

# Pinery fire recovery newsletter



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Image courtesy DEWNR

## In this issue

Emilis Prelgauskas .....	1
Fresh lawn adds colour to fire ground ....	1
Revegetating your landscape .....	2
A word on tax .....	2
Have you applied to the SERF? .....	3
Construction information events .....	3
Events .....	3
Contact information .....	4

## Emilis Prelgauskas



Emilis is a key member of the Pinery Fire Local Recovery Committee, lending his expertise as one of the independent advisers helping impacted families with the complexities and processes around rebuilding.

Emilis is also the author of the 'bushfire' section of the Federal Government's *Your Home* manual, 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

He occupies the positions of the state's building energy expert through the State Government Building Rules Assessment Commission; and Sessional Commissioner of the Environment Resources Development Court of South Australia.

Originally trained as an architect, Emilis was part of the Carey Gully crew during the Ash Wednesday fire where part of his home was burnt out. He has been activated into fire grounds as Logistics Manager supporting veterinarians triaging affected animals in 14 events over the past five years.

## Fresh lawn adds colour to fire ground

The Toyota Landcruiser Club helped to bring a fresh patch of green to the fire ground recently when they delivered 500 square metres of lawn donated by the Underdale Bowling Club to families affected by the fire.

It took 45 members of the Landcruiser Club to cut and lift 34 pallets of lawn. These were trucked to Hamley Bridge, where 20 families each received 20 square metres of lawn. Another 15 pallets were delivered to 10 additional families in the area. Landcruiser Club President Darryl Royans (pictured above) said the response from local residents has been one of sincere gratitude and the Club has been pleased to help families re-establish themselves.



Lawn ready to go at Underdale Bowling Club. Image courtesy Toyota Landcruiser Club.

## Revegetating your landscape

The Pinery fire damaged valuable paddock trees, shelter belts, home gardens, scrub blocks and roadside vegetation. Farmers and other landholders are planning to rebuild their properties and many are also thinking about rebuilding the natural landscape.

Areas of native vegetation should be left alone to recover while landholders focus their attention this year on replacing their shelter belts, paddock trees and home gardens.



A group of organisations has come together to provide native plants to fire-affected communities. This Vegetation Recovery group includes the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) / Natural Resources, Trees for Life, Greening Australia, State Flora, Barossa Bushgardens, TAFE SA, Kersbrook Landcare Nursery, Gawler Environment and Heritage Association, Light, Mallala, Wakefield Councils, other landcare nurseries and community volunteers.

During the next few weeks, DEWNR will promote this plant scheme and provide an expression of interest form asking landholders to tell them what shelter belt, paddock trees and other plants they need. They will try to match their needs with available plants. In this first season after the fire, there will be a limited number of native plants available and DEWNR will try to distribute these across the region at no cost. There will also be some garden plants grown by local volunteers.

Be careful not to tackle too much in the first year. Plants require care and maintenance, such as weed control and possibly watering in the first summer. There are organisations offering assistance for planting and there will be details about this in future newsletters.

For further information and advice, phone Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, Gawler on **(08) 8523 7700** or Northern and Yorke, Clare on **(08) 8841 3400**.

## A word on tax

### Depreciating assets

Depreciating assets include such items as farm machinery and equipment, tools, sheds and fencing.

When a depreciating asset is destroyed (including involuntarily, such as in a bushfire) a balancing adjustment event occurs. You need to calculate a balancing adjustment amount to include in your assessable income if you receive insurance proceeds for a depreciating asset that has been fully depreciated. However, you may choose to offset the assessable balancing adjustment amount arising from the destruction of the asset against the cost of one or more replacement assets.

#### *Example – shearing shed destroyed by fire*

Your shearing shed (which has been fully depreciated) is destroyed by fire. You receive insurance proceeds of \$40,000 for the destroyed shed.

As the shed has been fully depreciated, this means that you would have an assessable balancing adjustment amount of (\$40,000 - \$0) \$40,000.

However, if you buy/build a replacement shed for \$40,000, you can choose to offset the assessable balancing adjustment amount (\$40,000) against the cost of the replacement shed (\$40,000). This means that you will not need to include any of the insurance proceeds received for the destroyed shed in your income tax return. However, it should be noted that the opening balance of the replacement shed for depreciation purposes will also be reduced by \$40,000 to \$0 and you will not be entitled to claim depreciation on the shed.

By making the choice to not include a balancing adjustment amount in your assessable income (and reducing the cost of the replacement shed for depreciation purposes) the taxation consequences of receiving the insurance proceeds for the destroyed shed are income tax neutral so that you are put in the same position for tax purposes as before the fire.

For more information, visit [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au), then click on 'individuals' > 'dealing with disasters', or phone the ATO disaster assistance line on **1800 806 218**.

## Have you applied to the SERF?

Mr Joe Ullianich, Chairperson of the independent State Emergency Relief Fund (SERF) Committee, is encouraging people who have suffered injury, loss or damage as a result of the Pinery fire to submit an application to the fund if they have not already done so.

Donations received to the fund to date come to \$2.09 million. The committee has received more than 370 applications and more than \$320,000 has already been distributed.

The application form is available from the Pinery Fire Recovery Centre at Gawler TAFE campus, 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 enquiries, phone (08) 8463 6405, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

To donate to the SERF, please visit the webpage listed above, or visit any branch of the Commonwealth Bank to donate in person. All of the money donated will go directly to people impacted by the fire.

## Construction information events

If you are ready to start thinking about the early stages of rebuilding and everything that entails, you might like to come along to one of the construction information events to be held in March.

These sessions will serve as an introduction to all the elements involved in rebuilding, and connect you with professionals on hand to assist with planning and development processes, building contracts, choosing qualified tradespeople and selecting construction insurance. Some pro-bono assistance will also be available on the night.

Please note the following dates for your diary:

- **Tarlee:** Thursday 10 March, 7pm  
Tarlee Community Hall.
- **Mallala:** Wednesday 16 March, 7pm  
Mallala Institute.
- **Wasleys:** Thursday 17 March, 7pm  
Wasleys Institute - supper room.
- **Owen:** Tuesday 22 March, 7pm  
Owen Institute.

## Events

### 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](http://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, phone Andrew Kitto on **0409 866 223**.

### Kapunda Ageing in Style Expo

Thursday 17 March, 9.30am to 12.30pm  
Soldiers Memorial Hall – Hill Street, Kapunda  
Includes prizes, stalls and free Devonshire tea.  
For information or transport assistance, phone Davina Smythe on **(08) 8525 3200**

### 4her coffee and chat

A time for connection and support. Qualified counsellors will be available on the day.  
Wednesday 9 March, 2pm to 4pm  
Supper Hall – Annie Street, Wasleys  
Includes prizes, stalls and free Devonshire tea.  
For information, phone Mo Shepherd M.B.E on **0452 461 404**. Sponsored by Global Care.

### 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](mailto:horsesa@horsesa.asn.au) or phone Julie on **0402 488 306**. Register at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/HDHWDVJ](http://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](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: (08) 8862 0800  
[www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au](http://www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au)

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

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

Light Regional Council: (08) 8525 3200  
[www.light.sa.gov.au](http://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](mailto:StateEmergencyReliefFund.Applications@sa.gov.au)

Pinery Fire Relief Appeal:  
[www.sa.gov.au/recovery](http://www.sa.gov.au/recovery) (Pinery fire appeal page)

### 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: 1300 135 545  
[www.volunteeringsa.org.au](http://www.volunteeringsa.org.au)

### Business support

Rural Business Support: 1800 836 211  
[www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au](http://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](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au) then click on 'Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges' > '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)

### Insurance

Insurance Council of Australia Hotline:  
1800 734 621



Government of  
South Australia