

**Council News**

**No 1 Creek: expert**

Working to keep its promise to keep the Kinglake community fully informed about plans for redevelopment of the No.1 Creek area, the Murrindindi Shire Council has appointed an ecology specialist to develop final recommendations for council.

Council sought the assistance of the Department of Sustainability and Environment to provide recommendations of suitable companies that could ensure the project was undertaken in the most ecological and environmentally sensitive way.

Successful company is Practical Ecology with Lincoln Kern as project leader.

Lincoln will be guided in the process by a special steering committee formed recently. The committee comprises local Kinglake organisations, local authorities, DSE and council including three representatives from the Kinglake Landcare Group, a representative from council's Kinglake Environmental Advisory Group together with representatives from DSE, Goulburn Broken Catchment Group and Murrindindi Shire Council.

The steering committee met with Lincoln Kern to provide a detailed briefing as to the extreme sensitivity of the area. This included a site inspection of the No.1 Creek area and provided him an opportunity to hear committee member's views on the subject.

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**KIDS GAMES HERE**

KidsGames is coming to Whittlesea and Kinglake Ranges.

KidsGames is an initiative moving rapidly around the world, and in the last 18 months has been run in more than 140 countries, involving four million children.

Whittlesea and Kinglake Ranges will be taking part in this initiative for the first time in January.

Run by the local churches of Whittlesea and Kinglake Ranges, with assistance from volunteers from around the state and country, the aim of this KidsGames event is to bring hope to the areas impacted by the Black Saturday fires, encourage positive values through sports and games in a safe and fun environment, and to provide a memorable experience for the children and communities of Whittlesea and the Kinglake Ranges.

The KidsGames program will run from

January 11-15, from 9:30am-12:30pm.

There will be a program at the Whittlesea Showgrounds, Yea Rd, Whittlesea, as well as at the Kinglake Scout Hall, Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd, Kinglake.

All primary school aged children (Prep - Gr 6 in 2010) are welcome to attend. It is a free event, with drinks and morning tea provided to all participants.

A Sun Smart policy will be operating and all children are asked to bring a wide brimmed or legionnaires hat.

There will also be a Family Day on Saturday, January 16, from 10am - 2pm, with both the Whittlesea and Kinglake groups coming together for a special closing ceremony at the Whittlesea Showgrounds.

For a registration form, or for more information, contact Pam Johnson on 9437 7581 or email [kidsgameswhittlesea@gmail.com](mailto:kidsgameswhittlesea@gmail.com)

**'DINDI MAYOR RESIGNS**

From Page One

Cr Lyn Gunter announced her resignation at last week's Murrindindi Shire Council meeting held at the Marysville Golf and Bowls Club.

Cr Gunter said she had agonised over her decision to resign as a Councillor, and said she had not been supported by a majority of Councillors over the recent rates decision.

"In speaking to the draft Budget I raised concern when Council adopted the Draft Budget, then formally adopting the Budget, even though we had not formally been to the State Government with the assumption they would provide us with the differential in the rate income of \$1.5 million per annum for the next four years.

"I believe it is protocol, if not a courtesy, that prior to the adoption of the Council Plan and Budget council should have had the assurance from the State Government that this funding would be provided.

"In speaking against the rate increase I also added that reducing the rates to 3 per cent would recognise the hardship the community has suffered through drought, economic down turn and it would acknowledge the amazing strength of the community over the past months since February 7.

"This was not to be and as the Mayor I signed off on the majority of decision of council knowing in my heart the principles I stood by and still stand by were not taken up by the majority of councillors.



Cr Lyn Gunter

"With this principle in mind I came to a crossroad realizing the majority of Councillors and myself were on different roads even though we wanted to reach the same destination, community benefit and recovery.

"As stated previously I respect the right of everyone to make their own decision even if I do not agree with it. This decision on the Council Plan and Rates has led me make one of the hardest decisions in my public life, one that has not easily been reached.

"I have gone over it many times with my family to ensure I am making what I believe to be the best decision in the interest of the community and my personal commitment to support and advocate for them in the future.

"It is with deep regret and disappointment that I handed my resignation as Councillor to the Acting CEO last night which will become effective at the close of my mayoral term at 6m on December 9, 2009.

"I have found the role of Councillor and Mayor re-

warding as I have met some wonderful people and made friendships that will remain with me for life.

"To those who have supported me over my years in local government I send my heartfelt thanks as I have never done anything on my own it has only been achieved through the support of the community and those around me

"I want to place on record my thanks to my husband Brenton and my family as I could never have fulfilled my role on council without their ongoing total support.

"To the Acting CEO Rob Croxford and many of the council staff who are more than just work mates they are friends I say thank you for your assistance and advice whilst I have been on council.

"To my fellow Councillors past and present my thanks for being able to work with you as I have learnt so much by being with you and I am sure the knowledge and experience I have gained will be put to good use for the community in some future position.

"To the community I thank you for your support through what has been the most trying of times as we have walked this journey together and I could not have achieved anything that has been done without you.

"I want you to know I am not leaving you just finding another position where I believe I can be more effective.

"At this stage I have no idea where that may be but as the saying goes 'one door closes another opens.'

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