

## Dear Sarsfield Community Member

We are writing to update you on what has been happening and make you aware of an opportunity to get more involved in the ongoing bushfire recovery for Sarsfield.

In this pack, you will find:

- Information about establishing the Sarsfield Community Associated Incorporated (this letter)
- Timelines for the Sarsfield Community Association and AGM (this letter)
- Sarsfield Community Association Member application form
- Idea's page
- Update on the fire impacts across Sarsfield
- Tool Library access information

Soon after the fires the Sarsfield Hall opened its doors to offer support, providing Friday Night Dinners, donations and to gather priorities on immediate need. The Sarsfield Hall and Reserve Committee of Management established a sub-committee to progress community priorities. This sub-committee is known as the interim Community Recovery Committee for Sarsfield.

## **Creating an incorporated association**

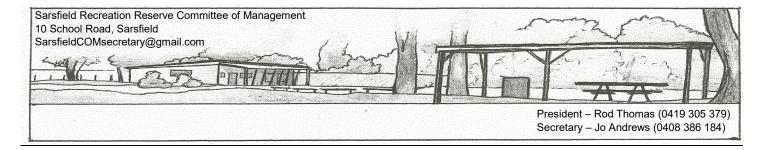
The sub-committee has been working hard to provide support to the Sarsfield community over the past six months however the current structure has limitations. After consultation with a governance expert it became clear that an Incorporated Association best meets the needs of the community to make sure donations can still be distributed, community workshops and planning can be held, and the Sarsfield community can apply for grants for new activities.

There could be ongoing benefit to the community for the association to continue on after bushfire recovery and look to the long-term priorities and wellbeing of the Sarsfield community. As a Sarsfield community member, this is your association and decision.

# The purpose for the Sarsfield Community Association will be:

- To represent the views of the Sarsfield community.
- To support and advocate for the development of the Sarsfield community.
- To plan, maintain and develop community assets desired by the Sarsfield community.
- To provide support to the Sarsfield community after chaotic events.

To be able to represent the views of the community we need to understand and gather your views. We will ask for your help with this in different ways soon, in the short term it will involve a survey and online webinars.



#### Members of the association

A Community Association needs members, who is eligible to be a member? How do I become a member? How much does it cost? We hear you cry!

Any person who supports the purposes of the association, lives in, or has a connection with Sarsfield can be a member. To become a member is easy, an application form is included, and it is free to join.

There are different types of members; general members (15 years and over) and associate members (14 years and under). Once you become a member you can nominate or be nominated to be an office bearer (committee member or secretary) and vote in a committee.

We imagine that when bushfire recovery priorities have been outlined by the community, we will need working groups to help deliver them; when we can get back together again (hopefully soon) we will hold activities and workshops which everyone will be invited to attend and be involved with, Sarsfield Community Association member or not.

## The next steps

- Submit paperwork to set up the Sarsfield Community Association to Consumer Affairs.
- Submit/receive application forms and welcome members.
- Hold an annual general meeting where members can put a hand up to be on the committee and help shape and deliver the priorities of the community.

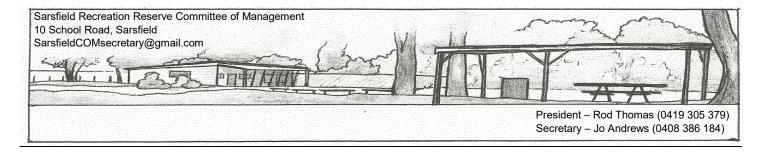
Until then, the interim committee will continue to meet fortnightly, working with the East Gippsland Shire Council and Bushfire Recovery Victoria, to ensure the incoming Sarsfield Community Association committee can hit the ground running.

If you have any questions, ideas or comments, we would love to hear from you, an idea's page has been included in the pack and can be returned the same way as the nomination form. We are working on updating the Sarsfield.com.au website and will put the association details up shortly.

We sincerely hope you are well, but if you require assistance please contact us, Neil or Colleen at the Recovery Hub, the Shire or Case Managers at Gippsland Lakes Complete Health. There is no wrong door and contacts are below.

**Yours Sincerely** 

The Sarsfield Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and the Community Recovery Sub Committee.



Members of the Sarsfield Recreation Reserve Committee: Rod Thomas (President)\*, Joanne Andrews (Secretary)\*, Allan Knewstubb\*, Cynthia McStephen\*, Howard Blegg and Geoff Mattingley.

Community Members co-opted to the Bushfire Recovery Sub-Committee: Bob Carter, Tiana Felmingham, Kate Nelson, Joanne Petersen and Durelle Esnouf.

# **Key Contacts:**

Bushfire Recovery Victoria	1800 560 760
East Gippsland Shire Council	5153 9500
Sarsfield Recovery Hub – Neil Smith and Colleen Crosbie	Neil: 0408 934 978 Colleen: 0400 363 845
Gippsland Lakes Complete Health – Case Managers	1800 560 760 to be connected to a Case Manager

## **Timeline**

Event/task	Date
Fires	Nov 2019-February2020
Response by providing relief and connecting to services	January 2020 - ongoing
Develop the Association	July 2020 – October 2020
Hold the first AGM of the Sarsfield Community Association (voting in	October 2020
office bearers)	
Development of working groups to progress action in the community	October 2020 - ongoing
Community consultation about what Sarsfield needs	October 2020 - ongoing
Attract and apply for funding to support activities	November 2020 - ongoing

<sup>\*</sup>Also on the Bushfire Recovery Sub-Committee.