

## **Projects and Events Bushfire Recovery Projects and Events Community Development Officer 2009**

- Ø Developed programs and events to respond to specific groups in the community that were identified as vulnerable
  - Activities and Programs for men*
    - Men's Golf Day
    - Men Can Cook and Men Can Cook 2
    - Blokes Night Out with Kevin Sheedy
  - Activities for women*
    - Women's wellness evening
  - Programs for children*
    - Wish Street – a 6 week program with Healesville and Badger Creek Primary to help the children with their perceptions of self and community
- Ø Prepared successful grant applications for bushfire related programs and events
  - Bendigo Bank
  - VBRRRA
  - VBAF
- Ø Coordinated the acquittals of bushfire recovery grants for local community groups. Including liaison with Grants Officer from VBRRRA
  - Community Winter grants funding
  - Community Summer grants funding
- Ø Developed strong and healthy partnerships with local community groups and local business through the bushfire recovery programs and events
  - Blokes Night Out with Kevin Sheedy in partnership with Healesville Football Club
  - Community Get togethers in partnership with Chum Creek Primary School, Steels Creek Community Group, Dixons Creek Community Group
  - Family day at the movies in partnership with Healesville Rotary
  - Family night out in partnership with Rochford Wines
- Ø Supported community initiated activities and encouraged joint projects between community groups and Council
  - Thanks Mate Race Day – a thank you event initiated by Victoria Police to say thank you to emergency service workers
- Ø Developed the Bushfire Recovery Communication Strategy
  - This strategy was developed to ensure open communication between the Shire and community in relation to all areas of the bushfire recovery program.
- Ø Established the Projects and Events Working group and facilitated meetings
  - The group was made up of representative local community organisations and provided a forum to share ideas. The group met regularly on a monthly basis

- Ø Organised workshops to bring together local community based organisations and case managers to share information relating to local services
  - Local Service Providers Showcase - 50 service providers and 110 case managers attended the event
  - Working Summit for Case Managers – 80 case managers attended along with other assisting people who were directly impacted by the fires
  
- Ø Coordinated information sessions and other activities to assist mental wellbeing and ease the stresses associated with rebuilding
  - Evening with Dr Rob Gordon speaking on stress and recovering from trauma
  - Meditation sessions
  - Rebuilding Expo – Attracted approximately 2500 community members, 100 relevant businesses and over \$24 in sponsorship
  
- Ø Initiated and organised opportunities for bushfire affected people to heal by giving support to each other and providing a forum to share experiences
  - Finding survivors from the Canberra Bushfires and bringing them to Melbourne to talk to our local survivors
  - Coffee and chat mornings in both Yarra Glen and Healesville
  - Introduced a program that enables bushfire affected community members now living outside of Yarra Ranges to connect with others that are in the same situation
  - Initiated support for bushfire affected farmers by getting together at regular Centre for Agricultural Business forums
  
- Ø Staged events that provided for bushfire affected community members to have fun and in turn relieve anxiety
  - Campfire sing-alongs
  
- Ø Ensured systems were in place to evaluate activities and lessons learnt are recorded
  - Prepared participant feedback sheets for appropriate activities and collated responses
  - Prepared a full report on the Bushfire Recovery Projects and Events Community Development Officers role