

# Pinery fire recovery newsletter



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Image courtesy Harrison Schuster

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## BlazeAid registrations closing

Farmers seeking assistance from BlazeAid have until Monday 29 February to register with the Hamley Bridge or Roseworthy camps. This will allow the team to measure the workload ahead and plan for the coming months.

If you would like assistance from BlazeAid volunteers please give them a call. Without something useful to do, volunteers move on and we don't want that to happen.

Both BlazeAid and Habitat for Humanity are here to help for the rest of the year. Contact details are on the back page.

## A word on tax

### Main residence and personal use assets

If your home has always been used solely as your main residence, any insurance proceeds you receive for it are not deemed to be assessable income. Similarly, any insurance proceeds you receive for items used solely for personal use, such as household goods, are also not taxable. For more information, visit [www.ato.gov.au/individuals/dealing-with-disasters](http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/dealing-with-disasters).

## Grants from Tzu Chi Australia

If your primary residence was lost in the Pinery fire, or is uninhabitable, you are invited to apply for a cash grant from Tzu Chi Australia. Cash cards will be distributed at the following events:

- Mallala Institute: Sunday 13 March, 12pm to 4pm
- Wasleys Institute: Sunday 10 April, 12pm to 4pm

Collect a registration form at the Pinery Fire Recovery Centre at Gawler TAFE - 43 High Street, Gawler, or phone Tzu Chi Australia (David - **0412 398 771** or Jane - **0401 685 526**). Alternatively, download a form at [www.sa.gov.au/recovery](http://www.sa.gov.au/recovery). Email your completed form to [adl@tzuchi.org.au](mailto:adl@tzuchi.org.au), or post to Tzu Chi Australia - 142 Wright Street, Adelaide SA 5000.

You may attend either event, however please note that Mallala applications close on Thursday 3 March and Wasleys applications close on Friday 1 April.

## Wire roller machines for cleaning up fences

The Laura Agricultural Bureau has three wire roller machines available to roll up lengths of wire fencing. The machines are designed to be mounted and operated hydraulically on front-end loaders.

Phone Andrew Kitto on **0409 866 223** to use the machines. For details about the machines, visit the Agricultural Bureau of SA Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/agbureausa](http://www.facebook.com/agbureausa).

## Tips from Dr Rob Gordon

Last month, psychologist Dr Rob Gordon, who specialises in working with communities after disasters, presented three information sessions in Freeling, Hamley Bridge and Wasleys.

The feedback following Rob's sessions has been extremely positive and helped many people make sense of their emotions and experiences.

If you didn't get a chance to attend any of Rob's sessions, he has provided the following advice.

"It is normal to still feel sad or stressed in the first few months after a disaster such as the Pinery fire. Some people may still feel this way for the next couple of months and even years. It takes time, and people will go through different emotions at different times, but these feelings will fade if you have the right information and look after your wellbeing".

- Assume that any unusual change in yourself or those you love is related to your experience and try to work out the connection.
- Problems are often presented as everyday hassles when in fact they are about bigger things.
- Rest and listen to what your body, mind and emotions tell you they need. You will eventually get energy back - you just have a big overdraft.
- Give yourself time to enjoy recreation activities. These can give you energy and make things feel worthwhile.
- Put energy into rebuilding relationships, family and important friendships. Make time to be together by changing routines and patterns.
- Have health checks and review your diet and exercise levels.

Sometimes personal recovery needs to be supported by specialist knowledge to ensure that the stress does not linger unnecessarily or lead to other health problems. Stress-related problems can be resolved with advice from professionals, such as counsellors or psychologists.

Consider seeking further support if:

- physical or other symptoms are causing concern
- there is no one to talk to, or relationships are being affected by the stress
- you feel emotionally numb, depressed or over anxious
- you continue to have disturbed sleep and nightmares
- you are unable to handle intense feelings or physical sensations
- you are becoming accident prone and are increasing the use of drugs and alcohol
- Recovery has stalled or does not seem to be proceeding.

For more information about health support services phone the Northern Health Network on **(08) 8209 0700** or visit [www.sa.gov.au/recovery](http://www.sa.gov.au/recovery) (Pinery Fire), and select the Recovery assistance tab.

## Business Support

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Barossa's Pinery Fire Taskforce for Business was established in response to the Pinery fire. Its B2B Barossa program is a free business support program that connects skilled service providers with local small and medium enterprises looking for help within their business.

Services available through the Pinery Fire Business Recovery Taskforce include, but are not limited to:

- coordinating with accountants to seek extensions for tax lodgements and payments
- liaising with insurance companies, banks and creditors
- endeavouring to reconstruct lost paper records and electronic records
- providing human resources advice should it be determined that staff have to be retrenched either temporarily or permanently
- business counselling, marketing, lean manufacturing, food consultancy, trade and export services.

Additionally, RDA is trialling a co-working office space in Mallala, where business owners who need an office space can access a computer, internet, a printer and an RDA or B2B person in attendance to help with information or access to services. The Hub will be operational during February at the following times:

Mondays - 9.30am to 12.30pm

Tuesdays - 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Wednesdays - 9.30am to 12.30pm

If there is demand, the service will be continued. If you are interested in using the Pinery Fire Business Recovery Service, please contact Sue Merry on **(08) 8563 3603** or email [sue@barossa.org.au](mailto:sue@barossa.org.au).

## Have you applied to the SERF fund?

Distribution of donations to the SA Pinery Fire Appeal is managed by the independent State Emergency Relief Fund (SERF) Committee. If you have suffered injury, loss or damage as a result of the Pinery fire, you may be eligible to receive a monetary gift from the fund. More than 290 applications have already been received by the committee and SERF has distributed \$65,000 from the \$2.08 million donated. Further funds will soon be distributed to some of the families and individuals who lost their homes.

If you think you may be eligible, you are encouraged to submit an application. The application form is available from the Pinery Fire Recovery Centre based at the Gawler TAFE, or can be downloaded from [www.sa.gov.au/recovery](http://www.sa.gov.au/recovery) (Pinery Fire Appeal page). Alternatively request an application form by emailing [StateEmergencyReliefFund.Applications@sa.gov.au](mailto:StateEmergencyReliefFund.Applications@sa.gov.au). For any enquiries, phone **(08) 8463 6405**, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

To donate to the appeal, please visit this webpage or visit any branch of the Commonwealth Bank to donate in person. All donations to the appeal will go directly to people impacted by the Pinery fire.

## Events

### Regional Youth Bus

A free community event in conjunction with Rotary Barossa Valley with music, gaming, Wi-Fi and a free BBQ from 5pm. Bring your deck chair and enjoy the music.

### Wasleys

Friday 12 February, 3pm to 8pm  
Wasleys Town Hall

### Hamley Bridge

Friday 19 February, 3pm to 8pm  
Corner of Light and Gilbert Streets, Hamley Bridge

### 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).

Saturday 20 February, 10am to 4pm  
Lutheran Church Hall - Clarke Street, Freeling

### Sheep Producers Seminar

Thursday 25 February, 1.30pm to 5.30pm  
Tarlee Institute, Horrocks Highway  
Afternoon tea provided  
For more information, please phone Taryn Mangelsdorf from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources on **0427 188 125** or Mary-Anne Young from Primary Industries and Regions South Australia on **0476 834 530**.

### 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)

### Adelaide West Men's Choir

Sunday 20 March, 2pm to 3.30pm  
Owen Town Hall – Owen Road  
All tickets \$10 (entry fee includes afternoon tea). All funds raised will go to the fire relief of the Plains Community Church for those who lost their homes.

## 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