

# Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund December 2010 Progress Report





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All figures used in this Progress Report are correct as at 26 November 2010, unless otherwise stated.

# Messages

## **Pat McNamara, Chair, Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund**

The 2009 Victorian bushfires saw 109 communities across Victoria devastated by one of the worst natural disasters in Australia's history.

In response, we saw an extraordinary outpouring of support from Australia and overseas for the individuals, families and communities directly impacted by the tragedy.

Donors gave so generously that the Red Cross Victorian Bushfire Appeal 2009 was the largest single charitable appeal in Australia's history. Since the bushfires over \$392 million, including over \$9 million in interest, has been raised by the Appeal.

The independent Advisory Panel of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund was entrusted with a huge responsibility to ensure the people who most needed the support received it. We have not taken the responsibility lightly, and have endeavoured to assist as many people as possible while prioritising those most in need.

To date, over 25,000 payments, representing over two thirds of the Fund, have been made for a range of emergency, housing, financial, physical, bereavement, community and psychological support needs. The remaining one third has been committed to community projects and to help individuals and families with their ongoing recovery.

In October 2010, two new individual gifts for financial hardship, covering people in need of permanent accommodation and those who are permanently impaired, have been announced, as well as a broad range of other programs providing ongoing support to children, young people and adults.

As a result, I am pleased that we have been able to commit the entire Fund and thank everyone involved for their hard work to achieve this milestone. It has been an enormous collective effort and I thank Australian Red Cross, the Victorian Government and the Commonwealth Government as well as our many other partners who have worked tirelessly since the bushfires.

In September 2010, the Victorian Government announced a new streamlined Panel comprising Robert Tickner as CEO of Australian Red Cross, Christine Nixon as Government volunteer advisor on Bushfire Recovery, Pam White, ex officio Department of Human Services and myself as independent Chair to oversee the delivery of the remainder of the Fund.

I would like to thank the outgoing Panel members Professor Glyn Davis AC, University of Melbourne Vice Chancellor, Lyn Gunter, former Mayor of Murrindindi Shire and Kerry Murphy, CFA Board Chair for their dedication to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.

Funding has also been set aside by the Panel to help meet medium to long term recovery needs in bushfire affected areas. A new Community Advisory Committee will be established in 2011 to provide advice to the Panel on community recovery priorities.

The Panel will continue to work hard in partnership with bushfire affected communities and I thank donors for their extraordinary contribution to the Fund, which has made such a difference to the lives of so many people.

**Robert Tickner, CEO,  
Australian Red Cross**

Earlier this year we were very pleased to report back to the thousands of Australians who donated to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal 2009 that their donations were being used effectively and had made a real difference to people's lives.

Today, more than 22 months after the tragic events of 7 February 2009, it is difficult to put into words the way in which the sense of humanity displayed by donors has been matched by the efforts of local communities, governments, agencies, local organisations and individuals.

In addition to our support for the Appeal, Red Cross continues to work side by side with the Department of Human Services, Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, local governments, and community health, research and service organisations to help people in their long term recovery.

Our personal support outreach volunteers are visiting people affected by the bushfires to keep them informed about services and talk through issues. It's important and necessary work and we hope it sends a message across those bushfire affected communities that they are not alone.

We're also working with communities to memorialise the bushfires. It has been recognised over time that a focal point is often useful to enable communities to commemorate events that have occurred, as well as acting as a reminder to reflect on the lessons we can learn from such a tragedy.

These public memorials become sacred spaces in the community, places that are set apart as being of special significance – places where people can show their respect and undertake private reflections – or as part of a public remembrance.

I am touched by the many stories we receive from people who have been affected by the bushfires and benefited from the extraordinary generosity of donors.

We are pleased that every cent of the money has been committed as was intended, to assist people and communities affected by this terrible disaster so that they can rebuild their homes and lives.

In addition to the assistance provided directly to individuals and families, the community initiatives established from the Fund will enable recovery well into the future and be a lasting legacy of the spirit of generosity that prevailed following the events of 7 February 2009.



# Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund

The 2009 Victorian bushfires were an event of unimaginable tragedy that forever changed the lives of many people.

Out of the disaster came heartbreaking stories of individual and community tragedy but also extraordinary courage and resilience.

The bushfires resulted in a significant emergency and recovery response in Australia and prompted an unparalleled outpouring of financial support from home and across the globe.

As a result, the Red Cross Victorian Bushfire Appeal 2009 was the largest single charitable appeal in the country's history. The Appeal Fund now stands at over \$392 million including over \$9 million in interest.

The Fund has now been fully committed, with over \$311 million for emergency, housing, financial, physical, bereavement and psychological support gifts and programs for individuals and families and over \$81 million for community strengthening initiatives in bushfire affected towns and communities.

The Fund is continuing to support bushfire affected communities with two new individual gifts and other support programs announced in October 2010, on top of the existing support programs and community initiatives which are rolling out in the medium to long term.

## Helping people and communities in need

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund was established by the Victorian Government, in partnership with Australian Red Cross and the Commonwealth Government, in February 2009.

The independent Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Advisory Panel was set up soon afterwards to oversee the management and distribution of the donated monies.

From the start, the Advisory Panel has put into action the intent of the Fund 'to support individuals and communities in towns and suburbs affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires'.

Every cent of the money donated goes to bushfire affected people and communities with all costs of the Fund's administration covered by the Victorian Government.

The Panel has worked hard to provide financial assistance to those who needed it the most, particularly in the days, weeks and months immediately following the bushfires.



More than 25,000 payments – worth over \$279 million – have already been made to individuals and communities affected by the bushfires to help them get back on their feet and recover from their tragic losses.

In 2010, the Panel expanded its focus to community recovery initiatives in recognition of the longer term nature of recovery and the importance of building strengths and connections within and between communities as part of the healing process.

The Fund is also continuing to direct donated money where it can to help relieve the financial and psychological distress that individuals and families in bushfire affected areas may still be experiencing.

The December 2010 Progress Report provides an update on progress with the Fund and shows how bushfire affected people and communities have benefited from the extraordinary generosity of people from across Australia and all over the world.



Sod turn at the site of the new Marysville Community Centre

### **New Community Facilities For Marysville**

Community and sporting groups in the Marysville and Triangle area will soon have brand new facilities, with the help of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.

The Fund has provided over \$4 million towards the new multipurpose community facility and recreation centre, which is being developed as part of stage two of the Marysville Community Centre.

The project is one example of 219 approved projects that have been identified by local Community Recovery Committees as priorities for their recovery.

The projects will benefit communities throughout bushfire affected areas, covering towns such as Arthurs Creek, Boolara, Carrajung, Clonbinane, Flowerdale, Horsham, Jindivick, Kinglake, Longwarry, Mirboo North, Murrumgee, St Andrews, Strathewen, Toolangi, Traralgon South, Wandong, Whittlesea, Yarram and Yinnar.

# Gifts

The paramount concern for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund has been to help address the needs of individuals, families and communities who were directly affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

The impact of the bushfires went far beyond the events of February 7, 2009. Since that time, people from 109 devastated communities have had to rebuild their homes, lives and neighbourhoods.

While nothing could ever replace the lives lost or the material possessions destroyed in these fires, the Fund can go some way to addressing specific needs that have arisen as a result of the bushfires.

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Advisory Panel considered and developed gifts to ensure that as many people as possible were helped by the Fund, while prioritising those most in need.

The Advisory Panel adopted a set of criteria that reflects donor intent and ensures that payments meet legislative requirements for the distribution of charitable funds.

This criteria has underpinned the Panel's decision making since the bushfires (please refer to page 12 for the criteria).

Gifts from the Fund were identified across four main categories: Initial Emergency Payments, Rebuilding and Recovery Payments, Support Payments and Community Payments.

The gifts developed under the Appeal Fund were designed to:

- assist individuals and families; and
- assist bushfire affected communities.

Almost 80 per cent of the Fund has been committed to individuals and families, with most of those funds already in the hands of bushfire affected people. Over 20 per cent has been committed to initiatives which are helping affected communities in their recovery over the medium to longer term.

## Individual gifts

The Advisory Panel made 43 different gifts available, covering payments to individuals or the family unit and via programs that directly support individuals, groups or families.

Fund payments are focusing on people who have experienced severe financial and personal hardship, in particular, the bereaved, those with a permanent impairment and people who lost the homes they lived in.

In the immediate aftermath of the bushfires, the Panel provided emergency support via Initial Emergency Payments including financial assistance for people dislocated from their homes.

The Panel established Recovery and Rehousing Payments to recognise the hardship experienced by people who lost their homes or had their properties damaged and boarders and tenants who lived in properties that were destroyed.

Individual gifts were also provided for rural landowners and primary producers as well as property owners for the safe removal of hazardous trees from bushfire affected properties. A gift providing free portable toilet and shower units for people living in temporary accommodation was established and has now been extended until March 30, 2011.

The Panel established a range of gifts under the Support Payments program to help with the personal recovery of people and families who may be experiencing emotional and psychological distress and to provide support services and networks within local communities.

As part of this program, the Panel recognised the profound distress and personal trauma experienced by the bereaved and provided immediate and ongoing assistance to these families and individuals in the aftermath of the bushfires. Gifts made available include compassionate financial support and payments specifically for young people.

The Panel has recently announced a package of more than \$5 million to provide additional support and assistance for the bereaved including further financial assistance for children who lost one or both parents, an extension to the grief and bereavement counselling program and a new service specifically aimed at assisting young people who are grieving.

It is clear that intensive support is still needed to help some people return to permanent housing. As a result, in October 2010 the Panel approved a new gift providing payments of either \$10,000 or \$25,000 for home owners who lost their principle place of residence, are not yet in permanent accommodation and are still experiencing financial hardship.

At the same time, the Panel announced a gift for those with a permanent impairment. This gift is targeted towards individuals who are suffering from severe long term physical or psychological injuries, which have had a significant impact on their daily living activities, and who are in financial hardship. Grants of at least \$10,000 assessed on a case by case basis have been made available.

An initial round of applications for both gifts is currently being assessed.

Other new support programs that are assisting people and families include:

- A \$5.6 million package of services to assist young people including outreach, mentoring and counselling services.



L to R: The Hon. Pat McNamara, Chair, Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund and Scholarship recipient Kelly Johnson.

### **Resilient Students Awarded Fund Scholarships**

Almost 60 young Victorians directly affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires have been awarded scholarships through the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.

The special bushfire scholarships were funded through the Fund's Support program. Students who received the scholarships required extra financial support to help them continue with or resume their studies after the bushfires.

Chair of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Advisory Panel Pat McNamara said the students have displayed incredible resilience and determination in pressing ahead with their studies in the wake of such devastation.

"Most recipients were in Year 12 in 2009, which is an extremely important time for any student.

"These scholarships will assist students in taking their studies further and will help alleviate the financial burden."

- \$1 million in neighbourhood level small grants and assistance for Playgroups Victoria to help address the recovery needs of children aged 0 to 5 years.
- A \$250,000 specialist support program through the Julian Burton Burns Trust for people who have suffered a severe burns injury and who still require care.

Free counselling is also available and, to date, over 12,000 vouchers have been issued to 1,984 people. The program has now been extended and 12 vouchers per person are available, double the previous allocation.

Scholarships of \$15,000 a year are being awarded to secondary students to support them through their tertiary and vocational studies.

Funding has been extended to the YMCA school holiday program, which has seen over 24,700 students in bushfire affected areas take part in activities and events during term breaks.

Other programs providing group assistance include the Parenting After Bushfires program, specially tailored for parents and carers to help with family recovery, and Women Gathering After Fires, giving women an opportunity to reconnect and build support networks through a range of locally based activities.

## **Community gifts**

While the Advisory Panel's first priority was to focus on providing support to individuals and families to assist with their urgent and ongoing needs, the Panel was always aware that the Appeal intent also included assistance for communities to recover.

The Panel recognised community rebuilding as an essential part of the healing of individuals and an important way to build on the strengths and connections within affected communities.

A total package of over \$81 million has been committed by the Panel for a range of community based initiatives covering community projects, commemorative events, disaster recovery and medium to long term recovery.

It was important for communities to play a direct role in the rebuilding process: the most successful recoveries occur where affected communities drive the process and bond more strongly as a result.

The Panel set aside \$43 million to help fund a Community Projects program. These projects have been identified by local Community Recovery Committees as important priorities and are being overseen by the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority as part of the overall community rebuilding process.

Community projects are classified into one or more of five categories covering capacity building for future disasters, events and arts programs, community facilities, reconnecting the community with nature and walking and bike trails.

Two hundred and nineteen projects have been approved and are rolling out in bushfire affected areas.

An overview of the Community Projects program plus a list of the projects approved is included in the Appendix on page 25 in this report.

In addition to the Community Projects, up to \$12 million has been committed for the development of community and cultural facilities in Kinglake and Marysville, which are being developed in close consultation with both communities. These communities were amongst the largest areas affected in the 2009 Victorian bushfires and community and cultural projects were identified as being an important part of their recovery.

A cultural and community facility will be built in Kinglake, to support the performing and visual arts and provide facilities for longer term learning and training opportunities, while new cultural, arts and community facilities will be developed in Marysville to support the ongoing recovery effort.

Communities have also benefited from the \$9.1 million Community Assistance Package which has provided additional recovery and rebuilding services and activities through local governments such as grief and trauma support, disaster relief, facility repair and upgrade and community education, training and information.

Local communities have received funding to run a range of commemorative, summer and winter events for community members to gather together and support each other.

Previous disaster recovery experiences indicate that community needs change over time. As such, the Panel has set aside up to \$16 million to assist with medium to long term recovery in bushfire affected communities. In 2011 the Panel will consider how to best use these funds to aid the recovery of people and communities in the coming months and years. It will appoint a new Community Advisory Committee (CAC) primarily made up of community members from bushfire affected areas. The CAC will provide advice to the Panel on the identification and development of future community based projects and other initiatives.

### **Next steps**

The generosity of donors has meant a significant difference has been made in the lives of many people in bushfire affected communities.

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund provides a strong link between donors and recipients, helping people to recover and rebuild their lives and communities.

Fund payments are still assisting people who have experienced severe financial and personal hardship, in particular, the bereaved, those with a permanent impairment and people who lost the homes they lived in. Community projects and individual and group support programs will also continue to roll out over the medium to longer term.

With the Fund now fully committed, the Panel will focus on making sure those commitments are delivered to the people and communities still affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires.



### **Parenting After Bushfire**

*“Parenting is a difficult task at the best of times. To parent after a traumatic event is harder still because we have not been prepared to cope with the effects. This program raised issues and offered strategies that I have successfully used at home.”*

Program participant, Kinglake

After the 2009 Victorian bushfires, many parents and carers in affected communities were faced with challenges they had never experienced before. Caring for their children who had been affected by the fires either directly or indirectly was one of those.

Recognising the challenges these families faced, the Parenting Research Centre and the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health were engaged by the Department of Human Services to develop a specially tailored parenting program funded by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund's Support program.

The Program supports parents to:

- build problem solving skills
- plan activities that they and their children can enjoy
- develop supportive connections with other people and local services
- manage feelings of distress that they and their children may be experiencing, and
- develop ways of thinking that are helpful and calming.

[www.parentingafterbushfire.net.au](http://www.parentingafterbushfire.net.au)

# Financials

Since the 2009 Victorian bushfires, more than \$392 million, including over \$9 million in interest, has been provided to the Appeal Fund.

Every cent is being used to support individuals and communities affected by the 2009 bushfires and all costs of the Fund's administration are covered by the Victorian Government.

The Fund is now fully committed with:

- over \$311 million assisting affected individuals and families; and
- over \$81 million for community initiatives.

To date the following has been paid out:

- Over \$279 million representing 25,297 payments. Of this, almost \$262 million has been paid to individuals and families across three broad categories – Initial Emergency Payments, Rebuilding and Recovery Payments and Support Payments.
- The remaining committed funds of approximately \$113 million will continue to be paid as individuals apply for the new gifts, programs and projects roll out and milestones are met.

When the Advisory Panel has committed funds for a gift it makes an informed estimate of the likely total cost. Sometimes the estimated amount committed for a gift type will be lower than what is required and the Advisory Panel may endorse an increase in the amount of funds committed.

Alternatively, sometimes an amount committed for a gift may not be fully expended and in those circumstances the balance of any funds that remain is directed towards other gifts where it is most needed, as determined by the Panel.

The Panel has monitored expenditure against predicted estimates since the Fund's inception. As many gifts have now closed the Panel has reviewed the amounts committed and has made a number of adjustments to ensure the Fund is fully committed and all of the donated monies will be used to assist bushfire affected people. These adjustments have not affected anyone's eligibility for a gift.

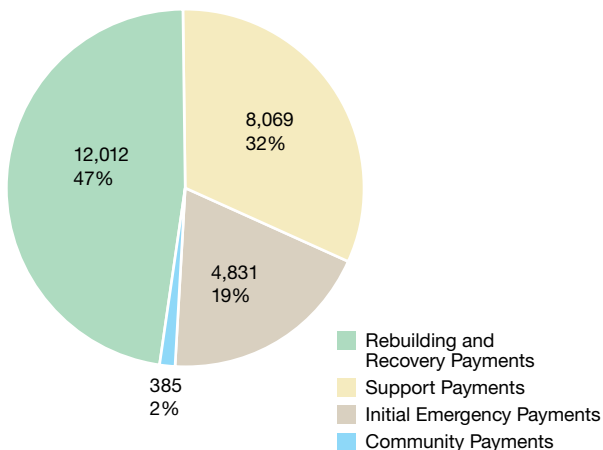
Reallocated funds have been used to develop a number of new gifts including payments for financial hardship and support programs for children and young people and to extend existing programs such as the YMCA school holidays program.

Where gifts have closed and no further applications are expected, estimates have been adjusted to match actual expenditure.

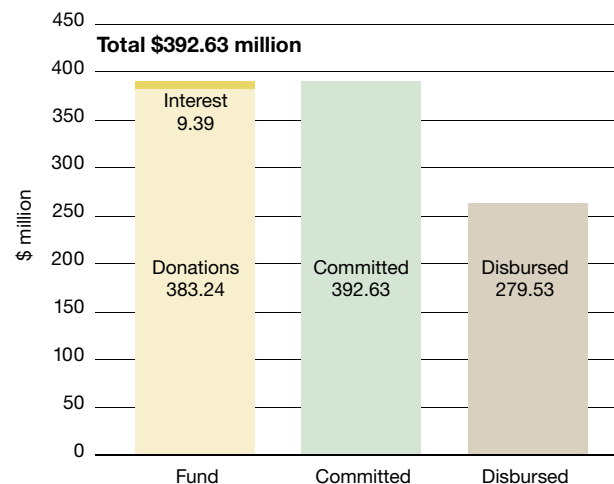
The new estimates have been outlined individually in the Payments Summary section of this report (pp 14 to 21).

## Number of Payments

**Total Number of Payments = 25,297**



## Appeal Fund Distribution



# Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Payment Estimates to Individuals by Local Government Area

**As at 11 November 2010**

Payments to individuals within communities reflect the level of devastation in those areas. For example, in the Murrindindi Shire, where 94 people lost their lives and more than 1200 properties were destroyed, the Fund has paid more than \$138 million in total to individuals.

Individuals in other badly affected areas such as LaTrobe (\$23 million), Nillumbik (almost \$20 million), Mitchell (almost \$17 million) and Yarra Ranges (over \$19 million) have also received significant support from the Fund.

## Estimate of Gifts by Local Government Area (\$ million)



Figures provided are estimates only, and exclude some payments administered by other agencies. eg. Psychological Support programs, School Holiday program, etc. However, the following gifts are administered by other agencies and have been included: Community Projects Initiatives (State Wide Plan), Community Winter Events, Community Summer Events, Commemorative Events, Local Government Disaster Assistance.

Figures from Rural Finance Victoria have been incorporated (data as at 30 June 2010 and sourced through the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority).

Figures exclude GST where applicable.

Figures provided account for 93 per cent of total gifts paid to 11 November 2010.

# Fund Payments

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund has made payments based on the following four categories:

- Initial Emergency Payments
- Rebuilding and Recovery Payments
- Support Payments
- Community initiatives

All payments made under these categories are outlined in the following section.

Gifts under the Initial Emergency Payments and Rebuilding and Recovery Payments were available until 31 December 2009 (with consideration given to applications based on exceptional circumstances past this date). Gifts for the Safe Removal of Hazardous Trees remained open until 30 June 2010, after an extension from the original closing date of 28 February 2010.

In October 2010, the Panel announced two new individual gifts: a \$14 million gift for home owners who lost their principle place of residence, are not in permanent accommodation and are suffering financial hardship (please note the commitment has since been increased to \$15.69 million as additional funds have become available as a result of interest paid to the Fund); and a \$3.5 million permanent impairment gift for individuals who are suffering from long term physical or psychological injuries and who are in financial hardship. The Panel has also announced a range of new, and an extension to some existing, support gifts and programs. It should be noted that the majority of individual gifts have closed.

Given this, the Panel has reviewed estimates in light of the amounts dispersed to date and the numbers of people or families eligible for gifts. As a result it has re-estimated gift amounts and these are outlined in this section. Where applicable, the gifts include the original commitment and the adjusted commitment.

At the time of publishing, the initial round of financial hardship applications are being assessed with payments for eligible applicants commencing in December 2010. Other support gifts and programs, as well as community initiatives, will continue to be paid in the medium to longer term.

## Criteria

To ensure funds were disbursed consistent with the Appeal's intent, the expectations of donors and the requirements of charitable tax law, a set of principles and a list of criteria for payments were developed by the Advisory Panel in consultation with the Australian Taxation Office.

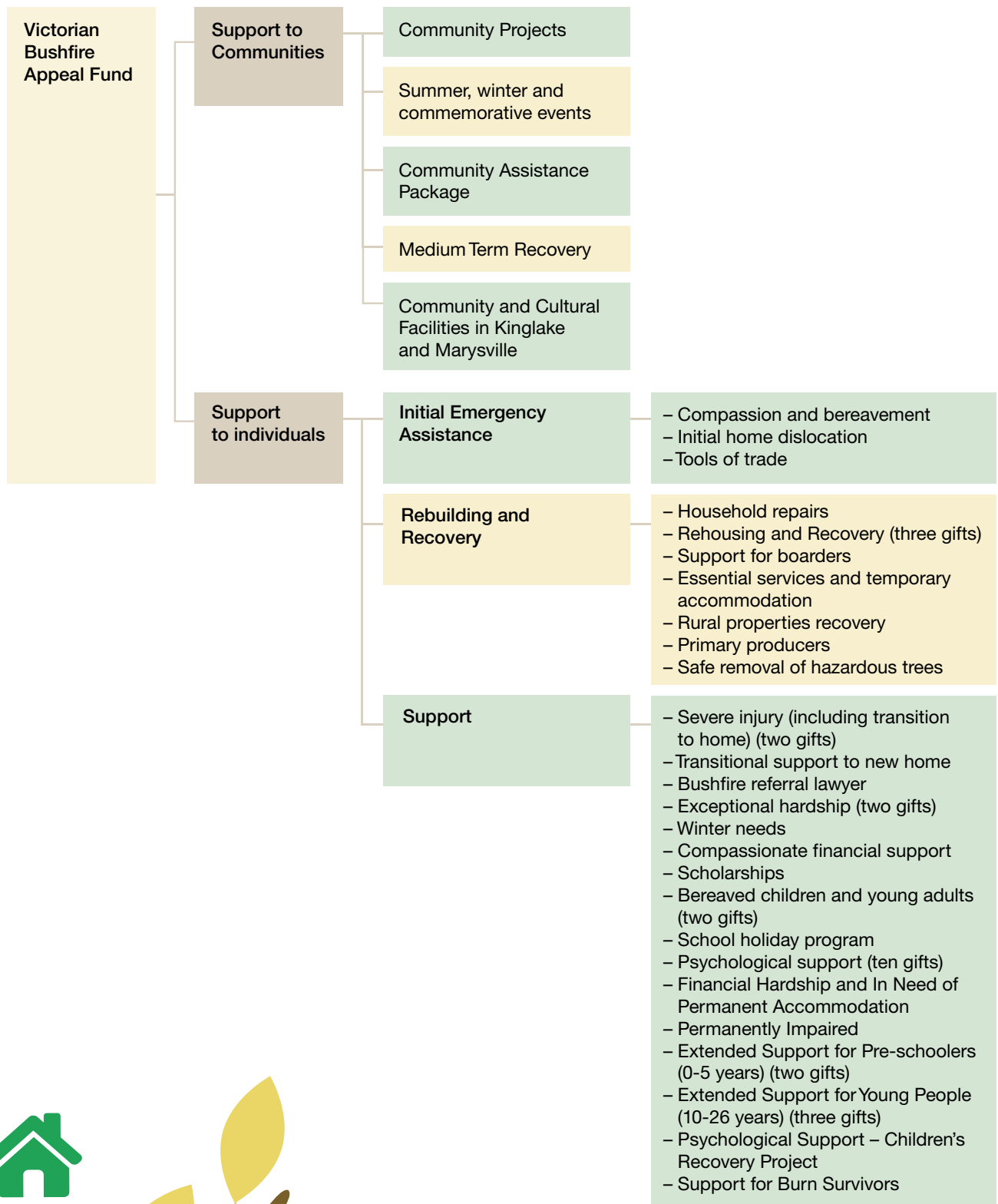
The following principles were established to guide the Panel in distributing the Fund:

- assisting people in rebuilding their lives;
- distributing the money fairly and equitably taking into account the extent of loss suffered by individuals and communities;
- providing for emergency, short term and long term support;
- ensuring that no one would gain an undue financial advantage from donated money;
- ensuring there would be appropriate community involvement in decision making where funds are used for rebuilding communities; and,
- ensuring that application and disbursement processes would be as swift and responsive as possible to ensure those most in need receive support, while also being rigorous enough to ensure funds are distributed properly.

Any gift proposals approved by the Panel must meet the following criteria:

- be consistent with the Appeal's intent;
- meet a priority need;
- provide assistance to individuals and communities;
- align with the expectations of affected individuals and communities;
- be in accordance with Commonwealth legislation for the use of charitable funds;
- not unnecessarily duplicate other funding and not be a core responsibility of government;
- be effectively and efficiently delivered, while adequately managing risk;
- contribute significantly to immediate, short, medium or long term outcomes for individuals and/or communities; and
- align with donor expectations.

# Overview of Support Provided to Individuals and Communities



# Payments Summary

## Initial Emergency Payments

### Compassion and Bereavement

To provide immediate support to those families who lost loved ones in the 2009 Victorian bushfires (closed).

**Gift amount:** \$10,000 for next of kin

Announced	12 February, 2009
Original commitment	\$1.74 million
Adjusted commitment	\$1.77 million
Disbursed	\$1.77 million
No of Payments	175

### Initial Home Dislocation

Funding for people whose principal place of residence was destroyed, or they were otherwise unable to return home for at least seven days (closed).

**Gift amount:** \$5000 per household, plus \$2000 for each person over 18 living in an eligible household, plus \$1500 per child under 18 living in the eligible household

Announced	12 February, 2009
Original commitment	\$30.0 million
Adjusted commitment	\$27.52 million
Disbursed	\$27.52 million
No of Payments	4,273

### Tools of Trade

Payment to assist people who lost equipment vital to their trade and employment and were an employee working for a registered business (closed).

**Gift amount:** \$5000 lump sum

Announced	25 February, 2009
Original commitment	\$1.50 million
Adjusted commitment	\$1.51 million
Disbursed	\$1.51 million
No of Payments	383

## Rebuilding and Recovery Payments

### Household Repairs

A short term measure to help people affected by the bushfires make minor repairs to properties damaged by fire, water or smoke. On 12 March, 2009, this was expanded to include payments to landlords of tenanted properties, so that emergency repairs could be made to allow tenants to reoccupy their homes (closed).

**Gift amount:** \$3000 lump sum

Announced	25 February, 2009
Original commitment	\$2.36 million
Adjusted commitment	\$2.78 million
Disbursed	\$2.78 million
No of Payments	931

### Rehousing and Recovery: destroyed properties

Payment to home owners whose principal place of residence was destroyed by the bushfires. Please note this gift includes payments for Sole asset and Houses under construction. As part of this gift, the Panel also assisted people who lived in Other structures which were non standard dwellings, such as sheds, caravans or granny flats. (closed).

**Gift amount:** \$35,000 lump sum plus \$15,000 contents payment; plus a further needs based payment of up to \$50,000. A lump sum payment of \$15,000 was made available for Other Structures.

Announced	11 March, 2009
Original commitment	\$119.0 million
Adjusted commitment	\$111.59 million
Disbursed	\$111.59 million
No of Payments	3,936

### Rehousing and Recovery: damaged properties

Payment to people whose principal place of residence was damaged by the bushfires. Up to \$15,000 was available for the repair or replacement of other external structures including sheds (closed).

**Gift amount:** Up to \$15,000 for the repair or replacement of other external structures, plus a further needs based payment of up to \$20,000.

Announced	11 March, 2009
Original commitment	\$22.5 million
Adjusted commitment	\$30.99 million
Disbursed	\$30.99 million
No of Payments	2,252

### Rehousing and Recovery: tenant properties

Payment to tenants, whose rented property was destroyed to assist with the replacement of lost or damaged contents (closed).

**Gift amount:** \$15,000 lump sum

Announced	11 March, 2009
Original commitment	\$9.0 million
Adjusted commitment	\$6.65 million
Disbursed	\$6.65 million
No of Payments	480

### Support for Boarders to Rehouse

Assistance for people renting a single room in a property (closed).

**Gift amount:** \$5000 for less than two people and \$7,500 for three or more people.

Announced	28 June, 2009
Original commitment	\$0.25 million
Adjusted commitment	\$0.44 million
Disbursed	\$0.44 million
No of Payments	90

### Essential Services Temporary Accommodation

Provision of essential services such as toilets and showers to people whose principal place of residence was destroyed in the 2009 Victorian bushfires and are living in temporary accommodation. This gift has been extended until March 30, 2011.

**Gift amount:** Support provided on a case by case basis.

Announced	13 June, 2009
Original commitment	\$11.0 million
Adjusted commitment	\$8.50 million
Disbursed	\$4.58 million
No of Payments*	28

### Rural Property Recovery Assistance

Support for rural landowners, who suffered hardship or distress due to damage caused to rural properties of more than two hectares (ha) (closed).

**Gift amount:** Up to \$5000

Update Announced	20 April, 2009; extension to 2ha or more on 16 July 2009
Original commitment	\$9.0 million
Adjusted commitment	\$8.14 million
Disbursed	\$8.14 million
No of Payments	1,702

\* Please note payments are made to organisations to deliver a range of services to bushfire affected individuals and communities.

## Primary Producers Repair and Restoration

To assist and relieve the stress of primary producers who have suffered loss and damage to their properties and farming activities (closed).

**Gift amount:** Financial support of \$10,000 for primary producers not eligible for Commonwealth assistance (i.e. less than 51 percent of income derived from farming activities); \$5000 for those who received Commonwealth assistance.

Announced	17 September, 2009
Original commitment	\$7.0 million
Adjusted commitment	\$5.64 million
Disbursed	\$5.64 million
No of Payments	745

## Safe Removal of Hazardous Trees

To help residents in bushfire affected areas meet the cost of assessing and removing hazardous trees on their private properties (closed).

**Gift amount:** Up to \$4,000 per household

Announced	8 September, 2009
Original commitment	\$6.0 million
Adjusted commitment	\$6.34 million
Disbursed	\$6.34 million
No of Payments	1,848

## Support Payments

### Transitional Support for Homeowners and Tenants

Support for the transition to a new home for home owners whose property was destroyed and for boarders and tenants where the property they resided in was destroyed (closed).

**Gift amount:**

- Homeowners – \$10,000 gift for singles and couples, \$15,000 per family of three or more
- Tenants and boarders – \$5,000 per home for up to two residents and \$7,500 per home for three or more residents

Announced	28 June, 2009
Original commitment	\$23.0 million
Adjusted commitment	\$16.84 million
Disbursed	\$16.84 million
No of Payments	1,636

### Financial Hardship and In Need of Permanent Accommodation

Assistance for people who lost their principle place of residence in the 2009 Victorian bushfires, who are not yet in permanent accommodation and are experiencing financial hardship. Please note the Fund received a further interest payment in November 2010 and the Panel has decided to commit additional funds to this gift in anticipation of high levels of need. This gift is open for applications until 15 April 2011. At the time of publishing, initial applications were being assessed for this gift.

**Gift amount:**

Announced	29 October, 2010
Original commitment	\$14.0 million
Adjusted commitment	\$15.69 million
Disbursed	\$0.0 million
No of Payments	0

## Exceptional Hardship

Financial support to individuals and small business owners who faced immediate hardship, distress or misfortune as a result of their significant contribution to the bushfire effort (two gifts) (closed).

**Gift amount:** Up to \$8000

Announced	17 March, 2009
Original commitment	\$0.8 million
Adjusted commitment	\$1.37 million
Disbursed	\$1.37 million
No of Payments	226

## Severe Injury

Support for people with a severe injury who were hospitalised and required extended hospitalisation and/or surgery (closed).

**Gift amount:** \$7500 lump sum

Announced	12 February, 2009
Original commitment	\$1.2 million
Adjusted commitment	\$1.35 million
Disbursed	\$1.35 million
No of Payments	179

## Severe Injury Transition to Home

Lump sum payment to the severely injured who had a prolonged stay in hospital. An additional payment was also made available for those who required specialist support to return to home after hospital (closed).

**Gift amount:** \$50,000 lump sum plus up to \$50,000 based on need for specialised support (such as home and car modifications), for those who are eligible.

Announced	22 April, 2009
Original commitment	\$2.0 million
Adjusted commitment	\$1.9 million
Disbursed	\$1.9 million
No of Payments	39

## Compassionate Financial Support

Support for next of kin suffering financial hardship as a result of losing a loved one in the 2009 Victorian bushfires. Please note that while this gift is closed, at the time of publishing this Report, late applications are still being considered on a compassionate basis.

**Gift amount:** Up to \$75,000

Announced	12 November, 2009
Original commitment	\$10.85 million
Adjusted commitment	\$5.5 million
Disbursed	\$5.2 million
No of Payments	169

## Permanently Impaired

Support for people with the most severe permanent impairments (either physical or psychological) sustained as a direct result of the 2009 Victorian bushfires and who continue to experience financial hardship. This gift is open for applications until 28 February 2011. At the time of publishing, initial applications were being assessed for this gift.

**Gift amount**

Announced	29 October, 2010
Original commitment	\$3.5 million
Disbursed	\$0.0 million
No of Payments	0

## Support for Burn Survivors

A specialist support program managed by the Julian Burton Burns Trust for people who have suffered a severe burns injury and who are still needing to receive care.

**Gift amount:**

Announced	29 October, 2010
Original commitment	\$0.25 million
Disbursed	\$0.0 million
No of Payments*	0

\* Please note payments are made to organisations to deliver a range of services to bushfire affected individuals and communities.

## Winter Needs

Assistance for people where the principal home was destroyed or damaged to assist with the purchase of items such as blankets, clothing, fuel and the like (closed).

**Gift amount:** \$2000 per household

Announced	13 May, 2009
Original commitment	\$8.0 million
Adjusted commitment	\$8.38 million
Disbursed	\$8.38 million
No of Payments	4,223

## Scholarships

Three rounds of scholarships will be awarded for bushfire affected students to undertake tertiary or vocational education. The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund made payments directly to first round recipients for their first year (in 2010). Future scholarship payments including second and third round disbursements will be made by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development which is managing the overall program (including the balance of the \$5.5 million set aside under the gift) on the Fund's behalf under a Memorandum of Understanding.

**Gift amount:** \$15,000 per student per annum for the duration of the course of study

Announced	12 November, 2009
Original commitment	\$3.0 million
Adjusted commitment	\$5.5 million
Disbursed	\$5.5 million
No of Payments	110

## Bereaved Children and Young Adults

Up front payments and establishment of a trust for bereaved children 0 to 18 years of age (one gift) and support of dependent young adults 18 to 26 years of age and above (one gift). This gift includes various payments made to individuals and State Trustees.

**Gift amount:** Assistance provided based on individual need

Announced	4 June, 2009
Original commitment	\$10.5 million
Disbursed	\$5.51 million
No of Payments	82

## School Holiday Programs

Funding for the YMCA to implement school holiday programs for primary and secondary school students in bushfire affected areas. The Advisory Panel has extended assistance to this program. These programs will continue to run into 2011.

**Gift amount:**

Announced	4 June, 2009
Original commitment	\$5.0 million
Adjusted commitment	\$6.47 million
Disbursed	\$2.80 million
No of Payments*	8

## Psychological Support – Phase 1

This gift provides individuals with a variety of psychological support services and community based programs, including youth focused programs. These programs will continue to run into 2011. The gift includes the following services and support:

– Counselling Vouchers	\$3.5 million
– Additional Youth Services	\$4.6 million
– Grief and Bereavement Support Youth	\$0.35 million
– Support Groups – Bereaved	\$0.7 million
– Ongoing Support for Bereaved	\$0.83 million

**Gift amount:**

Announced	2 July, 2009
Original commitment	\$8.8 million
Adjusted commitment	\$9.98 million
Disbursed	\$2.78 million
No of Payments*	1,317

## Psychological Support – Phase 2

To provide support for older people, families, men and women, who may be experiencing stress, trauma and isolation, to cope, rebuild support networks and reconnect with their communities. These programs will continue to run into 2011. The gift includes the following services and support:

- \$1.5 million for Parent Information and Support Groups to assist parents to support their children who may be experiencing a range of distressed responses such as grief, loss and trauma;
- \$1.5 million for health and wellbeing activities for older people to support better connections with their communities and each other and to promote positive mental health and improve their physical health and well being;
- \$0.80 million for women and men to take respite at organised retreats that assist them to develop new networks, share experiences and learn new coping skills;
- \$0.25 million for women to build leadership and coping skills, build new networks and reconnect with their community and each other; and
- \$0.36 million to assist men to reconnect and re-engage with each other and their community through skills, knowledge building and information based activities.

### Gift amount:

Announced	9 October, 2009
Original commitment	\$4.41 million
Disbursed	\$1.61 million
Number of Payments*	76

## Psychological Support – Children’s Recovery Project

To help relieve the distress of children and young people by identifying potential difficulties they may be experiencing after the bushfires and to provide the appropriate referral pathway for access to treatment and support as necessary.

### Gift amount:

Announced	July 2010
Original commitment	\$1.0 million
Disbursed	\$0.59 million
No of Payments*	3

## Extended Support for Young People (10-26 years)

Extended support for up to an additional one year to assist in the recovery of young people aged 10 to 26 years impacted by the bushfires.

Part A – Youth outreach and support	\$0.97 million
Part B – Youth counselling	\$2.31 million
Part C – Mentoring program for ‘at risk’ youth	\$2.40 million

Part A is a targeted extension of youth outreach services currently funded under Psychological Support – Phase 1. This new funding will extend the program for 12 months until the end of 2012. Parts B and C are two year programs.

### Gift amount:

Announced	29 October, 2010
Original commitment	\$5.68 million
Disbursed	\$0.0 million
No of Payments*	0

\* Please note payments are made to organisations to deliver a range of services to bushfire affected individuals and communities.

### **Extended Support for Pre-schoolers (0-5 years)**

Assistance to help address the recovery needs of children aged 0 to 5 years from fire affected communities including neighbourhood level small grants and Playgroups Victoria support programs. These programs will commence in 2011 and run for two years.

#### **Gift amount:**

Part A – Neighbourhood level Small Grants	\$0.32 million
Part B – Play Therapists for Playgroups	\$0.67 million
Announced	29 October, 2010
Original commitment	\$0.99 million
Disbursed	\$0.0 million
No of Payments*	0

### **Bushfire Referral Lawyer**

Provide legal advice and support to bushfire affected people through the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH). This project has now been completed.

#### **Gift amount:**

Announced	October 2009
Original commitment	\$0.04 million
Disbursed	\$0.04 million
No of Payments*	1

### **Community Payments**

#### **Community Projects program**

Assistance provided to bushfire affected communities for community projects which have been identified by local Community Recovery Committees as priorities for their recovery. Please note the majority of projects were in the planning and contracting phase at the time the Report was published and funding will be spent as projects roll out and milestones are met.

#### **Gift amount:**

Announced	October 2009
Original commitment	\$43.0 million
Disbursed	\$6.74 million
No of Payments*	136

#### **Community Assistance Gift (formerly Local Government Disaster Assistance and Recovery Services Gift)**

To assist bushfire affected councils to deliver disaster related services that directly benefit residents. Assistance provided to local governments through this payment is for works in addition to the Community Recovery Plans.

#### **Gift amount:**

Announced	7 April, 2009
Original commitment	\$9.10 million
Disbursed	\$9.10 million
No of Payments	29

## Winter Community Events

To help relieve the psychological distress of communities in bushfire affected areas during winter and promote positive well being over the winter months (completed).

**Gift amount:** Between \$5,000 and \$25,000 per affected community for winter activities based on need. A \$500,000 central fund for infrastructure such as heaters and other temporary facilities.

Announced	4 June, 2009
Original commitment	\$0.71 million
Adjusted commitment	\$0.61 million
Disbursed	\$0.61 million
No of Payments*	165

## Summer Community Events

To help relieve the psychological distress of communities in bushfire affected areas over the summer months and promote positive well being over the Christmas and New Year period (completed).

**Gift amount:** Between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per affected community for summer and Christmas events based on need.

Announced	14 December, 2009
Original commitment	\$0.29 million
Adjusted commitment	\$0.24 million
Disbursed	\$0.24 million
No of Payments*	26

## Commemorative Events

Funding for community based commemorative events in 2010, such as memorial services to acknowledge the 2009 Victorian bushfires. The Advisory Panel has extended this program.

**Gift amount:** A needs based commitment of between \$10,000 and \$30,000 across all the Community Recovery Committees.

Announced	14 December, 2009
Original commitment	\$0.57 million
Adjusted commitment	\$0.87 million
Disbursed	\$0.57 million
No of Payments*	18

## Medium to Long Term Recovery

Funding has been set aside to help meet medium to long term recovery needs in bushfire affected areas, with the new Community Advisory Committee to be established to provide advice to the Advisory Panel on community recovery priorities.

**Gift amount:**

Announced	29 October, 2010
Original commitment	\$16.0 million
Disbursed	\$0.0 million
No of Payments*	0

## Community and Cultural Facilities in Kinglake and Marysville

Assistance for new community and cultural facilities in Kinglake and Marysville, both of which are being developed in close consultation with the two communities.

**Gift amount:**

Announced	29 October, 2010
Original commitment	\$11.59 million
Disbursed	\$0.45 million
No of Payments*	11

\* Please note payments are made to organisations to deliver a range of services to bushfire affected individuals and communities.

# Fund Management

## Structure of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund

The independent Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Advisory Panel is chaired by The Hon. Pat McNamara, former Deputy Premier of Victoria.

Other Advisory Panel members are:

- The Hon. Robert Tickner, CEO, Australian Red Cross;
- Christine Nixon, Government volunteer advisor on Bushfire Recovery; and
- Pam White, ex officio, Department of Human Services.

The former Governor of Victoria, John Landy AC CVO MBE, was a member and founding Chair of the Panel until September 2009.

From September 2010 governance arrangements of the Fund were streamlined and Professor Glyn Davis AC, Vice Chancellor, University of Melbourne, Lyn Gunter, former Mayor of Murrindindi Shire and Kerry Murphy, Chair of the Country Fire Authority, finished their tenure.

All Panel members offer their time on a voluntary basis and are not paid by the Fund. Supporting the Panel is the Secretariat and the Implementation Unit provided by the Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS). The Secretariat focuses on policy development for types of payments, liaison with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and stakeholder relationships. The Implementation Unit is responsible for assessing applications, making payments and working with DHS case managers to assist bushfire affected people.

A new Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be established in 2011. The CAC will be primarily made up of members from bushfire affected areas and will provide advice to the Panel on the identification and development of future community based projects and other initiatives designed to assist medium to long term recovery.

## Administration of donated money

Funds donated through Australian Red Cross and all other contributions including interest are held in a separate trust account established by the Victorian Government. These funds are being administered and distributed through DHS at the direction of the Advisory Panel. All costs in administering the Fund have been met by the Victorian Government.

## Audit process and outcomes

The administration of funds has several levels of audit accountability to ensure monies are paid and used appropriately.

Independent auditors were appointed by Australian Red Cross to audit all appeal monies received by it and transferred to the Trust Account.

Independent auditors have also been appointed by DHS to conduct periodic reviews of claims and assurance on the adequacy of internal control structures established in respect of the collection, disbursement and investment of the Trust account monies; over the management of sensitive and personal information; and to provide any other advisory or assurance services necessary to support probity and transparency around the expenditure of Fund monies.

The Victorian Auditor-General audits the operations of the Trust account as part of the annual audit of the financial statements of DHS. The Auditor-General also receives reports from the Fund's independent Auditor.

# Partners

## Freedom of Information requests

A small number of requests have been received under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)*. Requests received by the Secretariat and DHS are handled in accordance with principles of transparency and good governance underpinning the FOI Act. The FOI Act provides a general right of access to information held by relevant agencies, limited only by exceptions or exemptions necessary for the protection of matters such as the private affairs of persons in respect of whom information is collected and held.

## Privacy

All applications to the Fund are treated in accordance with Information Privacy Principles under the *Information Privacy Act 2000*. Some information is collected to assess and verify eligibility for charitable assistance and to verify that information is true and correct, which may involve contact with other relevant agencies or persons. Applicants are advised of these processes and agree to it as part of the application process.

## Commonwealth Government

The Commonwealth Government has worked closely with the Victorian Government and Australian Red Cross in supporting the establishment and administration of the Appeal Fund.

The Panel successfully made representations to the Commonwealth Treasury for changes to be made to charitable tax laws to allow the Fund to distribute donated money to broader categories of people and communities in need. The Panel has welcomed the Commonwealth's support on this, which has resulted in financial support provided to some groups that were previously excluded from charitable assistance, such as primary producers.

The ATO has also provided a high level of advice to the Appeal Fund Secretariat and Advisory Panel since February 2009, to ensure all gifts for assistance meet relevant charitable tax law requirements.

## Victorian Government

The Victorian Government has committed to providing administrative support for the Appeal Fund to ensure all donated funds go to bushfire affected individuals and communities.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) administers all gifts to bushfire affected individuals and provides support for the Advisory Panel. Until August 2009, the Secretariat support was provided by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC).

DHS, the Department of Health (DH) and the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) are responsible for delivering a range of psychological support services to bushfire affected communities.



The Fund also works closely with other Victorian Government departments for example, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) oversees the school holiday program, which gives bushfire affected students holiday activities and respite for parents who continue the difficult task of rebuilding their homes and lives. DEECD also administers the Appeal Fund's Tertiary and Vocational Education Scholarship program, to encourage bushfire impacted students to undertake further education.

Rural Finance Corporation – a Bendigo based specialist rural lender to primary producers and rural businesses wholly owned by the Victorian Government – administered a number of gifts for rural Victorians affected by the bushfires, such as the Primary Producers Repair and Restoration Payment, the Rural Properties Recovery Assistance Payment and the Tools of Trade Payment.

### **Australian Red Cross**

Australian Red Cross is one of the world's most recognisable charitable organisations with world wide experience in disaster management.

Australian Red Cross established the Victorian Bushfire Appeal 2009 in partnership with the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, collected funds and transferred those funds to the Trust Account established for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.

Australian Red Cross and the Victorian Government jointly appointed members to the Advisory Panel. Australian Red Cross continues to serve as a member of the Panel and also provides invaluable expertise on the needs of individuals and communities in the aftermath of disasters.

As a charitable organisation, the involvement of Australian Red Cross ensured that all donations to the Appeal were tax deductible and the organisation also provides a direct interface with donors to the Appeal.

### **Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority**

Through its close work with bushfire affected communities, the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRRA) helps the Appeal Fund to identify needs and issues that are specific to bushfire affected individuals and local communities.

VBRRRA community engagement officers assist Community Recovery Committees to develop proposals and projects integral to their local recovery. VBRRRA also identifies the community instigated projects that might be suitable for consideration by the Advisory Panel for funding.

VBRRRA also administers a number of Fund initiatives such as some psychological support programs and essential services for temporary accommodation.

### **State Trustees**

The Appeal Fund established the Compassionate Financial Support for Children trusts to assist children under the age of 18 who lost one or both parents in the bushfires. These trusts are being administered by State Trustees Limited which has over 70 years experience in helping Victorians protect their assets through trusts.

# Appendix – Community Projects program

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund provided an unprecedented opportunity to help people recover from the 2009 Victorian bushfires and support them as they continued to rebuild their lives, homes and communities.

While the Fund's first priority was to support individuals and families with their urgent and ongoing needs, the Advisory Panel was always aware that the Appeal intent also included assistance for communities to recover.

The Advisory Panel recognised that people were not only affected on a personal level, but the communities they lived in were severely impacted as well.

The evidence from previous disasters is that supporting communities to lead their own recovery through effective community development is critical to building more resilient communities.

The Panel strongly supported this process by allocating \$43 million towards a Community Projects program. From this allocation, 219 projects that were identified by local communities as priorities for their recovery have been funded.

The projects will replace and upgrade some important community assets and help communities reconnect with each other and their surrounding environment.

This Appendix outlines the process of identifying, scoping and approving community projects, including case studies and the list of all approved projects.

## Identification of Community Projects

All community projects were identified as a priority by local Community Recovery Committees (CRCs).

Under Victoria's Emergency Management Arrangements, CRCs can be set up after a disaster to support and coordinate community recovery activities.

Following the 2009 Victorian bushfires, 33 CRCs were established to help ensure the needs and priorities identified by fire affected communities drove the rebuilding effort. CRCs provided a unique opportunity for community members to be involved in the rebuilding of their towns.

Each CRC developed a Community Recovery Plan (CRP), providing tailored, localised responses that recognised the specific needs of each local area.

In deciding to support projects identified in the CRPs, the Panel ensured that all funded projects had undergone community consultation and had been identified as a local community priority.

## Eligibility criteria for Community Projects

All of the community projects had to meet the requirements of charitable tax legislation, which governs the use of donations made to the Fund.

In recognition of the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the 2009 bushfires and to enable support for community recovery, the Commonwealth Government amended charitable tax legislation under the *Tax Laws Amendment (2009 Measures No. 5) Act 2009* to broaden the scope of purposes which the Appeal Fund can support.

Under the revised legislation community projects had to comply with the community benefit test which required that a project:

- is consistent with the purposes of a tax exempt entity;
- is widely and publicly accessible; and
- provides commercial or private benefits only to an incidental and ancillary extent.

In addition to the legislative requirements, community projects had to meet the criteria established by the Panel to ensure all funds disbursed were consistent with the Appeal's intent and the expectations of donors.

Specifically projects had to:

- meet the stated intent of the Fund;
- meet priority needs identified by a local bushfire affected community;
- align with expectations of affected individuals and communities;
- not unnecessarily duplicate other funding and not be a core responsibility of government;
- be effectively and efficiently delivered while adequately managing risk; and
- be consistent with donor expectations.

To ensure this occurred, a standard proposal template was developed in consultation with the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

### Types of Community Projects

Based on the criteria outlined above, community projects were categorised into one or more of five categories:

1. *Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters* – intended to build the capacity of the community to manage bushfires and other potential disasters in the future, helping to address the anxieties evident in bushfire affected communities regarding the threat of future bushfires.

2. *Community Events and Arts Programs* – intended to help relieve distress through events and programs that allow people to share their experiences, commemorate their recovery progress and build, promote and strengthen a sense of community identity.

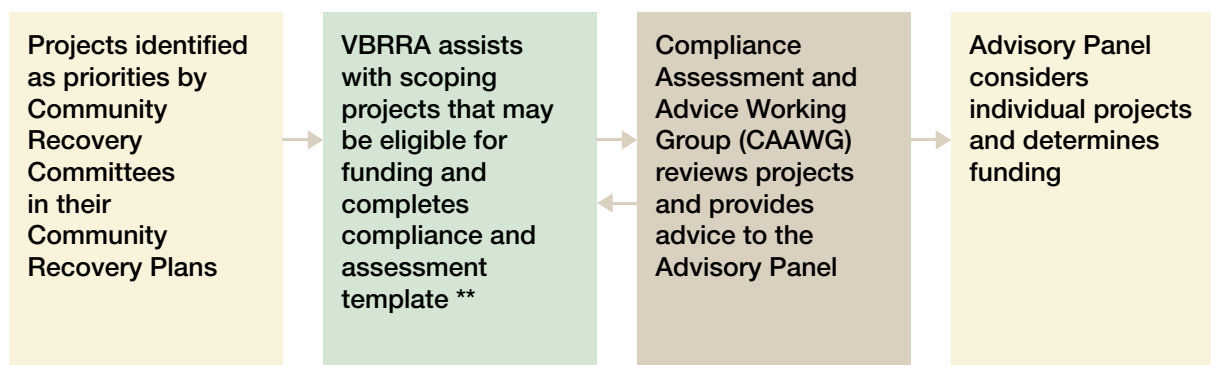
3. *Community Facilities* – intended to provide high quality, widely accessible facilities that provide a public space for communities to meet and share their experiences and hold public events.

4. *Reconnecting Community with Nature* – intended to provide relief by establishing informal support networks, allowing communities to engage and share experiences of bushfire recovery and gain a better understanding of their local natural environment through active participation in environmental projects.

5. *Community Walking and Bike Trails* – intended to support the recovery of bushfire affected communities through the provision of high quality walking and bike trails that will allow all community members to meet outdoors and socialise while undertaking recreational activities.

### Assessment of Community Projects

The following map illustrates the process for assessment of community projects:



\*\* The ATO was consulted on the criteria to help ensure all of the project proposals met charitable taxation requirements and specific ATO advice on individual proposals was provided if required.

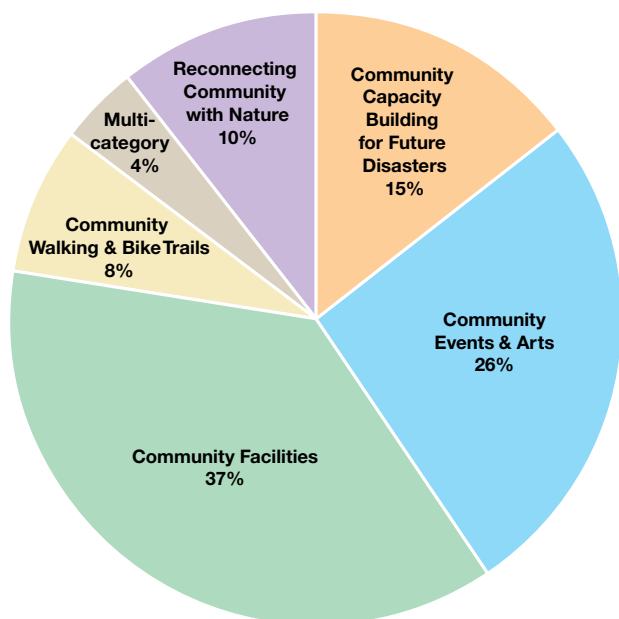
The Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA) supported CRCs as part of their role in overseeing the recovery of bushfire affected communities.

VBRRA assisted communities in the development of proposals, completing the standard template, making an initial assessment against the eligibility criteria and presenting projects to the Compliance Assessment and Advice Working Group (CAAWG).

CAAWG was established to provide advice to the Panel about the compliance of each project against the legislative and Fund criteria. CAAWG comprised representatives of government and Australian Red Cross and an independent member. All project applications were reviewed by CAAWG and were either returned to VBRRA for further work or recommended to the Panel for approval.

The Panel reviewed each of the project proposals presented by CAAWG prior to approving funding. From time to time the Panel requested more information or changes to projects to ensure they complied with the relevant criteria.

### Community Projects by Category



### Community Projects

The \$43 million allocation to community projects is almost fully expended. A total of 219 projects have been funded across 33 CRCs. Some of the funded projects that demonstrate the importance of the community projects are outlined here:

#### Hazelwood-Jeeralang Community Recovery Committee

##### Jeeralang North Community Hall upgrades

The Jeeralang North Community Hall was first built by the community as a bushfire reconstruction project some 50 years ago and since then has played diverse and important roles in the life of the community.

The February 2009 bushfires destroyed the hall's amenity areas and damaged the remaining structure of the building, rendering it unusable.

The funding has been earmarked by the community to undertake significant restoration and upgrade works, along with generous donations from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, McDonalds, Rotary and Lions.

“Since the fires, the Hazelwood-Jeeralang community has rallied around the Jeeralang North Hall reconstruction project, and redefined it as a renovation project in both design and function,” John Arkinstall, Chair of Hazelwood-Jeeralang Community Committee said.

“We have many diverse plans for its use, and see the project as symbolic of our own recovery. It has been long, wearing and demanding, but we’re now getting there, and hope our clearly vital district will again be able to attract new residents.”

## **Labertouche Community Recovery Committee**

### **Community Events**

With the help of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, the people of Labertouche and the surrounding area have become more connected.

The Warragul Community Church has been able to establish monthly community dinners, usually barbecues, with around 100-150 people coming along each month. This represents a large proportion of the local community.

More than this, the dinners have also inspired the community to establish a Women's Friendship Group, a Men's Group with more than 40 members and a young mum's playgroup.

The Men's Group has been running activities to support people in the community through such things as working bees and are now looking to establish a Men's Shed.

"The monthly get togethers have seen new friendships forged and important community connections made. People are now coming from all over Baw Baw Shire to attend the dinners," said Michelle Buntine, Secretary of the Community Recovery Committee and Founder of the Mum's Playgroup.

## **Mitchell Shire Municipal Recovery Group**

### **Say G'day Trail and youth emergency preparedness booklet**

Locals in Wandong and Heathcote will soon be 'saying G'Day' to a new pedestrian and cycle path on North Mountain Road, with work on the project now underway.

The project will not only provide much needed access and a vital link between facilities, but it will also be a great way for residents to get together socially and stay fit.

The Mitchell Community Recovery Committee, which includes the area of Wandong, identified the idea of connective pathways linking people and towns as an important part of Wandong's recovery process.

Another Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund project for the area aims to enhance emergency preparedness skills for young people across the Mitchell Shire.

Broadford Secondary College students have produced a booklet which provides important emergency preparedness information, as well as advice on where young people can get personal support if they need it.

## **Yarra Ranges Municipal Recovery Group**

### **Steels Creek History through Stories**

The *Steels Creek History through Stories* project was one of the first projects to be put to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund for funding and will capture local people's stories from before and after the fires.

The project, which aims to maintain and strengthen community connections, has strong commitment from local residents and is being supported by the Australian National University, the National Museum and the Victorian State Library.

Stories from Steels Creek are being collected by Hannah Sky, a long term resident, and her work will include stories from wide range of community members.

Hannah Skye said: "It is stating the obvious to say that the impact on people's lives has been profound. The fire is still a daily factor in all our lives. The journey post fire shifts and changes as the months go by. Everything has changed and everything continues to change.

"Participants are reporting that they value the ongoing nature of the story collecting process and have given voice to feeling more validated and confirmed in their experience, both in terms of defining what is happening for them and in terms of feeling valued and listened to by the broader and future community."

Type of Project	Project Title	CRC	Funding	Approved
Community Facilities	Mudgegonga Hall Upgrade	Alpine Shire	453,100	28-Jan-10
Community Events & Arts	Mudgegonga Newsletter	Alpine Shire	5,000	1-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Happy Valley Hall Upgrade	Alpine Shire	250,050	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	St Albans Hall Upgrade	Alpine Shire	292,442	16-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Rosewhite Photographic Exhibition	Alpine Shire	10,000	16-Dec-09
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Community bushfire awareness	Bendigo	40,000	1-Dec-09
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Revegetation of Bracewell St	Bendigo	10,000	1-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Bendigo Community Memorial Celebration	Bendigo	20,000	16-Dec-09
Community Capacity Building	Bendigo – “Our Place”	Bendigo	54,500	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	Boolarra Memorial Hall kitchen upgrade	Boolarra & Yinnar	49,854	14-Jul-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature/ Community Events and Arts	Community Enhancements of the Yinnar Town Entrance	Boolarra & Yinnar	26,000	17-Mar-10
Community Facilities	Boolarra Multipurpose Centre	Boolarra & Yinnar	250,000	13-Oct-10
Community Events & Arts	Youth Linkage and Training Program	Boolarra & Yinnar	25,000	13-Apr-10
Community Events & Arts	Boolarra-Yinnar Bushfire Moving-Image Project	Boolarra & Yinnar	21,800	14-Jul-10
Community Events & Arts	Creative Activities	Boolarra & Yinnar	12,550	16-Dec-09
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Mill Site Restoration, Recovery and Improvement	Boolarra & Yinnar	800	16-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Community Events for Boolarra and Yinnar	Boolarra & Yinnar	39,500	28-Jan-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Boolarra Community Resilience Building	Boolarra & Yinnar	20,000	17-Mar-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature/ Community Events and Arts	Community Enhancement of Boolarra township	Boolarra & Yinnar	12,000	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Tonimbuk Hall	Cardinia	83,342	14-Jul-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Community bushfire awareness	Casey	50,000	1-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Restoration of Recreation Reserve	Corangamite	42,945	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	Flowerdale Men's and Community Shed	Flowerdale	49,289	13-Oct-10
Community Facilities	Flowerdale Community Hall	Flowerdale	118,220	1-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Moore's Reserve	Flowerdale	198,388	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	Flowerdale Cricket Practice Nets	Flowerdale	30,993	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	Flowerdale Community House	Flowerdale	416,000	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	Flowerdale Recreation Reserve	Flowerdale	184,750	14-Jul-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Flowerdale Community Resilience Building	Flowerdale	50,000	17-Mar-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Flowerdale Community Capacity Building Through Landscape Restoration	Flowerdale	100,000	17-Mar-10
Community Events & Arts	Flowerdale Arts Precinct – Community Garden	Flowerdale	25,000	16-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Flowerdale Community Events Program	Flowerdale	39,500	16-Dec-09

Type of Project	Project Title	CRC	Funding	Approved
Community Facilities	Flowerdale Youth Space	Flowerdale	103,500	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Flowerdale Youth Space	Flowerdale	416,532	13-Dec-10
Community Walking and Bike Trails	Flowerdale Shared Pathway	Flowerdale	129,260	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	Gormandale Hall	Gormandale & District	156,860	14-Jul-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Wellington Shire community emergency preparedness planning	Gormandale & District and Yarra Ranges	50,000	1-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Upgrade of Carrajung South Hall	Gormandale & District	108,210	14-Jul-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters/ Community Events	Youth Leadership Program	Gormandale & District	30,000	16-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Landscaping of Carrajung South Oval Surrounds	Gormandale & District	49,500	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	Jerralang North Hall	Hazelwood-Jeeralang	155,000	1-Dec-09
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Community bushfire education	Hazelwood-Jeeralang	25,000	1-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Hazelwood South and Jeeralang North People and Wellbeing Events for the Community	Hazelwood-Jeeralang	35,000	16-Dec-09
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Jereralang North Tracks and Trails Mapping and Signage	Hazelwood-Jeeralang	27,500	17-Mar-10
Community Events & Arts	Being Vocal in Hazelwood Jeeralang	Hazelwood-Jeeralang	21,200	13-Apr-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Gardening as Recreation – Latrobe Community	Hazelwood-Jeeralang	45,000	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	Community Hall Refurbishment	Hepburn	120,093	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities/ Reconnecting Community with Nature	Haven Picnic Area	Horsham	263,351	17-Mar-10
Community Events & Arts	Community History	Horsham	72,850	1-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Sawyer Park Soundshell Shade Provision	Horsham	42,872	17-Mar-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Indigo Shire community emergency preparedness planning	Indigo	28,600	1-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Bruarong Community Events	Indigo	5,000	16-Dec-09
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Stanley Newsletter	Indigo	8,000	16-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Bruarong Hall Upgrade	Indigo	38,130	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	Stanley Noticeboard	Indigo	11,000	28-Jan-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Nangara Reserve	Jindivick	80,000	1-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Strengthening Jindivick Community Spirit	Jindivick	30,000	1-Dec-09
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Jindivick Community Resilience Building	Jindivick	25,000	17-Mar-10
Community Facilities	Jindivick Hall Upgrade	Jindivick	107,619	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	Jindivick Cricket Nets	Jindivick	22,473	26-Aug-10

Type of Project	Project Title	CRC	Funding	Approved
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Kinglake Community Information and Education around Bushfire Preparedness	Kinglake Ranges	100,000	28-Jan-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Sustainable Gardening Production and Distribution of an Information Guide for the Kinglake Ranges	Kinglake Ranges	12,725	18-Feb-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Education Opportunities for Kinglake Senior Citizens	Kinglake Ranges	7,600	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Development of a Design Plan for the Kinglake Memorial Reserve	Kinglake Ranges	42,500	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House – Assessment by Structural Engineer	Kinglake Ranges	10,000	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Kinglake Ranges Equestrian Centre and Community Centre Development Plan	Kinglake Ranges	25,000	13-Apr-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Capacity Building for Environmental Restoration: Revitalising the Kinglake Ranges Landcare Network	Kinglake Ranges	29,457	13-Apr-10
Community Events & Arts	Kinglake Ranges Arts Toolkit	Kinglake Ranges	41,270	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Kinglake Youth Facility	Kinglake Ranges	60,000	May-10
Community Facilities	Kinglake Multi-purpose Centre	Kinglake Ranges	2,000,000	1-Dec-09
Community Capacity Building	On ground assistance program/ volunteer coord 12 months	Kinglake Ranges	773,104	26-Aug-10
Community Events & Arts	Kinglake West Uniting Church Community Meals	Kinglake Ranges	14,320	26-Aug-10
Community Events & Arts	Firefoxes	Kinglake Ranges	347,600	26-Aug-10
Community Events & Arts	Kinglake Pheonix Singers	Kinglake Ranges	12,500	26-Aug-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Koala Browse and Habitat Trail	Kinglake Ranges	43,800	26-Aug-10
Community Events & Arts	Program Activities for Mature Aged Residents	Kinglake Ranges	75,310	26-Aug-10
Community Events & Arts	Mental Health on the Mountain	Kinglake Ranges	247,500	26-Aug-10
Community Events & Arts	Establishment of Venturers	Kinglake Ranges	6,103	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	WWI and WWII Honour Boards	Kinglake Ranges	13,610	26-Aug-10
Community Events & Arts	Kinglake Monday Night Yrs 7-9 Youth Group	Kinglake Ranges	16,000	16-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Collective History of Kinglake Book	Kinglake Ranges	14,450	26-Aug-10
Community Walking and Bike Trails	Glenburn Road Walking Track	Kinglake Ranges	485,518	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	Memorial Reserve Upgrade	Kinglake Ranges	1,000,000	26-Aug-10
Community Events & Arts	Building Community Wellness Locally	Kinglake Ranges, Strathewen, St Andrews, Flowerdale, Toolangi/ Castella & Whittlesea	344,850	Oct-10
Community Events & Arts	Youth Activities program (18 months)	Kinglake Ranges	261,000	26-Aug-10
Community Events & Arts	Kinglake Ranges Community Events	Kinglake Ranges	100,000	16-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Kinglake Rural Land Management in a Post fire Environment	Kinglake Ranges	39,600	28-Jan-10
Community Facilities	Kinglake Men's Shed	Kinglake Ranges	315,000	28-Jan-10

Type of Project	Project Title	CRC	Funding	Approved
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Kinglake Ranges Community Information Nights	Kinglake Ranges	18,000	18-Feb-10
Community Facilities	Kinglake West Mechanics Institute Hall & Reserve Reflective Garden Project	Kinglake Ranges	264,184	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	Labertouche Hall and Precinct Upgrade	Labertouche	321,382	14-Jul-10
Community Events & Arts	Labertouche People and Wellbeing Events for the Community	Labertouche	30,000	1-Dec-09
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Environmental Regeneration in Baw Baw Shire	Labertouche, Drouin West, Jindivick and Longwarry	30,200	17-Mar-10
Community Facilities	Labertouche Community Hub	Labertouche	207,550	13-Dec-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Labertouche-Drouin West Community Education and Capacity Building	Labertouche	33,000	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	Longwarry Hall Upgrade	Longwarry	59,941	14-Jul-10
Community Events & Arts	Drouin West Community Events Program	Longwarry	20,000	1-Dec-09
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Baw Baw District Memorial Walking Tracks	Longwarry, Labertouche, Jindivick	354,514	18-Feb-10
Community Facilities	Picnic Point Reserve	Longwarry	62,657	14-Jul-10
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Picnic Point and Thornells Reserve to Robin Hood Bushland Reserve Memorial Trail	Longwarry	152,375	13-Apr-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Fire safety and preparedness	Melba Group	50,000	1-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Murrundindi-Woodburne Community Meeting Room	Melba Group	414,566	16-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Social Well-being of the Melba Communities	Melba Group	31,840	16-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Upgrade of the Glenburn Community Precinct	Melba Group	619,452	13-Apr-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Community Education, Fire Plan and Readiness for Mirboo North	Mirboo North	25,000	1-Dec-09
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Wide Walking Track – Baths Road Reserve	Mirboo North	40,250	16-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Mirboo North Community Events	Mirboo North	35,000	16-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Mirboo North Upgrade to Community Centres	Mirboo North	51,917	17-Mar-10
Community Facilities	Darlimurla Rotunda/Picnic Shelter	Mirboo North	38,212	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	Clonbinane Hall	Mitchell	499,000	17-Mar-10
Community Events & Arts	Clonbinane Community Identity and Growth Projects	Mitchell	20,000	17-Mar-10
Community Events & Arts	Kilmore East Community Events	Mitchell	20,000	17-Mar-10
Community Facilities	Tooborac Hall	Mitchell	28,565	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Wandong Heathcote Junction Memorial Park	Mitchell	\$250, 097	17-Mar-10
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Wandong Heathcote Junction 'Say G'day Trail'	Mitchell	247,750	13-Apr-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Youth Emergency Preparation	Mitchell	50,000	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Kilmore East Rotunda	Mitchell	28,767	14-Jul-10

Type of Project	Project Title	CRC	Funding	Approved
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Community Revegetation Education and Activities	Mitchell	50,000	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Upper Plenty Community Hall	Mitchell	234,098	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	Reedy Creek Community Hall	Mitchell	176,034	14-Jul-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Kilmore East Environmental Program	Mitchell	10,000	1-Dec-09
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Wandong/ Heathcote Junction, Reedy Creek, Clonbinane and Broadford Revegetation	Mitchell	40,000	1-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Narbethong Community Hall	Marysville & Triangle	834,300	1-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Sustainability Expo	Marysville & Triangle	10,000	1-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Taggerty Hall and Park	Marysville & Triangle	163,247	16-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Marysville Multipurpose Community Facility and Recreation Centre	Marysville & Triangle	5,020,000	1-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Buxton Reserve Upgrade	Marysville & Triangle	97,000	16-Dec-09
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters/ Reconnecting Community with Nature	Green Connections – Phase One	Marysville & Triangle/ Kinglake Ranges	25,000	13-Apr-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Green Connections – Phase Two	Marysville & Triangle	500,240	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	Marysville-Murchinson Street and Town Amenity Project	Marysville & Triangle	1,358,000	17-Mar-10
Community Facilities	Restoration of Gallipoli Park	Marysville & Triangle	1,533,182	17-Mar-10
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Triangle Community Shared Trails	Marysville & Triangle	949,000	13-Oct-10
Community Facilities	Buxton Hall	Marysville & Triangle	302,136	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	Narbethong – streetscape	Marysville & Triangle	65,000	1-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Community Arts Program	Marysville & Triangle	50,000	1-Dec-09
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Five Towns Trail Development Plan	Marysville & Triangle	33,800	17-Mar-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Community Gardens and vegetable growing	Marysville & Triangle	5,000	1-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Community Events	Marysville & Triangle	50,000	1-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Narbethong Community Events	Marysville & Triangle	26,500	1-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Community Get Together Social Occasion and Supportive Events	Murम्ungee	11,500	18-Feb-10
Community Facilities	Upgrade of the Bowmans-Murम्ungee Hall	Murम्ungee	184,190	17-Mar-10
Community Facilities	Redesdale Community Halls Rebuild	Redesdale	171,770	18-Feb-10
Community Events & Arts	Community newsletter expansion	Redesdale	18,000	1-Dec-09
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Redesdale Local Seed Bank	Redesdale	5,000	1-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Redesdale Community Events	Redesdale	55,000	1-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Redevelopment of Recreation Space	Southern Grampians	136,212	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	Christmas Hills Hall Upgrade	St Andrews	300,000	1-Dec-09
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Communications Strategy for St Andrews	St Andrews	44,000	13-Apr-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	St Andrews: Enhanced Skills for Environmental Recovery Through Landcare	St Andrews	8,250	17-Mar-10

Type of Project	Project Title	CRC	Funding	Approved
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Community Newsletter: Christmas Hills News	St Andrews	22,835	13-Apr-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Local People Assisting the Natural Recovery of their Environment in Christmas Hills	St Andrews	11,000	13-Apr-10
Community Events & Arts	Christmas Hills – Butterfly Arts Studio	St Andrews	27,280	14-Jul-10
Community Events & Arts / Reconnecting Community with Nature	Christmas Hills/St Andrews Arts Programs	St Andrews	55,000	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	St Andrews Men's Shed	St Andrews	60,000	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	St Andrews Community Facility	St Andrews	1,200,000	13-Apr-10
Community Events & Arts	St Andrew's rebuilding workshops	St Andrews	120,000	1-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	St Andrews Events and Social Issues	St Andrews	51,645	1-Dec-09
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Fire Awareness & Preparedness	St Andrews	50,000	1-Dec-09
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Community Environmental Recovery Action Plan for St Andrews, Strathewen and Christmas Hills	St Andrews and Strathewen	170,000	13-Apr-10
Community Events & Arts	Christmas Hills Community Gatherings and Events: Commemorative and Community Strengthening	St Andrews	13,200	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Strath Creek, Pioneer Reserve Community Halls	Strath Creek	500,445	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	Pioneer Reserve	Strath Creek	210,864	1-Dec-09
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Vegetation Enhancement and Education within Strath Creek Township	Strath Creek	52,000	18-Feb-10
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Signage for the Strath Creek Historical and Natural Attractions Trail	Strath Creek	10,500	18-Feb-10
Community Facilities	Pioneer Reserve Facilities Upgrade	Strath Creek	376,138	13-Apr-10
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Heritage Trail in the Township of Strath Creek	Strath Creek	35,000	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Arthurs Creek Mechanics Institute Hall	Strathewen	37,438	13-Apr-10
Community Events & Arts	Community Strengthening for Strathewen- Activities and Events	Strathewen	120,000	13-Apr-10
Community Events & Arts	Telling Our Stories – An Audio-Visual History, Strathewen	Strathewen	50,000	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	Upgrade of the Strathewen Temporary Community Centre	Strathewen	50,400	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	Strathewen Hall	Strathewen	1,442,243	16-Dec-09
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Strathewen Walking Path Project	Strathewen	100,000	13-Oct-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Community Based Fire Safety Awareness and Planning in Strathewen	Strathewen	40,000	18-Feb-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	A Sustainable Built Environment for Strathewen	Strathewen	158,500	17-Mar-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Communications Action Plan: Newsletter, Website & SMS Contact for Strathewen	Strathewen	40,000	13-Apr-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Improving the Natural Value of the Land	Strathewen	25,000	17-Mar-10
Community Facilities	Toolangi/Castella Hall Kitchen Upgrade	Toolangi/Castella	130,950	1-Dec-09

Type of Project	Project Title	CRC	Funding	Approved
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Toolangi Bushfire Garden	Toolangi/Castella	60,000	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	Castella Central Park Development	Toolangi and Castella	396,750	13-Oct-10
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Toolangi all purpose track	Toolangi/Castella	400,000	1-Dec-09
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Bushfire Garden/ Landscaping, Restoration and Reconstructing	Toolangi/Castella	77,000	16-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Toolangi and Castella Social Art Project – Mural for the CJ Dennis Hall	Toolangi/Castella	5,000	28-Jan-10
Community Events & Arts	Rolling Calendar of Events Program for Toolangi and Castella Communities	Toolangi/Castella	25,000	18-Feb-10
Community Facilities	Toolangi Central Park Development Plan	Toolangi/Castella	4,000	13-Apr-10
Community Events & Arts	Toolangi Castella Youth Program	Toolangi and Castella	60,000	13-Dec-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Gippsland community safety project	Boolarra & Yinnar; Hazelwood-Jeeralang; Traralgon South	600,000	14-Jul-10
Community Facilities	Traralgon South Cricket Club Kitchen Upgrade	Traralgon South & District	64,978	1-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Community Rebuilding and Support Events	Traralgon South & District	70,000	16-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Traralgon South Historical Project	Traralgon South & District	33,000	28-Jan-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters/ Community Facilities	Traralgon South and District Community Shed: Construction and Program Coordination	Traralgon South & District	252,860	13-Apr-10
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Traralgon South and District Walking Tracks and Trails Mapping and Signage	Traralgon South & District	77,000	17-Mar-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Traralgon South and District Community Information and Website Enhancement	Traralgon South & District	30,000	13-Apr-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature/ Community Events and Arts	Identity Building and Community Enhancement of Koornall-Le Roy and Callignee Townships	Traralgon South & District	36,000	13-Apr-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Traralgon South Environmental Projects	Traralgon South & District	100,000	26-Aug-10
Community Facilities	Traralgon South Hall Refurbishment	Traralgon South & District	500,000	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Koornalla and Le Roy Parks	Traralgon South & District	402,550	13-Apr-10
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Traralgon South Red Hill Road to Michelle Boulevard Walking Track	Traralgon South & District	185,000	18-Feb-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters/ Reconnecting Community with Nature	Skills Development and Environmental Restoration in Traralgon South and District	Traralgon South & District	20,000	13-Apr-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Enhancing Community Volunteer Skills for Future Emergencies	Traralgon South & District	45,000	13-Apr-10
Community Events & Arts	Community Health and Well-Being Activities	Traralgon South & District	54,800	16-Dec-09

Type of Project	Project Title	CRC	Funding	Approved
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Community Education, Fire Plan and Readiness	Traralgon South & District	40,000	16-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Whittlesea Community Connect	Whittlesea	180,000	1-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Whittlesea Community Hall	Whittlesea	50,000	16-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Whittlesea Memorial Hall	Whittlesea	906,411	17-Mar-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Community Peer Support Networks after Natural Disasters	Whittlesea	90,000	17-Mar-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Whittlesea Community Resilience Building	Whittlesea	45,000	17-Mar-10
Community Events & Arts	Whittlesea Fire Recovery Through Creative Events	Whittlesea	127,850	17-Mar-10
Community Capacity Building for Future Disasters	Building Social Networking Skills through Volunteer Training and Participation in Bushfire Recovery	Whittlesea	242,200	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Yarra Glen Hub	Yarra Ranges	438,000	26-Aug-10
Community Events & Arts	Steels Creek History Through Stories	Yarra Ranges	27,550	1-Dec-09
Community Events & Arts	Community Events for Fire Affected Communities of Wellington Shire	Gormandale & District and Yarram & District	30,000	16-Dec-09
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Walking Trail to Chum Creek	Yarra Ranges	218,975	17-Mar-10
Reconnecting Community with Nature	Landcare Program for Bushfire Affected Communities in the Yarra Ranges	Yarra Ranges	200,000	13-Apr-10
Community Events & Arts	Community Connectedness and Capacity Building for Yarra Ranges	Yarra Ranges	110,000	18-Feb-10
Community Walking & Bike Trails	Eric Tetlow Walking Trail	Yarra Ranges	675,625	17-Mar-10
Community Facilities	Yarram Regent Theatre Upgrade	Yarram & District	147,200	16-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Yarram Youth Facility	Yarram & District	151,000	13-Apr-10
Community Facilities	Devon North Hall	Yarram & District	46,000	16-Dec-09
Community Facilities	Devon North BBQ Area	Yarram & District	18,295	17-Mar-10





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Progress Report

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