

# Community Connection and Wellbeing Work Group

11.00am to 1.00pm, Saturday 2 July

Meeting 2# Minutes

COMMUNITY  
RESILIENCE

## DRAFT SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION OF WORK GROUP

**Attendees:** Debra Hocking (Chair); Carolyn Tatchell; Yvonne Sheppard; Alexandra Forbes; Charles Le Feuvre; Christine Shaw; Matthew Chamberlain, DHHS; Clare Malone (COS); Jay Robinson (Lorne Hospital); Kim Stanley (DELWP).

**Apologies:** Het Ramp (Lorne Hospital); Carolyn Tatchell.

### 1 Welcome and Introductions

Debra Hocking welcomed Work Group members and invited them to introduce themselves. The Group noted apologies from Het Ramp and Carolyn Tatchell.

Kim Stanley explained that she has recently commenced with DEWLP as the Engagement Support Officer to work closely with, and support community recovery activities.

### 2 Confirmation of Previous Minutes and Review of Action Items

The Minutes from the previous meeting were ratified. It was noted that action items arising from the previous meeting are included as agenda items.

### 3 Temporary Accommodation Needs

Clare Malone confirmed that COS is happy to manage the bookings for both the cabin at Big 4 that the Lions Club is funding and which is available to property owners who lost their homes for temporary accommodation and the cabin the Big 4 has advised that one of their permanents no longer wants and is offering it to someone who has lost their holiday home. It is understood that the cabin is free but Big 4 charges will apply. She advised that she is in the process of contacting Big 4 and the Lions Club to discuss and agree on the arrangements.

Matt Chamberlain advised that the MOU between Air B&B and DHHS provides for immediate emergency relief accommodation rather than longer term relief accommodation but that he will undertake further discussions with them.

The CRC discussed the need to consider longer term accommodation needs for permanent residents who lost their homes as their insurance may not continue to cover accommodation costs. Matt advised that this matter will be monitored and raised at a state level by DHHS.

It was suggested that some non-permanent residents may be prepared to lend their houses to permanent residents who lost their homes. The Work Group agreed that it is important to be mindful of the fact that many people rent their houses for holiday accommodation. In addition, that it can be difficult to find suitable accommodation that will accept pets.

#### Action/Outcome

Clare Malone to contact Great Ocean Road Real Estate Holidays to discuss any potential discounts on accommodation for people who have lost their homes.

Matt Chamberlain and Clare Malone to provide information and options to the Work Group at the next meeting.

### 4 Christmas in July CFA Community Lunch

Clare Malone advised that while she is yet to confirm, it is anticipated that \$3,000 is available from donations for the CFA to host a Christmas in July Community Lunch on Saturday 30 July at the Wye River Pub. The Work Group noted that while the money has been donated for a lunch for the CFA members who missed out on Christmas Day, the CFA would like the event to be open to the wider community.

The Work Group discussed options to maximize the number of people that could be provided for in addition to approximately 30 CFA members.

Clare Malone noted that Peter Latham would like to invite some of the pilots who were responsible for saving houses and that EMV is assisting with this.

Kim Stanley advised that the CFAs in other bushfire affected areas are arranging an expo and would like to invite the Wye River CFA to participate.

#### **Action/Outcomes**

Clare Malone to prepare the invitation asking people to wear something festive.

Clare Malone to contact caravan parks and request they email invitation to their regular visitors.

Kim Stanley to provide advice to the Work Group in relation to the Expo.

#### **5. Update on Birdbox Project**

Jay Robinson explained that she is arranging a BBQ for the Mens Sheds on Tuesday 30 August at which a presentation will be made on the Birdbox Project. All Mens Sheds in the region will be invited with the Lorne Mens Shed will be the lead. The boxes to be made will be allocated to the Mens Sheds at the BBQ. She also advised that she is liaising with Lorne P12 about the children painting the birdboxes.

The Work Group noted that Yvonne Sheppard and Jay are preparing information about the birdboxes to provide to Clare for posting on WyeSep Connect and inclusion in Community Resilience Newsletter. It was also noted that COS is providing up to \$3,000 for the birdbox materials, inclusive of \$300-\$400 for paint. COS will provide the funds to Landcare which will pay the invoices.

Yvonne and Jay also explained that 10 birdboxes will be erected for symbolic purposes by the Green Army which the Southern Otway Landcare Network (SOLN) will arrange. Yvonne and Rex Brown will identify potential locations, possibly in Harrington Park and Clare will discuss with Stewart Anderson from COS. Photos will be included in Community Resilience Newsletter and on WyeSep Connect. Libby Richards from SOLN will arrange for 10 birdboxes to be erected by trained Green Army folks - at low locations as specified by Yvonne, while we are waiting on further extensive funding for them to be erected.

#### **6 Watertank**

The Work Group discussed the challenges in finding a suitable location for the watertank donated by the Lions Club.

The Work Group agreed to support the location identified above the carpark in Harrington Park and on the need for it to be installed as soon as possible.

The also queried if there will be a tap in a more accessible location so that people can access water.

#### **Action/Outcome**

Clare Malone to advise relevant COS staff that the Work Group support the location identified above the carpark in Harrington Park and on the need for it to be installed as soon as possible and that it needs to be installed by the end of August.

Clare Malone to investigate and advise Work Group about whether there will be a tap in a more accessible location so that people can access water.

#### **7 Ideas and Opportunities**

Clare Malone advised that while other funding sources are being investigated, COS currently has a limited budget available for community recovery activities so it is important for activities to be consulted upon and prioritised.

The Work Group discussed a range of ideas and opportunities in relation to community recovery activities and projects. Suggestions which have been collected from community members and others included:

- Arts Projects, noting that there are a range of potential funding sources
- Community Art Workshops
- Community Volunteers
- Promotion of great work being done in town
- Emergency Media and Public Affairs Conference
- Xmas Day Anniversary of Fires
- Story Board
- Firefoxes
- Photo exhibition
- Historical Society Book Project
- Children writing postcards to people who have lost or damaged homes
- Community Play
- Literary Therapy.

Kim Stanley advised of the Creative Recovery program run by Regional Development Victoria, noting this would be worth investigating.

The Work Group also discussed the need for personal stories and profiles on people impacted by, and involved in the bushfires and the recovery.

The Work Group agreed that it will consult with the community about the ideas and opportunities identified and invite further suggestions.

#### **Action/Outcome**

Clare Malone to discuss with EMV developing a series of personal profiles for inclusion on WyeSep Connect.

Clare Malone, Christine Shaw and Kim Stanley to prepare information for WyeSep Connect to seek community input into the development of a program of community recovery activities.

#### **8 Other Business**

Training for CFA volunteers -It was suggested that it would be good to offer CFA volunteers some training opportunities. Matt Chamberlain advised that the SES offer a 2 day Introduction to Emergency Management Course which may be of interest.

#### **Action/Outcome**

Matt Chamberlain to follow up and provide advice to Work Group about SES training opportunities for CFA volunteers.

Clare Malone to follow up with EMV and provide advice to Work Group about any relevant training opportunities for CFA volunteers.

Community Firewood – The Work Group noted that Peter Jacobs will be the contact for people who would like to collect some of the community firewood. It was agreed that it is important for a list to be kept of who the wood has been distributed to and how much to ensure transparency.

CWA Care Packages – Yvonne Sheppard advised that the Colac CWA has donated care packages which she will arrange to distribute.

Financial Counselling – It was noted that Colac Otway Health has some funding available for financial counselling services.

Donation from Amy Gillet Funding – Clare Malone advised that the Amy Gillet Foundation has raised funds which they would like to donate to the Wye River Separation Creek community at some type of public event and have sought advice as to what type of event would be suitable/appropriate.

#### **Action/Outcome**

Clare Malone to ascertain how much the donation is and what the money is intended to be used for to inform further discussion by the Work Group.

Meeting with Permanent Residents who lost their homes– Debra Hocking advised that the lunch and meeting of permanent residents who had lost their homes was cancelled as only 2 people were able to attend.

#### **Action/Outcome**

Matt Chamberlain to reschedule meeting lunch and meeting of permanent residents who had lost their homes for 1pm to 3pm Saturday 6 August.

There was discussion in relation to the provision of support for younger CFA members.

#### **10. Next Meeting**

11am to 1pm Saturday 6 August.