

NEWS FEATURE ♦ Adopting a town

■ Joy Woodroffe talks to KAREN PETNEY about her visit to our "Adopt-a-Town" friends in Victoria

Up close with Callignee



ABOVE: Fire Recovery Committee chair, Peter Harrison (left) and Adam Lambert in the Callignee community recovery distribution centre. RIGHT: The greening begins. BELOW: Adam Lambert in the wreckage of his mother-in-law's home.



KNITTING needles are madly clicking all over the Wakefield Regional Council area, as the beanie, scarf and glove drive gets into full swing.

"Beanie Day" is this Friday and residents are encouraged to donate these high priority items for residents in the Callignee area, who are rebuilding their lives following Victoria's devastating bushfires.

• You can drop items at Tads Embroidery or the Community Library in Balaklava and at general stores or post offices in other towns.

Callignee and its surrounding areas have been 'adopted' by towns within Wakefield Regional Council area under the "Adopt-a-Town" scheme.

Donations can be placed in the colourful boxes at local general stores or Post Offices.

Balaklava residents can take their donations to Tads Embroidery.

Last week, "Adopt-a-Town" scheme developer, Joy Woodroffe, and her husband David, visited Callignee and met members of the Community Recovery Committee (CRC) who meet regularly to tackle the many issues arising from the fires.

Joy said the fires had brought

people together like never before and the "Adopt-a-town" offer has been warmly welcomed.

"I feel incredibly touched to have visited," Joy said.

"I know that as a community we can positively have an input into their recovery."

Balaklava's Kevin and Mary Bubner, have delivered quilts lovingly made by the ladies of the Adelaide Plains.

Adopt-a-Town committee will continue to meet on a regular basis and residents are encouraged to put forward ideas of ways they can further help. Ideas will then be put to Adam Lambert and his CRC members, with whom Joy has been liaising, to come up with the best possible ways locals can help the people to rebuild their lives.

Joy said our Victorian neighbours were looking forward to a long and rewarding relationship with us over time, as they get back on their feet.

"Hopefully many of us will be able to venture over the border and visit our adopted town of Callignee," she said.

"When we arrived at Adam's home, he was assisting locals in the community to load up trailers with firewood, which he is storing on his property.

"From Adam's home, for as far as you could see, all the trees were burnt, and only a couple of weeks before, the whole landscape was black. A little bit of rain over the last few weeks has carpeted the hills in green, which is a welcome sight

for the residents who live there. Adam's home is built on top of a hill and was saved by a change in the direction of the wind.

"We met his wife Chris, and their four children and Adam kindly drove us around the areas of Traralgon South, Callignee, Koornalla and Le Roy. All these areas have been devastated by the bushfires, which ravaged Victoria in February.

"The area of Callignee is best likened to places in South Australia like, Nairne, Uraidla and Summertown in the Adelaide Hills - small, scattered communities with a central meeting place. Traralgon South is the hub in this area with sporting facilities (oval, club-rooms), primary school (around 100 students), general store and one petrol pump.

Joy said she had imagined the Callignee area to have towns like ours, but it was not like that. The population is scattered across the hills, each with its own acreage. There is no main street with shops or streets with housing.

"Some families have moved to rent in other areas, others are living in caravans on their properties or are staying with family elsewhere. There is uncertainty of how many will return and rebuild," Joy said.

"At the moment the priority is getting fences back in place (they own horses), clearing debris and taking one day at a time.

"They know the process of rebuilding will take many months, if not years. But they will succeed."

\$1,684



PANASONIC
Viera 106cm (42") Plasma Panel

- 600 Hz sub field drive technology
- Integrated digital HD tuner • New model
- 5 year protector plan available \$299

\$2,193



PANASONIC
Viera 127cm (50") Plasma Panel

- 600 Hz sub field drive technology
- Integrated digital HD tuner
- 5 year protector plan available \$299

\$229⁹⁵



DIMPLEX
Electric Fire

- 2kw heat output • 2 heat settings (1000W/2000W)
- Flame effect /log effect • Freestanding
- Castors for portability

Large range of heaters & electric blankets available now

\$99



AMICROE
USB 2.0 Flash Drive

- 4 Gb • Lifetime warranty
- Windows & Mac compatible



\$25

SUNBEAM
Safe & Sound heated throw

- Automatic temperature adjustment
- Plush microfibre fabric • Fast heat up - 10 min

RETRAVISION

BALAKLAVA ELECTRONICS
28 George St, Balaklava - Phone 8862 1552 or 8862 2211

in Rent
available