

# FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

NUMBER 17: FRIDAY 25 MAY



CORANGAMITE  
SHIRE

## TAKE A BREAK AND THANK A MATE

The Take a Break and Thank a Mate dinner at Camperdown Golf Club on Wednesday 16 May, was an opportunity for people to relax and enjoy themselves after two challenging months.

Attendees were invited to unwind with volunteers, service providers, friends and the wider community and thank each other for their mutual support.

Victorian Emergency Management Commissioner Craig Lapsley and CFA Corangamite Group Officer Mark Billing spoke about the current situation and what to expect in the months ahead.

The free dinner was hosted by WestVic Dairy, the UDV/VFF and Agriculture Victoria.

WestVic Dairy Farm Recovery Coordinator Dairy Helen Chenoweth said the event was part of the SW Industry Liaison Group's response to the fires.

"We wanted to provide an opportunity for farmers to take a break off the farm and to invite those people who had



**CFA Corangamite Group Officer  
Mark Billing**



**Emergency Management  
Commissioner Craig Lapsley**



**The crowd at Camperdown Golf Club**

helped them over the last few weeks to say 'Thanks'," she said.

"The event provided a free wholesome two-course meal in a central location to the area affected.

"The golf club was also fire-affected, so funds from the event will be useful for that community asset to be repaired.

"It was a comfortable and relaxed setting for farmers to be able to invite a few of their helpers."

Local music group Avalon provided light background music during the meal to provide a relaxed atmosphere.

## FIRE RELIEF FUNDRAISER

Snout in the Trough owners Jarrod and Justine Bell are coordinating their second fire relief fundraiser, which will be held at St Paul's Parish Hall in Camperdown on Saturday 23 June.

The evening will comprise a goods and services auction and live entertainment by the Pete Daffy Band. Jarrod, Justine and other event partners are currently seeking donations for the auction by 8 June. To date, donations include artworks, farm supplies and assistance, fashion, accommodation, electrical goods and furniture.

Snout in the Trough's Breakfast BBQ fundraiser on March 29 raised \$2760 for BlazeAid. This time, all proceeds will be donated to the Bendigo Bank South West Victoria Community Relief Fund. Businesses wishing to contribute auction items, should contact Justine on 5593 3303. Tickets for the fundraiser are now on sale and are available from Snout in the Trough and HERE, home, style & design.

## FIRE DEBRIEFINGS

Emergency Management Victoria is holding community debriefing sessions that allow members of the community to contribute information specific to what worked and what can be improved.

The focus is on allowing people to come into a welcoming environment, share their perspective which can help EMV determine what to do next. So far, debriefs have been held at the Killara Centre in Camperdown on 17 May, Cobden Civic Hall on 21 May and Terang Civic Hall on 24 May.

### Upcoming debriefs are:

**Simpson:** Tuesday 29 May, Recreation Reserve

**Port Campbell:** Wednesday 30 May, Recreation Reserve

**Timboon:** Thursday 31 May, Timboon Hall supper room

**Each debrief will run from 5 pm – 8:30 pm.**

Light refreshments are available at each debrief.

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## APPLY FOR YOUR \$10,000 GRANT

FIRE-affected farmers can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 and concessional interest rate loans of up to \$200,000.

The joint Australian, state and territory governments' Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) provide a range of financial assistance to the natural disaster-declared areas.

People affected by the South West Complex Fire March 2018 may be eligible for personal hardship and distress assistance, personal and financial counselling, funding to remove debris from residential properties to make them safe and habitable, demolition or rebuilding to restore housing to a habitable condition, counter disaster operations and restoration of essential public assets.

Concessional interest rate loans are available for eligible primary producers in the affected area.

Recovery grants of up to \$10,000 are available for eligible primary producers in the three (3) local government areas of Corangamite, Moyne and Southern Grampians.

For more information go to [emergency.vic.gov.au/relief](http://emergency.vic.gov.au/relief) or [disasterassist.gov.au](http://disasterassist.gov.au)

## ACT NOW FOR FARMERS' FUND GRANTS

FARMERS have until 31 May to apply for this round of the VFF's Farmers' Fund dairy farmer grants.

Priority will be given to dairy farmers impacted by the recent fires in the south west of the state.

Farmers' Fund is expected to deliver up to \$500,000 in grants in this May round. For application forms, go to [www.vff.org.au](http://www.vff.org.au), email [farmersfund@vff.org.au](mailto:farmersfund@vff.org.au) or call 1300 882 833.

## COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

The South West Victorian Community Relief Fund committee is working on criteria for the distribution of funds.

Bendigo Bank State Community Manager Keith McQueen said the fund would be used to help people not helped by other avenues. He said the committee was working to identify gaps in existing funding so it could support those people.

"We would hope that in a month or so the criteria will be set, Mr McQueen said. "Support from across the state and the country has been really strong, particularly in the region.

"We are very grateful to those people who have contributed."

## FARM PLANNING SUPPORT

If you require confidential farm business analysis support then please contact Rural Financial Counselling (RFCS) on 1300 735 578. They will come to you and can assist you with accessing grants, claiming insurance, analysing your current financial situation and planning for your future. They will help you find the support you need. Their support is free, personalised and ongoing for the time it takes you to get back on your feet.

## INSURANCE CLAIMS PRIORITISED

INSURANCE claims stemming from the South West Complex Fire March 2018 will be given priority by insurers after the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) declared a catastrophe.

Claims from affected policyholders will be ranked to direct urgent attention to the worst-affected property owners.

If they are uncertain of their insurance details, or have general inquiries about the claims process, call the ICA disaster hotline or enquire via [www.disasters.org.au](http://www.disasters.org.au)

ICA staff are working directly with local services and affected policyholders.

## WELLBEING SUPPORT

If you require confidential emotional or psychological support, available 'on farm', please contact the Farmer Community Support Workers on 5563 4000 or 5232 5180.

General Practitioners also provide emotional and psychological support, and can arrange additional assistance.

If you have urgent concerns about your own, or the mental health of others, please contact Mental Health Services on 1800 808 284 [24 hours].

Other 24 hours Helplines include:

**Lifeline: 13 11 14**

**Kid's Helpline: 1800 55 1800**

**MensLine: 1300 78 9978 Nurse on Call: 1800 02 2222**

## IF YOU WANT TO HELP

### CASH DONATIONS

#### SOUTH WEST VICTORIAN COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

Donate at your nearest Bendigo Bank branch or online at [bendigobank.com.au/southwestvicbushfire](http://bendigobank.com.au/southwestvicbushfire)

#### SALVATION ARMY GRANTS 5561 6792

#### ROTARY INTERNATIONAL BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Account: Rotary International District 9780 – Bushfire Appeal BSB: 035 070 Account: 179149

**BLAZE AID: [www.blazeaid.com.au](http://www.blazeaid.com.au)**

### FEED AND FODDER FOR LIVESTOCK

Contact the Victorian Farmers Federation on **1300 882 833** or visit [www.vff.org.au/support](http://www.vff.org.au/support)

### IF YOU WANT TO DONATE LABOUR

#### BLAZE AID

For anyone wishing to donate time and skills with fencing please contact **Chris on 0418 745 994 (Cobden) or Vicki on 0437 817 330 (Terang).**

If you want to donate labour or services, **contact Corangamite Shire on 5593 7100 or AceRadio on 5564 3888.**