



Dear All,

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome you to our mailing list for the research project: **Beyond Bushfires: Community, Resilience and Recovery** (previously known as Bushfires, Social Connectedness and Mental Health). For those of you who are not very familiar with our project and what we are trying to achieve here is a brief summary:

- This study is about how people and communities are getting by after the Victorian 2009 bushfires and what helps them in the recovery process. The findings will be used to support health and wellbeing and to understand how best to support medium to long term community recovery from similar events in the future.

Participating communities were selected to represent diversity in terms of fire impact (ranging from low to high), demographics, population size and distance from Melbourne. These include:

- Marysville, Granton, Narbethong, Buxton, Taggerty, Kinglake, Kinglake Central, Kinglake West, Pheasant Creek, Callignee, Koornalla, Dixons Creek, Steels Creek, Mudgegonga, Dederang, Kancoona, Bruarong, Glen Creek, Gundowring, Running Creek, Rosewhite, West Bendigo, Axedale, Eildon, Tallarook and Darnum.

At the moment preparation is in place to pilot our research in West Bendigo. If you live in this area it would be great for you to be involved. Further information on how to do this will follow in the next few weeks. Additionally the website should be up and running very shortly, containing detailed project information and ways to get involved.

We will send you regular updates on the study and how it is progressing. Please feel free to invite others to join this group. They can do so by sending an email to info-beyondbushfires@unimelb.edu.au. Also let us know if you would like to receive this in hard copy.

Kind regards,

The Beyond Bushfires team



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