

Imagine a day that changed us forever – 7th February 2009

A catastrophic fire destroyed fourteen homes, a church, countless head of stock, thousands of kilometres of fencing, 10 000 hectares of pasture, outbuildings, plantations and gardens, in fires to the north of this township. Residents of this region with many others across the State of Victoria, were involved in an event that changed the way in which these people would live their lives from that tragic Black Saturday onwards and the community rallied to help.

An enormous amount of support was given by the emergency services, CFA volunteers, families, friends, neighbours, businesses, clubs and societies, churches, local, state & federal government agencies and many anonymous total strangers – time, energy and money came from the rich, the poor, young, old, rural, suburban, even from those interstate and overseas!

F I R E **B I N D S** *A* **C O M M U N I T Y**
B U R N S

This mural, called AFTER: Art From The Extended Region, was conceived in the immediate aftermath of that devastating day, as a creative response to our neighbours' plight and the witnessing of the public's desire to be involved. It's vision was an inclusive display of strong community bonds and a symbol of transformation of lives and personal possessions into art.

Each dark tile represents a fire affected site, with black signifying loss and grey indicating a threatened home that was saved. Close neighbours are positioned nearby, with the colours becoming lighter the further away the support came from. Every tile contains a unique story, created from donated material from residents connected to our locals in one way or another.

This entire row from dark (close) to light (further away) has been dedicated to fire affected families from regions other than our own. The names of these contributors are listed with all of the many participants, and this being a memorial, some tiles are in memory of loved ones.