



Update for residents affected by the Pigeon Valley Fire - Newsletter March 11 2019

Sir John Kirwan coming to Tasman

Sir John Kirwan is in town this week on Friday 15 March and he is going to be providing some advice to those affected by the recent fires and drought.

Both of these events are difficult enough by themselves, however, the combined effects of fire and drought in parts of our region are having significant effects on our community.

Thanks to the generosity of Westpac who are funding the visit, people have the opportunity to come and listen and get some 'tools for the toolbox'.

Sir John Kirwan will discuss how to spot the signs of stress in yourself, family, friends or colleagues who may be feeling under pressure from the events. He will give advice on such topics as: opening up lines of communication with others, how to personally manage stressful feelings and situations, where to turn for help and how to become more resilient.

It's a great opportunity to spend a Friday lunchtime listening to this engaging speaker. Local businesses might want to bring your team, workmates or family could get together and come down. Light nibbles and refreshments will be provided.

We don't get these opportunities for free advice of this calibre very often – you don't want to miss it!

Friday 15 March 12.30-1.30 at the Hope Community Church, Ranzau Road, Hope. Cost: free!

Remediation

Now that the Pigeon Valley fire is controlled, we will be working towards remediating damage caused by both the fire and equipment used to contain it.

- Landowners/leaseholders need to utilise any insurance cover they have.
- Where there is no cover or the cover is insufficient, apply to the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund, all applications will be considered.
- With regards to land and property damaged by the firefighting activities, the recovery team is working with Central Government to source funding for remediation work. A paper will be put to the Cabinet in the next week or so. If supported by the Cabinet, any funding is likely to



only be available to remediate damage caused in trying to control and contain the fire. This includes damage to:

- land, fences and other infrastructure in the construction of firebreaks;
- structures that may have been caused in securing water to fight the fire.

We hope to have confirmation of this funding by the end of March 2019.

Cost of the fire

We are currently finalising the estimates to remediate the damage caused by the fire and fire prevention/remediation works, this has been done by analysing:

- Initial Rapid Assessments undertaken by Urban Search and Rescue teams in late February
- Aerial and satellite photography of the area affected
- Records collated by Fire and Emergency NZ
- Visits to individual properties to discuss the effects by the Land Remediation Team (LRT)

The Nelson Tasman CDEM Group will be contacting individual landowners from 8th March and scheduling visits to confirm damage assessments and talk about remediation options. The Council will also be talking to landowners about the process to complete the remediation works.

Donations and offers of support

The amount of support from the community throughout the last several weeks has been amazing. As we've moved into the recovery phase, we're asking people who wish to donate to do so by gifting to charities or alternatively to make a financial contribution to the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund.

Nelson Tasman Recovery Manager Richard Kirby said many of the agencies involved in dealing with the fire, such as FENZ, Police and others, would rather see those gifts given to benefit the whole community.

"Put simply, the emergency agencies are not resourced to manage the distribution process and they are extremely well resourced to manage their specific needs.

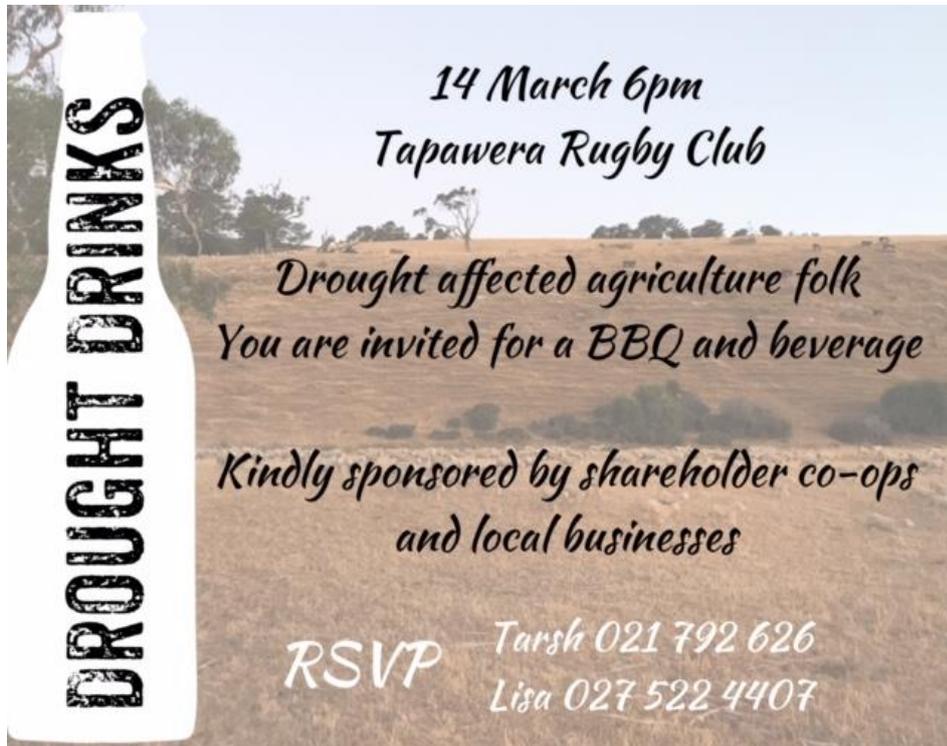
"At the time of the major firefighting effort the locally baked tray of muffins was a welcome sight as was the meal or other goods for the evacuated family. However, now the fire response has moved into recovery with smaller numbers of personnel the emphasis is now on getting properties back into a liveable or productive state. Many businesses and families are just working out what is needed specifically and when that is done it is invariably financial help that is required the most.

"The effort by many who took the time to donate goods, time and services during the 'crisis' period, was magnificent and all those involved and affected will be forever thankful."



NELSON TASMAN
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

GROUP



Animal welfare

We urge people to access the support available. This includes the Rural Support Trust, the Federated Farmer's Feedline and National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT).

You can also contact **Rural Support Trust**: for a free, confidential chat on 0800 787 254.

Free GP visits and pharmacy prescriptions: The usual fees for GP visits and pharmacy prescriptions will be waived for fire-related appointments. Please note: The usual fees for general GP visits (i.e. not related to stress or anxiety) applied again from 1 March.

For help getting healthcare: Health navigators from Nelson Bays Primary Health are available to help connect you to health services. The team are available Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm.

- free-phone 0800 627 401
- email healthsupport@nbph.org.nz

If you need further support for yourself or for others:

- call your general practice, after-hours GP practice or Healthline on 0800 611 116
- free-phone or text 1737 to talk to a trained counsellor
- in an emergency, call 111



Please refer to the Nelson Marlborough Health website for advice about smoke exposure, helping children to cope and more.

<https://www.nmdhb.govt.nz/nmdhb-news-and-notice/pigeon-valley-forest-fire-update/>

Contact details and where to find the most up to date information about the fires, evacuation and the emergency response:

- The Nelson Tasman Civil Defence website: www.nelsontasmancivildefence.co.nz/news
- The Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/nelsontasmancivildefenceandemergencymanagement>
- The NZTA traffic pages (for information about road closures): <http://www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/regions/10>
- The Ministry of Social Development can advise on financial support: 0800 779 997
- The Ministry of Primary Industries can advise on animal welfare concerns: 0800 008 333 (option 4)

Sharing this update

Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Emergency Group is here to help, if you think there are other topics we need to cover in this newsletter let us know.

If you have family or friends that cannot access a computer, please share this information with them. Remember, it is ok to ask for help. If you need help and you're not sure who to ask, call Tasman District Council on 03 543 8400 (24 Hours).