Our community after fire

Where: Darraweit Guim War Memorial Hall
Bolinda Rd, Darraweit Guim

When: Wednesday 16th April
7:00 – 7:30pm Pizza/tea/coffee
7:30 – 8:45pm Facilitated conversation
8:45 – 9:00pm informal catch-up

Come and join your neighbours and the wider Darraweit Guim community in a conversation about the experience of the fire, lessons learned and where we’re at. All are welcome. Note: your property does not need to have been burnt to participate.

RSVPs: for catering purposes please RSVP by Monday 14th April 2014 to Kirsty Skilbeck (Landcare Facilitator, Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network) via email: udc.landcare.facilitator@gmail.com or mobile: 0409 608 030.

Facilitation will be provided by Simone Blair and Steph Carr from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI). Simone and Steph have facilitated community conversations about fire across regional Victoria, and will be helped on the night by teammates from DEPI, CFA, Community Health, and the Landcare facilitator.

Please note this conversation is not a counselling process. It is intended to support people to re-connect after fire.

For more information: please call Simone Blair on 9637 8641

This event is supported by the Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group, Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network, and the DEPI.

Darraweit Guim War Memorial Hall
Sale of Gifts
Saturday 31st May
From 7:15pm

The Sale of Gifts is a tradition dating back to the early 1900’s in Darraweit Guim. It relies on local residents donating their home produce, or skill to the auction and then coming along and sharing in the fun of the auction to sell it to a fellow resident. These days the donations take the form of many and varied things not just home produce.
Happy Birthday
In April to
Lisa Craik 6th
Natalie Ager 11th
Grant Speeding 12th
Hunter Mansfield 13th
Aimee Scott 15th
Darren Coutley 21st
Caitlin Robson 29th
Michael Robson 29th

Craft Group
Saturday 12th April.

At the hall at 12noon for lunch or 12:30 for craft. Special activity in April will be using Aboriginal weaving techniques to produce little bags (Tidda) that can be worn around your neck or carried with you. Originally designed to carry special treasures. If you would like to join in bring along a small quantity of twisted raffia and a blunt tapestry needle.

Everyone welcome

Hello Ida!
Milton and Caroline are proud to announce the arrival of Ida Fleur Southey on 13th February.

Bookclub - 15th April

The *Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak provoked an interesting discussion, and a resolve to get together and view the newly released film. Details TBA

April’s book will be *Caleb’s Crossing* by Geraldine Brook. A young man from Martha’s Vineyard becomes the first native American to graduate from Harvard.


Come along this month to the tennis clubrooms at 7:30pm.

Opportunity is Knocking

With many of our roadsides burnt if time allows now is an excellent time to take a wander along the road and collect any rubbish which is now much easier to see.

Found

A set of house keys and a remote have been found recently at the letter boxes in Fairfield Lane, if these belong to you or know of somebody who has lost them please contact Joe Cali on 57891201

Darraweit Diary

Small Property Whole Farm Planning
Saturday 5th April

Establishing Pasture Following Fire
Thursday 10th April

Conversations After Fire
Wednesday 16th April 7:00pm for tea

CFA AGM
Monday 28th April 7:30pm

Sale of Gifts
Saturday 31st May

REGULARS
Tennis Club Evening Tennis
Friday nights from 7pm

Bookclub
3rd Tuesday (7:30pm) at the Tennis Clubrooms

Craft Group
2nd Saturday
12 noon —3pm at the hall

Landcare Group
Committee Meeting
4th Tuesday
7:30pm at the school

Red Cross Unit
4th Monday at 9:30am
at the hall

CFA Committee Meeting
4th Monday 8pm
at the Fire Station

Brigade Training
2nd and 4th Sunday mornings
9am at the Station
Pets in public places: survey

In line with Council’s Domestic Animal Management Plan, Council is investigating the introduction of new laws for pets in public places, such as dog on and off-leash areas and cat curfews.

To seek the community’s feedback, Council is undertaking an online public survey, where each participant can go into the draw to win $200 in pet supplies.

“Whether you are a pet owner or animal lover, we encourage you to have your say. Your input will help protect and improve the enjoyment of our public places for all residents in the shire,” said Anne-Louise Lindner, Council’s Manager of Community Safety.

Nearly 14,000 animal registration renewal notices have just been issued to all registered dog and cat owners within the shire, notifying them of the public survey.

To have your say, complete the five-minute survey on Council’s website, mrsc.vic.gov.au/pets-survey, before 30 April 2014.

To complete the survey in hard copy or find out more, contact Council’s Local Laws unit on 5422 0333.

Live4Life
Youth Mental Health First Aid training

Youth Mental Health First Aid courses will once again be available this year to parents, guardians, teachers or anyone who works with young people in the shire.

This free, award-winning program is offered by Macedon Ranges Shire Council and teaches adults how to help a young person who may be developing a mental illness or in a mental health crisis.

Council was recognised with a ‘Community’ award in the 2012 Mental Health First Aid Australia Awards for the delivery of this course to parents and teachers.

Become a Youth Mental Health First Aider and you will be joining over 400 residents that have already been trained; creating a safer, healthier and more open-minded community for our young people.

To book your place or for more information, contact Laura on lgarner@mrsc.vic.gov.au or 5422 0337.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15, 22, 29 May &amp; 5 June</td>
<td>Sacred Heart College, Kyneton</td>
<td>6pm–9.30pm</td>
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<td>22, 29 July &amp; 5, 12 August</td>
<td>Gisborne Council office</td>
<td>6pm–9.30pm</td>
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<td>20 &amp; 21 October</td>
<td>Lancefield Neighbourhood House</td>
<td>9am–4.30pm</td>
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<td>11, 18, 25 November &amp; 2 December</td>
<td>Victoria Hotel, Woodend</td>
<td>6pm–9.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dates TBC</td>
<td>Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House</td>
<td>Times TBC</td>
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Join our growing community on Facebook

Darraweit Guim CFA also has a Facebook page, just put it into the Facebook search
www.facebook.com/DarraweitGuim
www.facebook.com/DarraweitGuimPS
Bridge closed due to fire damage: Simons Hill Road, Darraweit Guim

This bridge is still considered extremely unsafe for use by vehicles due to damage sustained during the recent fires. Barriers have been placed on each side of the bridge to prevent access by vehicles. The bridge is however available for pedestrian access.

Council had previously tendered for the replacement of this bridge and has been reviewing this documentation in view of the damage caused by the recent fires.

We have received specialist advice on the works required due to fire damage, and will be retendering for the replacement of the bridge. Advertising will commence on 5 April 2014, with tenders closing on 29 April 2014.

A further update will be provided in May 2014.

Enquiries should be directed to Ron Witteveen, Council’s Engineer on 5422 0333.

What do I do with all that burned fencing?

There will be a pick up in the first week of April. Please register with council on 5422 0217 or 5422 0219, so that the scrap metal merchants will know exactly where to go. Please ensure that the wire is separated from the posts and left in an accessible area at the front of the property.

There will be more information coming out via Macedon Ranges Emergency Alerts.
Whole Farm Planning Workshop for Small Farms
Presenter – David Stewart (Small Farm Services Victoria, ex-DEPI)

When: Saturday 5 April 2014
9:30am – 3pm
(9am registration tea/coffee, lunch included)

Where: Wallan Multi-purpose Centre
42 Bentinck Street, Wallan (opposite RB Robson Stadium)

This condensed whole farm planning workshop is aimed at fire-affected landholders with small farms who, post fires, are re-assessing how they manage their properties and the opportunities this has provided. Landholders with large properties who want individual assistance with whole farm planning please contact Jon Graffdyk (Department of Environment and Primary Industries) via mobile 0467 718 009.

This one-day whole farm planning workshop for small farms will cover:

**Understanding/assessing your property’s physical assets (& limiting factors)**
Soil types and land classes, land use capabilities, erosion, pest plants and animals etc

**Farm infrastructure layout**
Land class fencing and replacing internal fences to different locations for a more productive layout, and fencing out watercourses and protecting native vegetation
Farm water supplies, farm tracks, and infrastructure etc

**Managing stock & pastures**
Grazing systems for stock and pasture health, and to reduce feed bills

**Create an attractive, environmentally sustainable property**
Farm trees and shelterbelts/corridors, and improving your property’s landscape/biodiversity values.

**RSVP:** for catering (lunch) purposes (noting any special diets), and to enable a free aerial photo map of your property to be produced in time for the workshop please RSVP asap,

**Aerial photos:** your property ID (from your Council rates notice – which Shire?), and your property address are needed to produce an aerial photo map of your property for the workshop. Please provide these details when you RSVP and if you own more than one rural property, provide the property ID for each property.

**Bookings:** please RSVP to Sonia Sharkey, Landcare Facilitator, via email: swg_landcare@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au or phone: 5734 6312

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Beware, wildlife on the move

You may have noticed that the wildlife are out and about much more following the fires. Many animals have been displaced since the fire. Please be a bit more aware of wildlife on roadsides and drive accordingly. Not only will this help the wildlife but also save on expensive insurance claims if you hit a roo or wombat.

You may also still see injured wildlife about. If you put this phone number in your mobile phone you will be easily able to contact folks who will be able to help out. 1300 094 535.

Photo of Roo injured during the recent fires courtesy of Macedon Ranges Wildlife Network. You can visit the Network at their facebook page by searching Macedon Ranges Wildlife Network.
Fire Restrictions

Even on a property that is entirely black from recent dramatic events, fire restrictions still apply.

Throughout Mitchell and the Macedon Ranges the fire danger period continues, with restrictions scheduled to remain until the 1st of May. This may be reviewed at any time, but unless you have positive information that the restrictions have been lifted please don’t dive outside with your match box before contacting your Shire office, a brigade officer or the Victorian Bushfire Information Line to check.

Even if you think your fire is completely safe despite the restrictions, your brigade is unable to use any discretion, any burns performed without a permit, or on a day of Total Fire Ban must be reported to the police. If everything is black the permit should be pretty easy to get!

Annual General Meeting

It has been a big year. If you have something to say about it then please come along to our annual public meeting on Monday 28th April, 7:30pm at the Fire Station. No elections this year, so don’t worry too much about ending up with a job. Please come along and have your say about how the brigade is run, find out what we have been up to, and participate in decisions about our plans for the future.

Theft

Tanker 2 got a bit beaten up during the BFF (the February fire: the ‘Big Fire’). For security while it was away getting fixed we stripped all the equipment off it and stored it in a private shed in Quales Rd. Last week some slimy turds thought they needed the equipment more than the brigade and stole the lot, total value about $23,000. Whoever you are, thanks a lot. If anybody has any information about the missing equipment or the wretched scum that removed it PLEASE contact the police.

Donations

The brigade have had many calls regarding donations since the fires. If you wish to make a financial donation you are welcome to deposit it directly into the Brigade’s bank account or send a cheque by post, - see below for details.

Darraweit Guim Fire Brigade
BSB: 633-108  Account: 112636113
Please leave your name in the description field and email the brigade Secretary at chook817@hotmail.com with your name, address and payment details so that a receipt may be forwarded to you.

Alternately, you may send a cheque made out to "Darraweit Guim fire Brigade" to:

Darraweit Guim Fire Brigade
C/- Secretary : Danielle Craig
1500 Bolinda - Darraweit Rd
Darraweit Guim VIC 3756

All donations over $2.00 are tax deductible