



thank you

Victorian bushfire appeal 2009

Bushfire Appeal Closes

Sincere thanks to those who gave

In February Australians came together in an unprecedented display of support. We join families and communities affected in thanking you for the generosity you have shown. In difficult financial times, you have been selfless in your giving. You have truly demonstrated the power of humanity.

Your donations are reaching people in need

Your donations are helping families to farewell their loved ones with dignity, they are helping survivors to find shelter and comfort and to begin the process of rebuilding their lives, their homes and communities. This is a huge task that will take some time.

The roles of Red Cross, the Victorian Government and the Independent Panel

The donations you made through Red Cross are now being distributed by the Victorian Government under the oversight of an Independent Advisory Panel made up of community leaders.

Finalise your fundraising efforts

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal, which closed on April 17, has raised over \$300 million. Anyone who has held a fundraising event will need to send the money to Red Cross by June 30. Those planning events after April 17 should contact Red Cross on 1800 811 700 before proceeding.

Accessing assistance

Each and every dollar will help individuals and communities recover. Please visit www.dhs.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal/home to find out how your donation is making a difference or call the Department of Human Services in Victoria on 1800 180 213 to find out how you can access assistance.

No Appeal funds have been used in placing this notice

NON VIC

Tuck Thompson

AN official register of hundreds of Queensland war memorials is expected to be launched by the State Government next week in time for Anzac Day.

The Courier-Mail launched a campaign to create the register last Remembrance Day after exposing a host of desecrated and unkept WWI memorials in the Brisbane area. Toowoomba residents Shirley and Trevor McIvor, whose book *Salute the Brave* has been the most comprehensive guide to Queensland war memorials, will be honoured at the launch on Monday afternoon in Brisbane.

Queensland is estimated to have 2000 to 3000 war memorials, although past governments had never made an effort to document them for future generations.

Premier Anna Bligh championed the idea of the register, which has been co-ordinated by the Department of Public Works.

Queensland RSL president Doug Formy said he was pleased the register was ready as a research and educational resource for the whole community. He thought the register would list about 1000 memorials.



GUIDE to memorials ... Shirley and Trevor McIvor will be honoured.

Other sources said it would list "in the hundreds".

The success of the register depends on community help in locating and documenting memorials, which was an area in which the RSL could lend great assistance, he said.

The McIvors see the register as an important way to preserve memorials as they must be located to be protected. In their journeys across Queensland to document memorials, they discovered many neglected memorials.

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Rent relief for inner-city residents

BRISBANE inner-city rents have fallen \$10 a week after the biggest increase in the number of available homes and units for rent in two years.

Nearly 300 new bonds for inner-city units were received by the Residential Tenancies Authority in the March quarter. Researcher Rob Honeycombe said the flat property market led many people who had to move interstate to rent their homes rather than sell.

In good news for renters, there has been a 3 per cent increase in the number of rental homes across Brisbane in the past year.

"The (stock) increase in the March quarter was the largest since early 2007 and the inner suburbs really needed it," Mr Honeycombe said. "We've had an acute under supply for some time."

He said inner-city rents had dropped from a median \$430 a week to \$420. The median asking rent for units in Brisbane is now \$340.

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