



MEDIA RELEASE
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TRAINING BOOST FOR FIRE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Sporting and community groups in the fire-affected Boolara area are ready to cook up a storm with 23 volunteers receiving free training in food handling to boost the community's fundraising capability.

Education Centre Gippsland (ECG) and the Boolara Pony Club joined forces to conduct a training evening which brought together volunteers from a range of community groups including the Pony Club, Football and Netball Club, Kindergarten Primary School, and Fire Brigade.

ECG's Liz Tyler said the course was an opportunity to build the clubs' capacity to conduct more food fundraisers such as sausage sizzles, cake drives and other activities to raise money for the community.

"The Boolara Pony Club initially contacted ECG seeking training to increase its fundraising efforts. Contact with other clubs soon made it clear many were in a similar dilemma needing to skill up volunteers to meet increased fundraising demand because of the fires.

"What resulted is a wonderful partnership where community groups and ECG have come together to share resources.

"Boolarra Community Development Group assisted with funding to subsidise the event and ECG contributed funding to subsidise a further 10 extra people to conduct the course. The Pony Club hosted the night while the Football and Netball Club provided the venue and catering for the evening.

"ECG is a not-for-profit training provider and we are really pleased to support a community that is working to support itself in building the skills of local people to increase fundraising opportunities to help people who have lost so much through these fires."

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L-R: ECG trainer Janelle Derbyshire, Gary Mills President Boolarra Pony Club, Janet Napier of the Boolarra Football/Netball Club, Tristan O'Kane Boolarra Kindergarten/Primary School, Ashleigh Clissold Boolarra Pony Club, Anne Reskie of Boolarra Netball Club, ECG's Liz Tyler.