



Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

MARCH 2021

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

Community Project Grants

Applications for round two of the LER Local Community Project grants are now open, with \$14.6 million available for projects that support local recovery and build a sense of community pride and connectedness. More information, as well as a Registration of Interest (ROI) form, is available at www.br.vic.gov.au.

Organisations wanting to apply for a local community project grant are strongly encouraged to complete the online ROI, and will be connected to BRV to discuss their project. Community members applying for LER grants will require a letter of support from the Alpine CRC. More information on how to obtain support can be found in Alpine Chat below. Projects already funded under the Victoria LER program include \$8 million in economic programs to support jobs, apprenticeships, farmers and businesses, \$6.7 million in local community projects addressing community recovery priorities, and \$32.9 million in regional economic recovery and stimulus projects.

The LER program is just one avenue of funding available to support community recovery. We are working at the pace of community. If you have a project idea, contact 1800 560 760 or visit a local Bushfire Recovery Hub to discuss it with our staff who can provide assistance from start to finish, including help with identifying alternative funding options.

Red Cross Farm First Aid

Red Cross is offering free first aid for primary producers, farm workers, and farm contractors until the end of June, 2021. Residents of the Alpine Shire are invited to enrol individually or organise a session for your community of interest by contacting Red Cross Bushfire Recovery Officer, Jessica Davison, on 0439 634 601.

Planned Burns Near Me

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) have readily-accessible information about when burns are being planned near you. Search by your postcode to find out what's coming up or read the Hume Joint Fuel Management Program 2020-21 to find out what's being planned for the future. Access this information by:

- Visiting <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/bushfire-fuel-and-risk-management/planned-burning-in-victoria>
- Contacting the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226
- Downloading the VicEmergency App

FFMVic encourages communities to sign up to Planned Burns - Victoria to receive automated SMS and email notifications about any FFMVic and CFA planned burns on public and private land. There is no charge to register or receive these notifications. Register by visiting plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au.

Parks Victoria Bushfire Recovery Journey

Parks Victoria has created a story map that highlights the stories of the Summer Bushfires, as well as the work involved in protecting and rebuilding our much-loved National Parks.

Discover more about the fire, the work of recovery, and progress and the road ahead by visiting <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/837af685140e43b6aa16af28475514e7>.

Where to Get Help When You Need It

Need help, but not sure where to go? Start by contacting the Community Recovery Hub, where there are a range of agencies available to help you. From mental health services to small business support, the Hub can connect you with experts to get you where you need to go. Contact Hub Services Coordinator, Shelley Herman, by ringing 0429 529 700 or by emailing alpinehub@br.vic.gov.au.

ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News
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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

Kellie Gray
Bright and Surrounds

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 and Surrounds

WHAT'S NEW

- The Alpine CRC welcomes Jane Shadbolt as a representative of Bright and surrounds. Her experience and knowledge are valuable assets.
- The Alpine CRC is continuing to work on the Community Plan, incorporating key learnings gathered from Alpine CRC Survey, agencies involved in bushfire response and preparedness, and services supporting recovery and resilience. The Alpine CRC are now approaching the next stage of the Plan, which will seek further input from community.

BUSHFIRE READINESS PLANS

The recent Alpine CRC survey identified that bushfire readiness plans are important for both individuals and community. There are many options out there, with one being Red Cross, who offer RediCommunities sessions and support for communities to prepare for emergencies by mapping risks, vulnerabilities, assets, and linkages. These sessions are hosted with you, in your area, by Red Cross Bushfire Recovery Officers. A RediCommunities session was recently hosted in Mount Beauty by Keep Calm Communities and the Mount Beauty Neighbourhood Centre, and planning is underway to host one in Myrtleford, in conjunction with Myrtleford Neighbourhood Centre.

If you would like Red Cross to come to your community to help you prepare for emergencies, get in touch by contacting 0439 634 601 or by emailing jdavison@redcross.org.au. For more information about Red Cross and their efforts in bushfire recovery, visit <https://www.redcross.org.au/bushfirereport>.

ALPINE CRC SUPPORT

Are you applying for a grant that requires you to demonstrate that your project is supported by the Alpine CRC? The Alpine CRC have put together a proforma to assist you with this step. Access it today by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community-recovery-committee>.

Community members applying for the BRV LER grants will require this letter of support. Applying to the Alpine CRC as soon as possible is desirable to enable the CRC to review your project prior to the closing date of Monday, 12 April, 2021. See grant opportunities below.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES: MENTAL HEALTH

The Alpine CRC met with Cecily Fletcher, the People and Wellbeing Coordinator for Bushfire Recovery Victoria to discuss what is being done about mental health in the Alpine region. The People and Wellbeing team collaborates with a number of key agencies and services at local, state, and national levels to work with communities. This means that the team have access to a number of experts who can support you when you need it most.

Your local Wellbeing Support Officer is Jolene LeBlanc, who can assist with access and referral, as well as opportunities to provide meaningful connections for you in your community. Contact Joeline on 0437 934 481 or emailing joelene.leblanc@brv.vic.gov.au. Alternatively, find Joeline at the Community Recovery Hub, located at 8/3 Riverside Walk, Bright.

ALPINE CHAT

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COMMUNITY PRIORITIES: COMMUNITY AND CONNECTIVITY

Improved internet and communications was the second highest priority identified by the community in the Alpine CRC Survey. The Alpine CRC met with several organisations to understand what is being done to improve communications in the region. The key findings were:

- There is no immediate resolution to what is a complex and multi-layered issue.
- Alpine Shire Council is developing a strategic document to identify telecommunications issues, the gaps, and recommendations going forward. The information from this study will be used to prioritise next steps.
- BRV are developing a plan to understand the scale of this issue from a 'human priority perspective'. A new role that includes this job scope commenced early this year.
- NBN have Road Muster Trucks for use in an emergency. The Truck provides a satellite connection for communities in an emergency, but is to be used for connectivity only. Range is limited to 250m.
- Telstra have applied for funds to connect the Bairnsdale to Wangaratta optic fibre network as there is currently a 42km gap in this route. Connection will increase the reliability and resilience of the fibre optic service, enabling communications to be rerouted from either direction and increasing the capacity to be able to connect other towns off the main route.
- Isolated communities could have a satellite phone based in their community. If this is of interest to your community, please contact the Alpine CRC by emailing info@alpinecrc.org.au or approaching one of our representatives.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) | Community Facilities

BRV is delivering grants for up to \$50,000 to community groups seeking to build, upgrade, or repair local facilities. Grants close on 30 June, 2022. Find out more by visiting <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-grants-community-facilities>.

BRV | Local Economic Recovery (LER) Round 2

Round 2 of the LER grants are open with a tranche of \$14.6 million. Grants close on 12 April, 2021. Find out more by visiting <https://www.vic.gov.au/local-economic-recovery-program-bushfire-affected-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. Grants close on 31 December, 2021. Find out more by visiting <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-grants-local-government-authorities-and-community-service-organisations>.

FRRR | Strengthening Rural Communities

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) grants up to \$25,000 are available for a broad range of community-led initiatives that benefit local communities. Round 9 closes at 5pm on Tuesday, 25 May, 2021. Find out more by visiting <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/strengthening-rural-communities> or by contacting Vivienne McCrory on 1800 170 020 or info@frrr.org.au.

MLA | Bushfire Recovery Sponsorship Program

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) is offering sponsorship of up to \$2,500 for red meat and livestock producers to host information sessions that will support producers. Sponsorship is available for events held until 30 June, 2021. Find out more by visiting <https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/dealing-with-natural-disasters/mla-bushfire-recovery-sponsorship-program/#> or by contacting events@mla.com.au.

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

- Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Round 2: opens May, 2021. Find out more by visiting <https://www.communityenterprisefoundation.com.au/>.