



Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

JUNE 2022

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

Newsletter Update

Keep an eye out for exciting changes to this newsletter from July 2022 onwards.

From next month, the Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter will focus on helping our communities prepare for emergencies, as well as highlighting resilience initiatives happening in our communities to help inspire and support.

Encourage others to keep up to date by sharing the link to join our mailing list: <https://eepurl.com/hwZJYz>.

Smoke Alarms are Essential

72% of fatal house fires start in living rooms and sleeping areas, says new data released by Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV).

This has prompted fire agencies to encourage all people to consider smoke alarms as a bedroom essential, instead of relying only on smoke alarms in other parts of their homes.

Tests undertaken by Fire and Rescue NSW revealed that when a fire started in the bedroom with the door closed, the hallway smoke alarms did not activate.

Installing smoke alarms in all bedrooms, living areas, and hallways is a preparedness measure that may save lives.

CFA and FRV have recommended options that best suit a variety of needs and budgets. Learn more and stay safe by visiting <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/SleepFireSafe>.

A specialised smoke alarm is available for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. To find out more, including eligibility for subsidies, contact Expression Australia by visiting <https://www.expression.com.au/>.

Discover MapShareVic

As we move through the winter season, stay up to date on current road and track closures on public land with MapShareVic, an interactive online map that provides information on current and planned closures.

MapShareVic is a comprehensive database that shares information about the status of public access roads, firewood collection points, amenities available at camping and picnic sites, and more.

Be prepared this winter by visiting <https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/MapShareVic/>.

MapShareVic is an initiative of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and is updated by regional staff.

Find out more about seasonal road closures by visiting <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/safety-in-nature/seasonal-road-closures>.

Communicating in Recovery

Red Cross is running workshops for people looking to improve their communication skills in recovery contexts.

These free workshops will be held during July in Beechworth and Myrtleford on the following dates:

- Tuesday, 12 July 2022 from 9am – 4:30pm
Beechworth | Beechworth Fire Brigade
- Wednesday, 13 July 2022 from 9am – 4:30pm
Myrtleford | Motel on Alpine
- Thursday, 14 July 2022 from 9am – 4:30pm
Myrtleford | Motel on Alpine

Book your place now by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/communicating-in-recovery-473729>.

ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News
Edition 19 | June 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

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.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS REVIEW

Have you accessed the Alpine CRC's Progress Review of our Community Recovery Plan yet?

In March 2021, the Alpine CRC developed a Plan to support the aspiration:

'Our communities are connected, they are prepared, they have the capacity to respond and recover, they are resilient. They are self-sufficient when needed and have the capacity to create the future they want while coping with adversities.'

Earlier this year, the Alpine CRC released a Progress Review of the Plan, which aims to provide a reference for communities to develop their own preparedness and recovery activities, as well as for agencies to use in the prioritisation of their programs.

The Alpine CRC has created a Summary of the Progress Review for our communities. Access both the Summary and the full Progress Review by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/alpine-community-recovery-committee>.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

The Alpine CRC has identified communication as a major gap in the ability of the local community to prepare for emergencies and natural disasters.

Despite the large volume of information provided by government and emergency services agencies on preparedness activities, this information is not always sought, or perceived as easy to access.

The Alpine CRC believes there is an opportunity to improve communication and increase the uptake in community resilience activities. The Alpine CRC has developed the Alpine Community Communications Network and recommends a pilot program to trial the concept.

More information about the Network will be shared over the coming months.

FREE SUPPORT SERVICE

Alpine Health's Alpine Natural Disaster Recovery Service is a free and confidential support service that is designed for adults who feel as though they have been impacted by the recent events affecting our communities.

Adults are eligible for up to ten free psychology sessions either face-to-face in Bright, Mount Beauty, and Myrtleford, or over the phone.

Contact a qualified and experienced Rural Mental Health Worker by calling or texting **0437 460 241** or emailing recovery@alpinehealth.org.au.

Find out more by visiting <https://alpinehealth.org.au/healthy-communities/mental-health/alpine-natural-disaster-recovery-service>.

FIGHTING SPIRIT: A TRIBUTE TO THE BUSHFIRES

Fighting Spirit: A Tribute to the Bushfire-Affected Communities of Australia's Black Summer is a unique photographic tribute to the fighting spirit of affected communities during the Black Summer bushfires.

This hardcover book features a selection of photographs, contributions from communities across Australia, and poems written by school students, selected through a national competition.

Fighting Spirit is a reminder of the healing power of community, kindness, and hope.

The National Resilience and Recovery Agency (NRRRA) has gifted copies of Fighting Spirit for communities to view at the libraries and Visitor Information Centres in Bright, Mount Beauty, and Myrtleford, and at the Alpine Shire Council office in Bright.

If you would like to own your own copy, Fighting Spirit can be purchased online through Harper Collins Publishers by visiting <https://www.harpercollins.com.au/9781460760529/fighting-spirit/>.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) ABC Heywire Youth Innovation | Regional community groups can apply for up to \$10,000 to adopt one of six projects developed by young people at the 2022 ABC Heywire Youth Ideas Lab. Closes 18 July 2022. Visit <https://frrr.org.au/funding/people/heywire-youth-innovation-grants/> or contact Lauren Ryan on 1800 170 020 or info@frrr.org.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 14 closes 30 August 2022. Visit <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/strengthening-rural-communities> or contact Vivienne McCrory on 1800 170 020 or info@frrr.org.au.

DELWP Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants | Schools, preschools, kindergartens, childcare centres, Scouts, Girl Guides, youth and Junior Landcare groups are encouraged to apply for grants of up to \$5,000. Closes 9 August 2022. Visit <https://juniorlandcare.org.au/grant/2022-victorian-junior-landcare-and-biodiversity-grants/>.

Victorian Government Landcare Grants | Two funding opportunities are available to support Landcare and other environmental volunteering groups. Apply now for project grants of up to \$20,000 and/or support grants of up to \$500. Closes 26 July 2022. Visit <https://www.necma.vic.gov.au/Solutions/Grants-Incentives/VLG> or contact Richard Dalkin on 0409 683 467 or landcare@necma.vic.gov.au.

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>.