



FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

NUMBER 19: MONDAY 25 JUNE



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

COMMUNITY CARES WHEN HELP NEEDED

“The whole community has been terrific,” says Andrea Balcombe.

The Terang Community Op Shop project manager and her 20 or 30 volunteers were a focal point of support for people.

The op shop team put together relief packs of bedding packed in suitcases, handbags stocked with toiletries, and other essentials and were soon deluged with donations from across the state.

“Initially we had food and water and really we didn’t have enough room,” Andrea said.

“Furniture, fridges, - we have a qualified electrician and a volunteer who is a test and tagger.

We had a register set up because a lot of people were dropping off bulky items. We put people who needed something in touch with people who wanted to donate, or we organised to collect it.

“We were able to kit out a few homes.”

Terang Resources, which manages the op shop building, had a community fund for emergencies and that money has been used to help people affected by the fires.

“We’ve done vouchers for the supermarket and local businesses,” Andrea said. “We’ve tried to support local business as much as we can. We helped BlazeAid.

“Fuel vouchers was another thing, because a lot of people were displaced from their homes and fuel is a big expense.”

Many people still had to do kinder runs or get back to the farm, racking up extra travel from where they were staying in other towns.

“We bought \$2000 worth of fuel from Matthews Petroleum and they gave us \$2000 more.

“A wind farm operator gave \$10,000 and



“There’s a lot of support out there, as long as people know they can come forward and ask for what they need.”

Andrea Balcombe

some individuals came in with big cheques.

“People helped in different ways, however they could. It was terrific.”

Andrea said people walked in off the street to help and others cooked and delivered meals to families busy with the cleanup.

“That is a nice gesture that shows somebody cares,” she said.

“A lot of it was people who had been through Ash Wednesday, or had an accident, and the community helped them out - they wanted to give back,” she said.

“There’s a lot of support out there, as long as people know they can come forward and ask for what they need.”

SOUTH WEST BUSHFIRES RELIEF FUND DEADLINE

Applications for the South West Bushfire Relief Fund will close on Friday 6 July.

The purpose of this offer is to provide financial assistance to members of the communities directly affected by the fires in March.

Applicants can apply for one category only.

The categories are:

Category

A: Total loss of primary home/contents. Up to \$2500 (may be provided to the homeowner and/or occupier)

B: Secondary loss - non-primary producer up to \$1000

C: Secondary loss - primary producer up to \$500 (farm owners and/or sharefarmers)

D: Specific funding request

For an application form, call Council on 5593 7100.

The bushfire appeal is being supported through Bendigo and Adelaide Bank’s Community Enterprise Foundation in partnership with Cobden District Community Health Services.



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TREE DRIVE TO REVEG FARMS

A new drive aims to help revegetate 73 fire-damaged farms in south-west Victoria. Four Deakin University Warrnambool staff and BlazeAid have launched the drive for trees, plants and shrubs.

Julie Regan, Cheryl Finnigan, Louise Clancey, and Peta Williams are coordinating the local drive and are appealing for community support.

Mrs Regan and Ms Finnigan have been organising donations for Blaze Aid since the March 17 fires and were told replanting paddocks was now a high priority for farmers. Ms Clancey said the local committee of Deakin staff members was coordinating the appeal. "We are asking people to donate plants and trees for paddocks and shelter lines and also plants, flowers and shrubs to re-plant around dwellings," she said.



Julie Regan and Cheryl Finnigan

The initiative will support local and regional nurseries through purchasing of trees and plants for the drive, and donors can be linked to participating nurseries.

The drive will be held over the next month. A Facebook page has been established for the drive <https://www.facebook.com/ReGreen4FireAid> or people can contact Mrs Regan at julzier57@gmail.com.

MPS CALL FOR FAST COMPO

The length of time it will take for fire-affected farmers to receive compensation has been discussed in both houses of State Parliament. Western Victorian Member of the Legislative Council James Purcell called on Agriculture Minister Jaala Pulford to ensure a quick resolution. Member for Polwarth Richard Riordan told the Legislative Assembly the 10-year legal process that followed the Black Saturday fires must be avoided.

Directions hearings for four class actions relating to the Garvoc, Terang/Cobden, Camperdown and Gazette fires were scheduled for Friday June 29 in the Victorian Supreme Court. Anyone experiencing delays in insurance or legal action issues can contact Member for Wannon Dan Tehan on 5572 1100 or Ms Pulford on 8392 6000.

BLAZE AID NEEDS HELP

BlazeAid Cobden has sent \$100,000 in donations to district farmers. People who want to help but can't find the time can donate biscuits or slices to keep the workers' energy up. 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].

MANAGING PASTURES

Agriculture Victoria together with WestVic Dairy are offering a feed budgeting service to fire affected farmers.

Each farm will be provided with a specifically tailored feed budget to assist them over the next few months.

To speak to someone about your situation and to organise a free visit please contact: For livestock farmers – Michele Jolliffe from Agriculture Victoria on 0428 581 883 For dairy farmers – Helen Chenoweth from WestVic Dairy on 0438 919 897

WELLBEING SUPPORT

If you have been affected by the fires and need confidential emotional or psychological support, available 'on farm', call the Farmer Community Support Workers on 5563 4000 or 5232 5180. GPs provide emotional and psychological support, and can arrange additional assistance. If you have urgent concerns about your own, or someone else's mental health, call Mental Health Services on 1800 808 284.

Other 24 hour helplines include:

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Kid's Helpline: 1800 55 1800

MensLine: 1300 78 9978

EVENTS

Sparring Exhibition fire relief fundraiser with world champ "Sugar" Neekz Johnson.

Sunday 1 July, 3 pm - 5pm Port Campbell Hotel
Tickets: \$12. Bookings: 5598 6320

Mik Maks

Monday 2 July, Terang Civic Centre, 11 am - 12 pm

School holiday movie: Paddington 2

Thursday, July 5, Theatre Royal, Camperdown, 1:30 pm

Cobden Live music & Dance

Saturday, 7 July, Civic Hall, 8:30 pm- 11 pm

Holiday movie: Peter Rabbit

Thursday 12 July, Theatre Royal, Camperdown, 1:30 pm

BlazeAid Cup – Cobden vs Terang-Mortlake

Saturday 14 July, Cobden Rec Reserve

SW Brick Club – Lego fun!

Saturday 14 July, St Paul's Hall, Camperdown, 10:30 am-12 pm

Trivia With A Twist

Friday 20 July, Cobden Technical School, 7:30 pm. RSVP by 16 July: 5595 1202. Tickets: \$10 per person, 50% to BlazeAid.

Do you have a fire recovery event coming up? Let us know on 5593 7100 or shire@corangamite.vic.gov.au