A quick word

My first weeks as Recovery Coordinator have absolutely flown! During my hand-over with Vince I began to understand the huge job that he had been coordinating. However it wasn’t until I started to talk with the many groups, committees and individuals who are part of this recovery process that I fully appreciated the magnitude of the work undertaken over the last seven months.

Vince’s leadership has been crucial in getting us to where we are today and, on behalf of all the communities impacted by the fires, I am sincerely grateful.

Staff at the Recovery Centre and other support agencies continue to work closely with people from the area to assist them in their own personal recovery. There has been a pronounced lifting of spirits over the last few weeks. The recent rains, together with the seeding of much of the area, are contributing to this feeling and I hope that it gives confidence that the rebuilding and recovery is working.

Whilst we are using established networks to monitor progress and identify new issues, it is important that the whole community remains vigilant for those people who need further assistance. Some people have been very stoic in the approach to their own recovery. They were the ones who ‘just got on with the job’ and felt that they didn’t need help. However, at this stage, they may be finding the process overwhelming. If you know people who are struggling with their recovery, it is vitally important that assistance is provided. While it would be ideal for these people to contact the Recovery Centre directly, they may not be so inclined and require an intermediary to do it on their behalf.

A sense of community includes a feeling of belonging; that members matter to one another and to the group. Let’s bring that sense of community to the fore and help those in need.

Alex Zimmermann
Plants galore

Hamley Bridge Primary School became decidedly greener over the Queen’s Birthday long weekend thanks to a massive plant giveaway coordinated by Port Wakefield resident Wendy Deinum.

For the past six months, Wendy has coordinated the potting of hardy garden plants for distribution free of charge to families impacted by the fire, with people from all over the state potting cuttings and propagating plants for the project. More than 4,000 plants were donated by Whyalla Garden Club, Murray Bridge Social Garden Group, the Australian Plant Society Brinkworth Area Group, Mount Pleasant, Tanunda, Minlaton, the suburbs of Adelaide and locals in the Balaklava area.

The recent rains have provided the perfect gardening conditions and approximately 70 families visited the school to choose from the wide range of native trees, shrubs, geraniums, succulents, irises, pot plants, herbs and cottage garden plants.

Wendy said the generosity of those who provided plants, together with the sincere gratitude of the recipients, made the project very rewarding and a truly wonderful weekend for all involved.

Sincere thanks to Wendy, her children and grandchildren for assisting on the day. Thanks also to Hamley Bridge Primary School and members of the Hamley Bridge community for their support, and Altus Traffic Management for providing temporary fencing and signage around the distribution area.

A bird’s eye view of soil

Several younger farmers have commented that, before the fire, they had not seen their soils exposed. Their farming practices had kept the soils covered and protected by stubbles and pasture residues, and most practised ‘no-till’ farming, which doesn’t turn the soil over.

The loss of cover has enabled farmers to identify the colour of different soil types and provided a better idea of their extent and location. This can help in management of the soil types as they can differ in properties such as inherent fertility, water holding capacity and drainage.

Google Earth updated its satellite imagery in some of the fire area on 3 March this year. The erosion from that time can be detected, together with the tillage that was used to reduce the erosion.

For those in the area where the imagery has been updated, Google Earth can provide a ‘once in a life-time’ bird’s eye view of the soil. It might be well worth saving some of these images for future reference and soil management.

See every newsletter online

View every edition of the recovery newsletter online at www.dcsi.sa.gov.au (click on ‘Disaster recovery’ > ‘Pinery fire recovery newsletters’). This page will be kept updated so you can read the latest news anytime.
It pays to shop around
When looking to get your property back on track, it could be tempting to go with the first quote you receive. Some fencing contractors are providing quotes based on their experiences in the Sampson Flat area.

Fencing on country in the Pinery fire area should be less costly because of the flatter terrain. Fewer bends, easier travel for machinery and less rocky ground should result in lower material costs and faster construction. As a very general guide, for a sheep fence on open ground, farmers might expect to pay about $5,000 per kilometre for materials and construction, whereas in very hilly, steep, rocky terrain, the price could be double this amount.

Road to Resilience
One of the keys to a strong recovery after any natural disaster is the need for resilience: the ability to adapt to change or recover from adversity.

Approximately 65 women in the fire area recently attended an event in the Barossa dedicated to resilience. The event featured beloved local culinary icon Maggie Beer AM and the Honourable Zoe Bettison MP - Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion and Minister for Women.

Maggie spoke about her life journey and how resilience had been so crucial when fire, flood and pestilence swept through her home and business, requiring her to pick herself up and start over again. Her inspiring message was to never give up and to help each other.

Later, Miriam Lumb from Red Cross Australia led the group in a session offering strategies for resilience and self-care.

The group also had the chance to enjoy the stunning Barossa surrounds with visits to Maggie’s Farm Shop near Seppeltsfield, the Tanunda Regional Art Gallery and the Jam Factory in Seppeltsfield before returning home.

Sincere thanks to Barossa Tourism Inc. and its business members for supporting the event with donated wine and lucky draw prizes and to Mel Shepley from the Freeling Hotel, who prepared the delicious lunch. Thanks also to Greenock Charters and Farnham Roadlines for providing a bus to ferry the groups around and Farnham’s driver Han for donating his time.

Finally, our heartfelt thanks to Red Cross Australia and Maggie Beer for creating a truly memorable day for everyone involved.

Trees for Life discount
Trees for Life is offering a 50% discount on native plant orders to people affected by the fire.

The discount applies to all seedlings, tree guards and stakes available through the Tree Scheme. Please note the offer is limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis and the discount does not apply to membership fees. Orders for 2017 close Sunday 31 July 2016.

To find out more about this offer and to receive a copy of the Tree Scheme order form, phone Trees for Life on (08) 8406 0500 or email info@treesforlife.org.au.

To obtain the discount simply write PINERY FIRE on the top of your order form and apply a 50% discount to the total amount.

Know what’s growing
With new growth appearing in the fire scar, you may notice new plants and animals that you haven’t seen before. These could be native species, pests or possibly weeds.

Many species benefit from reduced competition and tillage after a fire. Seed germination of some is enhanced by fire or smoke, while others are introduced by boots, wheels, machinery, hay and grain.

Keep an eye out for anything that looks different and, if you’re not sure what it is, contact your agronomist or local Natural Resources Management (NRM) officer for assistance with identification.

Maggie Beer shares her inspiring tales with the group at Nuriootpa Soldiers Memorial Hall.
Pinery writing anthology launch
The Adelaide Plains Chapter and Verse group has been hard at work compiling the Pinery fire anthology *Winged Pods* for its launch at the Gawler Festival of Words. The festival begins with the launch on Friday 29 July and continues with a weekend of forums, readings and workshops on 30 and 31 July. Please see the events section or visit [www.festivalofwords.info](http://www.festivalofwords.info) for more details.

Grants for primary producers
Eligible primary producers in the council areas of Clare and Gilbert Valleys, Light, Mallala and Wakefield are invited to apply for funding through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance Grants programme.

Grants of up to $10,000 are available to primary producers who suffered direct damage as a result of the Pinery fire and intend to re-establish their primary production businesses.

Jointly funded by the Australian and South Australian governments, the grants are intended to provide short-term, targeted assistance by reimbursing clean-up and reinstatement costs that are not covered by insurance.

Applications close Friday 4 November 2016.

To access the Pinery fire recovery grant fact sheet, or download the application form visit [www.pir.sa.gov.au/pinerygrant](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/pinerygrant)

For grant assistance, phone the Grant Hotline on 1800 182 235 (toll free), or phone the PIRSA Pinery Bushfire Recovery Facilitator on (08) 8207 7847.

SA Bushfire Garden Revival
SA Bushfire Garden Revival supports fire-affected people by helping rebuild their gardens with thousands of donated and propagated plants. If you or a friend lost your garden or property vegetation, the SA Bushfire Garden Revival team is keen to help you.

There will be an Open Day on 7 August in Owen, where you will find a wide range of free native and exotic plants, tree guards and other garden related items to take home. For more information see the events section on page 7.

Girls Night Out
Approximately 110 women from the fire area kicked up their heels at the Tarlee Hall recently as part of the ‘Girls Night Out’ event. Attendees enjoyed a glass of bubbly and a gift bag on arrival and heard from business consultant Linda Eldredge from Eldredge and Associates, who discussed resilience and recovery in the rural environment. Prolific local author Fiona McIntosh had the crowd in stitches as she spoke about some of life’s challenges and keeping your sense of humour in trying situations.

The event also provided the rare chance for some pampering, including a fashion parade by Lesley’s of Gawler, flower art demonstration by Di Wark, retail stalls, free massages by Leona Clarke and Lorinda Bayley, free hair styling by Dani, nails by Kylie Kimlin and eyebrow waxing by Kerri-Ann’s Beauty and Brow.

Sincere thanks go to Sue Dunn and Leona Clarke who donated 200 garden plants that were given away on the night; the Country Women’s Association (CWA) for donating quilts and other goodies; Natural Resources Management Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges for sponsoring the catering; Tarlee Take-Away for the delicious food and the Tarlee Hotel bar for catering the drinks for the event. Thanks also to the businesses that provided lucky door prizes, gift bag items and raffle prizes. Finally, thank you to the organising committee; Judy Gorey, Annie Nichols, Sue Dunn, Merran Riddle, Tracey Butter, Leona Clarke, Denise Hogan, Denika Koch, Alex Gallery and Jess Jenke for making this great night out happen.
**A fresh coat for Wasleys Hall**

The Wasleys Institute received a much needed makeover recently when 50 staff from Pernod Ricard Winemakers dropped by to paint the interior of the Institute as part of their Staff Volunteer Day on 2 June.

The mammoth task didn't faze the group, who were very keen to be involved in the recovery effort. Under the direction of painting contractor Guy Bobridge from Tanunda they went through 100 litres of paint and completed a large portion of the work in one day. Guy completed the outstanding work on the ceiling and the higher sections of the walls later that month.

The community of Wasleys is very grateful to each and every volunteer from Pernod Ricard. Not only did they donate their time, but they also donated five computers to the Wasleys community.

Thank you to Jacqui Scadding and James Lake from Pernod Ricard who worked with Mo Shepherd from Wasleys to coordinate the project.

Because of the kind support of the workers at Pernod Ricard, the Wasley Institute received a fresh coat of paint to reinvigorate the facilities and to begin the restoration of the damage sustained in the fire.

**Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity continues to support property owners affected by the Pinery fire and has sent groups of volunteers to over 30 properties within the fire area.

Usually a volunteer group involves around 10 people for a period of 5-6 hours. It is therefore often possible for the group to complete tasks which would take the property owner weeks or even months on their own. The volunteers can assist with any 'hands on' clean-up work, including shovelling rubble, filling skip bins, pulling down fences, gardening, removing debris from damaged buildings and dragging trees or branches into burn piles.

Habitat for Humanity intends to offer assistance for the duration of 2016 and possibly beyond. Whilst the main focus is on helping with clean up, they also have some capacity to assist with provision of building materials in certain circumstances.

Please phone Habitat for Humanity on (08) 8344 6009 for more information, or if you are part of an organisation that may be able to provide volunteer assistance for a day.

**New support group in Freeling**

Social support is vital to recovery and disaster support groups are a valuable aid to psychosocial recovery. They enable people in similar situations to share their knowledge and experiences with each other.

Family and friends can’t always meet people’s needs. Support groups can fill an important gap by providing people with a safe environment that allows them to have conversations that they might not otherwise have.

In partnership with the Australian Psychological Society, and in consultation with community representatives, Red Cross has coordinated a psychologist to facilitate a support group in Freeling.

The sessions are held on Thursday evenings on a fortnightly basis. Upcoming sessions will be held on 28 July and 11 August.

For more information, or to register your interest, please email Kirsty Dudley, Pinery Fire Community Development Officer at kirsty.dudley@sa.gov.au, or phone 0477 717 736.
Sibling rivalry renewed
Story and photo by Alicia Ludi-Schutz.
Reproduced courtesy the Leader, Barossa Valley.

The smiles on two footy mad 20 year olds couldn’t get any wider, after a special surprise presentation at the Gungellan Hotel.

The family behind Freeling’s Gungellan Hotel lost their home in the Piney Fire last year, including football memorabilia collected by half brothers, Zac Hatch and Matt Wellington.

Local Recovery co-ordinator, Mr Alex Zimmermann said the boys’ bedrooms were set up as “virtual shrines” to Essendon and Hawthorn football clubs and were devastated by the loss.

After being approached by Global Care volunteers, both Victorian footy clubs donated scarves, guernseys, posters, signed footballs and other memorabilia to help the fans re-build their collections.

“This is an absolutely fantastic gesture, especially from interstate football clubs, and it really shows the sense of community is right across the nation,” Alex said.

Speaking to Zac and Matt after the presentation, Alex said, “You can continue on worshipping across the borders! Hopefully this helps. It is a hard road that we are all on at the moment, but hopefully this goes someway towards making you feel a bit better.”

The renewed rivalry between the two is now back on track, as both Zac and Matt start their new collection.

“We can start to replace everything that we lost. Zac and I, we both had a lot of memorabilia, we’ve been die hard fans since we moved here and there’s always been rivalry,” Essendon fan, Matt told The Leader.

“Before Zac had his heart operation, we went to Hawthorn, we went into the change rooms and everything and we got heaps of stuff...You name it, we had it.

“Now we can have a rivalry between our rooms. One’s red and black, the other one’s brown and yellow - the rivalry starts again!”

Parents, Helen Hatch and Tony Wellington thanked the volunteers from Global Care who helped organise the surprise for their sons.

“They do a marvellous job and people don’t say thank you often enough. They are volunteers and they go out of their way to make sure everyone is doing okay,” said Helen.

She was pleased to see the joyful expressions on the young men as they tried on their jumpers and unravelled posters.

“This is fantastic for the boys because you know they are still devastated, they are still having bad dreams. Zac drove through the fire, you know it is in their head every day of the week,” Helen explained.

“The fact that they wake up everyday and they’ve got nothing...They are 20 years old, but that doesn’t mean they are not hurting.

“They are big tough boys that put a brave look on their face, but they are suffering.”

Discount for insulation
After the fire, you may have experienced ash in your kitchen, rangehood, bathroom vents and downlights.

Adelaide Insulation and Suction is offering a $300 discount per house to people impacted by the fire. Business owner Lukas Cobb has been in the industry for 12 years and can vacuum the roof space with an industrial
vacuum to clean any ash, dust, rodent droppings, old insulation batts and rubbish from your roof space. If you’d like to know more, please phone Lukas on 0406 661 540 or email lukas@adelaideinsulation.com.

**Recovery Centre changes**

The Recovery Centre is relocating within the TAFE building to the space previously occupied by the library.

From 22 July 2016, the clearly marked signs will lead you to the new location, where our friendly staff will be ready to assist you. Alternatively phone the team on 0477 744 258.

Mobile recovery services will no longer be delivered from Kapunda and Hamley Bridge. The same support can be accessed from the Gawler Recovery Centre or via a home visit. Please visit the centre or phone 0477 744 258 to talk to one of the staff. Opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

**Events**

### Firey Women Workshops

Free, practical fire safety workshops in a friendly environment.

**Wasleys**

When: Sunday 24 and 31 July, 9am to 3.30pm
Where: Wasleys Insitute Supper Room

**Pinery**

When: 05, 12, 19 and 26 August, 7pm to 10pm
Where: Pinery Hall

**Tarlee**

When: Sunday 7 and 14 August
Where: Tarlee Hall

For more information and to register, phone CFS Community Engagement Officer Helen Hennessy on 0457 102 151 or email hennessey.helen@cfs.sa.gov.au

### SA Bushfire Garden Revival

When: Sunday 7 August, 11am to 3pm
Where: Owen (Private residence. To be disclosed to attendees closer to event).
RSVP essential to Kristy on 0413 565 469 or email sabushfiregardenrevival@outlook.com

### Christmas in July 2016

When: Saturday 23 July, 7pm
Where: Lines Shearing Shed
109 McCabe Road, Pinkerton Plains
Tickets: $45 adults, $20 children under 13.

Enjoy comedy, music, auctions, raffles and an appearance by Father Christmas. Ticket includes a three-course meal. Please BYO drinks.

To book visit [www.trybooking.com/laff](http://www.trybooking.com/laff). Proceeds go to the Gordon and Appleton families, who lost their homes in the fire. For enquiries phone Sue Lines on 0417 893 367 or email newtsue@bigpond.com.

### Gawler Festival of Words

A weekend of words incorporating the launch of *Winged Pods*, the Pinery fire anthology.

**When**: Friday 29 July to Sunday 31 July
**Where**: Various locations in Gawler

For more information visit [www.festivalofwords.info](http://www.festivalofwords.info) or email [gawlerfestivalofwords@gmail.com](mailto:gawlerfestivalofwords@gmail.com)

### Writing Grant Applications Workshop

In this free workshop, learn how to identify organisational aims, objectives and strategic plans; how to research, consult and collect data; how to prepare a written grant/sponsorship application, and how to plan acquittal and evaluation processes.

**When**: Monday 12 September, 5pm to 8pm
**Where**: Northern Volunteering (SA) Level 1, 39 John Street, Salisbury.

Bookings essential by Monday 5 September. For registrations phone (08) 8250 1582 or email [trainingmanager@nvsa.org.au](mailto:trainingmanager@nvsa.org.au)

### Fashion Parade with Lesley’s of Gawler

A joint fundraiser for the Hamley Bridge Institute and Hamley Bridge Memorial Hospital including a glass of wine, Devonshire tea, raffle and door prizes.

**When**: Sunday 31 July, 2pm to 5.30pm
**Where**: Hamley Bridge Institute
Tickets: $10. Purchase from Gallery 14 on 0402 657 536 or Hamley Bridge Memorial Hospital on (08) 8258 2276.
Contact information

Recovery details
Recovery Hotline: 1800 302 787

Pinery Fire Recovery Centre: 0477 744 258
TAFE Gawler campus - 43 High Street, Gawler


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

Local Councils
Wakefield Regional Council: (08) 8862 0800 www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au

District Council of Mallala: (08) 8527 0200 www.mallala.sa.gov.au

Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council: (08) 8842 6400 www.claregilbertvalleys.sa.gov.au

Light Regional Council: (08) 8525 3200 www.light.sa.gov.au

Agriculture and livestock
PIRSA: (08) 8207 7847

Livestock SA and Primary Producers SA: (08) 8297 2299

Disaster recovery assistance
Commonwealth Government Information Hotline: 1800 22 66


Waste management
Environment Protection Authority: (08) 8204 2004 or 1800 623 445

Counselling services
Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
Youth Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
Lifeline: 13 11 14
Mens Line Australia: 1300 789 978
Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800
National counselling helpline: 1800RESPECT or www.1800respect.org.au
Country Health SA Clinical Counselling Service: Angaston (08) 8563 8544 or Gawler (08) 8521 2080
Northern Health Network: (08) 8209 0700

Volunteering
Volunteering SA&NT: 1300 135 545 www.volunteeringsa.org.au

Business support
Rural Business Support: 1800 836 211 www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au

Natural Resources
For assistance with property recovery, pest plant/animal control, revegetation, stock management and whole farm planning.

Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges, Gawler Office: (08) 8523 7700

Natural Resources Northern and Yorke, Clare Office: (08) 8841 3400 www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au then click on ‘Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges’ > ‘Pinery fire recovery’.

Community support
Freeling Support Group: 0477 717 736

Habitat for Humanity: (08) 8344 6009 or email: enquiries.sa@habitat.org.au

Information and referral
Women’s Information Service: (08) 8303 0590