Bangor Bushfire Recovery Newsletter
Issue 4

LOCAL STORIES AND EXPERIENCES

As printed in the Recorder 20 February 2014

Annette recalls the dark moment when her home was under threat

WE live in the foothills at Telowie inside the containment area of the Bangor fire.

We were under threat from the fire from the north, south and east, for 10 days.

It was controlled in Little Broad Creek at the back of our house.

Once containment lines were drawn up, the grader arrived and graded all our roads and around our house.

The CFS arrived and we prepared to protect our defendable home.

Our back hill is a great vantage point to watch the progress of the fire along the hills. At times we had 10 CFS or DEWNR vehicles parked there.

A hundred or more fire fighters from everywhere (NSW and SA) meet on the hill and discussed the current issues.

It was an amazing experience as we met people from all walks of life, heard their stories and were so grateful for the commitment that they had made to help fight the fires and defend our home.

Watch and act is what we all did. The fire was totally inaccessible and it was waiting game, as we watched it run down the hills and come out, then act.

When there was no wind it would creep slowly.

When the wind blew the fire moved in that direction (one day we had 14 wind changes) and the strength of the wind decided if it would come charging out onto the clearings or gently crawl.

If you could see them in 44 degree heat, with all their protective clothing on, sitting on our hill watching and waiting to put out the fire that has effected so many.

You would all be so proud of them, it is an exhausting job.

People have asked me why we didn't evacuate our home, they think we were taking a huge risk.

However, there was never a moment that we felt we weren't being protected and cared for.

The CFS were always there, confident that we were fine, supporting us in every way possible, prepared to stand up and defend our house.

I would just like to say they are amazing people and we are all so appreciative of all of their efforts. What would we do without them?

Annette Lane
Telowie

Information sheets are available on the Departments website http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/ or via the link below regarding Native Vegetation rules and Post Fire Recovery for landholders.

Clearance Guidelines

DEWNR and the **Native Vegetation Council** also provide a guide to the Native Vegetation Regulations 2003 (674kb pdf) to help clarify issues related to the clearance of native vegetation.

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Native_vegetation/Managing_native_vegetation/Clearance_guidelines#agric

Native Vegetation Management

Natural Resources Northern & Yorke has established a Regional Coordinator, Max Barr, to be the contact for Native Vegetation Management issues related to the Bangor Bushfire.

The Regional Coordinator will be the contact person for all external fire related inquiries. Max's contact details are mobile 0488 133 279 or email **max.barr@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 on 8406 0500 or send an email to **info@treesforlife.org.au** or log onto **www.treesforlife.org.au** for more information.

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. 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, ph: 0447 252 931 or email **blazeaid.wirrabara@gmail.com.**

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.

the power of humanity

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

100 YEARS
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE
1914-2014

Wirrabara Farmers Breakfast

Have you been affected by the fires or know someone who has?

This is a chance for you to say thankyou to those who have assisted you.
Bring your mate along to a **FREE Breakfast** sponsored by Australian Red Cross and other service providers at **Wongabirrie Park Wirrabara**

7.30-9am Thursday March 27th

Watch out for further similar events to come throughout the region!!

Fire and Rain Photo Display

The Rotary Club of Port Pirie will be displaying photos of the Bangor fires. The photo display will be called "Fire and Rain".

The display will be held in the Port Pirie Tourism and Arts Centre in May. Date to be set soon.

We are seeking all photos taken by local people of the fire, and after the rains to show the devastation of the beautiful Flinders Rangers.

There will be a drop off point at Kodak Shop in Ellen Street Port Pirie, Greg Fidge the owner will print off the photos from phones and cameras. People will need to leave their names so they can be attached to the photos.

The display will be a gold coin donation which will support the Fire appeal.

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.

Story Submission

* In writing via hard copy either dropped off or posted.
* Via email sent to **deputyceo@mtr.sa.gov.au**
* Face to face - if you would like someone to meet you to take down or record your story, please let us know by calling 8666 2014.

Stories are welcome any time but we will start compiling all those received by the end of April 2014.

Telling stories can be difficult so please contact us if you need support and would like to talk to someone.

What to Write About ….

* Where were you and what were you doing when you first knew of the fire?
* What was your experience of the fire, what sort of things did you do?
* Would you like to acknowledge or commend someone that helped you out or that you know worked very hard during the bushfire?
* What things would you like to share with others who will live here in the future?
* Pictures are a great way to prompt a story so if you have access to any images they might help you share your story.

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

Germein Gorge Road

The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) have inspected and assessed the Germein Gorge Road following the recent flood damage.

At this stage DPTI are only able to provide an estimated timeframe for the re-opening of the road of approximately 3-6 months. Local community members and road users can contact DPTI's Northern and Western Region office on 8648 5211.

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

State Emergency Relief Fund, ph: 1800 302 787

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

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.disasterassit.gov.au Fact Sheet - Supporting people affected by disaster**

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**

Legal advice

Law Society ph: 8229 0200
email: **disaster.planning@lawsocietysa.asn.au**

Native vegetation management

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