



# Bush Fire Recovery NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 10



## Farmers Breakfast in the Shed



On Friday 13th May, the Shire of Harvey in conjunction with the Harvey Lions Club held a breakfast for bush fire affected farmers on the Hayes Farm in Riverdale Road. In the crisp of the morning, as the mist started to lift from the grassy paddocks, the hum of farmers chatting and bacon and eggs sizzling was a welcome sound. The event was well attended and thanks must go to the Harvey Lions Club for sponsoring and cooking a sumptuous breakfast. Thank you also to Malcolm and Sharyee Hayes and family for making their shed and family farm available at short notice. The next breakfast event will be held on **Friday 10th June** at Owen and Jo Eastcott's property.

## Clifton Bridge Up-Date

Works to date include the demolishing of the old bridge, earthworks and construction of the base slab that will accommodate the culverts. The base slab needs to cure to enable it to reach its 28 day compressive (design) strength where after the precast culverts will be placed in position. Construction is on track for completion of the bridge by the end of June 2016.



## STATE RECOVERY TEAM UPDATE

Yarloop · Harvey · Waroona

BUSHFIRES CLEANUP

The State Clean up team has found evidence of historical environmental contamination in areas within the Yarloop town site. State Recovery Controller Dr Ken Michael said in his media statement dated the 26th May, that asbestos fragments and elevated heavy metal concentrations have been identified in residential and former industrial sites.

The State Government is committed to cleaning up destroyed and impacted residential properties and open spaces in Yarloop to ensure that the town is safe and fit for future habitation.

To date the State clean-up team has cleared 20 properties, 69 have been scoped and another 10 are currently in the process of demolition. The recent find of buried hazardous material will not impact on the clean-up schedule of between 6 to 9 months.

If you have any queries regarding the clean-up process please contact Rene and Rhonda on;

**Phone:** (08) 6552 5335 or 0439 109 389

**Email:** [firecleanup@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:firecleanup@dpc.wa.gov.au)



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## Wellbeing Workshop with Rob Gordon

On the 25th May the Shire of Harvey in conjunction with Red Cross held a special Recovery Wellbeing Workshop at the Harvey Recreation and Cultural Centre with Dr Rob Gordon. Rob has worked with communities affected by disasters for more than 30 years and provided practical advice and information on the recovery cycle to the 50 residents in attendance.

Rob spoke in detail about the various impacts of disasters on people and that although everyone experienced the same event, they all experienced it very differently. He emphasized that impacts on people can be very different and that we should be very careful not to judge the level of impact on anyone else as we do not know the circumstances of their experience or their lives.

Rob explained how our bodies and minds are affected by stress chemicals over the long term. He warned of making big decisions when under the influence of stress. Rob discussed the fact that when under the influence of stress that we can focus on only one problem at a time and often we focus on things that we have no control over (such as clean-up) and become very frustrated and angry as a result. Instead we should focus on our relationships with family and friends, which over the long run, will be far more important to us. Rob spoke of many families he has worked with who end up separated following an emergency because they focused on the work of rebuilding rather than the things that really matter – our relationships.

Rob's insightful stories and at times, hard hitting truths, gave us a realistic picture of what is coming in the months and years ahead and offered some practical tips on how to best prepare ourselves.

The Shire of Harvey thanks Rob and the Red Cross for organizing Rob's travel arrangements from the Eastern States to visit to our community here in the Shire of Harvey.

## Assistance for Farmers

WA Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements provides a range of assistance measures for primary producers whose assets or productions have been affected by the recent bushfires. Assistance is not provided as compensation, it is purely an offer of support that is administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Food presented two information sessions on the 26<sup>th</sup> May providing information on the following support measures that are now available;

**Freight Costs** – Reimbursement of 50% of the costs for transporting livestock, fodder or water, building and fencing equipment.

**Professional Advice** – Reimbursement of consultancy fees to a limit of \$1,500.

**Fencing** – Reimbursement of 100% of the costs associated with restoration/ replacement of fencing where fences were deliberately dismantled due to response operations and/ or the cost of fencing materials only, to repair/ replace fire affected fencing that adjoins a main road or railway corridor.

**Interest Rate Subsidy** – For new loans provided by authorised institutions to repair/ replace lost assets.

**For further detailed information please contact DAFWA on 1800 198 231 or visit [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au)**



## Centrelink Assistance

Assistance is available for people who have been adversely affected by the January bushfires.

The **Disaster Recovery Payment** is a one off payment to assist you if you have been significantly affected by a disaster. It is not for minor damage or inconvenience.

The **Disaster Recovery Allowance** is a short term payment to assist individuals who can demonstrate their income has been affected as a direct result of a declared disaster.

For more information on how Centrelink can assist you please visit [www.humanservices.gov.au/disaster](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/disaster) or contact **180 22 66**.

**Claims must be submitted before 11 July 2016**