

Flood Advice Newsletter

Issue 7 - 13 May 2011

Web: www.loddon.vic.gov.au Email: recovery@loddon.vic.gov.au



UPCOMING EVENTS

Beyond Blue Visit to Serpentine - Overview of *beyondblue's* Disaster Recovery Initiative (DRI)

As a result of the January 2011 flooding rains in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, along with Cyclone Yasi in North Queensland, there is again concern over the mental health of people living in affected communities.

The aims of *beyondblue* in responding to these events will be to:

- Raise awareness of the risk factors for depression, anxiety and related disorders after a disaster and improve health seeking behaviour amongst people living in disaster affected areas.
- Support positive mental health and wellbeing in disaster affected communities by promoting protective factors such as community cohesion, resilience and social connectedness.

The CST equips community leaders to recognise and support someone who is having difficulty coping (including to know where and when to refer to them to local services).

90 minute version, usually 2- 3 hours in duration to enable discussion.

Date 18 May 2011

Time 6.30pm

Venue Serpentine Community Hall - Chapel St Serpentine

Wow! Let's Nurture Women.

A free program for all women

Entertainment, Guest Speakers, Workshops, Lunch - Tuesday 24th May 2011

9.00am to 3.00pm

Wedderburn Community House

24 Wilson St

Wedderburn

RSVP to I&DHS 5431 7000

Thirty – Third Annual Pyramid Hill and Districts Reunion

The Thirty -Third Annual Pyramid Hill and Districts Reunion, incorporating the districts of Calivil, Dingee, Prairie, Mitiamo, Mincha, Mologa and Yarawalla, was held at Lake Weeroona Bendigo on Sunday March 6th 2011. The weather was most inviting, the sausages sizzled on the BBQ and the conversation flowed. Much of the conversation was on the recent floods that had affected the districts. Lots of stories were told of fear and concerns, the wonder of no loss of life and the many local heroes.

The Pyramid Hill Historical Society's table of merchandise was manned, as always, by Margaret Williamson. This year it included a CD of local flood pictures. The profits from these sales were to go directly to the Pyramid Hill Fire Brigade, which was so instrumental in the fight to keep Pyramid Hill township flood free.

A very short official time out from socialising included a minute's silence for those from the districts who had passed on in the past twelve months. It was then proposed by John (Chips)Gregory, on behalf of the committee, that this year's registration fees be given to the Loddon Shire's Flood Relief Appeal. This was agreed and so we have been able to donate \$395 to this fund which will be distributed as the Loddon Shire's Flood Relief Committee best sees fit.

Not to waste an opportunity, I would like to invite one and all to the next Reunion will be from 10am – 4pm on Sunday 4 March 2012, Lake Weeroona Bendigo. The Baby Boomers of Pyramid Hill have also started meeting the night before at the National Hotel, High Street from 6.30 pm.

Any queries to: morrison.glenda.g@edumail.vic.gov.au

Victorian Flood Response – Additional Training Assistance

On 6 February 2011, the Victorian Government announced support measures in training and higher education to help meet immediate needs in flood affected areas.

What support?

Individuals currently enrolled in, or who planned to enrol in, the following course categories, who were disadvantaged by the January 2011 floods, may be able to receive a one off payment of \$500 towards:

- Occupational courses
- Training costs associated with undertaking any nationally recognised Certificate, Diploma or Advanced Diploma qualification offered at a Registered Training Organisation in Victoria
- Degree courses at universities in Victoria

Am I eligible?

This support is available for:

- People currently enrolled in one of the above course categories to commence study in 2011 and you (or your household) hold a Department of Human Services Blue Referral Card.
 - People wishing to enrol in one of the above course categories
 - Other flood affected people who may have special employment circumstances on a case by case basis
- People of any age

The closing date for applications is 30 June 2012 or until available funds are awarded, whichever comes first.

For further information go to: <http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/victorian-floods>

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Business Relief and Recovery Fund

29 March 2011; Minister Asher announced a \$1.5 million dollar contribution to the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI) Business Relief and Recovery Fund that provides financial assistance to businesses affected by the recent floods. <http://www.vecci.org.au/floods/Pages/floods.aspx> is the link to the VECCI web site. The web site provides access to application forms and more information about the fund.

Department of Human Services

Department of Human Services information on Flood Recovery and availability of assistance follow the link http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency/current-events/flood_recovery/people

Conveyance Allowance

In some locations, students are unable to access free school buses. In these instances, students may receive a conveyance allowance to assist with travel costs. Allowances are available for public transport, private car and private bus.

To determine the family's eligibility for the conveyance allowance, see [Conveyance Allowance Guidelines \(PDF - 823Kb\)](#)

If students are eligible, parents will need to complete a relevant application form. Applications forms are to be completed by parents and lodged at the school, see:

[Public Transport/Other Conveyance Allowance Application Form \(Word - 70Kb\)](#)

[Private Bus Travel Student Conveyance Allowance Application Form \(Word - 70Kb\)](#)

[Private Car Conveyance Allowance Application Form \(Word - 75Kb\)](#)

[Special Setting Conveyance Allowance Application Form \(Word - 82Kb\)](#)

Flood Insurance Problems?

The Insurance Council of Australia provides assistance to anyone experiencing problems in resolving insurance issues. Call 1300 728 228.

REPORTS

Blaze Aid

BlazeAid Bridgewater

Tel: 03 5437 3001

Email: blazeaid.bridgewater@gmail.com

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/BlazeAidBdgwatr> for daily work/volunteer summaries

	Fences cleared	Fences built	Volunteer days
Week to 8 th May	17.3	9.5	123
Total	473.75	279.2	4,167

Comrie Review

The Review of the Flood Warnings and Response, Chaired by Mr Neil Comrie visited the Loddon Shire on 5 May 2011. After a tour of flood affected areas the team met with Council and conducted a public meeting at Bridgewater. The information and recommendations gathered will go towards a final report to be tables to the Victorian Government.



Figure 1 Mark Stephens(l) Neil Comrie (r) inspect damage in Loddon Shire



Figure 2 Public Meeting at Bridgewater



Flood Recovery Contact Numbers

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

Phone: 5494 1200

Email: recovery@loddon.vic.gov.au

Web: www.loddon.vic.gov.au

Municipal Recovery Operations

Flood recovery newsletters

Kerb/Roadside flood affected rubbish removal

Calendar of Community Recovery Events

Road Closures

Return of unused sand bags

Building Inspections

Recovery Volunteer Co-ordination

To register for assistance or to offer volunteer support

Lost and Found Register

Road or Flood damage reports

Missing or damaged rubbish/recycling bins

Environmental Health support

River Closure information

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Inglewood & District Health Service

Phone: 54317000

Email: admin@idhs.vic.gov.au

Web: www.idhs.vic.gov.au

Northern Districts Community Health Service

Phone: 5451 0200

Email: info@ndchs.org.au

Web: www.ndchs.org.au

Boort District Health

Phone: 5451 5200

Dingee Bush Nursing Centre

Phone: 5436 8309

Lifeline

Phone: 13 11 14

Web: www.lifeline.org.au

Parentline

Phone: 13 22 89

Web: www.parentline.vic.gov.au

Kids Helpline

Phone: 1800 55 1800

Web: www.kidshelp.com.au

is Australia's only free, private and

confidential, telephone and online counselling

service specifically for young people aged

between 5 and 25.

Mental Health Assistance Line

Phone: 1300 280 737

Web: www.health.vic.gov.au/mhalKids Helpline

BeyondBlue Information Line

Phone: 1300 224 636

Web: www.beyondblue.org.au

Australian Psychological Society

Phone: 1800 333 497

(Assistance to find a psychologist)

Mensline

Phone: 1300 78 99 78

Web: www.menslineaus.org.au

DEPARTMENT HUMAN SERVICES

Phone: 1300 165 413

Web: www.dhs.vic.gov.au

Interim Housing Needs

Department of Human Services Financial Assistance

Counselling Referrals

Flood Recovery Information



Flood Recovery Contact Numbers

CENTRELINK

Phone: 180 22 66

Web: www.centrelink.gov.au

Local Agencies: Boort (BRIC), Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn and Inglewood (Neighbourhood houses)

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Grants and Centrelink payment advice.

RURAL FINANCE CORPORATION

Phone: 5448 2600

Web: www.ruralfinance.com.au

Clean up/restoration grants and low interest loans for small businesses, farms and not for profit organisations.

OTHER SERVICES / ORGANISATIONS

Telstra

Phone: 13 22 03

Web: www.telstra.com.au

Red Cross

Phone: 1800 173 349

Web: www.redcross.org.au

Coliban Water

Phone: 1300 363 200

Web: www.coliban.com.au

Insurance Council of Australia

Phone: 1300 728 228

Web: www.insurancecouncil.com.au

Department of Primary Industries

Phone: 136 186

Web: www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Rural Financial Counselling Services

Bendigo: 5442 2424

Kerang: 5450 3285

Australian Taxation Office

Phone: 1800 806 218

Web: www.ato.gov.au

Blaze Aid

Phone: 5437 3001

Web: www.blazeaid.com

Office of Electrical Safety

Phone: 9203 9700

Web: www.esv.vic.gov.au

Advise on electrical safety after flooding

Victorian Farmers Federation

Phone: 1300 882 833

Web: www.vff.org.au

Business Victoria

Phone: 13 22 15

Web: www.business.vic.gov.au

Assistance and information for small business and farmers

Salvation Army

Phone: 5442 7699

Responsible Alcohol Victoria

Phone: 1300 650 367

Web: www.justice.vic.gov.au

APRA (Australian Prudential Regulation Authority)

Web: www.apra.gov.au/superannuation/Early-Release-of-Superannuation-Benefits.cfm