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President Glenn McFadzean

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## FIRST SOD TURNED ON MARYSVILLE COMMUNITY FACILITY

Community and sporting groups in the Marysville and Triangle area will soon have new facilities, with construction about to begin on stage two of the new Marysville Community Centre.

Health Minister Daniel Andrews joined chair of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Pat McNamara, community members, project donors and students from Marysville Primary School to turn the first sod for the new state-of-the-art health and community facility, last Friday.

"Today marks yet another milestone in the rebuilding of the Marysville and surrounding communities that were devastated by the Black Saturday bushfires in 2009," Mr Andrews said.

"We want to ensure Marysville residents have all the support they need as they continue to rebuild their lives, homes and community. "Important projects like the community centre are vital in revitalising the township, helping people to reconnect and attracting residents and visitors back to Marysville, now and into the future."

Mr Andrews said the Marysville Community Centre would become a focal point for the community and would be located beside the new primary school and early learning centre.

"Construction will start soon on the town's new community health centre and doctors' rooms, multi-purpose meeting space, community group office and indoor recreation centre," he said.

Member for Seymour Ben Hardman said the centre would provide a new home for vital community health services and local GPs in the heart of the township.

"For local sporting and community groups it will provide a vibrant meeting place and modern recreational facilities," Mr Hardman said. The \$5 million first stage, which included the new

Marysville Primary School and early childhood services, was officially opened earlier this year."

Stage 2 is expected to cost more than \$7 million, with funding provided by the State Government, the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund and corporate and philanthropic donors such as the Bendigo Bank, BlueScope Steel and the Coca-Cola Australia Foundation.

The chair of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, Pat McNamara, said Marysville community had endured enormous tragedy and hardship since the fires.

"The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund is working hard to ensure the funds that donors from all over the world so generously gave are getting to the people and communities who were directly affected," Mr McNamara said.

"Community rebuilding is an important part of the healing process and the second stage of Marysville Community Centre will make a major contribution towards helping people rebuild their town and reconnect with each other."

Deputy Mayor of Murrindindi Kevin Bellingham welcomed the start of works on stage two, saying the facility had been developed in consultation with key stakeholders and the local community.

"The final product is the result of much discussion and deliberation in the community," he said. It has involved repre-

sentatives of Gallipoli Park Reserve Management Committee; Alexandra District Hospital; the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development; Murrindindi Shire Council; Marysville and District Kindergarten Association; Marysville and Triangle Community Recovery Committee and the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority.

"I would like to thank VBAF, the Victorian Government and donors BlueScope Steel, Bendigo Bank and the Coca-Cola Australia Foundation for making this important facility possible."

The Marysville Community Health Facility, which is run by Alexandra District Hospital, has been operating from temporary accommodation in Buxton since the bushfires.

The community centre is one of a number of key projects underway in the Marysville and Triangle area, along with the redevelopment of Murchison Street and the town centre, drainage improvements and restoration works at Gallipoli Park.

Works on these projects are being carried out by Bovis Lend Lease, which has been appointed by Murrindindi Shire Council and the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority to oversee a two-year reconstruction program across Murrindindi Shire.

