

November 2010

Issue 10

Mitchell Shire Bushfire Recovery Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of the Mitchell Shire Bushfire Recovery newsletter.



Newsletter Information and Distribution

If you are not already on the newsletter distribution database or if you have anything to add to the newsletter, please contact Ellen McComish on 5734 6337 or ellen.mccomish@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

OPEN AIR BURNING: RESIDENTIAL AND TOWNSHIPS 2010/2011 SEASON

On Friday 1 October 2010 the Mitchell Shire Community Safety and the Environment Local Law in relation to 'Burning-off in the open air' came into force.

Within a Township

- This is the area defined under the Planning Scheme as all land other than those allotments zoned "Farming"
- 'Burning off in the open air' does not include burning in an incinerator
- A permit is required to burn any windrow, tree or stump over the size of 2 cubic metres
- Burning off can only occur on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 10am and 3pm
- Permits require a 7 day turn around period as sites must be inspected
- There is no cost for a permit

Outside a Township

- All land zoned as "Farming"
- A permit is required to burn any windrow, tree or stump over the size of 2 cubic metres
- Burning off can occur on any day at any time
- Permits require a 7 day turn around period as sites must be inspected
- There is no cost for a permit

To avoid obtaining a permit, enquirers should be advised to keep their fire below the 2 cubic metre threshold and feed it.

All fires lit **MUST BE** registered with the Victorian Fire Risk Register on **1800 668 511**.

These restrictions remain in force until the CFA Summer Fire Period Restrictions are advised. Once the CFA Restrictions are known – Council will only be issuing Permits to those applicants which have the approval of their Local CFA.

All fires lit must have:

- ✓ Fire Suppressant Equipment
- ✓ 3 metre clearance on flammable items, grasses
- ✓ Clear of over-hanging trees
- ✓ A responsible adult present
- ✓ Water (hose or backpack (10 Litres))

NEW TOTAL FIRE BAN DISTRICTS

Mitchell Shire is now in the **North Central District**, not the North East District.

For more information please visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or phone the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on **1800 240 667**.

Contact info: Community Development workers – Bushfire Recovery
Jacqui Sims on 0407 944 414 or jacqui@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au
Kate Lawrence on 0409 108 198 or kate.lawrence@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au
Tracey Bowden also on 0409 108 198 or tracey.bowden@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

Important Contacts

Case Management Service
1800 050 400

Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund
1800 180 213

Community Service Hub located at:
96 Walnut Street, Whittlesea
Phone: 03 9719 1000
Email:
whittlesearecovery@gmail.com

Mitchell Shire Council
5734 6200

Building Commission
1300 360 320

Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and
Recovery Authority
1800 240 667

Department of Primary Industries –
Broadford
5784 0600

Nurse on Call
1300 606 024

Department of Human Services
1300 650 172 www.dhs.vic.gov.au

CFA: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

DSE: www.dse.vic.gov.au

Mitchell Community Health Service,
Counselling and Support
1300 773 352

Kids help line
1800 551 800
www.kidshelp.com.au

RSPCA for Bushfire Recovery
information or animal issues
9224 2222
www.rspcavic.org

MONEYHELP FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE

MoneyHelp is a not-for-profit initiative of the Victorian Government to provide free, confidential and independent financial advice to Victorians who have experienced, or are facing, job loss or reduced working hours or mortgage or rental stress.

MoneyHelp is a suite of products and services comprising:

- a free phone financial counselling service (including an interpreter service)
- a website (www.moneyhelp.org.au)
- an information brochure including a budget planner
- a MoneyHelp Liaison Officer to promote and disseminate MoneyHelp services and products

MoneyHelp is managed by the [Consumer Action Law Centre](#), a campaign-focused consumer advocacy, litigation and policy organisation based in Melbourne, Australia.

Funding for MoneyHelp is provided from the Victorian Property Fund on the approval of the Minister for Consumer Affairs Victoria, Australia.

Note: MoneyHelp is not a money lending service

Further information on MoneyHelp can be found by visiting their website: www.moneyhelp.org.au or by contacting their advice line: 1800 149 689.



MITCHELL SHIRE BUSHFIRE COMMUNITY WEBSITES

Don't forget to check out what's happening with the Community Advisory Groups:

- www.broadfordcag.com.au
- www.clonbinane.vic.au
- www.reedycreek.vic.au
- www.upperplenty.com.au
- www.wandong.vic.gov.au



Help others and meet new friends!

Subscribe to

mitchellcommunityskillsbank@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au



SEEDS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Seeds for Sustainability – free vegetable and flower seeds for fire affected landholders.

The Sunday Creek/Dry Creek Landcare Group is pleased to offer a limited supply of vegetable and flowering plant seeds to assist in rebuilding gardens after the Black Saturday Bushfires.

The Seeds for Sustainability Program has been made possible through generous donations from *Diggers Seeds* and *seed.com.au*.

This program builds on the *Gardening after the Fire Program* that the Landcare group began in mid 2009 - so far over 7000 plants and over 500 packets of seeds have been donated. The program also adds to the Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell's plant donation scheme where native tube stock suitable for gardens is available to people who lost gardens in the fire. Please send your details to Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell, PO Box 217 KILMORE VIC 3764 to request plants through the Rotary program.



Bulbine Lilies at LB Davern Reserve
Photograph: Vivian Pasic

If you were affected by the Black Saturday fires and would like to receive a package of either 10 varieties of vegetable seeds or 20 varieties of flower seeds please contact Sunday Creek/Dry Creek Landcare Group Secretary Elyse Kelly on 5781 0155 or cambankke@bigpond.com.

The flowering plants are mainly cottage style plants such as sweet peas, poppies and lavender.



DSE PLANNED BURNING INFORMATION

To help manage the risk of intense bushfire, the Victorian Government, through the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Parks Victoria, carries out planned burns to reduce fuel, often with the help and expertise of the Country Fire Authority. DSE and Parks Victoria also use fire to copy the natural cycles of fire in ways that help plants and animals thrive.

DSE's planned burn program is the considered use of fire to protect life, property and the environment from the threat of bushfire, and to maintain the health of plants and animals that have come to depend on bushfires to survive.

Visit www.dse.vic.gov.au or [DSE Planned Burning Information](#) for further information.

CHANGES TO FREE WASTE DISPOSAL

The Mitchell Shire Transfer Stations have been accepting waste and supplying mulch to fire affected residents. This service will be available until the end of November 2010.

Mitchell Shire Transfer Station will be accepting green waste free of charge for the month of November and December from any resident continuing to clean up prior to summer.

Council issues two free tipping vouchers with rate notices as well as continuing to accept, free of charge, the following items:

- Metal and white goods
- Recycling
- Foam rubber
- Vehicle Batteries
- Used Oil
- Gas Cylinders
- Hard plastic at Wallan and Seymour (larger items)



EVENTS AND GATHERINGS


TAI CHI FOR BEGINNERS

Use Tai Chi as a way to meditate into a calm state, relieving the physical effects of stress on the body and mind. The focus and calmness cultivated by the meditative aspect of Tai Chi is seen as necessary in maintaining optimum health (in the sense of relieving stress and maintaining homeostasis) and in application of the form as a soft style martial art.

Where: Broadford Community Centre

When: 1.30pm, every Friday

To register please contact Tracey on 0400 259 886 or tracey.bowden@centacaremelbourne.org.au


FLAMEINGOES MORNING TEA GROUP

Have you heard about this great activity that happens each week with some fantastic people?

Morning Tea Group the Flameingoes meet at 11am Thursday in the Church House, Church Street, Kilmore.

Morning activities include scrapbooking and making bead jewellery.

In the afternoon starting at 1.30pm there are belly dancing classes for those interested.

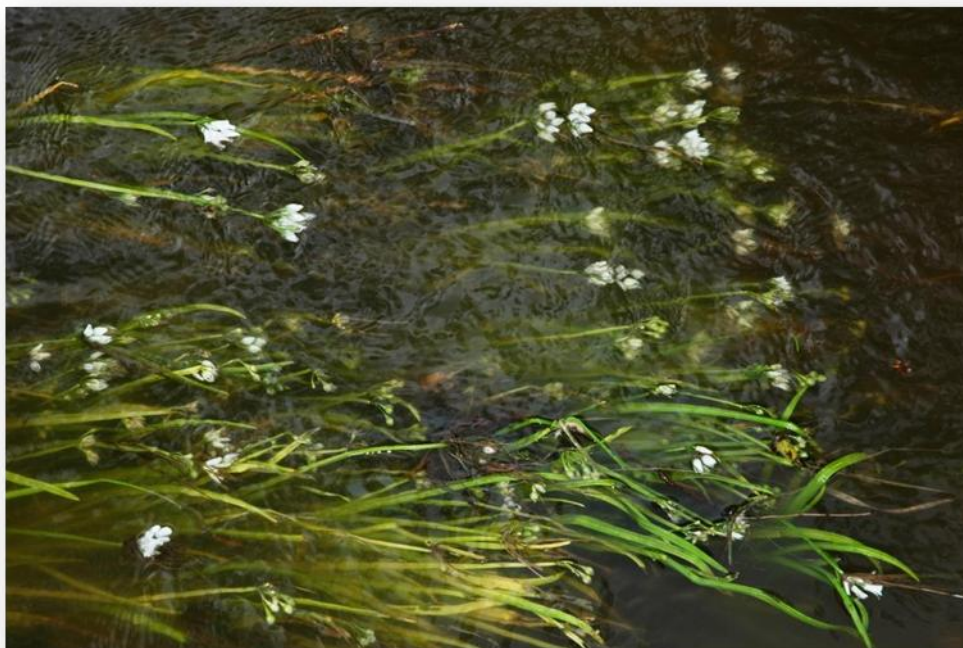
For further information please call Heather on 0418 371 147.

Everyone is welcome.


KILMORE MEN'S SHED

The Kilmore Men's Shed is located at Graves Street in Kilmore and is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am until 4pm.

For more information or to join the Kilmore Men's Shed contact **Jeffrey Robinson on 5781 0756.**



Onion-weed in water
Photograph: Ellen McComish

Supported by:

