



Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

JUNE 2021

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

DELWP and Bushfire Reform

The Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), in collaboration with the CFA and other fire agencies, have committed to engaging with communities to improve understanding of bushfire management activities shared by government, agencies, and individuals.

Stakeholders and organisations are encouraged to get involved by contributing a written submission, which you can upload to their website by visiting <https://engage.vic.gov.au/delivering-bushfire-reform/bushfire-risk>.

DELWP also invite community members to better understand their bushfire management strategies by reading more about strategies specific to each region in Victoria. To do so, they have created an online interactive map, where individuals can read more about fuel management strategies, which includes the reasons behind planned burns and other supporting activities.

Find out more about the fuel management strategy for Hume by visiting <https://bushfireplanning.ffm.vic.gov.au/>.

NewAccess with Beyond Blue

NewAccess is a mental health support program developed by Beyond Blue to support individuals by providing practical approaches to problem solving. This confidential service offers six free sessions that you can access via phone, video call or face-to-face.

Develop your skills to manage everyday challenges by visiting <https://www.wellways.org/newaccess> or by emailing vicbushfirenewaccess@wellways.org.

Post-Bushfire Legal Services

Hume Riverina Community Legal Services co-hosted an online panel with representatives from the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria and Consumer Affairs Victoria to provide information to community members about dealing with legal issues and disputes after a bushfire event.

This free recorded information session focuses on different options available to help communities resolve legal problems and answers questions about what constitutes a legal issue and how to settle a dispute. Access this information in your own time by visiting <https://youtu.be/nip2mJ-dJ68>.

Want local support to answer your specific legal enquiry? Harley Dannatt from Hume Riverina Community Legal Services is available for free consultations in the Alpine region. Contact Harley by emailing hdannatt@umfc.com.au or by calling 02 6055 8090.

Government Support for Small Business Owners

The Victorian Government have teamed up with wellbeing coaches, financial counsellors and business advisors to offer the Partners in Wellbeing, a confidential helpline available to Victorian business owners and their employees.

Many small business owners are used to tackling problems on their own. But, in tough times, support is available to get you through. This free opportunity is available to local Alpine business owners and their employees who could do with a hand to get their business back on track. Access support seven days a week from 9am to 10pm on weekdays and 9am to 5pm on weekends by calling 1300 375 330.

Find out more and access additional resources by visiting <https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/partners-in-wellbeing-helpline>.

ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News
Edition 7 | June 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 or get in touch by emailing 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

Representing you and your communities.

IDENTIFIED PRIORITY AREAS

The needs, priorities and proposed projects identified in the Community Recovery Plan reflect the community's voice. Community groups, agencies, local government and other organisations will implement the projects as funding and resources allow. The Alpine CRC will use this plan, and the projects listed within it, to advocate for the community's needs; to support our communities to seek funding and resources; and to hold governments and organisations accountable to their commitments to the community.

Increasing Preparedness—to stimulate action of individuals by increasing the connection between people and information, improving environmental protection and promoting localised preparedness planning.

Improving Response Capacity—by improving localised communication from the 'one source of truth'. Knowing what the experts need you to do in an emergency, improving communication infrastructure and ensuring adequate firefighting equipment for small and remote communities.

Improving Recovery Capacity—increasing access to community and services by planning for social connection activities. Increasing awareness and provision of mental health services and advocating for adequate, affordable and available insurance.

Strengthening Resilience—promoting diversity and cohesion for our local businesses and communities. Enabling policies and planning will build economic strength and diversity to enhance the resilience of our region.

Access a two-page summary of the Community Recovery Plan by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/alpine-community-recovery-committee>.

Do you want to speak to a representative about the Plan? Get in touch with your local community representative by emailing info@alpinecrc.org.au.

FREE WEBINARS FOR BUSHFIRE RESILIENCE

Bushfire Resilience Inc (BRI) is hosting five free 90-minute webinars for households in rural areas and on the urban fringe. This is your opportunity to speak openly with industry experts and gain practical skills for emergency situations. Register now by visiting <https://bushfireresilience.org.au/>.

Webinar 1 | Reduce your house and property risk Wednesday, 21 July from 7:30pm with Justin Leonard from CSIRO

Webinar 2 | Get water ready: tanks, pumps and sprinklers Wednesday, 4 August from 7:30pm with Justin Leonard from CSIRO

Webinar 3 | Your physical and emotional preparation Thursday, 19 August from 7:30pm with Danielle Clode from Flinders University, Rob Gordon OAM, and Jim McLennan from La Trobe University

Webinar 4 | Triggers to take action Wednesday, 1 September from 7:30pm with Kevin Tolhurst from University of Melbourne, Katharine Haynes from University of Wollongong, Danielle Clode from Smiths Gully during Black Saturday and Adelaide Hills during Black Summer, and Raphaelae Bianchi from CSIRO

Webinar 5 | Your sheltering options Wednesday, 15 September from 7:30pm with Raphaelae Bianchi from CSIRO, Katharine Haynes from University of Wollongong, and Chloe Begg from CFA

ABORIGINAL CULTURE AND HEALING

The Alpine CRC recently met with Darren Moffit, Recovery Coordinator (Aboriginal Culture and Healing) - North East from Bushfire Recovery Victoria. Darren is working to actively engage registered and non-registered Aboriginal Traditional Owner groups in the Alpine region, with a focus on raising awareness of non-registered groups and identifying their recovery needs and priorities. The Alpine CRC is looking forward to working with Darren and the Alpine Shire Council to further develop and incorporate these needs and priorities when working towards our priority areas.

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ALPINE CRC SUPPORT

Are you applying for a grant that requires you to demonstrate that your project is supported by the Alpine CRC? Access a proforma today by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community-recovery-committee>. The Alpine CRC meet fortnightly, so get in early if you are seeking endorsement.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

OPEN NOW

- **Agriculture Victoria On-Farm Energy Assessments** | The Victorian Government is inviting on-farm businesses to apply for a free on-farm energy assessment to improve energy efficiency and energy productivity. Closes 15 July, 2021. Visit <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/funds-grants-programs/agriculture-energy-investment-plan/on-farm-energy-assessments>.
- **Australian Government Powering Communities Program** | Round 1 opens Thursday, 1 July, 2021. Visit <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/powering-communities-program>.
- **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 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.
- **FRRR Volunteer Emergency Services Fund** | Volunteer emergency services and first responder not-for-profit community-based organisations are invited to apply for a grant of up to \$25,000 for activities that build capacity and capability. Priority will be given to activities that can ensure local groups are ready for the 2021/22 fire season. Closes 7 July, 2021. Visit <https://frrr.org.au/funding/disaster-resilience-and-climate-solutions/volunteer-emergency-services-fund-grant-program/> or contact Danielle Griffin 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>.
- **Vinnies Victoria Bushfire Community Grants** | One-off grants of up to \$20,000 are available for registered community groups and organisations to fund local projects that help multiple people in their recovery journey. This opportunity is ongoing until funds are expended. Visit https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/VIC/Disaster_Recovery/bushfire_grants/.
- **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:** Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/local-economic-recovery-program-bushfire-affected-communities>
- **Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program:** Visit <https://recovery.gov.au/recovery-support/black-summer-bushfire-recovery-grants>
- **Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund:** Visit <https://www.communityenterprisefoundation.com.au/>