

Newsletter 5 - 20th April 2016

**The City of Ballarat is committed to working with its community to respond and recover from the Mount Bolton fire.**

## SCRAP METAL BINS

There are still large skip bins located in the area, these are for scrap metal only. Feel free to use these to dispose of old fencing wire, steel framing or roofing iron etc. These will remain in place until the end of May, if you would like them to remain longer please let us know.

- ♦ Eastern Peake Road, 1.4km from Addington Road
- ♦ Next to the Glendaruel Fire Station on Kinnersley Road Glendaruel.
- ♦ Mt Bolton Road, 2.5 km from Waubra-Talbot Road just as you enter the bush area.

## INSURANCE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA ASSISTANCE

The Insurance Council of Australia operates a Catastrophe Information Hotline which can be of great assistance in dealing with insurance questions and issues after an event like a bushfire.

Calls to the Hotline are resolved as quickly as possible or are referred to the appropriate insurer at a high level.

The Insurance Council can assist with advice on claims and elevating a complaint to an appropriate manager within an insurance company. **The number to call is 1800 734 621.** The ICA also has a number of Consumer Tips on its website .

## PLANNING PERMITS

The City of Ballarat has nominated one point of

contact for all planning related matters. Leah Clark from Statutory Planning Department can be contacted on 5320 5149 or [leahclark@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:leahclark@ballarat.vic.gov.au)

Leah can assist you with where to go from here and can meet you at The Phoenix Building in Ballarat by prior appointment. Leah can also assist you with any queries regarding the removal of native vegetation from private land.

## STOCK FEED

Stock feed is still available from Kate Serrurier at 173 Addington Road. A machine will be available to load from 5 pm. Any queries regarding the pick up of feed please contact Noel on 5343 2227.



## RELIEF CENTRE

The Relief Centre is now closed.

If you require further assistance please contact the Recovery Manager on 0447 109 877

## OUTREACH

Members from Red Cross and Ballarat Community Health will be out and about on the 27th April to visit residents affected by the fires.

## COMMUNITY EVENT

We are seeking your input into the possibility of holding a small community get together in the Mt Bolton area. Please email your ideas to [emadmin@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:emadmin@ballarat.vic.gov.au), if you don't have access to email please call the Recovery Manager on 0447 109 877.

## WEED SPREAD AFTER WILDFIRE

### Natural ecosystems

Bushfires often burn areas of exotic weeds that were posing a significant threat to forests and natural ecosystems. Weeds quickly re-establish after fires often germinating more quickly than native species. Bushfires can exacerbate the growth of opportunistic weeds such as English Broom, Blackberry and St Johns Wort.

Bushfires can present an opportunity to gain access into areas to tackle these weeds. Integrated weed control programs can focus on minimising the threats to



key conservation values, infestations impacting on neighbours and eradicating isolated pockets.

### Weed management before, during and after wildfire

There are many strategies to minimise weed establishment and spread during and after fire.

#### After fire:

- Verify your weed mapping and step up surveillance for new weed outbreaks. Perennial weeds with well-established, deep root systems survive fire very well. Weeds such as flatweed, docks, sorrel and onion grass are the first plants to recover and are often prominent after fires.
- Check the origin of your fodder. Has it come from a known weed infested site? Keep records of where fodder is purchased.
- Feed out fodder in a confined area (stock containment areas), away from drainage lines to reduce the likelihood of weeds being spread.

- Monitor the feed areas regularly and be suspicious of unfamiliar plants.
- Identify suspect plants as soon as possible.
- When building up stock numbers or accepting agisted stock, quarantine them for 14 days allow time for viable seed to pass through the animal.
- Check for weed seeds in fleece and continue to check for weeds in areas with new stock.
- Monitor stock routes and roads for up to 12 months after fire to detect new weeds.
- Ensure vehicles and equipment of agencies, contractors and advisers are clean and free of weeds before entering and leaving your property.
- Seed, mulch, soil and rock to be used for rehabilitation programs should be free of weed seed and propagules.
- Increase integrated weed control treatments - the first two years are critical.



## NEWSLETTER

This will be the last newsletter distributed, if you require any further information please contact the Recovery Manager on 0447 109 877 or [emadmin@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:emadmin@ballarat.vic.gov.au)

## INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

The removal of burnt Pine trees has been completed on the Council Reserve and the fencing repairs are still to be undertaken.

The management of dead Pine trees on Eastern Peake Rd is almost complete.

### City of Ballarat

Principal Office: 25 Armstrong Street, Ballarat Telephone (03) 5320 5500

Postal Address: PO BOX 655, Ballarat Vic 3353

Email: [emadmin@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:emadmin@ballarat.vic.gov.au) Website: [www.ballarat.vic.gov.au](http://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au)

