



Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

JANUARY 2022

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

Community Profiles

Local knowledge is key to inform effective action in times of emergency. This is why the Council Bushfire Recovery team has been working with each of the regions in the Alpine Shire to develop a Community Profile that is specific to their community.

The Profiles will support interested communities to develop preparedness plans so that all community members know what to do in times of emergency, as well as provide supporting evidence when applying for grants. They will also provide detailed insight into each community for the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) to ensure that emergency preparedness and response is localised.

Council thanks the members of the community who have kindly donated their time to the development of the Profiles so far. Are you interested in contributing to your Community Profile? Please contact Community Resilience Officer Jodee Betheras by emailing jodeeb@alpineshire.vic.gov.au.

Support with Dr Rob Gordon

Dr Rob Gordon is a clinical psychologist who worked with Bushfire Recovery Victoria after the Summer Bushfires to develop resources that community members can access to support their recovery. These resources were developed in December 2020 and are relevant to those in our communities who would like to better understand what and why they are feeling two years on.

- **Recovery tips: From then to now** document
- **Thinking about the anniversary of the bushfires** video
- **Managing anxiety about bushfires** video
- **Emotional preparedness as part of bushfire preparedness** video

Summer Events in 2022

Council is kickstarting 2022 with a series of events made possible by the Community Wellbeing and Participation Activity Program from Murray Primary Health Network (PHN).

Twilight Cinema Summer Series As the summer nights invite more play into the late hours, Council and Sun Cinema are hosting a series of outdoor movies across the Alpine Shire. Mark your calendars with the following dates as the locations and movie will be announced soon:

- **Mount Beauty** Friday 25 February
- **Harrietville** Saturday 26 February
- **Bright** Friday 4 March
- **Myrtleford** Saturday 5 March

Roller Skating in the Alpine Shire Reminisce on those disco nights with roller skating in Bright! Gather your family and friends to put your best foot forward and relive the memories of indoor roller skating with sessions available during the day and into the night.

- **When** Monday 28 March – Sunday 3 April
- **Where** Bright Community Centre

Teacher Wellbeing Program with The Resilience Project Council has teamed up with The Resilience Project to deliver a program dedicated to our local educators in April. We thank our teachers for their adaptability and look forward to helping support their wellbeing and resilience.

Community Evenings with The Resilience Project

Is this something that you would like to be involved in? In June, community members will be invited to participate in inspiring and engaging community presentations with The Resilience Project across the Alpine Shire.

How do I find out more? More information will be announced, including where and when to book, on Council's **website** and **Facebook page** leading up to these events.

ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News
Edition 14 | January 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.

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.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Despite everything that 2021 threw at our communities, our volunteers still rallied together to put on some fantastic community events and projects. Thank you to all the volunteers who generously gave and are continuing to give their time to make each of these events and projects a success.

Council ran both an event and a community bushfire recovery grant funding program for Alpine Shire residents in 2020-2021. The following sixteen events were funded, while the following ten projects were approved by the selection panel for further development, equating to \$400,000 with a nominal amount of approximately \$80K allocated per region for projects.

Mount Beauty Running Festival in March 2021, presented by the Kangaroo Hoppet Inc.

Resilience Art Project between July and October 2021, comprising of three art workshops presented by the Bright Art Gallery and Cultural Centre

Voices of the Valley in November 2021, an afternoon of music and entertainment presented by the Freeburgh Public Hall and Recreation

Harrietville Community Fun Day in November 2021, presented by the Harrietville Community Forum

RUOK Coming Out of the Smoke in November 2021, an educative family afternoon at the Mount Beauty Pondage presented by the Neighbourhood Centre and supported by the CFA, SES, and Ambulance Victoria

Welcome to Summer in December 2021, a Sunday afternoon of music and curry presented by the Mount Beauty Cricket Club

Encore Myrtleford Summer Series in December 2021 and continuing into January 2022, with local music held at the piazza on Saturdays presented by the Myrtleford Chamber of Commerce

A special mention to the **Bright Fire Brigade, Buffalo River CFA, Mount Beauty Cricket Club, Myrtleford Agricultural and Pastoral Show Society, Wandri Cross Trail Runners**, and the **Victorian Backcountry Festival**, who will be running their events in the future.

Bright and Wandiligong Government Hill arts project, Lions Park upgrades, and scoping and design of the Wandiligong Trail Extension

Dinner Plain Scoping and design of the mountain bike pump track

Harrietville and Freeburgh Outdoor fitness equipment in Harrietville, and Freeburgh Hall upgrades

Kiewa Valley Outdoor fitness equipment in Mount Beauty, and scoping and design of an extension of the Kiewa River Trail to Damms Road

Myrtleford Scoping and design of Myrtleford Splash Park, and further development of the Reform Hill walking tracks

Seven of the ten projects were completed in 2021, while three were elected by community for Council to deliver for completion in 2022. These three projects include the scoping and design of **Wandiligong Trail extension**, the scoping and design of **Dinner Plain pump track**, and the completion of the **Kiewa River Trail**.

PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES WITH THE CFA

As the weather continues to get hotter, communities can prepare for emergencies by factoring the Country Fire Authority (CFA)'s 4 Day Forecast into their day-to-day plans.

The 4 Day Forecast uses the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) to show people the level of risk in their region, including the North East. By checking the 4 Day Forecast, you can plan to minimise your personal risk when either in or travelling through high bushfire risk areas.

Find out more about Fire Danger Periods and what you can and can't do during this time by visiting the CFA website: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-and-ratings/can-i-or-cant-i>.

The CFA also offer training opportunities for individuals and groups to learn more about fire behaviours and best practice if you or your loved ones are caught in an emergency event. These opportunities are offered as e-learning courses that you can do in your own time at home or you can rally a group together and trained staff from the CFA will lead the session, giving you the option to ask questions and cement your knowledge. Find out more by visiting <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice/e-learning-for-workers-and-carers>.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Aboriginal Culture and Healing Grants | Aboriginal organisations and social enterprises are invited to apply for up to \$500,000. Closes 31 January 2022. Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-support-aboriginal-communities>.

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.

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.

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>.