



Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

AUGUST 2021

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

Council Business Concierge

Do you need support navigating the changing environment of restrictions for your small business? It can be confusing to understand exactly what you, as a business operator, need to do.

Council's Business Concierge is available for local businesses to navigate the requirements of operating under COVID-19 restrictions. Help is here to support businesses to implement COVIDSafe practices, ensure their customers check-in correctly, and understand the importance of the check-in processes for contact tracing in case of outbreaks.

If you're a small business operator who needs help to review your COVIDSafe plan or advice on the checking in of patrons, please contact Council on 5755 0555 to be referred to our Business Concierge.

Rural Skills Connect

The Rural Skills Connect Program provides pathways for farmers, family members or farmworkers in North East Victoria to acquire new skills and qualifications to strengthen employment prospects for the future. Services include identifying the type of relevant training and employment opportunities, provide subsidised training opportunities and provide liaison between potential employees and employers. Rural Skills Connect can refer participants directly to other professional service providers.

Contact Tim Roebuck, Rural Skills Connect Coordinator, to learn more about this no-cost program by ringing 1300 834 775, emailing info@agbizassist.org.au or visiting www.agbizassist.org.au.

AgBiz Assist Ltd is supported by the Victorian Government.

Connecting Victoria

The Victorian Government is encouraging people across Victoria to provide feedback about connectivity issues through their \$550 million Connecting Victoria program. Improved internet and communications was the second highest priority identified in the Alpine CRC Survey and this is one way that our communities can actively support change in this space.

The program will focus on getting more Victorian access to business-grade broadband and upgrading mobile coverage, as well as improving access to safety information during bushfires and other emergencies. Members of the community are invited to mark poor connectivity areas on a map and fill out a survey to provide more detail. Consultation is open now until September 20, 2021, with initial locations requiring upgrades or new infrastructure to be announced later this year.

Take part in this important project by visiting <https://engage.vic.gov.au/connecting-victoria>.

Free Farm First Aid

Australian Red Cross is running free farm first aid sessions for primary producers, farm workers and farm contractors across the Alpine Shire and Alpine Resorts. Members of farming communities are invited to enrol for these free courses being held in Mount Beauty, Harrietville, and Dinner Plain, where successful participants will receive a statement of attainment to Provide Basic Emergency Life Support (HLTAID002). Enrol now by visiting <http://australianredcross.eventbrite.com.au>.

For more information or to arrange a farm first aid course for your community, contact Red Cross Bushfire Recovery Officer, Jessica Davison, on 0439 634 601 or jdavison@redcross.org.au.

All participants must enrol to attend. If postponed, all enrolled participants will be notified.

ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News
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ABOUT US

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

MAILING LIST

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

GET IN TOUCH

Email info@alpinecrc.org.au

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 McDonald
Myrtleford and Surrounds

Malcolm McPherson
Dinner Plain

Jane Shadbolt
Bright and Surrounds

Dani Sheean
Falls Creek

Lachlan Thomas
Harrietville and Surrounds

Nicholas Wright
Kiewa Valley

CARE-TO-CALL WITH GRIEFLINE

Today, the rates of loneliness and isolation are on the rise, often directly linked to grief and loss, causing untold distress and leading to declines in mental and physical health.

For over thirty years, Griefline has ensured people are not alone in their darkest hours by providing free grief and loss counselling and support. Care-to-Call is a free service providing a compassionate person who will reach out to connect with those who are feeling isolated and lonely, once a week for a friendly check-in.

For more information about the program and to register, contact 1300 845 745 from 6am - midnight, 7 days a week, or visit <https://grieffline.org.au/care-to-call>. If you have a client or patient who could benefit from a call, please contact admin@grieffline.org.au.

ALPINE COMMUNITY RECOVERY PLAN

Do you have thoughts and ideas about recovery and resilience in the Alpine Shire and Alpine Resorts? Have your say by providing feedback to the Alpine CRC's Community Recovery Plan.

The Plan outlines community needs and priorities and identifies pathways for their implementation, ensuring that community is at the heart of all actions.

Access the Plan by visiting by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/alpine-community-recovery-committee>.

Create the future you want and have your say now. Contact your Alpine CRC representative or offer your feedback by emailing info@alpinecrc.org.au.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO IGEM REPORTS

Across 2019 and 2020, the Inspector General for Emergency Management (IGEM) provided two reports to the Victorian Government:

- Review of 10 Years of Reform in Victoria's Emergency Management Sector, provided in December, 2019
- Inquiry into the 2019-20 Victorian Fire Season - Phase 1, provided in October, 2020

The Victorian Government has accepted all of the IGEM's recommendations across both reports. This response commits to immediate actions in advance of the 2020-21 summer season and long-term actions, addressing all of IGEM's recommendations. The Victorian Government recommends that the Phase 1 report should be read in conjunction with the Review of 10 Years of Reform in Victoria's Emergency Management Sector.

Find out more about the Victorian Government's response to both reports by visiting <https://www.vic.gov.au/igem-inquiry-review-implementation-plans>.

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BE PREPARED FOR UPCOMING FIRE SEASONS

The Alpine CRC heard from many in the community about the importance of being prepared before any emergency. Having a well prepared and practised plan is critical to your survival during an emergency event. The following agencies have valuable resources available to ensure that you and your loved ones are ready in the event of a disaster:

- CFA Guide to Preparing Your Property <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property>
- CFA Local <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice>
- CFA Plan and Prepare <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare>
- Red Cross RediPlan <https://www.redcross.org.au/prepare>
- Regional Roads Victoria Hotline <https://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au>
- VicEmergency Hotline <https://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond>

The Alpine CRC worked with Alpine Shire Council and the Alpine Resort Management Boards to put together an emergency preparedness newsletter highlighting important resources to help you plan and prepare. Access this newsletter by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/alpine-community-recovery-committee>.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Australian Government Powering Communities Program | Federal Members of Parliament can nominate projects by not-for-profit community groups to receive funding of up to \$12,500 for small projects that improve energy efficient practices. Closes 20 September, 2021. Visit <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/powering-communities-program>.

Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program NOW EXTENDED | The \$280 million Black Summer Bushfire Recovery (BSBR) grants program is offering funding ranging from \$20,000 to \$10 million to help communities address priorities for recovery and resilience after the 2019-20 bushfires. Closes 6 October, 2021. Visit <https://recovery.gov.au/black-summer-grants>.

BRV Local Government Authorities and Community Service Organisations | Councils, community groups and organisations, and charities are invited to apply for grants up to \$500,000. Closes 31 December, 2021. Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-grants-local-government-authorities-and-community-service-organisations>.

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 11 closes 23 November, 2021. Visit <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/strengthening-rural-communities> or contact Vivienne McCrory on 1800 170 020 or 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 on-ground action for wildlife and habitats, or nature-based, educational or arts programs that connect the local environmental recovery with its human recovery. Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/environment-and-biodiversity-bushfire-recovery>.

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>.

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>.

UPCOMING

Bushfire Recovery Victoria Local Economic Recovery (LER) Round 3: Opening dates are yet to be confirmed. Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/local-economic-recovery-program-bushfire-affected-communities>.