



Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

JULY 2021

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

Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants

Communities in the Alpine Shire are invited to apply for the new Australian Government bushfire grants program, which opened on 22 July, 2021. The \$280 million Black Summer Bushfire Recovery (BSBR) grants program will support community recovery from the 2019-20 bushfires, and are an opportunity for communities who require assistance to access support for their recovery journey.

Grants range from \$20,000 to \$10 million, with applications closing on 2 September 2021. The BSBR grants are available in every Local Government Area and the four Victorian Alpine Resorts that were disaster declared as a result of the 2019-20 Black Summer fires, including the Alpine Shire. Money is set aside for projects in each eligible area.

A broad range of recovery and resilience projects can be supported through the grants, from social and community wellbeing projects right through to projects that support the recovery of local economies and built environments. The criteria is broad to encourage as many groups to access support as possible.

Support will be available for people who would like help with the grant application process, including workshops, both in-person and online. Please note dates may change due to COVID-19 restrictions, so register early so you can receive the latest information.

The Federal Government Business Grants Hub has a Contact Centre available on 13 28 46 (open from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday) to provide some support for your application. For more information visit <https://recovery.gov.au/black-summer-grants>.

Support In Unusual Times

It's natural to feel stressed, frustrated, sad or overwhelmed in unusual times. Seek help for yourself or family members if you need it, and remember that children and young people feel these stresses too.

Alpine Health | 1300 514 811 | www.alpinehealth.org.au/healthy-communities/mental-health

Medical Centres | 5755 0100 (Bright) 5754 3500 (Mount Beauty) 5751 9300 (Myrtleford)

Beyond Blue | 1800 512 348 (24 hours / 7days)
www.beyondblue.org.au

Lifeline | 13 11 14 (24 hours/7 days) | www.lifeline.org.au

Kids Helpline | 1800 551 800 | www.kidshelpline.com.au

Take care of yourself, and please, be kind - we're all navigating these times together.

Get Your Business Back On Track

The Business Recovery Advisory Service is a free service available to business owners in the Alpine Shire and Alpine Resorts for help with business impact assessments, developing recovery plans and resilience mentoring. These strategies can help you reactivate your business and develop sustainable business models to strengthen and thrive now and beyond.

To date, the local Business Recovery Advisory team have supported almost 180 businesses in the Alpine Shire.

To book a free, one-on-one session with a local Business Recovery Adviser, call Bushfire Recovery Victoria on 1800 560 760 or Business Victoria 13 22 15. Alternatively, visit the Alpine Community Recovery Hub, located in Bright, or complete the online registration form available from Business Victoria's website: www.business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/business-recovery-advisory-service.

ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News
Edition 8 | July 2021



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

ACCESS THE ALPINE COMMUNITY RECOVERY PLAN

The Alpine CRC are calling upon members of the community to provide feedback on their Community Recovery Plan, now available for public view on the Alpine Shire Council's website.

This 37-page document is rich with initiatives and projects that are underpinned by the four priority areas identified by the Alpine CRC: increasing preparedness, increasing response capacity, improving recovery capacity, and strengthening resilience. The Plan outlines community needs and priorities and identifies pathways for implementation, ensuring that community is at the heart of all actions.

Want a snapshot of the Plan? The Alpine CRC have developed a two-page summary for you that explains the purpose of the Alpine CRC, covers the four priority areas, and outlines next steps.

Access the Plan and the two-page summary 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.

BE INFORMED, BE PREPARED

The Alpine CRC worked with Alpine Shire Council and the Alpine Resort Management Boards to put together an emergency preparedness newsletter, which will be distributed via mail-drop to all ratepayers across the Alpine Shire and Alpine Resorts this month.

The Alpine CRC encourage all community members to begin preparing for the upcoming bushfire season by understanding your risk, planning for you and your loved ones, and preparing your property. Access this special preparedness newsletter by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/alpine-community-recovery-committee>.

ALPINE CRC SUPPORT FOR THE BLACK SUMMER GRANT PROGRAM

Applications to the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery grants will require letters of support from the Alpine CRC.

Seek endorsement from the Alpine CRC by accessing a proforma today. Visit <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community-recovery-committee>.

The Alpine CRC meet fortnightly, so get in early if you are seeking endorsement.

If you have already received a letter of support from the Alpine CRC you do not need to reapply for the same project. However, if you wish to have your letter updated to reflect this grant application, please email info@alpinecrc.org.au.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON MOBILE COVERAGE AND BROADBAND

Improved internet and communications was the second highest priority identified in the Alpine CRC Survey, emphasising its importance to our communities. The Victorian Government are encouraging people across Victoria to provide feedback about connectivity issues where we live and work through their \$550 million Connecting Victoria program 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://vic.gov.au/connectingvictoria>.

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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 | 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 2 September, 2021. Visit <https://recovery.gov.au/black-summer-grants>.

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 10 closes 24 August, 2021. Visit <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/strengthening-rural-communities/> or contact Vivienne McCrory on 1800 170 020 or info@frrr.org.au.

NAB Foundation Community | Funding is available for local projects that prepare for natural disasters or support long-term recovery and resilience against future disasters. Round 2 closes 30 July, 2021. Visit <https://www.nab.com.au/about-us/social-impact/community/nab-foundation-and-grants/application-guide>.

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>.

BRV Local Government Authorities and Community Service Organisations: Currently closed while BRV moves to a new grant application system. Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-grants-local-government-authorities-and-community-service-organisations>.