of dangerous trees, particularly hollow, cracked, hung up or heavily leaning trees is a high risk exercise and should only be carried out by qualified and experienced tree fellers/arborists.

Hollow live trees

As a general rule, a tree requires 25mm (1") of sound wood for every 150mm (6") of diameter to safely support the weight of the canopy.

For a tree with an open wound of 20% of the circumference of the tree, a thickness of 37.5mm (1 1/2") for every 150mm (6") of diameter. For a tree with an open wound of 30% of the circumference of the tree, a thickness of 50mm (2") for every 150mm (6") of diameter [Hayes E, 2001].

If the tree is dead and has no leaves it will

be less affected by wind so less likely to fall, assess these trees for other faults before deciding on whether to remove or retain the tree.

Diameter can be calculated by measuring the circumference of the tree and dividing that by 3.14. Shell thickness can be assessed by drilling through the tree with a fine (1/8") drill bit and measuring when the resistance as you push the bit through the tree.

Leaning trees

There are a number of categories for dangerous leaning trees.

They are as follows:

- Leaning tree in excess of 30-40 degrees with a target.
- A leaning tree with a recent root lift/soil movement/mounding or soil surface cracking on the opposite side to the lean.
- Leaning tree with horizontal cracking on the upper side of the tree.
- Leaning tree with a shear crack through the centre of the trunk.
- Leaning tree with a fire affected wound on the lower side of the trunk.

Root Damage

Any tree that has had more than 1/3 (33%) of its root system damaged. This damage could be either from fire burning the roots or machinery damage eg. Bulldozer.

This risk is higher if the tree is on a lean and has also suffered root damage.

Cracks / Splits

Cracks can be classed in two categories, horizontal and vertical cracks. Cracks can

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR FIRE AFFECTED TREES

David Elms, Arborist

Cracks cont.

easily be assessed as to how deep they are by probing with a metal probe such as a fine screwdriver with a long shaft or a hacksaw blade for finer cracks.

Cracks extend through the bark and deep into the wood. Cracks pose a higher risk in trees with a live canopy due to the increased weight that needs to be supported.

- Horizontal cracks (cracks that run across the grain of the timber) are deemed very high risk.
- Vertical cracks through leaning trees
- Multiple Vertical cracks into a hollow tree
- Any large branch with lateral cracking along its length
- Any crack (in the union) where a branch is attached to the trunk or other branch
- Shear cracks (a crack that separates the trunk into two halves along the wood grain)

Dead Crowns

Any tree which contains a significant amount of deadwood in their crown (top of the tree). If tree is of significant size and no other risks are present then consider only having the dead crown removed leaving the trunk and primary branches that can be utilised as habitat tree for wildlife that may have lost their hollow trees to the fire.

'Hangers'

Also known as widow makers, these are branches which have broken off either partially or completely in the crown of the tree and have become suspended in the canopy.

These can be dislodged in high winds and fall

at any time.

'Hang Ups'

A tree that has fallen but has become 'hung up' on another tree. These are a risk if the branches of the other tree they are stuck in fails or if the hung up tree is still burning

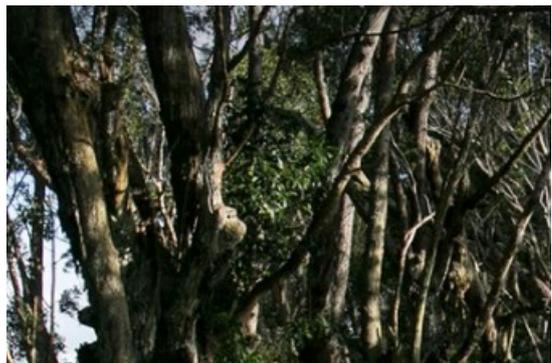
internally and eventually becomes too weak to support its own weight and collapses at the base or contact point

Stags & Spars

Large dead trees are known as Stags while smaller trees are known as spars. If these trees have been affected by fire around their base (sometimes just below the ash layer) they can easily fail at the base.

References

- Hayes, E , Evaluating Tree Defects, a field guide, 2nd edition, Safetrees publishing, 2001
- O'Brien J G, Urban Tree Risk Management, USDA Forest Service North-eastern Area, year unknown.
- Department of Sustainability and Environment, Hazard tree Management – A Pictorial Guide, Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2011.
<http://files.em.vic.gov.au/Safety/SFS.01.08-R01.pdf>



NUISANCE DOGS

Following a recent report of dogs wandering and chasing livestock in **Rosenows Road, Durham Lead**, Council's Community Safety Officers would like to remind animal owners and residents of their rights and obligations in relation to containing dogs within premises.

Dogs found wandering at large or not securely confined to the owner's premises may be impounded.

Furthermore, dogs involved in a dog attack may be seized, declared menacing, declared dangerous or destroyed by Council.

Significant penalties apply to dog owners who do not comply with requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Owners of livestock are within their rights to destroy dogs found at large near livestock. These animals represent the livelihood for our farmers and these attacks can cause valuable losses.

Should you see dogs wandering please contact Council on 5366 7100.

FINALIST IN FIRE AWARENESS AWARDS

We are pleased to advise that the Community Recovery Committee has been shortlisted as a finalist for the Fire Awareness Awards for the Strengthening Communities After the Scotsburn Fires project.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the Committee!

CHANGES TO THE RECOVERY NEWSLETTER

From December we will be producing the Recovery Newsletter on a monthly basis.

Look out for all the news around the 10th of each month.

We will still send SMS updates and reminders as necessary.

To be added to the SMS service, please send a text with your name and number to 0427 046 424 or email plawrence@moorabool.vic.gov.au

The Moorabool Shire Council Facebook Page and Twitter account will also continue to contain news for the Scotsburn community.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mooraboolshirecouncil

Or Twitter via [@mooraboolshire](https://twitter.com/mooraboolshire)

Congratulations!

Thanks for your
hard work.

SCOTSBURN ART EXHIBITION CALL FOR ENTRIES

The Scotsburn Art Project will conclude with an Exhibition opening at the Village Place Buninyong at 2pm on Sunday 11 December.

We're seeking photos, sculptures and other works to display as part of the exhibition.

Please submit your photos via USB stick or email to Michelle Richards by **30 November**.

All works will be framed and returned to you at the conclusion of the event.

Entrants are in the running to win fantastic prizes:

- **1st prize photo competition** - digital camera valued at \$500
- **1st prize artwork** - Art pack
- **1st prize sculpture** (natural and man-made) - Art pack



SCOTSBURN DINNER — 4 NOVEMBER

The dinner on Friday 4 November was well attended with 50 people there to catch up and hear from David Elms, Arborist about tree health and assessments.



DRIVE IN MOVIE NIGHT - A GREAT SUCCESS

The Drive In Movie night held on Saturday 29 October was a great success with more than 80 people present to watch the Australian family classic movie, Oddball.





SCOTSBURN PHOENIX PROJECT FIRE RECOVERY Community Consultation Workshop

The Victorian Government provided support for the Scotsburn community's recovery from the December 19, 2015 bushfire, with a \$624,000 funding boost for landscape rehabilitation.

This workshop is your chance to tell us your priorities for these fire recovery funds.

**Saturday 3rd December,
10am**

Scotsburn Hall

**6867 Midland Hwy,
Scotsburn**



For queries contact:

janelcg@iinet.net.au / 0426 873 202 or
leighcg@ncable.net.au / 0455 147 398



SCOTSBURN FIRE RECOVERY ART PROJECT



Including Christmas Themed Art

SUNDAY 20 November 2016, Scotsburn Community Hall

Community members are invited to attend FREE workshops by professional artists.



- **10:00am-12:00pm** — Jewellery – Sculpture – Pastel
- **12:00pm**— **Free BBQ Lunch**
- **12:30pm-2:00pm**— Felting – Sculpture - Pastel

All works produced will be framed and featured in the end of year exhibition with prizes awarded for best in show.

This is a FREE event open to ALL ages and community members.



Moorabool Shire Council

Recovery Phone Number —0400 324 551

Recovery Centre Address—Village Place, 309 Learmonth Street, Buninyong.

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

Postal Address: PO Box 18, Ballan VIC 3342

Email: info@moorabool.vic.gov.au



Moorabool Shire Council



@mooraboolshire

Darley Civic & Community Hub:

182 Halletts Way, Darley

Lerderberg Library:

215 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh

Website: www.moorabool.vic.gov.au