

Welcome to Recovery News. This newsletter will provide those affected by the January bushfires with practical information and advice. There will be future editions providing updates as required.



Rebuilding and Revitalising

Mother Nature recently provided a gorgeous backdrop to the rebuilding job in Dunalley.

Xanath and Trevor Newbold's new home is taking shape – and one of their builders took this photo which we thought we'd share with you all as an example of the beauty of our local environment.

Photo by: Kyle Cooper

Community Kitchen planned for school gym

More than \$200,000 of funds and in-kind support have been secured by the Dunalley School Association to build and fit-out a Community Kitchen, planned for inclusion in an extended school gym.

Elizabeth Knox, Chair of the Dunalley School Association, said the project will not only enhance the experiences of the students within the school but also provide the whole community with access to a modern commercial kitchen – particularly until the Community Hall is rebuilt (which may be some time away).

The funds raised to date include a \$100,000-plus donation from a US philanthropic organisation, Give2Asia (backed by the Caterpillar Foundation).

“Schools are the beating hearts of regional communities,” Elizabeth said. “That was one of the most important lessons we learned when our school was burned to the ground by the bushfires – and it was the basis of the decision to permanently rebuild the school on its current site.

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“But a whole school involves community; the way it’s built and operates, the manner in which it reflects what’s beyond the boundary fence, and the enthusiasm with which it welcomes the community into its learning spaces.

“The Community Kitchen is the first step in developing a school that is for the whole of life – a school that generates enterprise, encourages community participation, and has the capacity to be flexible so that people learn through doing, not just through teaching.”

The benefits of a Community Kitchen within the School gym include:

- the creation of a function centre for the community
- a kitchen space for those with local food production businesses
- supporting the School’s partnership with the Bream Creek Farmers’ Market
- a venue for hospitality training, supporting groups such as the tourism industry or Adult Education and
- a communal space for local clubs and fundraising opportunities.

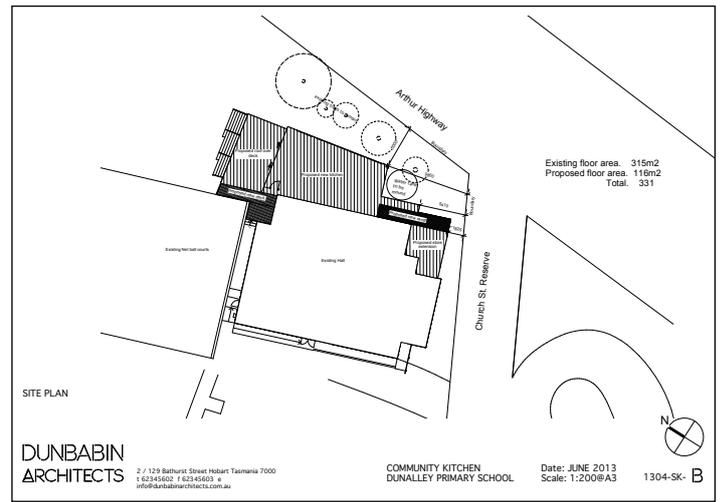


An offer of project management support has been made by the Department of Education, and local architect Mark Dunbabin, along with Bennett Constructions, have been helping with planning and design. The School Association has also been working with a landscape architect to develop a landscaping plan, which includes a large deck facing the bay (in front of the new building); kitchen garden and herb beds, along with orchard trees, which would flow down the slope between the gym and the new playground.

“Let’s open up our school so that it becomes a creative force in the community – not just an educative one,” Elizabeth said.

If you would like to know more about the Community Kitchen, or to provide feedback on the concept plans, contact Elizabeth Knox on **0438 535 282**, or via email on elizabethknox@bigpond.com

More than \$200,000 has been raised by the Dunalley School Association to build a Community Kitchen in the School gym.



Weegena’s ‘Hall to Hall’ fundraiser

A recent fundraiser at the Weegena Hall has raised \$1,600 towards the rebuild of the Dunalley Community Hall. We’re so grateful for the generosity but maybe you’re not completely sure where Weegena is ...

“Weegena is an idea as much as it is a town,” explained Annie Robinson, who, along with her husband Fritz helped organise the event. “Part of the Meander Valley, Weegena is where the dairy farms end and the bush begins.”

Weegena has a handful of houses, a local hall – and a very big heart. Fritz said more than 100 people attended their fundraiser; there were endless plates of delicious food, performances by Celtic musicians and a string quartet (among others), a bouncy castle for the kiddies, and a fundraising raffle.

“Our little community hall is so important to us and we were sad that the people of Dunalley had lost theirs,” Fritz said. “We felt a ‘Hall to Hall’ fundraiser was the way that our community could reach out to the people of Dunalley.”

The Dunalley Community Hall was destroyed in the January bushfires. It is to be rebuilt as a modern, multi-purpose facility.

Picturing a new beginning

Thirty-four artworks have been donated to those rebuilding after the January bushfires courtesy of an exhibition organised by the volunteer art guides at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG).

Jan Peacock, the co-ordinator of TMAG's wonderful guides, said two fundraising exhibitions have been organised to date: *artaid@tmag* raised money for high-end artists who lost (among other property) their studios; and *artaid@schoolhouse* was a secondary exhibition that was held at Rosny Barn and raised funds for the recovery. The artworks donated to local families came from this second exhibition.

"Artists are generally the poorer members of the community and often can't afford to give money to appeals, although they're eager to donate a work," Jan said. "It was that generosity that initiated these exhibitions.

"Anyone involved in the arts knows how crucial it is to the social fabric – to the wider and richer experience of people's lives. This is especially true for those who are now so busy with the practical demands of rebuilding after the bushfires. For those people, we hope that having an artwork will help lift the spirits."

And that's exactly what the donated works are doing. Some of the locals who lost their homes in the fires have had the chance to start decorating their new homes, even though many are still in the planning stage.

For instance Meahd Bradshaw chose an artwork for her mother, Robyn Kim, which reflects Robyn's love of poetry and art.



Jill Edwards

Jenny Daly chose one of several delightful works donated by artist Diane Casimaty. It was particularly special for the Dalys; they previously owned a Casimaty painting but lost it when their Boomer Bay home was destroyed in the fires.

Gai O'Shannessy, an artist herself, was particularly touched by the generosity behind the donated works, as was Megan Thompson, who said she was overwhelmed by their beauty.

Kath Brakey chose a painting with a beautiful water view. The frame is up on the Brakey's new home and Kath chose an artwork that reflects the new outlook.

Ray Hackett is in the rebuilding phase and chose a photo that reminded her of regrowth. Meanwhile Jill Edwards and Sandra Bannister both selected lovely floral pictures.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to the volunteer guides at TMAG and the generous artists who donated their talent to help inspire our recovery: Lynne Beck, Jean Birch, Vicki Chapman, Deborah St Leger, Flo Taylor, Virginia Vaughan Williams, Coralie Walker, Alison O'May, Margaret Parham, Alice Patterson, Jan Peacock, Dawn Ransley, Doreen Gill, Lesley Gould, Margaret Kay, Carolyn Canty, Diane Casimaty, Betty Debnam and Carol Frost.

Gai O'Shannessy



Ray Hackett



Kath Brakey



Sandra Bannister

When money talks.....

A common problem faced by people living in communities affected by disasters is a loss of privacy. It seems like you and your community are under the spotlight – the media, government and others seem to want to know your business. Before the bushfire, it's very unlikely that you knew much about your friends, neighbours and even other family members' financial situation. But since the fires, that may have changed.

Immediately after the January bushfires the community pulled together very strongly around the shared experience of disaster. But everyone actually had a different experience – some people lost everything, some lost some things but not others. After a little while, people start to compare themselves with others – with what they lost, with how they seem to be “coping” and with what they think others might be receiving in terms of help. People can start to judge others based on the assumption that they have had a common experience.

Sadly, this means friendships can be strained, families at odds and communities can become divided, based on people judging some to be “getting more” than others. But we can't know what others are going through. Some people were in hardship before the fires and might have been putting a brave face on but barely holding it together. Others might have lost more than they have talked about publicly. While it can be tempting to look at others and think they got more than you did, or that they got something they shouldn't have, we should remember that we don't really know their situation.

Add the strains and stress of rebuilding lives after the fires to the extra stress of having to deal with government and other organisations about money, and there is no doubt it can all feel very difficult and unfair.

Unfortunately, no-one can turn back the clock and go back to before the fires. And people's financial situation can't be “fixed” by government or anyone else. The money that's available to help people is just that, to help. It can't bring you back to where you were before the fire, but it can give you a hand up.

Help is at hand

One of the trickiest things for most people to do is to ask for help. But recognising that you can't do it all on your own can actually be very liberating, and can speed up your recovery. It is really important to apply for funding, or to access donated goods whenever you can. Remember - assistance programs are paid for by donations and tax dollars, and you probably contributed to such programs yourself in the past. Now is the time to let those assistance programs help you!

Sometimes it's hard to know where to even start making plans for coping with your new situation. That's where financial counselling can help. A financial counsellor can work with you to assess your current situation, plan for how to manage day to day and future expenses, look at different options and weigh them up with you, or identify other services that could help you.

And remember too that you don't have to spend your money on buying clothes or household items – there is a huge range of donated goods that you can access through St Vincent de Paul at the back of the DISH (the old Dunalley Post Office). And don't think it's not for you – there is enough for everyone!

Where to get help

Services to help you

Tasmanian Bushfire Recovery Unit	1 800 567 567
Dunalley Information and Service Centre	6253 5575
Tasman Health and Community Service	6250 9000 or 0438 192 328
Sorell Community Health Centre	6265 6615 or 6265 6601
Community Health Social Work	6222 8354
beyondblue	1 300 22 4636
Parenting Line	1 300 808 178
Kids Help Line	1 800 55 1800
Lifeline	13 11 14
Anglicare Financial Services	1 800 007 007
Hobart Community Legal Service Inc.	6223 2500
Rural Financial Counselling Service Tasmania	6272 5992
Centrelink Financial Information Service	132 300
Colony 47	1 800 265 669

Native regrowth following bushfires

In the last issue of Recovery News we looked at the way weeds respond to fire and the need to plan our attack on this foe before it takes hold. The good news is that native plants also respond to bushfires, if we give them time.

One of the first things to know is that it's important to be patient before removing burnt vegetation. We're starting to see many plants re-grow; by leaving the woody debris on the ground (where it is safe to do so) we're preventing soil disturbance and allowing newly dropped seedlings to grow. This will also suppress weed growth.

Native plants may be regenerating in a number of ways:

Seed release: While fire has destroyed plants, many native species (such as banksias) have woody seed capsules designed to protect seed from fire. The hot temperatures and smoky conditions trigger the seeds to be released from these capsules. Minimise disturbance around the plants and come spring we will see a multitude of seedlings.



Suckering: This is growth from the roots of plants such as white correa and allocasurna species (pictured below). This picture was taken recently at Dunalley beach.



Lignotubers: Seen on eucalypt species, these are dormant buds, insulated underground from the fires.

Epicormic buds: These are buds that are under the bark of some eucalypts and are triggered by the loss of their canopy cover. This is what gives eucalypts that 'hairy trunk' look.



For more information on native regrowth following fires, as well as weed control, contact your local NRM officer at Tasman Council on **6250 9221** or Sorell on **6269 0000**.

The Sorell and Tasman Councils have a variety of useful booklets on restoring gardens and bushland after fires.

These free publications are available from the Sorell and Tasman Council Municipal offices or can be accessed from the Sorell Council website:

www.sorell.tas.gov.au/bushfire-information



Distribution of Red Cross Bushfire Appeal funds

- **Stage 1 Payments** - \$810,000
Involved \$3,000 for every adult and \$1,000 for every child who had lost their primary place of residence. The maximum available to any one household was \$10,000.
- **Stage 2 Payments** - \$1,194,998
For people whose primary residence had been totally destroyed. \$10,000 was provided to owners and \$5,000 to tenants.
- **Stage 3 Payments** - \$373,427
Provided a grant up to \$5,000 for owners whose primary residence or external structures on site had been damaged.
- **Stage 4 Payments** - \$2.46 million available to relieve financial hardship because of the January 2013 bushfires.
 - » 224 applicants (197 interviews completed with 27 awaiting interview)
 - » \$528,502 approved and paid.
 - » \$245,000 allocated for Temporary Accommodation

In addition to this:

- \$1.76 million has been allocated to support community-based recovery projects – these are managed by the Affected Area Recovery Committees
- \$400,000 has been allocated to support the roll-out of *beyondblue's* Child and Bushfire Disaster Response program
- \$300,000 has been allocated to a revegetation project managed by the Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House
- \$1.5 million has been reserved for a minimum of 12 months to address the longer-term needs of individuals and communities affected by the bushfires.

as at 4.30pm 23 July 2013

Safety concerns with TWM brand portable generator

Unsafe portable generators that could cause serious injury or death were sold in Tasmania last January – many, it's believed, to bushfire-affected areas.

The TWM brand portable generator, model number #GEN2500A, was sold with an unsuitable 12V DC socket outlet and plug (used for battery charging). If the battery charging lead is inserted into a 230V socket outlet, the battery clamps will become live; if touched, they could cause serious injury or death.

One of the main concerns is that the pins on the 12V DC plug have an almost identical pin configuration as a standard 230V AC socket outlet. This means the 12V DC plug on the generator's battery charging lead can be inserted into a 230V AC socket outlet. The other ends of the battery charging leads are fitted with alligator clips for connection to battery terminals.

Do not use the 12V DC battery charging leads supplied with this generator. Please return this model of TWM brand portable generator to the place of purchase.

For more information, phone the Workplace Standards helpline on **1300 366 322** or **6233 7657**. You can also email them on: wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au



Thermal imaging camera donated to Fire Brigade

The Dunalley Fire Brigade has received a \$1,800 handheld thermal imaging camera that was originally purchased by the Bushfire Recovery Unit for the Hazell Bros clean-up.

Levi Causon, the Project Manager for Hazell Bros, said this particular colour thermal imaging camera was chosen because it has a screen that detects both surface and under-surface temperatures. This was particularly valuable in the early days of the clean-up, where there was a greater risk of embers and other hot material that was not visible on the surface.

"This decision was made in the initial risk assessment process with the primary goal of protecting safety of site crews and transport operators, as well as the general public who were often in close proximity to the working areas," Levi said.

"It was also of particular concern that no hot embers were disposed of at any landfill sites – which could be a dangerous mix with the potential build-up of flammable gasses associated with these facilities."

Hazell Bros continued to use the unit throughout the project, even towards the end when they worked on large sawdust dumps and other areas that had the potential to be hot underneath.

So what exactly is a thermal imaging camera? According to Wikipedia (so it must be right) thermal imaging cameras render infrared radiation as visible light, allowing firefighters to see areas of heat through smoke, darkness, or heat-permeable barriers. Still confused? All we really need to know is that these cameras help firefighters to find the seat of a fire – and that can be harder than you think, explained Dunalley Fire Brigade Chief, Brad Westcott.

"We've been called to houses, as recently as in the days following the January bushfires, where people tell us they can smell smoke," Brad said.

"We clamber about in the roof cavity and everywhere else, but it can be extremely hard to locate the problem – even worse if the structure is filled with smoke. But the thermal imaging camera will now allow us to detect these hot spots straight away.

"And the true beauty of the unit is that the earlier you detect a problem like this, the sooner you can do something about it. That saves a lot of property – and potentially lives."

Brad added that the camera will also be helpful in detecting hot spots under peat areas; these below-surface fires can smoulder for days before reigniting bushfires.



L-R : Aaron Millar, Andrew Daly, Danny Lacey, Brad Westcott, Ella Taylor and Kevin Daly

Cannery to get a facelift

There has been a recent change in ownership of the building that was once the Dunalley Fish Cannery. The new owners run under the auspices of The Cannery Co., a consortium of local and near-local people with an interest in building a strong and resilient community.

The Cannery has, and will retain, the Dunalley Waterfront Cafe, and there are plans to further develop the building to create a lively hub of complementary businesses. Ben and Steph have closed the café for the months of July/August, during which time the cannery will undergo maintenance and repairs. This will include a new roof, and removal of the sub-standard 'tower' and adjoining skillions.

Future plans include the renovation of other rooms within the Cannery, with a view to attracting more businesses to this pleasant corner of Dunalley. Longer-term plans include utilising some of the space to present interpretation for the township, presenting historic images and film footage that reflect its position as a fishing village, a through-way for boats using the Dunalley Canal, and as the gateway to Port Arthur and the Tasman Peninsula. The owners are happy to chat about any aspects of the development.

Contact person: Kathy Gatenby
email: Kathy@kathygatenby.com
phone: **0405 699 021** or **6268 1613**

New opening hours for Information and Service Hubs

It's business as usual at the Dunalley Information and Service Hub (DISH), although there have been some changes to the opening hours for the hubs at Murdunna and Sorell.

The DISH remains a great place for all of your recovery-related enquiries. Located at 160 Arthur Highway (in the old Post Office), it's open on weekdays between 9.00am and 4.00pm and can be contacted by phone on **6253 5575**.

The Sorell Information and Service Hub is now closed – but residents in the Sorell district are always welcome at the DISH.

Meanwhile there are new opening hours for the Murdunna Information and Service Hub (MISH): a social worker will be on site 11.00am to 2.00pm every second Wednesday or other times by appointment. The MISH will be open only by appointment on all other days. To make an appointment with a social worker or for further information call **6250 9000** or **0438 192 328**.

If you can't make your way to one of the service hubs, Bushfire Recovery Unit staff are also available by appointment if you phone **1800 567 567**.

Keeping kids safe after natural disasters

Family violence can increase after natural disasters. In this third article in a series about the effects of natural disasters on family relationships we look at the impact on children and young people.

Effects on children and young people

Children and young people have a right to grow up in a safe home environment, free from harm including domestic/family violence.

Those who experience family violence may suffer serious emotional, psychological, relational and health effects. Eminent Australian academic Dr Jen McIntosh describes interpersonal violence as “among the most catastrophic of trauma for children”.

Research shows that children who are exposed to violence in the home are more likely to be victims of child abuse; have difficulty learning; exhibit violent, risky or delinquent behaviour; or suffer from depression or severe anxiety. Young children are particularly vulnerable.

Babies and toddlers

Infants and small children who are exposed to violence in the home can experience emotional stress which harms the development of their brains. It can cause ongoing difficulties in managing emotions as well as forming and maintaining relationships. Children's brains are becoming 'hard-wired' for later physical and emotional functioning. Exposure to domestic violence threatens that development.

Behaviour changes may include excessive irritability, sleep problems, emotional distress, fear of being alone, and problems with toilet training and language development.

Children and teenagers

Primary-school-age children exposed to violence in the home may struggle at school and have poor concentration and

lower reading abilities. They may experience psychosomatic illnesses, depression and bed-wetting. Later in life, these children are at greater risk of substance abuse, juvenile pregnancy and criminal behaviour.

Some studies suggest social development is also damaged. They may lack empathy, feel socially isolated, be unable to make friends and exhibit signs of aggression, such as bullying and fighting. One study found that up to 40 per cent of chronically violent teenagers had been exposed to extreme domestic violence.

Getting help

Domestic family violence has no place in a child's life. In Tasmania it is against the law and not tolerated. Seeking assistance is vital where relationships are strained and violence has emerged. Support is available right now if you need it. Pick up the phone and get help.

Family Violence Counselling and Support Service:
1800 608 122

Tasmania Police in an emergency: **000**
Mensline: (24 hour support) **1300 789 978**

www.mensline.org.au

Sexual Assault Support Services: (24 hour support)

6231 1817 www.sass.org.au

Kids Help Line: (24 hour support) **1800 551 800**
www.kidshelp.com.au

Next month we will focus on the impact of family violence on men and seeking support.

Written by Jane Fleming, State Manager of the Family Violence Counselling and Support Service, DHHS

The author acknowledges the work of Women's Health Goulburn and UNICEF Behind Closed Doors in writing this article.

Little drops of water make a mighty ocean

A \$250 donation arrived for the recovery effort recently from a lovely lady named Wendy. We were touched by the note that was attached and wanted to share it with you.

Wendy, who described herself as a 'North Islander', visited the Dunalley area a few weeks ago as part of a coach tour. She said she had been aware of the fires, but was still shocked and saddened at the destruction.

"I realise the enclosed is only a drop in the ocean toward helping those families and individuals affected by this devastation and I can only wonder at how they are faring in this cold start to winter;" Wendy wrote.

"I am grateful for my lovely holiday in Tasmania – my first visit in 30 years – and wish you and the residents well in re-establishing your lives."

The kindness of people like Wendy continues to delight.

To whom it may concern,
Tasmanian Bushfire Relief Fund:

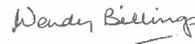
I travelled through the Dunalley area a few weeks ago as part of a coach tour and was surprised and saddened at the devastation caused by bush fires earlier this year.

We, here on the "North Island" were aware of the fires (and indeed I have a house in Daylesford, one of the worst fire areas in this State) but the devastation caused by the Tasmanian fires surely compares with Black Saturday here in Victoria in 2009, thankfully without the same loss of life..

I realise the enclosed is only a drop in the ocean towards helping those families and individuals affected by this devastation and I can only wonder at how they are faring in this cold start to Winter.

I am grateful for my lovely holiday in Tasmania – my first visit in 30 years – and wish you and the residents well in re-establishing your lives.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs.) Wendy Billings

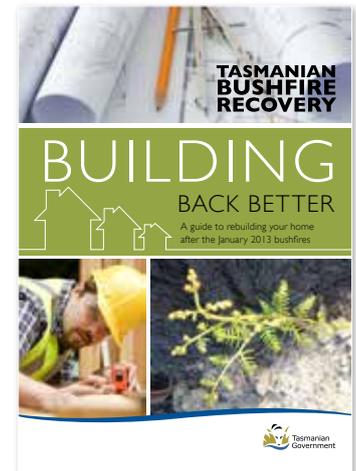
Building back better

Don't forget we've produced the **Building Back Better** guide to help you get through the rebuilding process.

With more and more progress on the rebuilding front, the guide is designed to be useful in helping you to know who to talk to about the many different issues involved in planning, designing, and building a home.

It sets out key issues and steps for you to consider alongside the requirements of your local council, and includes a handy checklist and contact details of all the industry associations that can provide advice.

You can pick up a copy from the DISH, see it on our website, or call **1800 567 567** and we'll mail a copy to you.



Social workers: Helping individuals, families and the community

Most of us know that social workers offer personal support and counselling, but sometimes we forget that they also offer a range of other services, including assistance with completing forms and dealing with government and non-government agencies.

Social workers are a great source of information and support, as well as referral and advocacy. They can visit your home, or contact you by phone. Most importantly, the service is confidential and free of charge.

There's a social worker available near you.

Tasman Health and Community Service

1614 Nubeena Road, Nubeena
8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday
6250 9000 or **0438 192 328**

Murdunna Information and Service Hub

Arthur Highway, Murdunna (Murdunna playground)
6250 9000 or **0438 192 328** 11.00am to 2.00pm every second Wednesday or other times by appointment.

Dunalley Information and Service Hub

160 Arthur Highway, Dunalley **6253 5575**
9.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday

Grants and financial assistance

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payments

The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) was available in the Sorell, Tasman and Glamorgan-Spring Bay Local Government areas and in the district of Ellendale. Payments of \$1,000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child were available to assist people who were adversely affected by bushfires.

The claiming period for this payment is now closed. However, late claims may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

For more information call **180 22 66** (between 8.00am and 8.00pm) or visit: www.humanservices.gov.au/disaster

Customer service staff are available at the following locations:

- **Barrack Street Service Centre**
30-38 Barrack Street, Hobart
8.30am to 4.30pm (Monday to Friday)
- **Sorell DHS Service Centre**
Shop 3, 5 Fitzroy Street, Sorell
8.30am to 4.00pm (Monday to Friday)
- **Tasman Health and Community Service**
1614 Nubeena Rd, Nubeena
8.30am to 4.30pm (Monday to Friday)

Disaster Income Recovery Subsidy Payments

If you experienced a loss of income as a result of the January bushfires, you may be eligible for the Disaster Income Recovery Subsidy (DIRS).

The DIRS is available to help eligible employees, small business owners and farmers in the Sorell and Tasman Local Government areas whose income has suffered as a direct result of the Tasmanian fires. This payment is equivalent to the maximum applicable rate of Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance, and is for a maximum period of 13 weeks from the date of the impact of the fires (or from when your loss of income commenced).

You have until **7 October 2013** to lodge a claim for this payment.

Social workers are available to further explain these payments, and to help you find out if you're eligible; they can be contacted on **180 22 66**. For more information and claim forms, visit an office of the Department of Health and Human Services (such as Centrelink or Medicare), or go to the Department's website at www.humanservices.gov.au/disaster

Interest Free Loans

Businesses directly affected by January's bushfires can access two-year interest-free loans of up to \$500,000 to help them get back on track. Loans between \$50,000 and \$500,000 are available to help businesses to re-establish by covering costs such as repairing and replacing damaged plant and equipment, buildings or other infrastructure as well as assisting with rent and rates.

Businesses wishing to apply for the loans can contact Business Tasmania on **1800 440 026** or email ask@business.tas.gov.au.

Red Cross Tasmanian Bushfire 2013 Appeal

Money donated to the **Red Cross Tasmanian Bushfire 2013 Appeal** will be used to assist individuals, families and communities directly affected by the January bushfires. Australian Red Cross is not deducting any funds from public donations for administration costs or other Red Cross services so that every cent goes to those who need it. The funds raised are being distributed through the independent Tasmanian Bushfire Appeal Distribution Committee (TBADC).

Stage 1 Bushfire Recovery Grants

Every resident of a household destroyed or damaged to the point where it is unliveable is eligible - \$3,000 per adult and \$1,000 per child, to a maximum of \$10,000 per household. To be eligible, your property must be your primary place of residence (i.e. you lived there for more than half the year).

Stage 2 Bushfire Recovery Grants

Homeowners, tenants and community projects are eligible for second stage funding grants.

The grants include the:

- **Destroyed Homes Grant** – \$10,000 per household to assist homeowners with re-housing and replacing household contents where their primary residence was destroyed in the bushfires.
- **Tenant Contents Grant** (including boarders) – \$5,000 per household to assist tenants replace contents where their primary residence was destroyed in the bushfires.
- **Community Assistance Grant** – a minimum of \$1.8 million for community projects which contribute to community cohesion, resilience and recovery.

Affected Area Recovery Committees (AARCs) will work with the Tasman/Sorell and Central Highlands communities on the applications for community assistance grants. The AARCs are made up of local council and community representatives and will provide recommendations to the TBADC on which projects will most benefit the communities.

Grants and financial assistance

Stage 3 Bushfire Recovery Grants

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to help homeowners repair bushfire damage to their primary residence (or surrounding external structures) under the third stage.

\$400,000 was allocated to support the roll-out of beyondblue's Child and Bushfire Disaster Response program.

A further \$300,000 was allocated for a Revegetation and Garden Restoration Program in the Tasman and Sorell areas, led by the Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House.

The focus of the third round of grants has been on easing the personal distress caused by the ongoing sight of fire-damaged property around homes - structures which may include decking, children's play equipment, garden furniture, barbecues, sheds and water tanks.

The grant is only available to owners of a primary residence who continue to live in their residence in the fire-affected community. It is not available to:

- non-primary homes
- businesses (if eligible for Clean-Up Assistance Grants)
- tenants (who may be eligible for the Tenants Contents Grant)
- recipients of the \$10,000 Destroyed Homes Grant.

To apply, eligible residents need to fill in an application form and return it to their local council or the Dunalley Information and Service Hub (DISH).

The form is available online at www.bushfirerecovery.tas.gov.au, local councils' offices or the DISH.

To register interest in, or donate to, the Revegetation and Garden Restoration Program, please contact the Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House on **6253 5579** or email reveg@dunalleytasman.org

Stage 4 Bushfire Recovery Grants

\$2.6 million is available to residents experiencing financial hardship because of the January 2013 bushfires. The funds are being delivered in two phases – Immediate Financial Hardship Assistance and Ongoing Financial Hardship Assistance.

Immediate Financial Hardship Assistance is for lower income earners who need help paying bills (up to \$5,000 available), or are having trouble paying for the removal of damaged vegetation from their property (up to \$2,500 available). \$2,500 is also available to help with extra costs because the fires have forced residents to temporarily move from the area.

Income thresholds to be eligible for immediate assistance are: \$875 gross per week for single residents and \$1,515 for a couple (or shared housing) – with an extra \$34 per week allowed for each child in your home under the age of 16. If you earn more than this limit you are still able to apply for Ongoing Financial Hardship Assistance.

Ongoing Financial Hardship Assistance is for those who are experiencing (or are likely to experience) money pressures as a direct result of the bushfires, for example you can't afford essential repairs to your damaged home; you can't replace lost equipment that you need for your job; or you've lost your job or can no longer work.

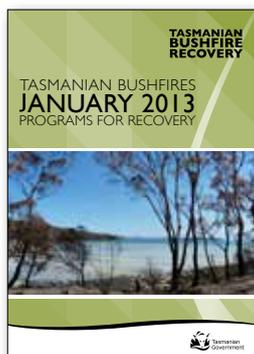
If you wish to apply for either or both forms of assistance, call the Bushfire Recovery Unit on **1800 567 567** to make an appointment to meet with a unit representative. You have until **31 July 2013** to apply.

The road to recovery

The *Programs for Recovery* report has been published, celebrating the successes achieved in the recovery process so far.

The Bushfire Recovery Taskforce has developed the report, which also explains how all of the recovery partners will continue to work together to support a community-led recovery into the future.

The report highlights the inner strength of Tasmanians as they dealt with the fires and their aftermath and shares inspirational stories of rebuilding and revitalising.



The report is available on the Bushfire Recovery Unit website www.bushfirerecovery.tas.gov.au, or you can get a copy at the Dunalley Information and Service Hub (160 Arthur Highway) or by calling the Bushfire Recovery Unit on **1800 567 567**.

Calendar of events

Meals and Conversations for the Whole Community

Rotary Club BBQ Murdunna Playground from 5.00pm every fortnight.

17 August
31 August
14 September

Post-fire Playback Theatre: reflections and recovery

31 August
12.00 - 2.00pm
Eaglehawk Neck Community Hall
Free – performance and BBQ provided
Contact: Sarah **6213 3681**

Cuppa, Craft & Chat

Fortnightly on Wednesdays
11.00am to 2.00pm at the Murdunna Information Centre

Everyone welcome - tea and coffee provided BYO lunch

7 August
21 August

Statistics

The Tasmanian and Commonwealth Governments have so far distributed over \$10.88 million in financial assistance to those affected by the bushfires in Tasmania. This includes:

- **\$828,157** from the Tasmanian Government in Emergency Assistance Grants.
- **\$864,113** from the Tasmanian Government in Housing Assistance Grants.
- **\$7.50 million** from the Commonwealth Government in Disaster Recovery Payments.
- Over **\$1.69 million** from the Tasmanian and Commonwealth Governments in Clean-up and Assistance Grants.

The funding is in addition to the **\$8.8 million** (including pledges) raised to date in the official Red Cross Bushfire Appeal.

as at 4.30pm 23 July 2013



Photo by Charles Tewes

Do you have feedback for us?

This newsletter aims to provide advice and articles that are relevant and useful to you. We welcome your input on the information you would like included in future editions.

If you have any suggestions or know of someone who would like to receive updates on recovery efforts, please email recoverycomms@dpac.tas.gov.au or call **1800 567 567**.

PHONE
1800 567 567

EMAIL
recovery@dpac.tas.gov.au

ONLINE
bushfirerecovery.tas.gov.au

DUNALLEY INFORMATION AND SERVICE HUB
160 Arthur Highway, Dunalley
(the old Post Office)

MURDUNNA INFORMATION AND SERVICE HUB
Arthur Highway, Murdunna
(Murdunna Playground)

TASMANIAN BUSHFIRE RECOVERY