



The GRETA BUNYIP



"YOUR GRETA & DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER"

EDITION No: 19

DECEMBER 2013

GRETA VALLEY CFA—KEY ADVICE FOR FARMERS



Fire is an all year round risk management activity Farmers have legislative responsibilities during the Fire Danger Period Effective preparation and response means better recovery and return to business Limit or cease farm machinery activity on Severe, Extreme or Code Red days Farmers need to consider the needs of family, staff and contractors on their farm.

Essential steps before the fire season Planning

Have a routine in place for fire risk days (moving stock and limiting or postponing machinery use, switching off electric fences). Make sure everyone on your property is aware of it. Know your

trigger to leave early on fire risk days or the trigger for family members, employees or contractors to leave.

Plan for contingencies- such as children at school.

Fuel loads and stock Reduce fuel loads around assets (house blocks, sheds and fences) and create strategic fuel breaks.

Apply to the relevant authority if you need to remove native vegetation or manage fuel on roadsides. Create a heavily grazed area where stock can be moved during a bushfire situation. Conduct a stock take of feed, animals and fencing before the fire season and keep a copy of records off your property.

Permits and laws. Make a list of legal restrictions (Fire Danger Period and Total Fire Ban) relevant to your property. Display it or keep it handy so everyone on your property can refer to it often and easily. Check with your council if local laws are in place for lighting fires, burning off or using incinerators. If going to burn off notify your local Fire Brigade first. Apply for a Schedule 13 permit from your local council if you intend to burn off weeds, stubble or vegetation during the FDP, or a schedule 14 permit if you intend to use fire for other purposes (e.g. machinery). Vehicles, equipment and hay. Double check that spark arrestors on machinery are working and efficient. Make sure chainsaws are free from faults.

Have water fire extinguishers or knapsack spray pumps (minimum 9 litres) available that can be carried by any person using farm equipment or machinery. Have a safety strategy in place for storing and monitoring hay - purchase a moisture meter if necessary. Make sure hay is fully cured before bailing. If you have private fire fighting equipment, conduct a 'refresher' session with family and employees to make sure everyone can use it.

Make sure that there are no gaps between cladding and the ground or slab of your sheds to prevent embers getting inside.

Access for fire fighters - Make sure your property name or number is clearly visible so emergency services can identify it easily when approaching the entrance. Check access tracks around your property. Consider if access for fire trucks can be improved by clearing vegetation, signposting dead ends or creating turning circles. Make sure water supplies around your property are clearly marked in case emergency services need to access them.

If you plan to stay and defend a building during a bushfire, take steps to establish a water supply of at least 10,000 litres (independent of the mains supply).

**FIRE RESTRICTIONS BEGIN:
1:00am MONDAY 9th DECEMBER 2013**

GRETA VALLEY LANDCARE

Greta West Weir - Options review

The Greta West Weir is located on the Fifteen Mile Creek adjoining O'Malley's Lane, approximately one kilometre downstream of Greta West. The weir acts as a diversion structure, supplying stock and domestic flows into both Middle Creek and One Mile Creek, which are positioned to the east of Fifteen Mile Creek.

Andrew Briggs from the North East CMA recently attended a Greta Valley Landcare Group committee meeting to discuss the current review of the weir structure at Greta West and outline the process so far.

Originally constructed to provide for water flows to the middle and one mile creek systems following the draining of the Greta Swamps, the weir now also provides a critical function in maintaining the stability of the 15mile channel at this point.

The weir has been steadily deteriorating for many years and failure of the weir would be catastrophic in terms of releasing sediment, increasing stream bed erosion up stream of the weir and removing any capacity for sharing of flows across the floodplain down the one mile and middle creek systems.

An 'options review' has been completed that presents five options. A further sixth option has been proposed by some landholders that will also be developed and incorporated into the options review. Following public consultation, a preferred option will be developed that can be enacted when funding becomes available. Further information can be sought from the CMA through the Wodonga Office (02 6043 7600).



INTERESTED IN ACAPELLA SINGING???



Led by Community Music Vic. Singing leader Carol Kunert, we have a variety of beautiful songs from all around the world with harmonies, rounds & body rhythms as well as old favourites. Everyone is welcome to join, confident & bathroom singers alike. Your voice will be encouraged & trained along the way. You will leave feeling uplifted and energised with the power of song. No need to read music, most will be taught by ear. We will work towards a performance concert each term.



**7-9pm (School Terms) Clarke Street Campus / Benalla P-12 Campus
Clarke Street Benalla (next to Vic Roads)**

Cost: \$12 (\$10 Student / Concession) per session or \$100/\$80 for a ten week term

For more Info call Carol on 5729-7647 or 0417-565493 or carol@kingvalleywalnuts.com.au



UPCOMING XMAS EVENTS



WANGARATTA CHORISTERS

The Wangaratta Choristers under the baton of new director Celine Muir will perform their traditional Christmas Carol Concert @ St.Michael's Anglican Church, O'Leary Street Wangaratta on Wednesday December 11th @ 8pm.

The hour long concert will be followed by a delicious festive supper.

* * * * *

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Where? Greta/Hansonville Hall
When? Sunday 8th. December
Time? 7.45 p.m.

Gifts may be brought to place under the empty Christmas tree. Gifts will be distributed by Anglicare to needy folk in Wangaratta.

We ask that folk state the contents of the gift to save opening before distribution.

NB: Please bring a plate for supper.

* * * * *

GRETA VALLEY PLAYGROUP

Xmas Break-Up will be held on Thursday December 19th @ the Lions Club Road Safety School Wangaratta

* * * * *

GRETA HANSONVILLE HALL

Our "Xmas" committee meeting will be held at the hall Monday December 9th preceded by a 6pm BBQ.

All members of the community are welcome to attend.

* * * * *

GRETA VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The schools annual Xmas Concert will be held at the Greta-Hansonville Hall on Wednesday December 18th commencing at 7pm.

The children will provide the entertainment with an old-fashioned school concert followed by a visit from Santa who will take gifts from local families to give to needy families.

Supper will provided by school families.



FROM THE EDITOR

Well the "Bunyip" has seen yet another year, our third in total. Who would have thought?

Thank you to all my contributors and our loyal band of deliverers who continue to support this important local initiative.

I can be contacted via email at hatbadges25@hotmail.com Merry Xmas to all our readers — DARREN

Bill Sykes MP

Member for Benalla



*Proudly supporting
Greta Bunyip & District
community newsletter*



Contact Bill Sykes (03) 5762 2100
www.billsykes.com.au

PAT GLYNN

Electrical

BENALLA

Mob. 0408 608 162

R.E.C. No: 14248

Your "Local Sparky".
Servicing all areas
covered by the
Greta Bunyip

ROCK RIDGE

Boarding Kennels

"Where your pet is treated as part of the family."

We have 22 kennels with 15mtr runs & an extra large exercise yard. Vet on call. Health & hygiene assured. Inspection Welcome By Appt.
Contact Maree on 0458-276777.

&

Portable Sawmilling

For all your timber, sawmilling & slabbing Requirements.

KILN DRYING SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE

Call Mal on 0428-574392.

Email: MalandMaree@rock-ridge.com.au

YOUNGER'S LAWNS & WOOD

1291 Wangaratta Kilfeera Rd
Greta Vic 3675
03-57276200
0407-516221

Grass Slashing

Fire breaks, roadsides, paddocks & yards,
Free quotes

Firewood Sales

Redgum, Common Hardwood,
Splitter Hire,
Delivery Available, Orders Taken Now

Backhoe Hire

Trenches, culverts, tree & stump removal,
livestock burial

**We also install and service Garage Doors and
Remote Control Units.**

For all your needs contact Ned