

Bangor Bushfire Recovery Newsletter Issue 2



The Bangor Bushfire Recovery Committee

The Bangor Bushfire Recovery Committee has been formed to work with the community over the coming months to help coordinate recovery from the bushfire.

The Committee is chaired by Sandra Wauchope, the Mayor for the District Council of Mount Remarkable and includes representatives drawn from the Mount Remarkable and Northern Areas Councils, community members, and government agencies such as Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, CFS, PIRSA, Police, Country Health SA and Department for Planning Transport and Infrastructure. There is already much recovery activity going on and our aim is to help connect, advise and assist communities where needed and facilitate good work.

The Committee has met at Melrose recently and continues to work on the many things that need to be done to help everyone get back on their feet. Firstly this has mainly been about information, access and clean up, but is starting to become more forward looking as people begin to look to the future. By connecting the work of councils, government agencies and community we hope to support local efforts across all these areas.

It is important that the Committee continues to hear from you about what needs to be done for the recovery so please contact Jessie White by phoning 8666 2014, emailing deputyceo@mtr.sa.gov.au or writing to her at PO Box 94, MELROSE, SA 5483. We will also be keeping everyone informed with updates about what is going on across different parts of the community.

Thanks to the 'Unknown' volunteers

Mary-Anne Young (Rural Solutions, PIRSA)

When I arrived in the Wirrabara – Murray Town area within about 18 hours after the fire went through, I was struck by the numbers of neighbours, friends, family and other farmers who were already there helping affected farmers. Many of these had been out fighting the fire the night before; now they were back to help deal with its aftermath.

Injured stock were being located and dealt with, dead animals were being picked up and buried. Simon Harding and a colleague at Melrose were coordinating stock movements to agistment; sheep were being yarded and loaded onto trucks and sent on their way to properties all over the State. Truckloads of hay were already on their way to the area. Ron Rutte at Wirrabara was checking with landholders to see who had an immediate need for hay and organising supplies to get stock through the next few days. There are many, many others who are unnamed because they are known only to the farmers they helped. They provided enormous support that is highly appreciated.

This quiet, unheralded compassion and generosity away from the media's spotlight does not attract the recognition it deserves but these people weren't seeking public accolades anyway. They were doing what strong rural communities do - look out for and look after one another, and reminded me why I value living and working in rural communities.

Mary-Anne worked with Trent Scholz and Alice Peillon from PIRSA assisting with the assessment, destruction and disposal of livestock.

Post-bushfire – native vegetation clearance and management

Protection of burnt native vegetation is vital to enable good post-fire recovery of flora and fauna. For information on post-bushfire activities that involve any clearance of native vegetation please contact the Native Vegetation Management Unit, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on 8303 9777.

Please note that for bushfire affected areas the same legislative requirements remain for managing all native vegetation as before the fire. Also refer to the Native Vegetation Management website for specific circumstances and associated Information Sheets (e.g. house sites, grazing, fence line clearance) at: www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Native_vegetation/Managing_native_vegetation

DEWNR Native Vegetation Officers will be visiting the Region in the next few weeks to meet with Heritage Agreement landowners, NRM staff and local government staff to discuss post-fire management of native vegetation. More detailed information on this issue will be provided on the DEWNR website soon.

For further information contact DEWNR's Native Vegetation Management Unit on 8303 9777 or nvc@sa.gov.au.

Tree planting

If you are a landholder who has been affected by the bushfires, Trees for Life can arrange for volunteers to plant native seedlings on your property this winter.

Register your details by phoning the Trees for Life office on 8406 0500 during business hours Monday to Friday, send an email to info@treesforlife.org.au or log onto www.treesforlife.org.au for more information.



Help with financial issues

Financial Counselling

The Salvation Army offers a free telephone service where financial counsellors provide support, information and options to people in financial difficulty. This service can assist with negotiating with creditors; strategies and options; budgeting; phone and energy bills; Centrelink and concessions; debt recovery and court processes; mortgages, loans and repossessions.

You can call the Salvation Army Financial Counselling Telephone Helpline on Freecall 1800 007 007.

Rural Business Support

Rural Business Support provides free, confidential and impartial business support and information to primary producers and small rural business owners who are experiencing financial difficulties and have no alternative source of impartial support.

To contact the two Mid North Rural Financial Counsellors, Deb Purvis and John White, please telephone Freecall 1800 836 211. More information about Rural Business Support can be obtained at www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au.

Centrelink

Centrelink has a range of payments and services that you may be eligible for to support you in an emergency or crisis, whether or not you are already a Centrelink customer.

Income Support Payments – you may be eligible for Centrelink payments if your income has been reduced as a result of an emergency.

Current Centrelink Customers – We can look at a variety of options, see contact details below;

Employment Services	13 28 50
Youth and Students	13 24 90
Family Payments	13 61 50
Retirement	13 23 00
Disability, Sickness & Carers	13 27 17

www.centrelink.gov.au

Rebuilding fences

Since shortly after the January bushfires started Primary Producers SA and Livestock SA have been taking offers of, and requests for, fencing materials and labour. With the Wine Grape Growers Council they have been able to access from vineyards thousands of pine posts, which may be suitable for some situations.

The names of those asking for help to replace fencing destroyed in the Bangor bushfire have now been passed onto BlazeAid Wirrabara. The offers of labour and fencing materials have also generally been passed on to BlazeAid coordinators.

If you would like to donate fencing materials or Volunteer contact BlazeAid Wirrabara details below.

About BlazeAid

BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organisation that works alongside rural families, to help rebuild fences that have been damaged or destroyed after natural disasters such as fires and floods.

If you would like BlazeAid volunteers to work with you, you should read the **Property Owners' Workplace Agreement**. This outlines how the BlazeAid fencing program operates. You can find out more about BlazeAid at www.blazeaid.com.au.

For enquiries and to register, contact the BlazeAid Wirrabara Temporary Camp Coordinator: Eugene Ross, phone 0447 252 931 or email blazeaid.wirrabara@gmail.com.



Fodder and Agistment

Primary Producers SA (PPSA) and Livestock SA have been running a register of offers of, and requests for, fodder and agistment; wherever possible complementing the local coordination of fodder donations and agistment (by the local community, Agricultural Bureaux and local PIRSA staff). Grain Producers SA have organised with the Bulk Handlers that grain donated anywhere in the State can be collected at sites adjacent to the fire areas.



Photo courtesy of SheepConnect SA

Generous donations of fodder and agistment have been forthcoming. Almost all of the fodder offered to PPSA to date has been allocated and delivered. A second call for fodder has been made and PPSA / Livestock SA will continue to allocate any fodder which is offered.

Thousands of sheep and hundreds of cattle are on agistment as a result of the fires this year. Livestock agents have played an important role in placing these animals.

If you need, or can offer, fodder or agistment, please contact Primary Producers SA on 8297 0899 to be added to their register.

WANTED: Your feedback, newsletter items, letters, stories, poems, photos.

These would be much appreciated although we can't promise that we will be able to include everything. If you have something to contribute please contact Jessie White by phoning 8666 2014, emailing deputyceo@mtr.sa.gov.au or writing to her at District Council of Mount Remarkable PO Box 94, MELROSE, SA 5483.

If you would like the newsletter e-mailed please contact Council on the details above.

Fire Status

The fire is contained but not out. DEWNR crews continue to patrol the fireground until it can be declared safe.

How you can help

Donate money

- UnitingCare Wesley Country SA - Bangor Bushfire Appeal - Ph: 8633 8600, visit any Bank SA agent or www.ucwcsa.org.au to put money into the UnitingCare Wesley Country SA account
- State Emergency Relief Fund, Ph: 1800 302 787
- Trees for Life Bushfire Appeal, Ph: 8406 0500
- BlazeAid: www.blazeaid.com.au/donations

The State Emergency Relief Fund

The State Emergency Relief Fund has been set up for those affected by any of the January 2014 bushfires (it is not possible to specify that your donation is for a particular fire or area). 100% of donations will go to bushfire affected people. Donations are tax deductible and can be made by credit card, cheque, bank transfer or cash. For details phone 1800 302 787 or visit www.sa.gov.au/safiresrecovery.

Donate fencing materials

BlazeAid, Ph: 0447 252 931

Donate fodder or agistment

Primary Producers SA, Ph: 8297 0899

Volunteer

Re-build fences: BlazeAid, Ph: 0447 252 931
Tree planting: Trees for Life, Ph: 8406 0500

Personal support

The Commonwealth Government's at www.disasterassist.gov.au **Fact Sheet - Supporting people affected by disaster** gives some tips on how to best help a person recovering from a traumatic event.

Have you chatted to your neighbour recently?

They might just appreciate a quick visit.

Useful contacts

General recovery information

Bushfire Recovery Hotline - Ph: 1800 302 787
www.sa.gov.au/safiresrecovery

Agistment

Primary Producers SA - Ph: 8297 0899

Business support and information

Rural Business Support - Ph: 1800 836 211
www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au

Counselling and support

Country Health SA	131 465
Beyond Blue	1300 22 4636
Youth Beyond Blue	1300 22 4636
Kids Helpline	1800 55 1800

For more information visit

www.sa.gov.au/safiresrecovery

Fencing

BlazeAid (Eugene Ross) - Ph: 0447 252 931
email: blazeaid.wirrabara@gmail.com
www.blazeaid.com.au

Financial counselling

Salvation Army Financial Counselling
Telephone Helpline Ph: 1800 007 007

Financial support

Centrelink www.centrelink.gov.au

Fodder

Primary Producers SA - Ph: 8297 0899

Legal advice

Law Society - Ph: 8229 0200
email: disaster.planning@lawsocietysa.asn.au

Native vegetation management

Native Vegetation Management Unit Ph: 8303 9777

Reporting road hazards

Traffic Management Centre Ph: 1800 018 313

Tree planting

Trees for Life - Ph: 8406 0500
email: info@treesforlife.org.au
www.treesforlife.org.au