

# Victorian Bushfires Surveying Taskforce

Bulletin 7

4 June 2009

## Volunteer fieldwork update

The volunteer surveying work in the Kinglake region during May has progressed well, with fieldwork now complete in 24 of the 30 identified areas. Many thanks to the following firms and individuals who performed the recovery surveys in the final stage of the work at Kinglake.

**Castella C1:** Brian Walsh through BM Walsh & Associates

**Castella C2:** Brian Watson and Ron Turner through Brian Watson Surveying

**Castella C3:** Jay Barfoot and Mark Holland through Nilsson Noel & Holmes

**Pheasant Creek PC1:** Warren Patching and Riley Ensor through CPG Australia P/L

**Pheasant Creek PC2:** Leighton Lewis and Calvin Robinson through Lewis Land Surveying

**Pheasant Creek PC3:** Peter Mulcahy and Sam Petzke through Peter Mulcahy & Associates P/L

**Humevale HV1:** Mike Purbrick and Mark Mangan through SMEC Urban

It is expected that fieldwork for all identified areas in the Kinglake region will be completed by mid-June, which, following the completion of the three areas identified in Boolarra, will mark the end of the volunteer fieldwork coordinated by the Victorian Bushfires Surveying Taskforce (VBST).

It was initially thought that further survey mark recovery would be required in Marysville; however, this has not eventuated because of the number of permanent marks surviving in the township and their strong connections to the cadastre. Further details regarding the Marysville situation are provided later in this bulletin.

Unfortunately, completion of the fieldwork means that resources remain in the volunteer register that have not been utilised. At its past two meetings, the VBST has discussed whether anything else from a surveying perspective can be done by volunteers to benefit the bushfire-affected communities.



*Leighton Lewis and Calvin Robinson from Lewis Land Surveying assessing survey information at National Park Road, Pheasant Creek*



*Peter Mulcahy and Sam Petzke from Peter Mulcahy & Associates locating survey marks found at Pine Ridge Road, Pheasant Creek*



Department of Sustainability and Environment

Obviously, the marking of individual property boundaries would greatly assist with rebuilding works; however, that function is beyond the scope of this project and the remaining volunteer resources. It is best left to the private surveying sector to perform.

The taskforce has decided that it might be possible for volunteers to assess what has been located in some of the areas where recovery works have been performed. Together with the relevant survey information, volunteers could provide a report recommending the boundaries and alignments that should be adopted.

In determining the areas suitable for this approach, the taskforce will contact each firm who performed the recovery survey work to obtain a verbal report on whether or not it would benefit the area in which they worked.

Depending on what eventuates in this proposed next stage of the project and what develops in the future, the completion of fieldwork in Kinglake and Boolarra may mark the end of the VBST's project coordination.

Regardless, the VBST is most appreciative of the assistance offered and received, and will individually thank all those who volunteered by way of a thank you letter, whether or not they were called upon.

### **Marysville**

KLM Spatial has completed a desktop assessment of two areas in Marysville and confirmed the view of others – there is no need for survey mark recovery work to take place in the township.

This is the legacy of a Proclaimed Survey Area established in the township and Crown surveys performed in the 1970s and 80s, which determined the Government road alignments and connected into the permanent survey mark network.

Because the modern surveys are also connected to the permanent survey mark network, the worst case scenario – where all the marks have been destroyed or lost from a particular survey – would result in the surveyed parcel being re-established from surviving permanent marks.

KLM Spatial has also reported that there is little benefit in performing further desktop assessments for other parts of the cadastre in Marysville.

### **Boolarra**

The three areas identified in Boolarra for the recovery of surviving survey marks were allocated to surveying firms KLM Spatial, Taylors Development Strategists and Bosco Jonson.

The fieldwork began on Tuesday 2 June and, as with Kinglake, the Office of Surveyor-General

Victoria will supply an area manager on the day to assist volunteers with their duties and brief them regarding occupational health and safety matters.

### **Bendigo**

The Rotary project to remark the boundaries of fire-affected properties in Bendigo is now well under way with four local surveying firms – CPG Australia (formerly Coomes Consulting), Adrian Cummins & Associates, Geoff Shaw & Associates and Tomkinson Group – engaged to perform the work.

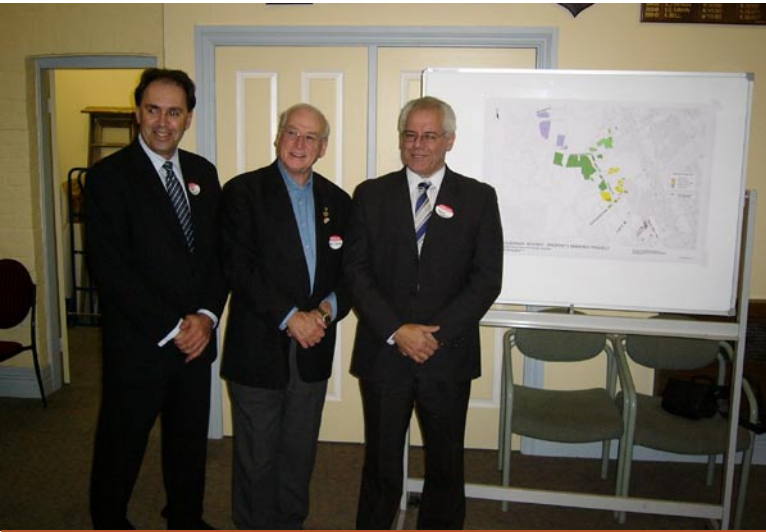
In recognition of the surveyors' work to locate and reference surviving survey marks and now perform the boundary definition surveys, the Rotary Club of Eaglehawk held an evening function on Tuesday 26 May at the California Gully Mechanics Institute.

Guests included the Mayor of the City of Greater Bendigo Cr Kevin Gibbins and the Surveyor-General of Victoria John Tulloch who, along with the Master of Ceremonies Rotary Club member Gordon McKern, praised the work of the local community to raise funds for the project. Local surveying firms and Roger Muller from DSE were also recognised for their contributions.

Mayor Gibbins commented that the Victorian Bushfire Recovery and Reconstruction Authority (VBRRA) was viewing the rebuilding work in Bendigo as a pilot project that could have applications to other fire-affected communities in the state.



*Adrian Cummins, Chris Franks, John Tulloch, Gordon McKern, Jason Parker and Roger Muller at the Rotary Club of Eaglehawk's recognition function for the local survey firms*



*Surveyor-General of Victoria John Tulloch, President of the Rotary Club of Eaglehawk Alf Thorpe and the Mayor of the City of Greater Bendigo Cr Kevin Gibbins with a map showing the progress of the property boundary surveys being performed in the fire-affected localities of Bendigo*

### **Property boundary surveys**

With people affected by the fires now beginning the task of rebuilding their properties, there is an increasing need for property boundary surveys to be performed.

As mentioned earlier, the VBST's position is that surveys of this type are beyond the scope of volunteers and best performed by the private surveying industry on a fee-for-service basis. Some confusion, however, still exists in fire-affected communities about who will be performing the property boundary surveys and whether they form part of the pro bono work being performed by volunteers.

To clarify the situation, representatives of the VBST met with VBRRRA to outline the volunteer surveyors' work and discuss what could be achieved with the balance of resources on the volunteer register. VBRRRA was interested in what was happening in Bendigo and requested further information on the model being used there so that it might be considered in developing a policy around funding and undertaking property boundary surveys.

Until this policy is developed the advice being provided to residents is that if they require a survey to redefine property boundaries it should be arranged by engaging a licensed surveyor or surveying firm.

To assist residents in quickly finding a firm willing to perform property boundary surveys in their area, the Association of Consulting Surveyors Victoria (ACSV) has prepared a list of surveying firms and the fire-affected areas in which they are willing to work. The areas have been designated as Clusters A, B, C, D and E and cover the localities listed below.

**Cluster A:** Clonbinane, Heathcote Junction, Kilmore East, Reedy Creek, Wandong, Waterford Park, Strath Creek

**Cluster B:** Break of Day, Flowerdale, Hazeldene, Hazeldene South

**Cluster C:** Arthurs Creek, Eagles Nest, Humevale, Kinglake Central, Kinglake West, Pheasant Creek, St Andrews, Strathewen, Upper Plenty, Whittlesea, Whittlesea/Humevale, Mittons Bridge

**Cluster D:** Castella, Christmas Hills, Chum Creek, Dixons Creek, Glenburn, Murrindindi, Steels Creek, Tarrawarra, Toolangi, Yarra Glen

**Cluster E:** Buxton, Granton, Healesville, Marysville, Narbethong, Camberville

This list is being made available on the VBST website and surveying firms who would like to be added should email the ACSV at [volunteers@acsv.com.au](mailto:volunteers@acsv.com.au) with their name, survey firm, telephone number, email address and the cluster(s) in which they are willing to work. A map showing the extent of the clusters will also be available on the website.

### **Further information**

For further information on VBST's work or the project's progress, please contact the VBST Leader, Mr Eddie Cichocki on 8636 2545 or email [eddie.cichocki@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:eddie.cichocki@dse.vic.gov.au)

The VBST website can be accessed at [www.dse.vic.gov.au/vbst](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/vbst)