

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS flood recovery coordination

NEWSLETTER

Issue #14, June 24th 2011



CLOSING SOON

The closing date for applications for the third round of the Premiers Disaster Relief Fund is the **30th of June 2011**.

For more information or for assistance in filling out the forms call the Flood Recovery Coordination Centre on 07 4987 7267 or to drop in to 26 Opal Street, Emerald.

Applicants will need to provide two quotes for BSA licensed builders. For a list of available boulders go to the BSA website or call 1300 272 272.

NEW FUND

\$10 Million from the Premiers Disaster Relief Fund has been allocated to St Vincent de Paul Society to continue to respond to the needs of those impacted by the 2010/11 natural disasters.

No means test will be required and hardship will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Anybody requiring assistance from St Vincent de Paul can call 1300 633 343.

Queensland Week celebrates community recovery

Central Highlands residents have turned out in force to numerous events organised to recognise the efforts of the community in their recovery from the floods.

"It has been the commemoration of the efforts of so many people within the community and it has been a really great opportunity to give each other a pat on the back," Flood Recovery Chairperson Kerry Hayes said.

Central Highlands residents got a much deserved opportunity to let their hair down at the Floodfest which was held at the AgGrow site. The event was hosted by BMA's Gregory Crinum Mine in partnership with the Central Highlands Flood Recovery Coordination Group, Central Highlands Regional Council and other local community groups. A large turnout included of people who travelled from all over the region to attend, some from as far as Rolleston and Dysart. Acts such as Cat Empire, Hi- 5 and Dorothy the Dinosaur and the Traveling Show kept the crowd dancing.

"The event was terrific and came at a perfect time when many people have been working hard to get back to normality. It has been a hard six months and, as the huge turnout has shown, people were ready to get out and celebrate," Cr Hayes said.

On the following Tuesday, the family and friends of over 30 nominee's

came to the Queensland Disaster Hero's ceremony which was held at the Emerald Town Hall. The awards were presented by Premier Anna Bligh and Chair of the Reconstruction Authority. In a press release after the event Premier Bligh was sincere in her praise of those acknowledged at the ceremony,

"The floods hit hard in Emerald, but from the devastation stories of bravery and courage have emerged. Today is the day we get to say thank you to you on behalf of all Queenslanders for their acts of bravery, selflessness and sense of compassion – and above all, their undying Queensland spirit," Ms Bligh said.

According to Cr Hayes, the event was an important milestone for the recovery of the community, "It was really great to have the Premier and Major General Slater out here acknowledging the people who were nominated. It is so important for everyone to see that the recovery process is ongoing and we have the support of the State Government, to see that we have not been forgotten," Mr Hayes



said.

In what some would regard as 'the icing on the cake' the visit from the Queensland State of Origin team on Wednesday June 8th generated a huge amount of excitement,

"It was fantastic to see everyone out and celebrating and not worrying about flood related issues, even if it is just for the afternoon. If there is one thing that was going to really get everyone excited it is State of Origin," Mr Hayes said.

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Over 4000 people lined the streets to welcome the team, a hearty reception that was not lost on even the most seasoned of veterans, "For guys who don't come from the country this day shows how much it means to people out here. The reception is always much bigger than it is in the city. Today was an example of that with the crowd in the main street," team captain Darren Lockyer told the Courier Mail.

The parade was followed by a gala lunch where signed merchandise was auctioned with a signed ball raising \$1700, a signed Esky \$3000 and a signed Origin jersey \$6000. The funds raised were donated to the Local Disaster Appeal. The day was completed with a training session at McIndoe Park that

was watched by over 1000 fans.

"On behalf of the Flood Recovery Coordination I would like to thank BMA and all of the organisations involved in the planning and execution of these events for our community. It is so important that whilst we continue to push forward with recovery we take the time to celebrate how far we have come and how lucky we are to live in such a great community," Cr Hayes said.

"However, we must continue to offer support for people who are dealing with ongoing issues due to the floods. We must also continue to encourage those who are eligible for assistance to get their application forms in as the closing date for round three of the Premiers Funds is very soon," Cr Hayes added.

Premiers Fund Round 3

Applications close 30 June 2011

Grants of up to \$80 000 are being offered to residents who experienced flood damage to their homes.

The grants are aimed at people whose homes were not destroyed but sustained significant structural damage, for example those who have been living without a kitchen or bathroom.

Applicants will need to provide two quotes for BSA licensed builders. For a list of available boulders go to the BSA website or call 1300 272 272.

Application close on 30 June 2011. For forms go to: www.qld.gov.au/floods

Applications for the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment

Closing Date: 4 July 2011.

For application forms go to www.centrelink.gov.au or call 180 22 66.

Local Central Highlands Flood Appeal

These forms can be collected from the Neighbourhood Centre at 17 Yamala Street, Emerald. For more information call 4982 1696

QRAA Funding for Small/Large Businesses and NPF Organisations

Financial assistance is available through QRAA for primary producers, businesses and non-profit organisations that have suffered direct damage and are located in an eligible local government area.

Primary producers, small and large businesses and not-for-profit organisations can all apply for grants and loans. Loan recently were increased to \$650 000 under the Exceptional Disaster Assistance Scheme.

To apply look online at www.qraa.qld.gov.au or call 1800 623 946.

Important Contacts:

Central Highlands Flood Recovery Coordination

26 Opal Street
07 4987 7267

recovery@chrc.qld.gov.au

Central Highlands Regional Council

1300 242 686

www.centralhighlands.qld.gov.au

Lifeline 24 Hour Crisis Counselling

13 11 14

Anglicare Central Queensland

07 4982 4062

Lifeline Emerald

07 4982 3730

Emerald Neighbourhood Centre

07 4982 1696

Salvation Army Disaster Relief Care Line

1300 66 22 17

Legal Aid

1300 65 11 88

Building Services Authority (BSA)

1300 272 272