



# Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

## DECEMBER 2021

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

### Australian Warning System

Australia's emergency warning system is changing. The new Australian Warning System is a consistent national approach, bringing together different warning systems for different types of hazards across Australia.

Three warning levels will indicate the level of extremity for hazards including bushfire, flood, storm, cyclone, extreme heat, and severe weather.

**Advice** An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

**Watch and Act** There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.

**Emergency Warning** An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Be safe by being in the know. Find out more about the Australian Warning System by visiting <https://www.australianwarningsystem.com.au/>.

### Preparing Australia Grants

The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) Preparing Australian Communities - Local Stream grant is now open across Australia. This funding opportunity offers grants between \$20,000 and \$10 million, and closes at 5pm on Thursday 6 January 2022. For more information, visit <http://www.business.gov.au/PACPL>.

Council apologises for an error made in the November edition of Alpine Chat, where it was incorrectly stated that funding of only up to \$20,000 is available.

### Are You Bugged Mate?

Get a free Sunday roast and learn some tips to get unstuck with Mary O'Brien from Are You Bugged Mate? on Sunday 13 February 2022 in Whorouly.

Feeling a bit stuck? Got a mate who could do with a bit of a hand? Mary O'Brien works with farmers to support the health of blokes in rural Australia. Have a chat to Mary and find out some ways to both give and get help.

**Date** Sunday 13 February 2022

**Time** 5pm with Sunday roast from 6:30pm

**Location** REMEL 185, Whorouly

Register before Tuesday 8 February 2022 by giving Kerry from TAFCO a call on 03 5752 1800 or emailing [kerry@tafco.com.au](mailto:kerry@tafco.com.au). Buses will run subject to numbers.

### Celebrating Events in Alpine

In December, more communities across the Alpine region celebrated events made available through joint funding from the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

**Mount Beauty** The Mount Beauty Cricket Club celebrated Welcome to Summer, a community event held on Sunday 19 December. This community event was a success with food, music, and door prizes available.

**Myrtleford** The Myrtleford Chamber of Commerce started their acclaimed Summer Series for 2021-22 in December, a weekly family picnic in the Piazza with local live music.

The Summer Series will continue throughout January and community members from across the Alpine region are invited to attend. Gather in the Piazza on Saturdays from 6pm – 8:30pm, starting on Saturday 15 January 2022 through to Saturday 29 January 2022.

# ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News  
Edition 13 | December 2021



## 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

**Charlotte Chambers**  
Bright and Surrounds

**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.**



From left to right: **Nicholas Wright, Lachlan Thomas, Charlotte Chambers, Steve Belli, Fiona Nicholls, Sally MacDonald, and Gail Owen.** Not pictured: **Fiona Laird, Jane Shadbolt, and Dani Sheean.**

## 2021: WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR

### Identified recovery needs through development of Alpine CRC

**Community Recovery Plan:** One of the major achievements of 2021 has been the development and distribution of the Alpine CRC Community Recovery Plan. The Plan came together as a result of a community survey conducted in 2020, where identified needs and priorities were placed into four key areas of focus: preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience. The Plan identifies pathways to implementation for flagship projects, including those that require coordinated regionwide response and those that occur at a community level. It is a living document that will be updated and modified as required to meet the needs of our communities. Access the Plan: <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/alpine-community-recovery-committee>.

### Implemented the Plan through alignment with existing and new

**government and community projects, processes, and initiatives:** The Alpine CRC has used the Plan and the projects listed within it to advocate for the needs of our communities, to support opportunities for funding and resourcing, and to hold governments and organisations accountable to their commitments to the community. The Alpine CRC has directly advocated to the Alpine People and Wellbeing Recovery Working Group, Alpine Resilience Committee, Alpine Shire Council, Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV), Department of Land, Water and Planning, Federal Government Senate Inquiry into Bushfires, the Federal Member for Indi, Inspector General of Emergency Management Inquiry, Municipal Bushfire Recovery Committee, State Bushfire Recovery Co-ordinating Committee, and Victorian Government State Legislative Council.

This advocacy has enabled agencies to act. Relevant government agencies have advised that the promotion of community needs has encouraged them to reprioritise and influenced the development of their recovery programs.

**Reviewed over 75 community projects for inclusion as a community recovery priority:** Community organisations seeking funding for their project in any grant processes may have sought a letter of support from the Alpine



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CRC. The committee prioritised projects that are local community- or business-led, are of benefit to the local community, and meet one or more of the bushfire recovery objectives outlined in the Plan.

## **Advocated for improvements and changes to the LER grants process:**

The state government bushfire grants programs were and continue to be welcomed by the community. However, the processes are not always aligned with achieving the intended outcome of building community and economic recovery in the disaster affected regions. While some changes have been made, the Alpine CRC continued to advocate for changes to the process to achieve better outcomes for government money and the recovery of our communities.

**Successfully advocated for the Alpine Resorts regions to be included in state and federal government grants:** The Alpine Resorts are exclusion areas from the State LGA process, which was initially reflected in the BRV Local Economic Recovery (LER) grants program. The successful advocacy for inclusion of the Alpine Resort areas set a precedent and changed awareness and perception about these important economic and community portions of our region at government levels. We hope this change to inclusion of the Alpine Regions for broad based programs is a lasting legacy.

**Continued advocacy to address insurance:** The Alpine CRC are continuing to seek a solution to the inadequate, exorbitant, or sometimes unobtainable insurance businesses are facing following the bushfires.

**Produced this monthly digital newsletter, highlighting key areas of concern within the community:** The CRC sought presentations and mutual dialogue from organisations responsible for the key areas of concern identified in the community survey. The committee sought presentations and mutual dialogue from organisations responsible, including progress with bushfire recovery efforts in our public lands, development of telecommunications infrastructure, available mental health programs, and bushfire preparedness initiatives.

**Advocated for successful delivery a bushfire preparedness flyer:** The Alpine CRC requested that Alpine Shire Council include a specific bushfire preparedness newsletter with the August 2021 rates notice, delivered to every ratepayer in the Alpine Shire.

**Planned delivery of Preparedness Fair:** The Alpine CRC had commenced work with the Myrtleford Show Committee and the Alpine Shire Council to bring a Preparedness Fair to the Myrtleford Show, which would have been an expansion on the Shows regular emergency agencies. The necessary cancellation of the Show in 2021 has delayed this project but we are looking towards delivery in 2022.

**Distributed event funding to local communities:** As a result of funding provided by BRV, the Alpine CRC was able to distribute funding for our local communities to hold end of year activities to promote community connectedness.

**Committed a great number of volunteer hours:** During 2021, the Alpine CRC held thirty-seven two-hour meetings, and attended numerous working group meetings and regular agency meetings, in addition to specific advocacy presentations. The required preparation and presentation for all committee members represents a generous contribution of volunteer time.

The committee also recognises the considerable volunteer time provided by our local community groups in developing and implementing projects and the hours and resources involved in applying for grants.

## 2021: WHAT WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE DONE

The Alpine CRC would have liked to have had more direct engagement with our local communities. We personally feel that our direct engagement with our communities during 2021 has been informal, even ad hoc in nature, and severely restricted by COVID-19. Providing newsletters is not enough. Individual Alpine CRC members have aimed to maintain engagement with their local communities with a range of success.

We are aware of many examples of communities continuing to build their own recovery and resilience and look forward to seeing more of this in 2022.

## 2022: NEXT STEPS

The purpose of the Alpine CRC has been to advocate for community recovery programs, processes, services, and activities that genuinely reflect the needs of our local communities. As our communities transition from the recovery stage of the 2019/20 bushfire event to business as usual, we will be reflecting our ongoing role and purpose in early 2022. Our next steps will be to provide an update on the status of projects in the Plan and conduct a review to improve preparedness activities in a sustainable ongoing manner across the region. Thank you for all of your ongoing support during 2021.

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**Aboriginal Culture and Healing Grants** | Aboriginal organisations and social enterprises are invited to apply for up to \$500,000. Closes 5 January 2022. Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-support-aboriginal-communities>.

**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 12 closes 22 February 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).

**Indi Stronger Communities Programme** | Federal Members of Parliament can nominate projects in their electorate and invite them to apply for up to \$20,000. Round 7 of the program closes 19 January 2022. Visit <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/stronger-communities-programme-round-7>.

**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 Commercial Landlord Hardship Fund** | Grants up to \$6,000 are available for eligible small landlords who waive commercial rent for their tenants between 28 July 2021 and 15 January 2022 under the Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme (CTRS). Round 3 closes 15 January 2022. Visit <https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/commercial-landlord-hardship-fund-3>.

**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>.