



# Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

## APRIL 2022

Welcome to the twenty-third edition of the Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter, a joint initiative by Alpine Shire Council and Bushfire Recovery Victoria.

### Planned Burns Victoria

Do you want to know when planned burns will take place in your area? Find out all the information you need at Planned Burns Victoria by visiting [plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au](https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au).

Planned burns are conducted as part of a Joint Fuel Management Program conducted by Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) and the Country Fire Authority (CFA).

Planned Burns Victoria is a service that will send you notifications about upcoming planned burns in your area so that you can stay on top of the schedule as it is known.

Final decisions to burn are made on the day, based on essential monitoring of weather conditions and local fuel moisture levels.

When you subscribe to notifications, you will receive a text and/or email as planned burns become close to being carried out. However, burns may be delayed or cancelled in the lead up and on the day depending on conditions.

Please note that the system does not include burns carried out by private landholders.

### Recycle Household Chemicals

Do you have everyday household chemicals like weed killer, cleaning products, old cooking oil, or cosmetics that you no longer use? Dispose of them for free at Sustainability Victoria's Detox Your Home event at Myrtleford Transfer Station between 1pm - 3pm on Saturday 7 May 2022.

Registration is essential, so register now by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/detox-your-home-and-paintback-myrtleford-registration-226650968147>.

### Free Recovery Service

If you have found yourself feeling low or isolated, or facing a reduced interest in activities or an increase in worries, you may be experiencing the effects of negative impact from adverse events in our communities.

Find support with Alpine Health's Alpine Natural Disaster Recovery Service. This free and confidential support service is designed to support adults living in the Alpine Shire who may have been either directly or indirectly impacted by the recent events affecting our communities.

Adults are eligible for up to ten free psychology sessions either face-to-face in Bright, Mount Beauty, and Myrtleford, or over the phone.

Contact a qualified and experienced Rural Mental Health Worker by calling or texting **0437 460 241** or emailing [recovery@alpinehealth.org.au](mailto:recovery@alpinehealth.org.au).

Find out more by visiting <https://alpinehealth.org.au/healthy-communities/mental-health/alpine-natural-disaster-recovery-service>.

The Alpine Natural Disaster Recovery Service is supported by funding from Murray PHN through the Australian Government's PHN Program.

### Roles in Disaster Recovery

The Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) has launched a handbook for communities wanting to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in disaster recovery. Who's Who and What Do They Do is a resource that community organisations can use to explore collaborative approaches to disaster recovery by building effective partnerships with relevant agencies.

Access Who's Who and What Do They Do by visiting <https://vcoss.org.au/sector-hub/bushfirerecovery/>.

# ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News  
Edition 17 | April 2022



## ABOUT US

Your CRC is made up of representatives from the Alpine Shire and Resorts to give a voice to the broad views and recovery goals of local communities.

Get in touch by emailing [info@alpinecrc.org.au](mailto:info@alpinecrc.org.au).

## MAILING LIST

Have the Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter and Alpine Chat delivered to you by visiting <https://eepurl.com/hwZJYz>.

## WHO WE ARE

**Fiona Nicholls | Chair**  
Myrtleford and Surrounds

**Steve Belli | Deputy Chair**  
Mount Hotham

**Fiona Laird**  
Harrietville and Surrounds

**Gail Owen**  
Dinner Plain

**Sally MacDonald**  
Myrtleford and Surrounds

**Jane Shadbolt**  
Bright and Surrounds

**Dani Sheean**  
Falls Creek

**Lachlan Thomas**  
Harrietville and Surrounds

**Nicholas Wright**  
Kiewa Valley

**Representing our communities.**

## REVIEW OF ALPINE CRC PLAN

In March 2021, the Alpine Community Recovery Committee (CRC) developed a Community Recovery Plan (CRP) to support the aspiration:

**‘Our communities are connected, they are prepared, they have the capacity to respond and recover, they are resilient. They are self-sufficient when needed and have the capacity to create the future they want while coping with adversities.’**

The CRP (March 2021) was developed using a bottom-up approach, aligning known and pro-posed community projects with the priorities and needs identified in the community survey. This enabled the Alpine CRC to capture the granular detail at an individual community level. From here, the Alpine CRC developed a region-wide strategic view to identify issues of critical importance. This strategic approach led to the development of implementation pathways for re-recovery. Both approaches were structured around the four pillars of preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience.

It is important to the Alpine CRC that we advocate for action to occur. To do this we identified implementation pathways for the twelve region-wide strategic issues identified in the CRP (March 2021). For each issue we suggested flagship projects that could address the critical underlying issues that require a coordinated, region-wide response.

The Alpine CRC believes progressing projects that address the critical underlying issues in the near term will help our communities more rapidly towards being prepared, have the capacity to respond and recover, and have the internal capacity and resilience to cope with adversities when required.

The actions the Alpine CRC has taken, and the preparation of this Progress Review, are aimed at enabling the community. The intent of this Progress Review is to capture examples of initiatives that increase the capacity of community to plan and respond to emergencies, therefore increasing community and individual resilience into the future.

Our objective in providing this Progress Review is to provide a reference for communities to develop their own preparedness and recovery activities and for agencies to use in the prioritisation of their programs.

As the community transitions from the recovery stage of the Black Summer Bushfires 2019/20 to more business as usual, the Alpine CRC will be reflecting our ongoing role and purpose in 2022. We have current projects, including an update on the status of projects in the CRP (March 2021), and a review of improving preparedness activities in a sustainable ongoing manner across the region.

This Progress Review will be made available to government agencies for reference and implementation where appropriate. It summarises what each community is doing and can be used for community strengthening, as well as a tool for community agencies to advocate for resources and support.

This Progress Review will soon be available by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/alpine-community-recovery-committee>.

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## ONGOING PRIORITY AREAS

The Alpine CRC believe the following areas require ongoing priority:

- **Changing the focus on preparedness from information provision to action.** Activities and resources are needed to better connect people who are unaware they need the information.
- **Addressing the possible market failure of the insurance industry.** Business viability is essential for local economic resilience. Advocacy on this issue has been an ongoing priority for the Alpine CRC and other organisations in the region.
- **Addressing the communication infrastructure gaps and blackspots.** The introduction of the VicEmergency app after earlier bushfires is a welcome improvement in communications, but it only works if you have reliable connectivity.
- **Advocating for firefighting equipment, training, and resources at a local level.** In an emergency the local volunteers are the front line of the community's response. It is essential they have the equipment, resources, and effective training to keep them and us safe.
- **Increasing local preparedness.** A resilient community, one that is self-reliant while coping with adversities, requires planning and awareness of what is needed before an event happens.

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) Community Facilities** | Grants are available up to \$50,000 for community groups seeking to build, upgrade, or repair local facilities. Closes 30 June 2022. Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-grants-community-facilities>.

**Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Private Overhead Electric Line (POEL) Scheme** | Eligible landowners can apply to have their overhead private powerlines undergrounded, as well as partially or fully bare-wire private powerlines or any insulated private powerlines subject to a current urgent or significant defect notice. Closes 30 June 2022 (subject to available funding). Visit <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/electricity/powerline-replacement-fund> or contact 03 9918 7315 or [safer.powerlines@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:safer.powerlines@delwp.vic.gov.au).

**Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) Strengthening Rural Communities** | Grants up to \$25,000 are available for a broad range of community-led initiatives. Round 13 closes 31 May 2022. Visit <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/strengthening-rural-communities> or contact Vivienne McCrory on 1800 170 020 or [info@frrr.org.au](mailto:info@frrr.org.au).

**Nature-Led Recovery** | A joint initiative between BRV, Zoos Victoria and DELWP offers funding of up to \$5,000 for projects to help bushfire-affected communities deliver projects that benefit local wildlife and biodiversity. Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/nature-led-community-recovery-grants>.

**Victorian Government Solar for Business Program** | Rebates of up to 50% of the total cost are available for small businesses in Victoria to install approved small-scale solar systems up to 30kW. Find out if you are eligible for a rebate value of up to \$3,500 by visiting <https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/site-4/solar-small-business>.

**Visit Victoria Regional Events Fund** | Regional communities are invited to apply for funding opportunities that support the acquisition, growth, or planning of events across regional areas. Visit <https://corporate.visitvictoria.com/events/regional-events> or contact Tourism North East on 03 5728 2773.

**Indi Funding Finder** | The Federal Member for Indi has comprehensive information on grants available on their website, including how to apply for grants and upcoming opportunities in the region. For more information, visit <https://helenhaines.grantguru.com.au>.

Alpine Shire Council and the Alpine Community Recovery Committee acknowledge the Traditional Owners and First Nations peoples of the Alpine Shire and Resorts. We recognise and support their rich cultures and continual connections to Country, and pay our respects to Elders, past and present.