

Pinery fire recovery newsletter



Issue 11 | March 07, 2016

Image courtesy DEWNR

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A word on tax

Livestock

Insurance proceeds you receive for the loss of livestock are assessable income if you have claimed the cost of the insurance premium as a tax deduction. As a primary producer you can elect to spread insurance recoveries received for the loss of livestock over five years. If you do not elect to do this, the whole amount is taxed in the year of receipt. You can make the election on or before the date you lodge the first return after receiving the insurance payment.

Crops

Insurance proceeds you receive for the loss of crops are assessable income if you have claimed the cost of the insurance premium as a tax deduction.

For more information, visit www.ato.gov.au, then click on 'Individuals' > 'Dealing with disasters', or phone the Australian Taxation Office disaster assistance line on **1800 806 218**.

Fire permits

Officers from local councils, the Country Fire Service (CFS) and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) met with Recovery Coordinator Vince Monterola to confirm how applications for permits to light a fire will be managed.

It is important to balance the concern and comfort of people in towns and farms with the need of farmers to rid their land of tree debris before seeding begins. This has been considered when agreeing on how permits will be granted.

Until the end of the Fire Danger Season on 30 April 2016, an application for a permit to burn must be made to the council fire officer. Officers will use the agreed criterion when considering any conditions to be included on a permit. A note detailing these conditions is being distributed by councils.

Meet Kathryn Bruggemann



Kathryn Bruggemann represents the critical area of education on the Local Recovery Committee and is a resident of the fire-affected area.

Kathryn is the Education Director at the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) and looks after 51 sites, including pre-schools, primary schools and secondary schools.

Kathryn supports school leaders in their recovery process, which, in turn, benefits the staff, young people and families.

New Rob Gordon sessions announced



Psychologist Dr Rob Gordon made a strong impact when he visited the fire area earlier this year to present sessions on wellbeing and share his learnings of 30 years working with survivors of traumatic events. Many people have asked if he will be coming back.

We're pleased to announce that Rob will return on 6 and 7 April to present additional sessions for those who were either unable to attend or would like to hear more of what Rob has to say. Times and venues will be confirmed in future editions of this newsletter.

How the SERF is allocated

The funds of the State Emergency Relief Fund (SERF) are being allocated by the SERF Committee according to the following specific categories.

Category 1: The immediate families of the deceased persons who died in the Pinery fire will receive a compassion and bereavement gift payment.

Category 2: People who have been seriously injured by the Pinery fire and who have an extended stay in hospital will be eligible for a gift.

Category 3: Adults and children whose principal place of residence was destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by the Pinery fire will be eligible – per adult and per child (amount based on the number of adults and children living in affected property).

Category 4: Property owners who experienced infrastructure damage to their house or property as a result of the Pinery fire or households whose principal place of residence suffered infrastructure damage to their house or property will be eligible. Property must be within the Pinery fire footprint. Infrastructure definition includes sheds, water tanks and pumps, fences, farm equipment, etc.

Category 5: a) Households who derive their principal income from the affected property, e.g. primary producers and small businesses will be eligible. b) Sharefarmers who derive their principal income from the affected property will be eligible per property.

Category 6: Minor/Non-structural damage

People who have experienced damage to material items and/or clean up to their principal place of residence within the Pinery fire footprint as a result of the Pinery fire will be eligible per household.

Subject to availability of funds, the SERF Committee may be in a position to consider additional categories.

Note: Individuals/households/families may qualify for multiple categories, depending on circumstances.

To apply visit www.sa.gov.au/recovery (Pinery fire appeal page).

Replaced water meters

A number of water meters were destroyed by the Pinery fire. Since these were replaced, meter readings have been taken so that invoices can be prepared. If a meter was replaced on your property and you have a query about your next water invoice, please phone SA Water on **1300 650 950**.

Cash grants from Tzu Chi

Have you sent in your application yet?

Tzu Chi are providing a generous cash grant to those whose primary residence was lost in the fire or whose house is now uninhabitable. The offer is open to each affected household whether you were an owner/occupier or tenant. Cash cards will be distributed at Mallala Institute: Sunday 13 March, 12pm to 4pm, and 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 (Recovery Assistance page). Email your completed form to cydwang@gmail.com, or post to Tzu Chi Australia - 142 Wright Street, Adelaide SA 5000.

Please note that applications for Wasleys will remain open until 5pm, Friday 1 April, however applications for Mallala have now closed. There will be NO registrations on the day of the events and all applications will be verified through the State Recovery Office.

Regional Capability Community Fund

Emergency Services Minister Peter Malinauskas has announced \$470,000 in grant funding to boost frontline emergency responses in rural, regional and remote communities.

Up to \$2,500 is available to individuals, businesses, community groups and local government for the purchase of items that enhance community capability in fire, flood, extreme weather and other emergencies.

Proposed items must be new (not second hand), fit for purpose and demonstrate value for money. Certain water storage and pumps as well as Farm Fire Units (FFU), Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – and components thereof must comply with the SA Country Fire Service and Primary Producers SA; 'Joint Guidelines for Operating Farm Fire Units'. Response-ready farm fire units must meet the specifications regarding weight and loading appropriate for the intended vehicle.

Applications are open from 15 to 31 March 2016. All successful applicants will be required to demonstrate that they have completed appropriate training before receiving grant funds.

For more information, including frequently asked questions and application forms, visit www.safecom.sa.gov.au, then click on 'Emergency Management' > 'Regional Capability Community Fund'.

Events

Farming after Fire: Pre-sowing strategies to boost yields, business and health.

Wednesday 9 March
Mallala Football Club - 7.30am to 1.30pm (includes free bacon and egg breakfast) OR
Freeling Recreation Park – 2.30pm to 8pm (includes free barbecue dinner)

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.

Pinery to Bangor farmers bus trip

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

Construction information events

An introduction to all the elements involved in rebuilding, with professionals on hand to assist

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.

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**.

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.

Gals aloud

A free workshop and lunch for women to share ideas and provide input into recovery events.
Tuesday 22 March, 10am to 2pm (morning tea from 9.30am). Registrations are essential.

Freeling Community Recreation Park.

To register, visit www.bit.ly/1TTIqLw.

A bus pick-up from your nearest town can be arranged. For more information, call the Pinery Fire Recovery Centre on **0477 744 258**.

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 (SERF):
(08) 8463 6405 or email:
StateEmergencyReliefFund.Applications@sa.gov.au

Pinery Fire Relief Appeal:
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

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 then click on 'Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges' > '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**