Welcome to the fourteenth edition of the Alpine Shire Bushfire Recovery Newsletter, focusing on community, economic and personal recovery matters following the aftermath of the fires. In an attempt to reduce production and postage costs please advise if you are able to receive future Newsletters electronically. Simply email Jenny Packham jennyp@alpineshire.vic.gov.au with your email details.

REBUILDING TOGETHER PLAN

The Alpine Shire Community Recovery Plan was submitted to the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery Authority (VBRRA) and incorporated into the State wide plan Rebuilding Together Plan. As announced in late October projects which gained in principle support in the first phase of funding were:

- Mudgegonga Hall Upgrade
- Mudgegonga E-Newsletter

The detailed scoping and costing of these projects is underway before final funding is approved.

Projects to be submitted in the next phase include:

- St Albans Hall & Happy Valley Hall upgrades
- Communications UHF radios project
- Rosewhite pictorial history project

Council and VBRRA staff are working hard together scoping projects, however VBRRA advise that the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (VBAF) and other agencies are covering new ground as they develop processes for assessment and approval of hundreds of projects from bushfire affected communities. Alpine Shire Council has been advised by VBRRA that confirmation on funding may not come before Christmas.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY OFFICER

For Community Recovery issues contact: Jenny Packham – Community Recovery Officer  
Tue, Wed, Thu – Ph: 03 5755 0537  
jennyp@alpineshire.vic.gov.au  
Fax: 03 5755 1811  
M: 0417 155 677

Friday 13 November 2009

SKIPS WIND UP
EXTENSION TO MID NOVEMBER

After community feedback the date for removal of skips for fencing waste has been extended. Skips will be progressively removed commencing November 16. The Brownes Lane & Carrolls Road skip will remain until the end of the month.

Disposal of fencing material: PLEASE NOTE THAT METAL ONLY IS TO GO IN THE SKIPS – NO WOOD, NO POLY PIPE OR RUBBER TYRES PLEASE!

Rosewhite: Joannie Lovell – 03 5753 5303  
Mudgegonga: Stephen Street - 0428 579 338  
Kiewa Valley: John McEvoy – 0429 990 799  
The skip locations are as follows:

Rosewhite:
- *1482 Happy Valley Road (Brine/McDonalds boundary)  
- *Corner Gilbert & Cartwright Lane  
- *Corner Brownes Lane & Carrolls Road

Mudgegonga:
- *Allan and Shirley Johnston – 960 Myrtleford Yackandandah Road  
- *Cnr Smiths Lane and Tunnel Gap Road (Road Reserve)

Kiewa Valley:
- *Eric Godward’s – Dederang/Yackandandah Rd 1.2kms from Yackandandah/M’ford Rd turn off heading toward Dederang.

Crown Land Property Boundaries: Contact DSE Ovens on 03 5731 1222 to request an inspection and obtain approvals before commencing any work to clear native vegetation (including potentially hazardous trees) on adjoining Crown Land.
ALPINE SHIRE COUNCIL
Fire-affected rubbish disposal:
Waste Facilities: Fire-affected residents and
landholders can dispose of separated fire-damaged
timber, bricks / concrete and steel / fencing wire at
the Myrtleford Waste Facility in Morrison’s Lane and
the Mount Beauty Transfer Station in Madison’s Lane
at no cost
UNTIL DECEMBER 31ST 2009.
Residents wanting to dispose of fire-affected
materials, opening hours are:

Myrtleford Mount Beauty
Monday 10am to 4pm Tuesday 10am to 4pm
Thursday 10am to 2pm Thursday 10am to 2pm
Saturday 10am to 2pm Saturday 10am to 2pm
Sunday 10am to 2pm Sunday 10am to 2pm

After hours disposal service can be arranged at the
Myrtleford Facility by phoning the facility:
03 5751 1319
Please allow 24 hours notice.

COMMUNICATION BLACK SPOTS

Alpine Shire Council Community Resilience Committee
has been advised by Telstra that any mobile black spots
should be registered on the Telstra Website.
Please use the link below to register your concerns
or write to: Geoff Wall
Local Commercial Specialist
Northern Victoria
Telstra
P.O. Box 1111
54 High St
Shepparton. 3630

In the meantime the committee is coordinating a cross
shire approach with Indigo, Tawong, Rural City of
Wangaratta and others to lobby the Federal
Government and Telstra to find solutions to the problem.

Maximising Your Mobile Phone Coverage
Following recent upgrades to mobile phone
infrastructure in bushfire-affected areas, Telstra is
urging residents to ensure they have an appropriate
mobile phone that can take advantage of the new
coverage.

Telstra has advised that infrastructure investment in the
region only provides improved coverage on the Next
G™ mobile network not the old GSM mobile network,
and residents should be aware that different mobile
phones have different capabilities. Given the terrain of
the region, Telstra encourages residents to consider the
‘Blue Tick range’ of Next G™ mobile phones. Blue Tick
phones are recommended for rural handheld coverage
and provide maximised coverage in remote areas.
It is also vital that people check that their Next G™
mobile phone has a Next G™ SIM card inserted.
Sometimes people insert old SIM cards into new
phones, resulting in poor coverage, so it’s important
people ensure they have moved their phone number
across to a new SIM card. Coverage performance can
also be enhanced in many instances by using an
external antenna.
For more information on coverage extension visit

FENCING COORDINATION

During October the Uniting Church team of fencing
volunteers has worked 234 hours on 6 properties
with temperatures in the mid to high twenties making
for hot work without shade.
Beechworth Landmates returned this week for a four
weeks and it is hoped further resources will allow this
team to continue beyond this period.
If you require assistance please direct any
fencing enquiries to Recovery Officer Jenny
Packham 03 5755 0537.

CHANGES TO CONTACT NUMBER
TO ACCESS CASE MANAGEMENT

Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service continues
as the Department of Human Services advise support
for Case Management will continue with regular
monitoring and review.

THE NEW NUMBER TO REGISTER FOR CASE
MANAGEMENT IS: 1800 050 400

Ovens & King Community Health Service Case
Managers continue to provide services from their
office at Smith Street Myrtleford.

Once you have registered on the central number
above local Case Managers from Ovens & King
will contact you direct.
**Bushfire EAR - Emergency Aftermath Rebuild**
Bushfire EAR is MensLine Australia’s specialised counselling and referral service for people affected by the February 2009 bushfires. Bushfire EAR provides immediate counselling when people need it, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Bushfire EAR also has an option of a call back service to provide people with on-going support. They will speak to men and women about any issues related to the Victorian bushfires.


**IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

Department of Human Services (DHS):
www.dhs.vic.gov.au
Hume Region Hotline: 1300 650 152
(Victorian Bushfires link)
North East Region Contact: (03) 5821 2655
(Emergency Management link)
Contact: (for bushfire related matters) 180 22 11

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund:
Contact: 1800 180 213
Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery Authority
www.wewillrebuild.vic.gov.au

**FIRE READY VICTORIA**

CFA Household Bushfire Self-Assessment Tool

Alpine Shire Council also remind residents to ensure roadside property numbers are clearly displayed to assist agencies in the event of an emergency.

CFA Community Meetings
If there is not a meeting in your area please ensure you attend other localities listed

Mt Beauty - CFA Cnr Lakeside & Pool Road
Wednesday 18 November
7.30pm

Bright - CFA Churchill Ave Bright
Tuesday 1 December
7.30pm - BYO chairs

**BUNKERS – Building Regulations**

See attached Flyer for further information

**SPECIAL COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

Christine Nixon
Chair - Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery Authority (VBRRA)
Central location - Rosewhite
Happy Valley Hall
Friday 27 November
3pm - 4pm

Ben Hubbard
CEO VBRRA
Central location - Rosewhite
Happy Valley Hall
Wednesday 2 December
6.30pm – 8pm
*Note this meeting welcomes fire affected communities from Indigo Shire & Rural City of Wangaratta.

**MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**Thank You Day**
Thursday 26 November
Ovens & King Community Health Centre - Smith St, Myrtleford
10am to 3pm
• Free Light Lunch!
• Free Health Checks!
• Free Compliments!
• Free Funny Stories!
(Flyer attached)

**Apex Santa Tour**
For fire affected communities in Alpine & Indigo Shires & Rural City of Wangaratta
Monday 21 December
Dederang Recreation Reserve
1pm BBQ
Photo opportunities with Santa!
(Flyer attached)
MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

FREE – Course
Dates to be confirmed
Dederang Hall Kiewa Valley Highway, Dederang
10am – 2.30pm (light lunch included)

If you are interested in attending a day
time course in Dederang please contact:
Renee Murtagh
Integrated Primary Mental Health
Tel: 03 5722 2677
Mob: 0458 957 308

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

Limited spaces available.
If you have been issued with a ‘Blue Referral Card’
by the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery
Authority (VBRRA), then you will automatically be
eligible to apply for Australian Council for Private
Education and Training (ACPET) scholarships.
However other special circumstances may be taken
into account in considering an individual’s eligibility.
ACPET Project Manager  Martin Broadhurst
M: 0408 881 917 martin.broadhurst@acpet.edu.au
(Flyer attached)

PORTSEA CAMP

Places available at the Portsea camp. The RSL has
kindly made 60+ places available for bushfire-
affected children at the Portsea Camp.
The RSL is covering the cost of registration.
The Portsea Camp will be held in early January for 6
to 7 days and is for nine to twelve year olds.
You can call Annette Waugh with any enquiries
Ph: 03 9655 5536.

BORDER TRUST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Young Women Leading Change Partnership
Taryn Hopper of Albury Wodonga YWCA, “We are
using our funds to deliver over $23,000 in grants annually. With the assistance of Border Trust we will identify and support projects reflecting the values of the YWCA. These will focus on the leadership of young women and girls who are involved in making a difference in our local communities. ”

ANGLICARE INVERGOWRIE FEMALE STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIPS 2010

Anglicare Victoria invites applications for one-off funding to help meet the education expenses of girls and young women in Hume Region who wish to continue their study and have been impacted by the drought and/or fires.

For more information contact Suzanne Don Leonard
(Community Development Manager)
Anglicare Victoria (Hume Region) 03 57219088
The closing date for applications is 11 December 2009.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GARDEN SCHEME GRANTS

The Victorian Bushfire Community Grants Fund has been established by Australia’s Open Garden Scheme to support Victorian bushfire affected communities. The Grants are available for the establishment, re-establishment or refurbishment of community gardens, parks and other public places in these communities with individual grants of up to $20,000 available.
Applications close on 30 April 2010.
Santa is coming to The Alpine Shire

The Santa Sleigh of Berowra has been in full flight for decades.

Having filled generations of Sydney children with Christmas spirit, The Santa Sleigh of Berowra is heading south.

Santa will fly his sleigh down to regional Victoria for a series of visits on the weekend before Christmas (18th December through to 21st December).

Our mission

Our mission is to ensure that these regional communities know they are not alone. Christmas can be an extremely lonely time, especially for those who have lost loved ones. We hope to provide some relief during what can be a difficult time for many people.

‘No one should feel alone at Christmas. We want to do all we can to spread the joy this festive season.’

Santa’s plan

- Santa and his elves arrive in their sleigh
- Santa and his elves give out treats and talk with children and their families.
- Mrs Claus will take Santa photos for families/groups
- A Santa sing-a-long will get the crowd excited
- A BBQ and drinks will be provided for all.

Event contacts:
Keith Roscarel
Berowra Apex NSW
0411 535 098
keith.roscarel@santastour.com.au

Andrew Follows
Apex Santa Coordinator, VIC
0400 962 795
andrew.follows@santastour.com.au

Dederang Recreation Reserve

Mon 21st Dec From 1pm
ACPET Bushfire Education & Training Fund

A range of partial and full scholarships are available from this fund across a variety of fields including:

- Multi-media
- Entertainment Production and Performance
- Information Technology
- Counselling and Psychotherapy
- Business
- Hospitality
- Retail
- Hairdressing
- Fitness
- Bricklaying
- Healthcare
- First Aid

**Competitive Selection**

Some of the scholarships will be delivered by a competitive selection process. Scholarships will be offered to those applicants who are deemed by ACPET to be most suitable. ACPET will make this decision on the basis of demonstrated interest and need.

**Eligibility**

Eligible applicants for this fund are primarily those whose household has received a Blue Referral Card from the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority. Eligibility of those who do not have a Blue Referral Card will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

**Availability**

Scholarships are being filled and new places are being donated to the fund on an ongoing basis. To obtain a current list of course scholarships available and for further details please contact:

Martín Broadhurst
Project Manager
ACPET Bushfire Education & Training Fund
0408 881 917
martin.broadhurst@acpet.edu.au
Commencement
The actual commencement date for the course for scholarship recipients will be negotiable with the individual ACPET college.

Criteria for selection
As we anticipate that we may have more applications than scholarships available, we will apply selection criteria based on those most at need and your suitability for the course. If you have been issued with a ‘Blue Referral Card’ by the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery Authority (VBRRA), then you will automatically be eligible to apply for these scholarships. However other special circumstances may be taken into account in considering an individuals eligibility.

How to Apply?
If you would like to apply to be considered for a scholarship please contact the ACPET Project Manager Martin Broadhurst on 040 888 1917 or email martin.broadhurst@acpet.edu.au for further information.
What is ACPET?
ACPET is the Australian Council for Private Education and Training - the national industry association for independent providers of post secondary education and training, for Australian and international students.

ACPET’s membership includes more than 1,100 organisations delivering a wide spectrum of fully accredited vocational education and training courses, degrees, higher education, school certificates, foundation studies and English language programs in all States and Territories.

How we can assist you?
Obviously the tragic events of February 2009 affected the Victorian and indeed the Australian community deeply. ACPET as a key organisation in the education and training sector believes that it can assist affected individuals by providing scholarships to receive training or vocational qualifications.

ACPET and its members have a rich tradition of supporting education and training for the victims of natural disasters.

The national Board of ACPET has developed a response to support those affected by the Victorian bushfires. They have established an ‘Education and Training Fund’ that can be used to gain or complete a qualification in an ACPET member college.

Objective
The objective of the Fund is to provide educational opportunities for individuals affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires by drawing on the support of ACPET members across Australia.

Education Scholarships
These educational opportunities will be available as scholarships to undertake a training qualification or subjects at a donating ACPET member college.

There is a wide range of courses available and more information regarding these options is available from ACPET upon request. The duration of courses also varies and can be a full-time certificate or a short course with particular skill sets undertaken full or part-time.

Certification
All subjects and completed qualifications will provide nationally recognised and accredited certificates.

Timeframe
Recognising the immediate and on-going needs of those affected, it is planned to roll out the project in several stages. The allocation of the first group of scholarships will occur as soon as possible, probably in early 2010, and the remainder throughout 2010 and 2011 as needed.
You may know private bushfire shelters as bushfire bunkers.

The Victorian Government is moving ahead of National Building Regulations, by bringing in new interim regulations. The new interim building regulations will assist to improve consumer information about private bushfire shelters and help eliminate products that could be unsafe.

All private bushfire shelters sold and constructed in the State of Victoria must now comply with the criteria set out in the regulations. The regulations cover areas such as fire resistance, structural stability, access and egress. You will need a building permit and may need a planning permit.

Ask your local council. For those who already have installed a bunker we urge you to consider its safety in light of the regulations. You may wish to contact a registered fire safety engineer for advice.

Don’t rely on a shelter to save your life; it should only form part of your overall fire plan – heed the CFA’s messages of Prepare. Act. Survive. Private bushfire shelters are a last resort.

For Building Information: Call 1300 360 320 or go to www.buildingcommission.com.au
For all CFA information call 1800 240 667 or go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au
Emotions you may Experience this Summer

Following the extreme fire season in early 2009 and successive droughts, some people may experience different emotions this summer.

Some of the things you may notice include:

- Excessive alertness – being on the lookout for signs of danger
- Fatigue, sense of unwellness.
- Disturbed Sleep
- General aches, pains and a sense of danger.
- Poor concentration and memory
- Irritability
- Social withdrawal and isolation during the summer period.
- Inability to attend usual activities.
- Avoidance of work
- Keeping children home from school
- Conversations and thoughts dominated by bushfires.
- Other people being concerned about your level of alertness.

If these signs cause you extreme distress or triggers a past traumatic event, please seek professional assistance.

As with adults, children and adolescents cope with difficult events in different ways.

Some things you can look out for include:

- Changes in play, drawings or conversations.
- Disturbing nightmares or dreams
- Children behaving younger than they normally do.
- Anxiety about sleeping alone
- Tantrums
- Wanting to stay close to family
- Talking about fire, summer and climate change
- Bedwetting

Remember:

to look after your children you must be able to look after yourself.
Emotions you may Experience this Summer

Where to find help:

**Your local GP** – for management or referral

**Integrated Primary Mental Health Service**– For specialist Bushfire Recovery Services.
Ph. 03 57 222 677

**Crisis Phone Numbers**

**Lifeline** 131114  
**Kids Helpline** 1800551800  
**Mental Health Crisis**  
  Wangaratta 1300 783 347  
  Wodonga 1300 881 104  
  Goulburn Valley 1300 369 005

**Your local Community Health Service** for generalist counselling.

Remember to always follow warnings and alerts issued by the CFA or other emergency services.
We’re having a ‘Thank You Day’ here at O&K

Thursday 26 November 2009
10.00 am till 3.00 pm

Ovens & King Community Health Centre
32 Smith Street, Myrtleford

• Free Light Lunch
• Free Health Checks
• Free Compliments
• Free Funny Stories

We’re inviting you to come along and write a note in our thank you book and we’ll pass it on to those who were there for us when we needed them.

No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks.
St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 337-397

Please call Sera on 5731-3500 before Friday 20 November to let her know you’ll be there for lunch!
Overview

This is a free program for families who have experienced the trauma of bushfires.

The program is designed specifically to help parents support children through the aftermath of such a devastating event.

It is designed as a telephone support service of up to three sessions and can be tailored to meet the needs of individual families.

The Positive Parenting Telephone Service is also available.

Parenting after Bushfires Telephone Service

1800 880 660

This service is also available from mobile phones.

Available over the phone to parents who live in the Hume Region

Make a positive start last a lifetime

Enrol now
1800 880 660
When a family, and therefore the children in that family, experience a traumatic event such as a bushfire, they may react differently. This is true even in the closest of families. Developing an understanding and respect for each other’s path of recovery is an important step in helping the family to heal.

Parenting After Bushfires

The goal of this free program is to restore balance to families who have experienced loss and trauma due to bushfire.

During the program you will be able to:

- Reflect on your Feelings
  What are the emotional needs of family members.

- Discuss issues
  Your key concerns and the impact of living through a bushfire.

- Evaluate parenting
  What is your child experiencing and how is that impacting on your parenting.

- Work through practical ideas and strategies
  What can you do to help your child through this difficult time.

- Set goals
  Establish achievable goals to help your family and your child with planning and problem solving.

Program Content

Your experience

- Managing loss and trauma
- Identifying your stress reactions
- Managing stress
- Identifying stress reactions in children
- Coping with grief
- Helping children through grief.

Parenting strategies

- Tuning in to children’s emotions
- Watching your child’s emotions
- Behaviour management strategies
- Consideration for anniversaries
- Seeking more help.