# The February 7 Kinglake Ranges FireStorm-Inferno

Four Months in Recovery

Photos by Lucy Filor & Benjamin Parker











































Celebration

Consternation

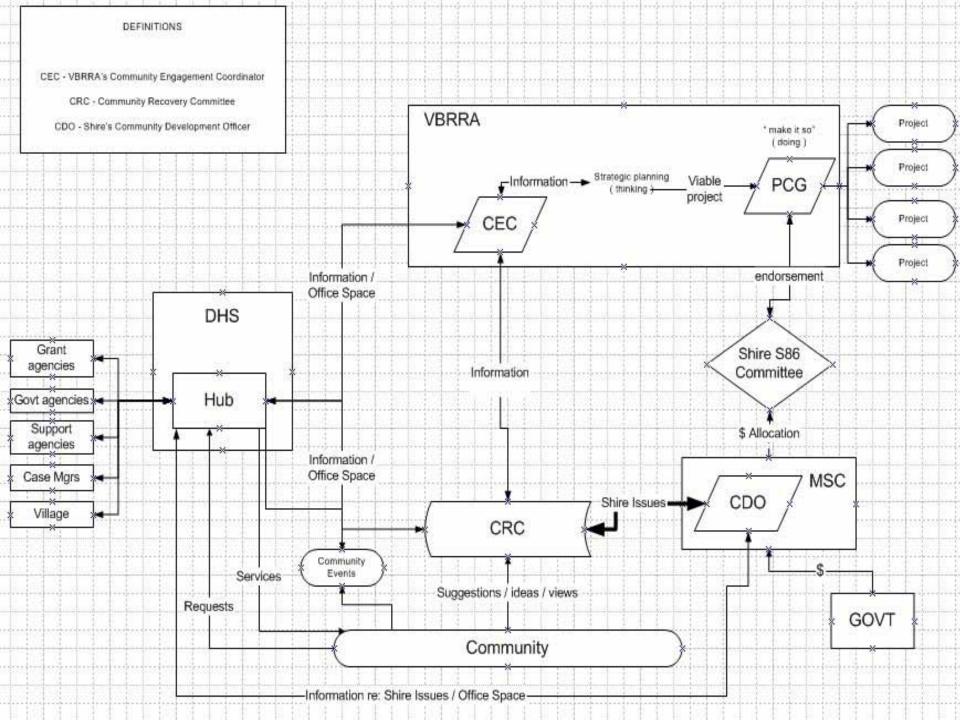
Community

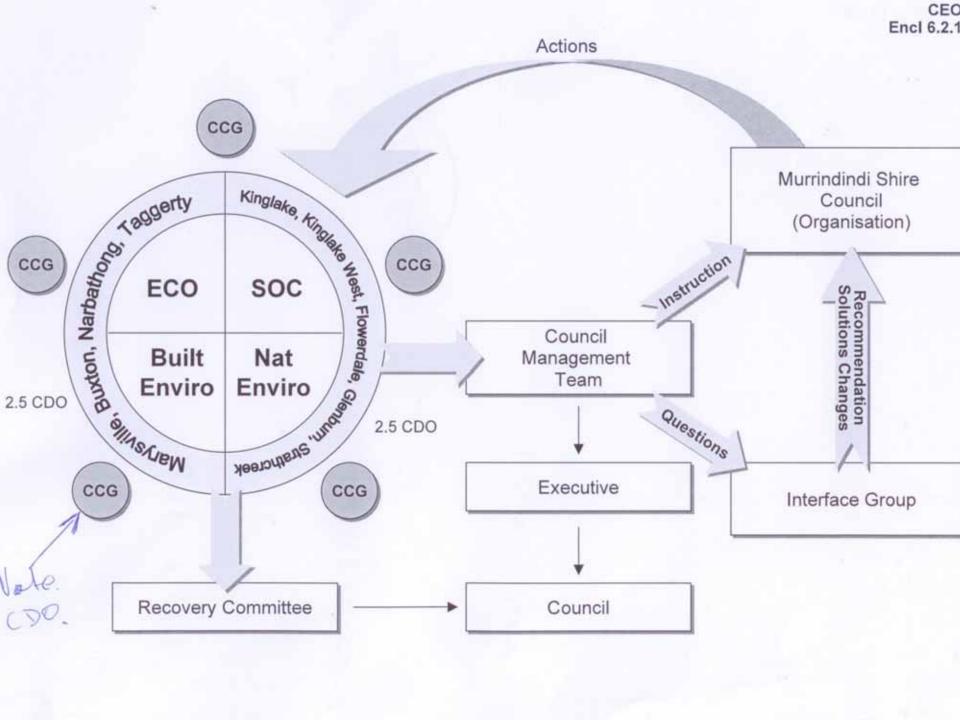
## Celebration

## Celebrating

- Thomas & Tessa Libreri Material Aid
- Cameron & Laura Caine The Big Footy Match
- Leesa Burton Animal Logistics
- Bev & David Johns The Western Front
- Colin French & Wally Spezza Democracy
- Peter & Jodie Thorneycroft Mental Health
- Adele McErlain Local Planning, Local Knowledge
- John Burgess & Pete Williams The Blog
- Cris Ruhr & Janeden River The Men's Shed
- Chi Kwang Resilient Community Mapping
- Ali Griffin Resurrected Memories

## Consternation





#### COMMUNITY

WORKING GROUPS

WORK ENGINE

**COMMUNITY COMMITTEE** 

**FACILITATORS** 

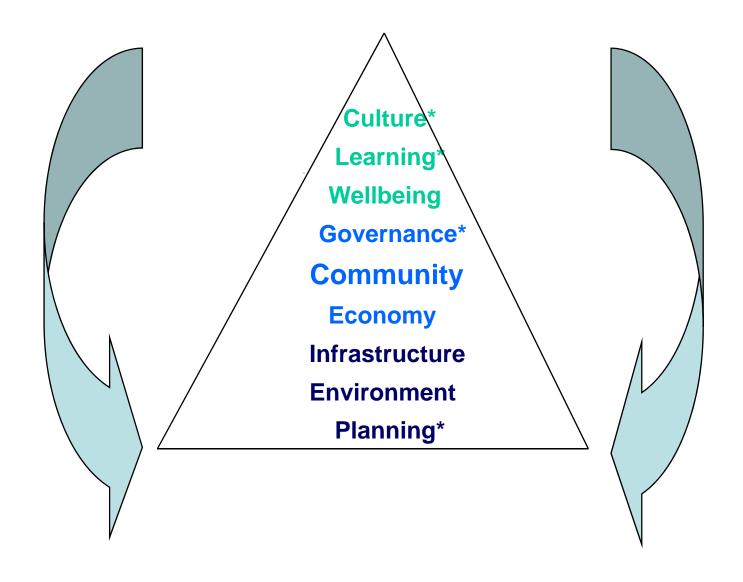
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## Community

### **VBRRA** Recovery Key Theme Areas





VBRRA Themes Systems Model - Pyramid
Virtuous Cycles (Energy & Resources) Flows Up from the Base to the Apex

Looking to Kinglake from Melbourne NO B OB B/ G .G BUY! Ø  Looking to Melbourne from Kinglake



## Community Re-Building

A **community building orientation** to **practice** conceptualises and relates to **community** as an **inclusive**, **complex** and **dynamic system**, of which we are all a part.

Such an orientation envisions **community as a system** that is multidimensional, **involving people** and **organisations** at many levels engaged in relationships with one another that are manifested in both **actions** and **consciousness**.

**Community building practice** seeks to engage with these multiple dimensions of **community**, recognising the range of **perspectives** and **relationships** that exist and integrating a range of diverse strategies and methods of practice.

The key goal is to build the capacity of the **entire system** - and all of its participants - **to operate as community**.

Adapted from Cheryl L Walter "Community Building Practice – a Conceptual Framework' in Meredith Minkler (Editor) Community Organising and Community Building for Health.

#### 5 Dimensions of Community Re-Building

#### 1. Community Development

manifests in the horizontal dimension & is characterised by **relationships involving mutual support**, coordinated effort, development of new members & 'power with.'

#### 2. Community Planning

manifests in the vertical dimension. It is characterised by **relationships between people and organisations** at different levels and involves command of resources, policy generation and implementation, organisation and 'power over.'

#### 3. Community Action

manifests in the meeting of people, **extending the boundaries of community through action**. Community action is characterised by the 'power to' through activities and events involving people in community.

#### 4. Community Consciousness

manifests in the **depth of community**. It is characterised by values, visions, communication, awareness, identify, affirmation and the 'power of.'

#### **5. Community Commons**

is the realm or context of the larger socio-cultural environment, the political and economic environments and the physical environment, within which community exists and is formed and from which it draws many of its resources - 'power within.'

## "Talking Together" Community Conversations

#### 12 Principles & Associated Questions

- 1. People Support What They Create
- Q. Are we engaging all those who have a stake in the issue/s?
- 2. People Act Most Responsibly When They Care
- Q. Are we working on issues that people truly care about? How do we know they care?
- 3. Conversations Are The Way Humans Have Always Thought Together
- Q. When and how do we use conversation to established shared meaning?
- Q. Where do such conversations naturally occur / emerge in our community?
- 4. To Change The Conversation, Change Who Is In The Conversation
- Q. Are we stuck in this conversation? Do our conversations go round and round lead nowhere? What new people can we invite into the conversation?
- 5. Expect Leadership To Come From ANYWHERE
- Q. When and how often have we been surprised about who stepped forward as an informal leader?

#### 6. Focusing On What's Working Gives Us Energy and Creativity

Q. When have you been most energised by your own work? (Ask What's Possible, Not What's Wrong!)

#### 7. The Wisdom Resides Within Us

Q. Do we first look inside our community expecting to find the answers there?

#### 8. Everything Is Going To Fail In The Middle

Q. How do we react to times of failure when we see our progress suddenly disappear? Do we blame, deny or gather to learn?

#### 9. Learning Is The Way We Change, Grow And Become Resilient

Q. How often do we take the time to learn from our experiences? Can we view our work as experiments that teach us how to succeed?

#### 10. Meaningful Work Is A Powerful Human Motivator

Q. How often do we talk about and remember the deeper purpose that called us to our work?

#### 11. We Humans Can Handle Anything As Long As We Are TOGETHER

Q. Are we paying attention to our relationships? Are we supporting each other? Are we ignoring each other? How often do we gossip, judge or scapegoat?

## 12. Generosity, Forgiveness And Love Are The Most Important Elements Of Community

Q. If people were observing you (in Your Community) what would they see?

#### Check This Out!

- "Greening Greensburg" Best Practice Recovery Planning after Tornado destruction
- a five part you-tube series about 15 minutes in total not to be missed!
- **Episode 1** <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovTYqNguXv4&feature=channel">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovTYqNguXv4&feature=channel</a>
- Episode 2 <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=729MF2D2H14&feature=channel">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=729MF2D2H14&feature=channel</a>
- **Episode 3** <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqQASexBOCE&feature=channel">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqQASexBOCE&feature=channel</a>
- **Episode 4** <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHYUypcxR2w&feature=channel">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHYUypcxR2w&feature=channel</a>
- Episode 5 <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3igNr6BMIX0&feature=channel">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3igNr6BMIX0&feature=channel</a>