

Pinery fire recovery newsletter



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In this issue

Recovery Centre Manager.....	1
A word on tax.....	1
Fire Impact Card expiry dates.....	1
Weed control after fire	2
Property valuations.....	2
Local Recovery Committee.....	2
CFS workshops for women.....	3
Events.....	3
Contact information.....	4

Recovery Centre Manager

If you have dropped in to the Pinery Fire Recovery Centre at the Gawler TAFE campus, you may have seen Manager Kayelene Hull around. Kayelene (pictured below) and her passionate team pull out all the stops to assist people in their individual journey following the fire. Prior to this, she managed the Sampson Flat Fire Recovery Centre.

Every member of her team brings unique skills, knowledge and abilities. They can visit you in your home, or chat with you either over the phone or in person at the centre.

If you would like to organise a home visit or even just to have a chat, please phone the centre on **0477 744 258**.



A word on tax

Repairing property

Do you receive insurance proceeds to cover the cost of repairs to income-producing property that was damaged in the fire (such as a fence or building used for your business)? If so, the amount you receive should be included in your assessable income to the extent that you can claim a corresponding deduction for the cost of the repairs. This usually means that while the insurance proceeds are taxed, there is a corresponding deduction for the money received being spent on the repairs.

Example – fence damaged by fire

One of your boundary fences is damaged by a fire. You spend \$5,000 repairing the fence by mending it and replacing damaged sections. You receive insurance proceeds of \$5,000 to cover the cost of these repairs.

You are entitled to claim a repairs deduction of \$5,000 for the cost of the repairs and should include the insurance proceeds of \$5,000 in your assessable income. Accordingly, the insurance proceeds have no effect on your taxable income. For more information, visit www.ato.gov.au/individuals/dealing-with-disasters or phone the ATO disaster assistance line on **1800 806 218**.

Fire Impact Card expiry dates

Did you know that Fire Impact Cards have an expiry date? If your card has expired, or is close to expiring, please call in to the Recovery Centre at Gawler TAFE, 43 High Street or phone **0477 744 258** to arrange a replacement card.

Weed control after fire

Many weeds respond positively to fire, especially with competition from other plants now reduced. Lack of surface cover on soils and additional moisture offer ideal conditions for mass germination and the further spread of existing and new weeds.

Two weeds that have taken advantage of the recent conditions are Silverleaf nightshade (tomato weed) and Caltrop. While both weeds can provide surface cover for drifting soils, the advantages of controlling these weeds far outweigh the disadvantages. The advantages are limiting weed spread to clean areas; and decreasing a weed seed bank in the soil, therefore greatly decreasing control costs.

It is easy to locate Silverleaf nightshade (pictured below) and Caltrop post-fire and they are actively growing now. Landholders should inspect their properties and roadsides regularly for both weeds (particularly after rain) and carry out control.

Timely action will reduce the current seed bank and limit the production of the next generation of seeds.



Using hay feed-out and stock containment areas can also reduce the likelihood of weeds being spread throughout the property; monitoring these areas regularly will help locate any suspicious weeds that may germinate.

Many native plants are beginning to re-shoot and will continue to do so for many months – including when the season breaks. However native seedlings and regenerating plants are sometimes hard to tell apart from weeds, so care should be taken to prevent any off-target damage to these plants.

For more information, or a free property visit, phone Natural Resources: Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges on **(08) 8523 7700**, or Northern and Yorke on **(08) 8841 3400**. Alternatively visit www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtof tyranges.

Property valuations

The State Valuation Office, as managed by the Valuer-General, of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, undertakes the site and capital valuations used for rating and taxing purposes by authorities including councils, SA Water and Revenue SA.

In response to the Pinery fire, the Valuer-General has been undertaking site inspections of affected properties within the fire scar area. Properties that have suffered a material loss will have their valuations adjusted as at 25 November 2015 and these changes will be made available to rating authorities to adjust rates for the 2015-16 financial year. Other properties within the fire scar area will also have their values assessed and adjusted if appropriate for the following financial year.

The inspections are underway and should be completed by the end of March. Any changes in value will be advised directly to the rating authorities, including councils.

While every attempt is being made to obtain information in relation to property damage, you may also wish to provide information to the Valuer-General that will assist in the re-valuation process. This can be done by phoning the State Valuation Office on **1300 653 346**, emailing LsqObjections@sa.gov.au or by post to GPO Box 1354, Adelaide SA 5001.

Property owners can also phone the Valuer-General with any queries on **1300 653 345**.

Local Recovery Committee

The Pinery Fire Local Recovery Committee was appointed just days after the Pinery fire. With 25 members, it is a big committee but it has a big task too. Members of the committee come from the communities in the fire area, local councils, a number of NGOs, churches, specialist providers, and from those government agencies best suited to the needs of the area.

You may not be aware of the actions of this committee as members are working behind the scenes arranging support and services. Chances are you may not have connected some activities in your community with the recovery committee. Various community meetings, sessions with psychologist Dr Rob Gordon, men's barbecues, waste management arrangements, financial services, health-

related support and regular recovery newsletters are some of the more public examples of the committee's work. It is concerning that people who know little about the Recovery Committee and the support it provides may be the same people we have yet to reach. If a friend or neighbour could be one of those people, please share this newsletter with them and encourage them to call the Pinery Fire Recovery Centre on **0477 744 258** so that we can let them know of the support on offer.

CFS workshops for women

It is not uncommon for women to remain at home with children while their partners are fighting fires. Women are left vulnerable unless they have an awareness of bushfire safety and the knowledge required to defend their homes and protect their families. Without this understanding, women are more likely to place themselves at greater risk by leaving their homes with their children at the last minute.

The CFS Firey Women workshops cover a range of practical topics and skills in a non-threatening environment. It gives women the opportunity to dive in and learn how to operate a farm fire pump and other firefighting equipment.

Previous participants have found the workshop clear, concise and very practical. They appreciated the first-hand information shared by bushfire victims and left the workshop feeling better prepared.

Times and venues will be determined in response to demand. If you are interested in attending a workshop, please phone CFS Community Engagement Officer Helen Hennessy on **0457 102 151**, email helen.hennessy@sa.gov.au or visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au and then click on Prepare for Bushfire, CFS Community Events, Firey Women for more information. *Image of Firey Women workshops courtesy CFS.*



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.

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, 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
University of Adelaide Roseworthy campus
Register at www.trybooking.com/JZNO

Pinery to Bangor farmers bus trip

Farmers in the Pinery fire area are invited to join a bus trip to visit leading farmers in the Bangor area to see their recovery efforts two years on (fully catered and free to farmers).
Tuesday 8 March.
Bus leaving Hamley Bridge Oval at 8am and returning 10.30pm.
To register call Andrew Kitto on **0409 866 223**.

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.

Horse owners get together

Hear from guest speakers, share ideas and network with other horse owners.

- Thursday 31 March, 7pm
- Thursday 28 April, 7pm
- Thursday 26 May, 7pm

University of Adelaide Roseworthy campus
For more information, email horsesa@horsesa.asn.au or phone Julie on **0402 488 306**. Register at www.surveymonkey.com/r/HDHWDVJ

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

SA Bushfire Recovery Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/SABushfireRecovery

Local Councils

Wakefield Regional Council: (08) 8862 0800
www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au

District Council of Mallala: (08) 8527 0200
www.mallala.sa.gov.au

Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council:
(08) 8842 6400
www.claregilbertvalleys.sa.gov.au

Light Regional Council: (08) 8525 3200
www.light.sa.gov.au

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

State Emergency Relief Fund:
(08) 8463 6405 or email:
StateEmergencyReliefFund.Applications@sa.gov.au

Pinery Fire Relief Appeal:
www.sa.gov.au/recovery (Pinery Fire Appeal)

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

Volunteering

Volunteering SA&NT: 1300 135 545
www.volunteeringsa.org.au

Business support

Rural Business Support: 1800 836 211
www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au

Natural Resources

For assistance with property recovery, pest plant/animal control, revegetation, stock management and whole farm planning.

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

Community support

BlazeAid: 0467 999 909 or 0477 330 488
www.blazeaid.com

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

Insurance

Insurance Council of Australia Hotline:
1800 734 621



**Government of
South Australia**