



Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2021

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

Check Your Smoke Alarms

Victorian fire services urge all Victorians to check their smoke alarms in their homes and install additional smoke alarms in every living area and bedroom, including hallways and stairs between floors.

This recommendation comes as data provided by the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) earlier this year revealed that there has been an increase of deaths due to preventable house fires in 2020.

Additional recommendations include:

- Smoke alarms should be interconnected so that when any alarm activates, all smoke alarms will sound
- Smoke alarms should be tested monthly as per the manufacturer's guide
- Smoke alarms should be cleaned at least once a year to remove particles that may affect performance
- Replaceable batteries in smoke alarms need to be changed every year
- All smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years

For more information, visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/silenceisdeadly or www.frv.vic.gov.au/smoke-alarms.

New Ways to Access Support

Beyond Blue's NewAccess program is now available through Wellways across Victoria, providing free and confidential mental health coaching. This program is for people over 16 who are residing in Victoria and not currently receiving psychological supports.

For more information, visit www.wellways.org/newaccess.

Free Outdoor Movies

As we approach the holiday season, community members across the Alpine Shire are invited to attend a free outdoor twilight movie screening of the family-friendly film Arthur Christmas. The movie will screen from sunset or 8:30pm, whichever comes first, at the following locations:

- **Myrtleford** | Friday 3 December at the Showgrounds Amphitheatre
- **Mount Beauty** | Saturday 4 December at Les Peart Oval
- **Bright** | Friday 10 December at Howitt Park
- **Harrietville** | Saturday 11 December at Tavare Park
- **Dinner Plain** | Saturday 18 December at Roundabout

Community members must adhere to current COVIDSafe requirements, including carrying a mask to wear when social distancing is not possible. Registrations are not required.

This project is jointly funded by the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Good Shepherd LaunchMe

Having a free business coach to help you start, run, and grow your business is what the new Government Funded Good Shepherd LaunchMe program can offer you.

The business coach is local to the Alpine Shire, with knowledge in the 5 stages of business – define, plan, market, sell and operate – and can guide you on your business journey. The program also supports existing small businesses to reflect, restart and revitalise. There is also the added benefit of some funding to help support your business as well as access to professionals and experts who can provide that additional support you may need.

To learn more or to join the program visit: www.goodshep.org.au/launchmeVIC.

ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News
Edition 12 | November 2021



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 McDonald
Myrtleford and Surrounds

Jane Shadbolt
Bright and Surrounds

Dani Sheean
Falls Creek

Lachlan Thomas
Harrietville and Surrounds

Nicholas Wright
Kiewa Valley

Representing our communities.

VISITING DOCTOR IN DINNER PLAIN

Omeo District Health, in conjunction with the Mount Hotham Chamber of Commerce and the Alpine CRC, is proud to confirm a visiting Doctor Service to Dinner Plain, kicking off in late December 2021.

This service will address a need in the communities of Mount Hotham and Dinner Plain for an onsite doctor to be available on a regular basis over the summer months.

Omeo District Health CEO A/Prof Arish Naresh recognises that the Mount Hotham and Dinner Plain communities require more services during the summer months.

“Providing services closer to where our communities are is a goal for Omeo District Health,” he said.

“Providing these medical services as we re-open the state means that more people will be seen in their communities and ensure our hospital maintains its capacity for any potential surges of COVID-19. It is an exciting initiative and we look forward to these partnerships.”

Deputy Chair of the Alpine CRC and President of the Mount Hotham Chamber of Commerce Steve Belli is pleased to see so many agencies working together cooperatively.

“It’s great that this service can be offered to the communities of Mount Hotham and Dinner Plain, particularly as we move forward to opening up. Being reasonably remote and not having access to medical facilities over summer is problematic,” he said.

“Having a visiting doctor will give the community some security knowing that help is close.”

FREE E-LEARNING FOR CARERS IN BUSHFIRE-PRONE AREAS

Caring for someone who lives in a bushfire-prone area can be highly challenging. This is why the CFA has prepared free e-learning modules for people who work with or care for people living in areas with a high risk of bushfire.

These modules are relevant to anyone who provides unpaid care or support to family members or friends with a disability, mental illness, chronic health issue, or age-related issue. The CFA recommends allowing an hour to complete the seven key topics.

There are also free e-learning modules available for individuals who work seasonally in areas of high bushfire risk over summer, as well as workers in the community, social services, or health sectors who deliver home supports.

Learn more and enrol online by visiting www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice/e-learning-for-workers-and-carers.

NATIONAL PREPARING AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) Preparing Australian Communities - Local Stream grant opens across Australia on Friday 10 December 2021.

This \$10 million funding opportunity will prioritise projects that improve the resilience of communities living in locations where there is a greater risk of natural hazards, including bushfires, floods, and tropical cyclones. Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for locally identified and locally led projects.

For more information, including guidelines, a sample application form, and a sample grant agreement, visit www.business.gov.au/PACPL. This grant opportunity closes at 5pm on Thursday 6 January 2022.

Community members can seek endorsement from the Alpine CRC by accessing an online proforma, which can be found by visiting www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/alpine-community-recovery-committee.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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>.

DELWP Climate Ready Hume Community Mini Grants | Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for local communities to develop programs that adapt to a changing climate. Closes 17 December 2021. Visit <https://engage.vic.gov.au/hume-regional-climate-change-adaptation-strategy> or contact climateready.hume@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.

Indi Stronger Communities Programme | Federal Members of Parliament can nominate projects in their electorate and invite them to apply for up to \$20,000. Round 7 of the program closes 19 January 2022. Visit <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/stronger-communities-programme-round-7>.

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 on-ground action for wildlife and habitats, or nature-based, educational or arts programs that connect the local environmental recovery with its human recovery. Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/environment-and-biodiversity-bushfire-recovery>.

Victorian Government Commercial Landlord Hardship Fund | Grants up to \$6,000 are available for eligible small landlords who waive commercial rent for their tenants between 28 July 2021 and 15 January 2022 under the Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme (CTRS). Round 3 closes 15 January 2022. Visit <https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/commercial-landlord-hardship-fund-3>.

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>.