

# Melba Community Recovery Committee

## Appendix 2.2.

Priority Project Number 2.2: Detailed Plan

# Community Meeting Spaces

Murrindindi - Woodbourne

# Community Recovery Plan

Communities of Glenburn, Limestone &  
Murrindindi – Woodbourne

**November 2009**



Victorian Bushfire  
Reconstruction and  
Recovery Authority

## Melba Communities Recovery Priority Projects No 2 – Community Meeting Spaces

### 2.2 Murrindindi-Woodbourne Community Meeting Room

<b>Idea / Need</b>	2.2	Building of a Murrindindi-Woodbourne Community Meeting Room
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<b>Description</b>	<p>The community of Murrindindi-Woodbourne has NO public facilities for meetings, educational activities, festivities, etc.</p> <p>In fact, a community get-together immediately after the fires had to be held at a private residence because of the lack of this crucial facility</p>	<b>What it would fix / do...</b>	<p>The creation of a public meeting facility would be the backbone of the community and act as the focus of a wide range of community activities, some of which have never developed because of the lack of a facility.</p> <p>Of particular note would be the ability to develop educational, health and safety and recreational pursuits. It should also be recognised that the facility will act as an emergency centre in times of crisis, including accommodation for CFA/DSE/etc strike forces.</p>
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<b>How well is this idea supported within the community? Who has been involved in designing this idea / need?</b>	As described in detail above, there is unanimous support for the priorities listed, especially the meeting room. Led by senior members, the entire community has been able to have input into the plan.
<b>What sort of costs would be involved? How might this be funded or resourced?</b>	Costs estimated at up to \$316,000
<b>Who would need to be involved to continue this idea / need?</b>	We believe it is important that the entire community be involved. However, the Murrindindi-Woodbourne Community Building Committee, with membership from the local community would be responsible for day-to-day management of the project. Support from the Shire of Murrindindi, VBRRA and DSE would need to be intimately involved

<b>Category</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure / Community Facility / Rebuilding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People / Wellbeing / Welfare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic / Business <input type="checkbox"/> Natural environment / parks / wildlife <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community wellbeing and community strength <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education, Health and Safety
<b>Priority</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highest <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Lower
<b>Timeline</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent / Now <input type="checkbox"/> As soon as practical <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term
<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Straightforward <input type="checkbox"/> Effort required, but can be done <input type="checkbox"/> Longer term and more complex <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirational – a big picture idea
<b>Notes / See Also</b>	

## **Community Recovery Plan for Murrindindi-Woodbourne Meeting Space**

### ***Introduction***

This Community Recovery Plan has been prepared on behalf of the rural community of Murrindindi-Woodbourne, a small community located between the Melba Highway and the Black Ranges. We outline three major requirements of the community and have prioritised them according to wide community feedback following the bushfires of Feb 2009.

The plan has been coordinated following a persistent effort to clearly establish the requirements of the community. The community has been very consistent in its stated views on its needs. We take pleasure in submitting this proposal for your consideration and support.

### ***Process undertaken to develop this plan***

The Murrindindi-Woodbourne community undertook, prior to the disastrous bushfire of February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009, to develop a plan to build a community meeting place. This was already in train well prior to the notification of the formation and activities of Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA).

The process was developed to ensure widespread community involvement and to ensure that all members of the community, young and old, had an opportunity to address their issues.

Mrs Sue Devereaux contacted Cr John Walsh in the hope that he would chair the initial specific fire recovery meeting in an effort to aggregate this disparate community and create a plan of recovery. A number of invited speakers, including –

- Department of Sustainability and Environment (Mr Steve Grant)
- Department of Human Services (Mr Graeme Shears)
- Red Cross (Mrs Margaret Mahon)
- Shire of Murrindindi (Cr John Walsh)
- Department of Primary Industry
- Regional Rural Development (Ms Kim Chadband)

attended the meeting which was held in the Murrindindi-Woodbourne CFA building.



Fig 1 Bushfire recovery meeting

It should be indicated that this 'building' is an unlined galvanised iron shed with no facilities of any form (ie, kitchen, toilet, heating/cooling). However, it is the only community building within the area. When a larger community event, such as the dinner and special meetings are convened, a porta-loo has to be hired. (See below **Special Dinner** )



Fig 2 Special Dinner after the fire

Such was the intense interest of this small, disparate community that over one hundred people attended this meeting at short notice. (People were standing outside the shed, as there was not enough room)



**Fig 3 Bushfire recovery meeting**

The outcome of several meetings was that a plan be developed for the development of reliable communications within the area and the construction of an acceptable meeting room for the community.

It was announced by the representative of the Department of Sustainability and Environment that the reconstruction of the Murrindindi Reserve was to be given priority (which had been listed as the third priority by the community).

To ensure that the community remained informed and supportive, Mrs Devereaux then assisted in the creation of the Murrindindi-Woodbourne website ([www.woodbourne.vic.au](http://www.woodbourne.vic.au)) and meeting notes were appended. As well, several 'letter drops' to all houses in the area explaining the priorities and the process of feedback were completed.

A community dinner was organised by senior members of the community with another record 'rollout'. Once again, more than one hundred community members attended. **(See picture above)**

It is important to note that the estimated number of houses in the community is of the order of only eighty (of which nine were lost during the fire). As a percentage of total dwellings, the loss must be regarded as considerable and does not take into account the destruction of outbuildings, machinery, cars and business infrastructure.



**Fig 4 Murrindindi-Woodbourne CFA Shed and only meeting place for our community**

A special CFA and community meetings were called with further exceptional turnouts. The community approved the priority of reliable communications, a meeting room and rehabilitation of affected buildings, businesses and, particularly, the Scenic Reserve. As well, feedback loops were created and advertised to ensure clear direction by the community of their representatives on various activity committees.

In summary, the mechanisms involved to ensure wide community awareness and support for the construction of a Meeting Room included –

1. Website
2. Community mail drop
3. community meetings
4. Special meetings (chaired by senior member of community, John Clark)
5. community feedback (by word-of-mouth, e-mail, telephone, etc)
6. Special dinner to discuss community bushfire recovery issues
7. Formation of the Murrindindi-Woodbourne Community Building Committee and Fund



**Fig 5 Proposed new site of Community meeting room and new CFA Shed  
(Original home to the Murrindindi-Woodbourne Hall)**



**Fig 6 Commemorative Rock at the proposed new site of the Community meeting room  
and CFA Shed, it is a well known landmark in our community.**



Fig 7 Showing the space and ambience of the proposed site

## Plans Prepared for the Murrindindi – Woodbourne Community Meeting Space



