

Bangor Bushfire Recovery Newsletter

Issue 5



Fire and Rain Photo Display

The Rotary Club of Port Pirie will host an exhibition, Fire and Rain, at the Port Pirie Regional Tourism and Arts Centre next month.

The display will be opened on Thursday, May 29, at 7.30pm.

The Club is seeking images captured by local people of the fire and after the rains to show the devastation of the beautiful ranges.

There will be a drop-off point for photos at the Kodak Express shop, in Ellen Street, Port Pirie, by May 8. There will be a gold coin donation to support fire victims.



Native Vegetation after a Fire



DEWNR staff from the Native Vegetation Management Unit and the Northern and Yorke region recently visited the fire affected areas across two days to inspect burnt native vegetation.

Regeneration may take up to five years.

What can you do to help?

Consider the following to assist the plant community to recover as best it can:

- Remove stock and stop any grazing pressure from farmed animals immediately.
- Rabbits need to be controlled and the cleared landscape make this an ideal opportunity to be effective.
- Likewise this is an opportune time to plan and be proactive in weed control to maximise the clear visibility and terrific control opportunity that a fire creates. Spot spraying only is recommended at this early stage. If using a contractor make sure they are experienced in bush care weed control. Juvenile native plants can have quite a different appearance to mature plants.
- Fallen timber can provide shelter habitat for lizards and other species in the absence of plant cover so do not rush to remove it. The fallen hollows might still support nesting for birds and shelter from predators. The shade offered by the timber can be beneficial too in an exposed landscape and assist in creating water reservoirs.

Bushland Recovery

The Australian landscape has been recovering from fire for millions of years. Every bushfire has an influence on fauna and flora, resulting in frequent localised changes to habitat.

The changes that follow a fire are dramatic. Green vegetation turns to white ash, brown timber turns to black charcoal, and the shade of gray that remains opens new doors of opportunity. The ash bed is full of nutrients which greatly enhances a proliferation of seedling germination. Tree trunks and roots shoot with buds capturing newly available light. The rejuvenating growth attracts wildlife that feed on the fresh shoots. Foragers explore with the easy access, digging for fungi, eating seeds and flowers. Turned soil and fresh foliage stimulates insect activity. Birds navigate through the re-emerging forest and feed freely on the cleared forest floor, while carnivorous predators take full advantage of the open area.

The plants, animals, insects, and fungi that are there before a fire may not be the same species that recolonise afterwards. Certain species respond well to fire due to life-form and reproductive opportunities. These species are becoming more dominant in areas that are frequently affected by fire.

Many plants in Australia have developed to a point where scientists can classify them as 'adapted to fire'. Like Yakka, or grass trees, (*Xanthorrhoea* spp.) are particularly fire adapted as they rapidly re-grow from protected buds. Fire also stimulates their flowering. Eucalyptus, Banksia and Hakea have their seed protected from bushfires in woody capsules. These seeds are released to germinate in nutrient-rich ash, left by the bushfire.



Firewood for Fund

In an attempt to have something good come of the recent bushfires that have impacted our community DPTI have requested help to dispose of the stockpiled wood cleared from the Germein Gorge.

An invitation has been sent out to the district governors of Lions, Apex and Rotary clubs to forward onto their respective sub branches, calling on not for profit organisations to raise funds for the Bangor bushfire victims.

First cab of the rank has been the Crystal Brook Apex club who have been busy collecting wood to chop up and sell to raise funds for the victims of the fire.



Further information with respect to the purchase of firewood can be directed to

James Wardle 0407 362 105
from the Crystal Brook Apex club

The majority of the firewood will take 12 months to season before being suitable for burning.



Clubs to Sell Firewood

As more clubs get on board, additional details will be provided for purchasing of the chopped wood.

Any Not for Profit Community Clubs that wish to be involved in raising funds for the recovery effort are encouraged to contact Harold Carn from the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure on 0421 058 066

Donated Hay Supplies

All farmers who will be requiring the need of hay supplies either now or in the near future please register with Primary Producers SA on 8297 0899.

We would personally like to thank all whom have generously donated.



Donated Posts

Guys from Mid North Shednight have been collecting donated second hand green posts from kind wineries.

There are posts stock piled at Wirrabara and are willing to deliver more if people would like them. Please call John Polden 0459 501 387 if you would like some delivered.

How you can help

There are many ways you can help the recovery.
You can:

Donate money

Bangor Bushfire Appeal, ph: 8633 8600
www.ucwcsa.org.au

Trees for Life Bushfire Appeal, ph: 8406 0500

BlazeAid: www.blazeaid.com.au/donations

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



Bangor Bushfire Community Diary

Council would like to invite anyone who was involved with the Bangor Bushfire to document their experiences and forward them to us to be part of the Bangor Bushfire Community Diary 2014.

Stories are welcome from people who were involved in the recent fires or have been involved in the recovery effort - residents, volunteers, emergency services personnel or anyone who would like to share their story about the fires.

For more information contact Jessie White, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, District Council of Mount Remarkable on 8666 2014.

Useful contacts

General recovery information

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

Agistment & Fodder

Primary Producers SA ph: 8297 0899

Business support and information

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

Personal support

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

Counselling and support

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| 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