

Moorabool Recovery—Scotsburn Fire

Newsletter 45
8 December 2016



MERRY CHRISTMAS



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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. It has been a pleasure working with you all this year and keeping you up to date on recovery activities and events.

The next newsletter will be out in January and we will have staff working and on-call throughout the Christmas period.

RECOVERY AWARD PRESENTED TO RECOVERY COMMITTEE

On Thursday 1 December, the Recovery Committee was awarded a Fire Awareness Award - **Recovery Award** – which recognises an innovative project that helps people or the environment recover from a fire.

Congratulations and thank you to all in the Recovery Committee and the organisations that have assisted with the recovery activities and events throughout this year.



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Location
11 December	Art Exhibition Opening	2pm	Village Place, 309 Learmonth Street Buninyong
12 to 16 December	Art Exhibition open to public	Daily	Village Place, 309 Learmonth Street Buninyong
18 December	Anniversary Picnic	12 to 3pm	Clarendon Recreation Reserve
11 February TBC	Family Day Trip	TBC	TBC

FIRE SEASON PREPARATION

In the lead-up to summer, CFA brigades around the state are getting out and about in their communities to talk about preparing for fire. You can check cfa.vic.gov.au/events for information on what's happening in Moorabool.

Vic Emergency offers the following tips:

Planning and preparation

Talk to your family, friends and neighbours about the fire risk where you live and make plans for what you'll do on hot, dry, windy days.

Leaving early is the safest option to protect yourself and your family.

Leaving early means leaving the area before there are any signs of fire – not when you can see flames or smell smoke. Leaving early means avoiding panic, being trapped, making the wrong choices and risking serious injury or death.

Do you have family, friends or neighbours who might need help preparing to leave early? Talk to them about when they're going to leave, where they're going to go, and how you can help.

Fire Danger Ratings are a good way to decide when to leave. They are not a weather forecast – they tell you how dangerous a fire would be if one started. As the ratings increase, so does the risk of a fast moving and uncontrollable fire.

Never drive if you can see smoke or fire. Thick smoke will make it hard to see and traffic jams and accidents are likely. You also need to keep the roads clear for emergency services.

You could be at serious risk of uncontrollable fires on Severe, Extreme and Code Red days. It's up to you to stay informed. Check the Fire Danger Ratings daily and act to protect yourself and your family.

Prevention is everyone's responsibility. Early action can prevent fires threatening lives and property.

If you see smoke or fire, call Triple Zero ('000') immediately. If you see something suspicious, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

For information on how to stay safe this summer, visit emergency.vic.gov.au or ring the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

Check that your home and contents insurance is current and includes a level of cover that will be in line with current building standards and regulations. Changes in those building standards and regulations mean that replacement homes must be built to better withstand natural disasters which can add to the cost of rebuilding.

Dealing with animals in an emergency

Remember to prepare for your pets as well; have bedding, food and water ready to go and make sure you can transport them safely when leaving early- Always put your own safety before the safety of your pets.

Make sure your pets can be identified easily, microchip your animals and include your details such as your phone number on collars. Have a plan for horses and livestock. A large, well-grazed area where they can move freely, with a supply of water is the safest. Remove all gear from horses and always keep them contained on your property, they are at serious risk on roads where visibility will be poor.

Decide now what you will do with your horses on serious fire-risk days, if you plan and prepare properly, you give them the best chance to stay safe.

FIRE SEASON PREPARATION

Warnings and updates

Warnings are issued when a fire has started and you need to take action.

You should never wait to receive an official warning before you leave. Fires can start quickly and threaten homes and lives within minutes.

Make sure you understand the three levels of warnings and what they mean. The three levels of warnings are Advice, Watch and Act and Emergency Warning.

Don't expect warnings to be issued in any particular order. The first warning you get could be an Emergency Warning.

Always use more than one source for warnings. Tune in to ABC local radio, commercial and designated community radio stations or Sky News TV, phone the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (1800 240 667), visit emergency.vic.gov.au, and download the VicEmergency App.

Warnings are also available on

Twitter:

@vicemergency and @CFA_Updates

Facebook:

facebook.com/vicemergency

facebook.com/cfavic

VIC EMERGENCY APP

The VicEmergency app is the official Victorian Government app for access to community information and warnings for all types of emergencies in Victoria. It replaced the FireReady app in November 2016.

FireReady users should update their app to get the new Vic Emergency app. New users can download the app from the App Store or Google Play.

The VicEmergency app brings together emergency information and warnings from agencies including:

- Country Fire Authority,
- Department of Economic Development and Transport and Resources,
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning,
- Department of Health and Human Services,
- Life Saving Victoria,
- Metropolitan Fire Brigade and
- Victoria State Emergency Service.



PREPARING YOUR HOME

The CFA has a range of resources and information to assist with preparing your family and property for the up-coming fire season.

Develop a fire plan with your family. The CFA's ***Bushfire survival planning template – Leaving early*** can be downloaded from <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-bushfire-plan/>

To get your property ready for the fire season consider the following tasks around your home.

Remove Flammables

Remove flammable items from decks and verandahs, such as boxes, furniture and doormats.

Keep grass short

Keep grass cut to less than 10cm. Fire can ignite and travel quickly through long grass.

Woodpiles

Keep woodpiles away from the house. Stray fire embers can easily ignite woodpiles.

Safely Store Flammables

Store flammable liquids away from house. Where possible, store in flame proof containers.

Leaves and Twigs

Get rid of dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark from around your property.

Prune shrubs

Prune lower branches of shrubs to separate from surface fuels underneath.

Prune shrubs well away from branches of mature trees

Cut back branches

Cut back overhanging tree branches close to property – no branches in 10m space.

Mature trees

Mature trees can help shield against radiant heat and embers. They must be strategically located and well managed.

Garden beds

Do not have large shrubs next to or under windows.

Pebbles and rocks

Use pebbles and rocks in your garden (not flammable mulch).

Roof gutters

Keep gutters and roof areas clear of leaf litter.



FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS

Fire Prevention Inspections have commenced across the Shire.

To report areas of concern in Moorabool Shire, please contact Moorabool Shire Customer Service on 5366 1200.

For areas of concern in Ballarat Shire, please call Ballarat Shire Council Customer Service on 5320 5500.



SCOTSBURN FIRE RECOVERY ANNIVERSARY PICNIC

The Scotsburn Community Recovery Committee invites ALL members of the community, volunteers and agencies involved in the recovery efforts of the Scotsburn Fires to the anniversary picnic.



Sunday 18 December

12 noon- 3:00pm

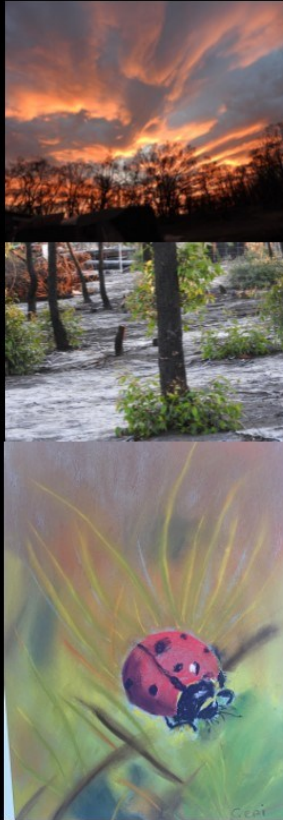
**Clarendon Recreation
Reserve**

**JUMPING CASTLE - FLYING CHAIR RIDE - MUSIC –
FACEPAINTING - SANTA**

PICNIC LUNCH PROVIDED

Please **RSVP** your attendance and any dietary requirements to Moorabool Shire Customer Service on 5366 7100 by **5:00pm Wednesday 14 December**. Please advise gender of children at time of booking for presents from Santa.

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



ART EXHIBITION

*You are cordially invited to attend the Scotsburn
Fire Art Exhibition Opening.*

2:00pm

Sunday 11 December 2016

The Village Place, 309 Learmonth St Buninyong

Exhibition open to the public 12-16 December

Awards presented during the opening

Canapes and beverages provided

RECOVERY CENTRE HOURS FOR THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PERIOD

The Recovery Centre is open on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Recovery Centre will be **closed on:**

- Friday 23 December
- Wednesday 28 December
- Friday 30 December

The Centre will re-open on Wednesday 11 January 2017.

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

Darley Civic & Community Hub:

182 Halletts Way, Darley

Lerderderg Library:

215 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh

Website: www.moorabool.vic.gov.au



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