

# Pinery fire recovery newsletter



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Image courtesy Corey Fischer

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## Community leaders

Out of the terrible experience of the Pinery fire we have seen a number of community leaders demonstrate great strength and commitment to those impacted. Those we know best: Brian Koch, Judy Gorey, Lynette Reichstein, Wendy Williams, John Lush and Dick French, represent their local communities on the Local Recovery Committee. They provide valuable input on the support needed by residents in the long recovery process. Recovery Coordinator Vince Monterola regards these community leaders as the most important people in his committee. They are not only fine ambassadors for their community, they are essential to the success of the support we can provide. Vince would be happy to have a leader from the Owen area join the group. Please contact the Recovery Centre on **0477 744 258** if you would like to advocate on behalf of the Owen community.

## Mobile recovery centre comes to Tarlee

A mobile recovery centre will visit Tarlee on Wednesday 3 February from 9am to 1pm at the Tarlee Community Hall at Main North Road, Tarlee. Please come and have a chat with the recovery team and get an update on the latest services and available information.

## Dr Rob Gordon

Psychologist Dr Rob Gordon recently visited Freeling, Wasleys and Hamley Bridge to discuss how communities respond after disasters. Approximately 200 people attended the sessions to hear Dr Gordon discuss his experiences working with people in the aftermath of various disasters in Australia and overseas. His examples clearly resonated with the audience, who were able to recognise symptoms of stress or trauma and gather helpful information on how to respond to these signs.



L-R: Pinery Fire Recovery Coordinator Vince Monterola, Dr Rob Gordon, Councillor Lynette Reichstein and Red Cross Disaster Recovery Coordinator Collette Brown at Freeling.

## BlazeAid making progress

With more than 120 properties registered for support, BlazeAid has already made great progress for the farmers affected by the fire. So far, volunteers have cleared more than 320 kilometres of fences and repaired more than 50 kilometres of damaged fences, and are now putting up about 35 kilometres of new fences. However, there is still a long way to go. These volunteers are making a great difference to our farming communities by helping them get back on their feet to become productive again.

If you wish to register for assistance with your fences, or if you have some time on your hands and would like to volunteer, phone John Lillico on **0477 330 488** or Mary Howarth on **0429 367 538** in Hamley Bridge, or Wendy Cope on **0467 999 909** or John Tuckwell on **0484 621 166** in Roseworthy.



*BlazeAid's morning wake-up call with John Lillico. Photo courtesy BlazeAid.*

## A word on tax

If you have been affected by the Pinery fire don't worry about your tax affairs right away. The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) will give you time to deal with your more immediate problems first and will help you to sort out your tax affairs later.

The ATO can provide a range of support strategies which include:

- allowing lodgement deferrals of activity statements or tax returns without penalty
- allowing additional time to pay tax debts without incurring general interest charges
- making arrangements for payment of tax debts by instalments
- remitting penalties that were automatically imposed during the disaster
- fast-tracking refunds

- refunding amounts credited to existing debts when you have entered into a deferral to pay or an arrangement to pay your tax debts, and
- conducting field visits to help with reconstructing tax records and making reasonable estimates.

For information and assistance, please phone the ATO disaster assistance line on **1800 806 218**.

## Working safely with asbestos

During a building fire or bushfire, the amount of asbestos fibres released into the air is relatively low.

However, as asbestos is heat resistant, pieces of asbestos material and some fibres may remain in the ash and may present a risk if disturbed during the clean up after a fire.

For this reason, when cleaning up after a fire, you should wear personal protective equipment including an appropriate mask and wet down the ash and debris to avoid it being released into the air.

If asbestos-containing materials have been burnt on your property, the best option is to engage a licensed asbestos removalist to do the clean-up work.

For more information about fire-damaged asbestos, including working safely with asbestos, removing it safely and where to dispose of it, visit [www.asbestos.sa.gov.au/home\\_fire.html](http://www.asbestos.sa.gov.au/home_fire.html).

## Farewell and thank you to Samaritan's Purse

The team from Samaritan's Purse has ended its time in the area and has now relocated to Victoria to assist families who suffered loss due to fire on Christmas Day. We appreciate all the work done by the team on properties in the area and wish them every success along the Great Ocean Road. Meanwhile, BlazeAid and Habitat for Humanity have assured us they are here for the long haul. If you need the assistance of either volunteer group to help clean up your property, whether farm land or town block, find their phone number on the back page under 'Community Support'.

## Habitat for Humanity

The Volunteer teams working with Habitat for Humanity SA are providing much needed practical clean up, repair and rebuild support to affected property owners.

Work to date has included clearing tonnes of burnt galvanised fencing and the remains of sheds, removing burnt vegetation and debris, painting fire affected fences, and salvaging materials from devastated properties.

Habitat for Humanity is a world-wide, not-for-profit Christian organisation assisting people into home ownership and with disaster recovery. Last year, it supported 70 families affected by the Sampson Flat bushfire. The team anticipates providing on-ground support for at least the coming year. You can contact Habitat for Humanity on **(08) 8344 6009** or by emailing [enquiries.sa@habitat.org.au](mailto:enquiries.sa@habitat.org.au).



*Habitat for Humanity SA on site with the Origin Energy volunteer team. Image HfHSA.*

## Setting the record straight

Rumours and mis-information can accompany a community activity of this size. Regrettably, some of this mis-information causes people distress or anger. If, at any time, you wish to know if something you are told is correct, don't hesitate to contact the Recovery Centre on **0477 744 258** to set the record straight.

## Business support

At the end of a hard day's work, dealing with correspondence, financial decisions and forms can seem less than appealing. The team at Rural Business Support can offer primary producers and small rural businesses free, independent and confidential business support. They can even visit you in your own home. Phone Deb Purvis on **0427 430 244** or Judy Goedecke on **0418 856 267** for more information.

## Disposal of fire-affected demolition waste

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) wishes to allay concerns among those affected by the Pinery fire following incorrect claims that they are not permitted to dispose of any waste or demolition material on private land.

Fire-affected demolition material can be disposed on private land with the permission of the owner, so long as the material does not contain hazardous waste such as asbestos or chemicals, or cause any harm to human health or risk to the environment.

In the majority of house demolitions, the waste generated is of a nature and size that can easily be buried and compacted which is important in achieving a level land form for future use.

The burn-off of fallen or damaged trees is a matter that should be dealt with in consultation with the Country Fire Service (CFS) and local councils.

The EPA is continuing to actively participate in the recovery process by working with local communities to do everything it can to help those affected by this fire.

The EPA can also be contacted for general advice on **(08) 8204 2004** or via its website at [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au).

## Events

### ARTLAB: Conserving and salvaging your collectables and family treasures

Bring your precious items for inspection by a conservator from Artlab. Registrations are essential. To register, phone **(08) 8207 7520** or email [artlab@sa.gov.au](mailto:artlab@sa.gov.au).

### Hamley Bridge:

Saturday 6 February, 10am to 4pm  
Hamley Bridge Institute – 15 Gilbert Street

### Freeling:

Saturday 20 February, 10am to 4pm  
Venue to be confirmed

### Managing horses on small properties

Horse SA (free to Fire Impact Card holders)  
Sunday 6 March, 9.30am to 4pm  
Roseworthy Campus  
Register at [www.trybooking.com/JZNO](http://www.trybooking.com/JZNO)

## Contact information

### Recovery details

Recovery Hotline  
1800 302 787

Pinery Fire Recovery Centre  
0477 744 258  
TAFE Gawler campus - 43 High Street, Gawler

Pinery Fire Recovery website  
[www.sa.gov.au/recovery](http://www.sa.gov.au/recovery)

SA Bushfire Recovery Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/SABushfireRecovery](http://www.facebook.com/SABushfireRecovery)

### Local Councils

Wakefield Regional Council  
[www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au](http://www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au) or (08) 8862 0800

District Council of Mallala  
[www.mallala.sa.gov.au](http://www.mallala.sa.gov.au) or (08) 8527 0200

Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council  
[www.claregilbertvalleys.sa.gov.au](http://www.claregilbertvalleys.sa.gov.au) or  
(08) 8842 6400

Light Regional Council  
[www.light.sa.gov.au](http://www.light.sa.gov.au) or (08) 8525 3200

### Insurance

Insurance Council of Australia Hotline  
1800 734 621

### Agriculture and livestock

PIRSA (08) 8207 7847

Livestock SA and Primary Producers SA  
(08) 8297 2299

### Disaster recovery assistance

Commonwealth Government Information  
Hotline: 180 22 66

### Waste management

Environment Protection Authority  
(08) 8204 2004 or 1800 623 445

### Health

Northern Health Network: (08) 8209 0700

### Counselling services

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636  
Youth Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636  
Lifeline: 13 11 14  
Mens Line Australia: 1300 789 978  
Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800  
National counselling helpline: 1800RESPECT  
or [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)

### Volunteering

Volunteering SA&NT  
[www.volunteeringsa.org.au](http://www.volunteeringsa.org.au) or 1300 135 545

### Business support

Rural Business Support: 1800 836 211  
[www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au](http://www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au)

### Natural Resources

Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty  
Ranges, Gawler Office: (08) 8523 7700  
Natural Resources Northern and Yorke, Clare  
Office: (08) 8841 3400  
[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges/land/fire-management/pinery-fire-recovery](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges/land/fire-management/pinery-fire-recovery)

### Community support

BlazeAid: 0467 999 909 or 0477 330 488  
[www.blazeaid.com](http://www.blazeaid.com)

Habitat for Humanity: (08) 8344 6009 or email:  
[enquiries.sa@habitat.org.au](mailto:enquiries.sa@habitat.org.au)



**Government of  
South Australia**