

Cudlee Creek fire recovery newsletter



Issue 2 | 4 February 2020

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Welcome from Alex Zimmermann



Attendance at the Lobethal Recovery Centre remains high, which is a good thing. This means that people impacted by the fire are able to tap into the latest information and have the direct

assistance of agency staff to assist them navigate what can sometimes be a daunting process.

A really welcome addition to the Recovery Centre is the mental wellbeing support team from Summit. You can read more about them in this edition. As you will see in this newsletter there is a lot of information to digest and we encourage everyone to regularly

access these newsletters, as well as the recovery website, and read them thoroughly.

Thanks to the whole Recovery Team for the great work being done to assist our community.

Alex Zimmermann

Local Recovery Coordinator

New hours for recovery centre

The opening hours of the Lobethal Recovery Centre are changing.

From Monday 3 February the centre is open at the following times:

Monday - Friday: 8:00am to 6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am to 1:00pm

Sunday: Closed

Public holidays: Closed

Collection of CCA posts

A drop-off site for CCA posts and timber is now open in Woodside.

The drop-off site will ONLY be accepting CCA posts (burnt or not) and will be open between 9:30am and 2:30pm, Monday to Friday.

- NO CCA ash
- NO asbestos
- NO other waste

Access to this facility is ONLY by way of a voucher system. Vouchers are free and available from the Lobethal Recovery Centre. You can have as many vouchers as you need (one per trailer load).

Mental wellbeing support

Experienced clinicians from Summit Health are offering free mental health services at the Lobethal Recovery Centre on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Those times are currently:

Monday: 12pm to 5pm

Tuesday: 10am to 2pm

Thursday: 12pm to 5pm

You are welcome to visit the centre and speak to a counsellor without an appointment.

These clinicians will be able to see clients free of charge and will play a significant role in early intervention and support, alongside helping with connections to other services. Referrals will be made to the Summit Health Centre.

More information will be provided as this service develops over the coming weeks.

For more information, or to make an appointment, phone Summit Health on **(08) 8406 7715**.

Supporting your child after a fire

Bushfires affect children in different ways. Some may show distress, or they may ask many questions and appear preoccupied with the event. Some of these reactions may appear immediately but others may not show themselves for weeks or months.

Some things you can do:

- Monitor how much your child is being exposed to television and social media stories about the fires. Children can be distressed by watching repeated images. Explain to them that news reports will repeat images and stories and it may not be a good idea to keep watching.
- Find out what your child's understanding of the event is and correct misunderstandings or confusion.
- Include your child in making plans for the future.
- Support your child to stay connected to friends.
- Keep to your regular routines and activities as much as possible.

Back to school support

The Department for Education is waiving school fees for fire affected families for the 2020 school year. Students from fire affected families will also be provided with their uniforms free of charge.

Principals have been given resources and training materials to help teachers identify and support students experiencing trauma.

Specialist teams in psychology, wellbeing and social work within the department are available to assist staff and students in need, both now and into the future.

Resources have also been published on the department's website for parents to access so children, parents and staff are supported. Visit www.education.sa.gov.au for more information.

The Department is receiving support from federal agencies and is working with Child and Adult Mental Health Service, the Department of Human Services and Red Cross to ensure a coordinated approach to support in preschools and schools. The department will continue to monitor the needs of our schools and provide extra support where required.

Recovery of native pastures

A range of helpful resources about the recovery of native pastures after a bushfire have been created by The Barossa Improved Grazing Group.

The information was created after the region experienced two bushfires in two years that devastated 25,000 hectares of grazing land in the Barossa Valley. The group realised the value in learning from each other and people who had experienced fires in the past.

The resources include a one-page paper on short and long-term recovery learnings from farmers, a case study on native pasture recovery and management after bushfire, information on fertiliser demonstration results and a video about the recovery of native pastures 18 months after the Eden Valley bushfire.

The Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board is proud to have supported this work. For more information and to see these resources visit www.biggroup.org.au/project/bushfire-recovery.

Preventing soil loss and erosion

Soil Science Australia has produced a fact sheet to help landholders affected by the recent fires.

Preventing soil loss and erosion is paramount so minimising disturbance, traffic and grazing is key, along with looking at strategies until vegetation recovers. For a range of useful tips visit www.soilscienceaustralia.org.au.

The Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board also has information on land recovery at www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges.

If you'd like more detailed advice, please contact our Black Hill office on **(08) 8336 0901** or visit the Lobethal Recovery Centre.

Join our Facebook group

We have a dedicated Facebook group for people impacted by the Cudlee Creek fire. This private group is for those directly impacted by the fire rather than the general public.

It is a place to ask questions, share information and resources, and connect with your local community during the recovery phase. To join visit www.facebook.com/sarecoveryinfo and click on 'groups' to the left of the page.

Planning Institute of Australia

Volunteer professional planners, who are members of the Planning Institute of Australia, are available to answer your questions about planning and development.

Planners can help you navigate the development application process, understand how you can design and build appropriately for the site.

Planners can also help direct you to the other development professionals in industries such as; structural engineering, architecture, building design, building surveying and environmental management.

Planners understand the development process and are to help you navigate and coordinate the approval process.

More detail is available at: <http://www.planning.org.au/aboutpia/national-bushfire-response>.

New grants from Red Cross

Red Cross is rolling out further immediate assistance for people who have been impacted by bushfires and are in financial hardship.

Additional cash grants are available for people who have lost their homes* and new grants for people who were hospitalised as well as for people whose homes* need structural repairs.

These grants are part of \$61.5 million committed to immediate financial assistance for people affected by the bushfires.

People can now apply for three kinds of immediate assistance:

- An additional \$10,000 payment to support people whose homes were destroyed extending the total amount available to \$20,000 per household
- \$7,500 for people who were hospitalised for more than two days as a result of the fires, with grants helping to cover out of pocket medical and other related expenses
- \$5,000 for home-owners whose homes* have been structurally damaged and require repairs to make them safe for people to live in.

In addition, Red Cross is contacting the senior next of kin of those who tragically lost their lives in the fires to provide bereavement payment of \$20,000. For more information visit redcross.org.au/grants.

Free mediation service

Uniting Communities Legal Services is offering a free mediation service which can help you to identify and resolve conflict and disputes at an early stage, with a view to avoiding the expense and stress of drawn-out legal proceedings.

Their service can offer face-to-face mediation; 'shuttle' mediation, where parties do not have to be present at the same time; co-mediation involving professionals selected for areas of expertise, e.g. financial counsellors and teleconference mediation. This is particularly valuable for rural and remote clients.

For more information, or to make an appointment, phone **(08) 8342 1800**. Please state that you were impacted by the bushfires in the Adelaide Hills when you call to make an appointment and your case will be given priority in booking times.

Free legal service

The Consumer Credit Law Centre SA provides free legal advice, legal representation and financial counselling to people in South Australia in the areas of credit, banking and finance.

The service assists people with:

- reposessions and mortgage loan foreclosures
- debt management options (including bankruptcy and debt agreements)
- Debtor's Court and ongoing assistance and casework, including court/tribunal representation
- disputes related to loans for personal, domestic and household use including credit cards, mortgages, personal loans, rent-to-buy agreements, consumer leases (household goods, car finance)
- credit debt
- credit history reports.

The centre also provides community legal education and advocacy for credit, banking and financial services.

For more information phone **(08) 8342 1800** or country callers phone **1300 886 220**.

Events

Weeds 101 and small farm machinery Q&A

Come along to a free evening of information looking at small farm machinery with a focus on weed sprayers.

WHEN: Tuesday 11 February, 7pm
WHERE: Emmetts 206 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Oakbank.
INFORMATION:
<https://www.trybooking.com/BIDZK>

Harrogate Community Sausage Sizzle

A sausage sizzle to say thank you to all the emergency services, volunteers and locals who looked out for our town during and after the Cudlee Creek fire.

You are welcome to bring a plate of food to share.

WHEN: Saturday 7 March, 5pm
WHERE: Harrogate Hall, 13 Mail Road, Harrogate

Clean Slate Horse Properties: Simple Changes = big differences with Pam Brookman

Come along to share ideas about 'clean slate' opportunities and current priorities for horse properties post-fire, gain insights from the fireground with Barb Cooper and other participants and hear recovery updates from Julie Fiedler.

The event includes a farm fire-fighting units show and tell as well as pizza, soft drinks, tea and coffee Friends and supporters of fire affected landholders are most welcome as are livestock (other species) owners.

WHEN: Friday 7 February, 7pm
WHERE: Woodside Hall
30 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside.
RSVP: Registration is appreciated at <https://www.trybooking.com/BIATR>
INFORMATION: Visit www.horsesa.asn.au, phone **0402 488 306**, or email: horsesa@horsesa.asn.au

This project is jointly funded by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board, the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board and Horse SA.

Cudlee Creek Bushfire Benefit Concert

Enjoy a concert featuring high profile performers Beccy Cole and Adam Page, entertainment, food and beverages all while raising funds for the SA Bushfire Appeal.

WHEN: Sunday 9 February, 11.30am to 9pm (gates open 10am)
WHERE: National Motor Museum
Shannon Street, Birdwood.
COST: Entry by generous donation at the gate.
INFORMATION: <https://motor.history.sa.gov.au>

To stay up to date on all upcoming community events as they are announced visit the online events calendar at www.dhs.sa.gov.au/cudleecreek.

Contact information

Recovery details

Recovery Hotline: 1800 302 787

Lobethal Fire Recovery Centre:
Old Woollen Mill - 1 Lobethal Road, Lobethal

Cudlee Creek Fire Recovery website:
www.dhs.sa.gov.au/cudleecreek

SA Recovery Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/SArecoveryinfo

Local Councils

Adelaide Hills Council: (08) 8408 0400
www.ahc.sa.gov.au

Mount Barker District Council: (08) 8391 7200
www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au

Mid-Murray Council: (08) 8569 0100
<https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/>

Agriculture and livestock

PIRSA: 1800 931 314
www.pir.sa.gov.au

Livestock SA: (08) 8297 2299
<https://livestocksa.org.au>

Volunteering

Volunteering SA&NT: 1300 135 545
www.volunteering.sa.gov.au

Waste management

Green Industries SA: (08) 7071 3723
www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/bushfires



**Government of
South Australia**