

Giffard West fire

IT took aerial water units from the Department of Land, Water and Environment and CFA fire-fighters several hours to control a blaze which took hold in the Giffard West area on Sunday.

Aircraft finished bombing the blaze by 5pm Sunday and it was deemed to be no further risk.

It is believed the blaze, 6km from Giffard West, may have been caused by a camp fire that had not been extinguished properly.

The spokeswoman said the fire did not threaten houses or livestock.

Announcement by Fonterra a confidence boost

THE world's largest exporter of dairy products, Fonterra, has shown its confidence in doing business in Gippsland with a multi-million-dollar investment in manufacturing plant upgrades.

Eastern Victoria Region MLC Harriet Shing, said the investment included a \$7 million expansion at Fonterra's Darnum nutritionals plant.

"[The] investment will create an additional 500 million litres of processing capacity, allowing Victorian dairy farmers to grow their production and ensuring all farmers have a home for their milk," she said.

Along with creating ongoing jobs once the sites are expanded, more jobs will be created during the construction phase.

"Victoria is Australia's home of manufacturing — a diverse industry that provides jobs, high-quality exports and substantial economic growth," Ms Shing said.

"Food and beverage manufacturing is thriving, with employment steadily increasing over recent years.

Ms Shing said the announcement was a huge vote of confidence in our Gippsland dairy industry from Fonterra, a world leader in Australia's \$2 billion consumer cheese industry.

"We know local farmers have had some tough times, but today's announcement is a win for them and our local community as a whole," she said.

Lung study will also guide future Sale health needs

LUNG function assessment of adults who lived in Sale during the 2014 Hazelwood mine fire are underway.

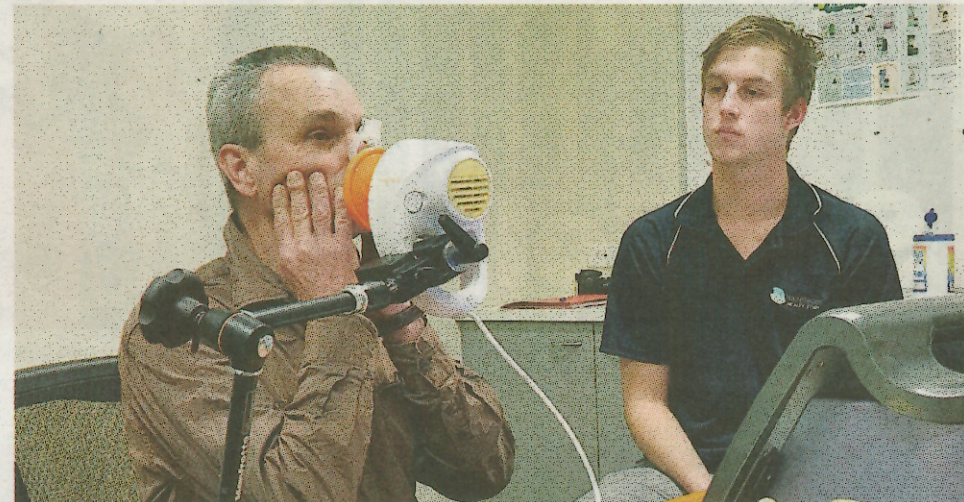
About 370 Sale residents who completed the adult survey have been invited by the Hazelwood Health Study to participate in the free, specialised assessments that began last week.

The aim is to take a snapshot of respiratory symptoms, lung health and asthma management in Gippsland.

During the two-hour visits, residents will complete a series of simple breathing tests and surveys under the supervision of a trained respiratory



Hazelwood Health Study respiratory coordinator Brigitte Borg says results from the lung health testing will help guide long-term health service needs in Sale.



Hazelwood Health Study Respiratory Scientist Tom McCrabb helps a participant through a series of breathing tests.

scientist.

Hazelwood Health Study respiratory coordinator Brigitte Borg said it was important as many people possible who were approached participated.

"Not only does their participation help the researchers measure the impact of the mine fire smoke, it also provides vital information about the respiratory health profile in Sale itself," Ms Borg said.

"This helps to guide long-term health service needs specific to the Sale area."

Assessments are being held at Central Gippsland Health in Sale.

Sale residents who choose to take part in the testing will be compensated for their time with a \$50 gift card.

Information on how to participate was included in the mail-out.

Participants will also be invited to undergo the

same assessments two more times — in three years, and again in six years from now.

The repeated visits will help researchers look for changes in lung health over time.

Those who choose to participate this time however, will be under no obligation to participate in the future.

Lung function assessments carried out in Morwell ended late last year, with 347 participants tested.

Researchers are hoping for an equally good response in Sale.

Residents invited to participate should phone the Hazelwood Health Study bookings team on 1800 985 899.

The research is funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.

For information about the Monash University-led Hazelwood Health Study, visit www.hazelwoodhealthstudy.org.au

Munro residents upset at meeting cancellation