



# Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

## OCTOBER 2020

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

## Alpine Economic Research Survey

URBAN Enterprise has been engaged to assess the economic impact of the 2019-20 bushfires and COVID-19 on industry sectors within the Alpine Shire. The Alpine Economic Research Survey obtains direct feedback from businesses to provide a holistic view of our economy and enable Council to advocate on behalf of industry for support and recovery investment. Your involvement is important and we thank you for your continued support and participation. Access the survey by visiting [www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q572WSW](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q572WSW).

## Community Bushfire Recovery Grants

Stage 1 of the \$400,000 Community Bushfire Recovery Grants program has now closed. Thank you to the Alpine Shire residents, groups, and organisations who put forward an expression of interest. Alpine Shire Council looks forward to working with community members on their applications to further develop projects, programs, and events that will support our communities.

## BRV Grants

Bushfire Recovery Victoria is delivering a number of grants: one of up to \$50,000 for community facilities, and another for local community projects of up to \$2 million in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government. If you have a project idea, head to the Local Economic Recovery page at [www.brvic.gov.au](http://www.brvic.gov.au) and arrange a call back from BRV's economic team.

## Buy Local in Shop and Online

The majority of retail businesses in the Alpine Shire are owned and run by local families who have taken a huge hit from this year's bushfires and COVID-19. You can now support our businesses across the Alpine Shire with the introduction of Buy from Mount Beauty and Buy from Myrtleford alongside Buy from Bright. Buy local

- in Bright: [www.buyfrombright.com.au](http://www.buyfrombright.com.au)
- in Mount Beauty: [www.buyfrommtbeauty.com.au](http://www.buyfrommtbeauty.com.au)
- in Myrtleford: [www.buyfrommyrtleford.com.au](http://www.buyfrommyrtleford.com.au)

## Support from Alpine Health

Adult support is available in face-to-face settings delivered in Bright, Mount Beauty and Myrtleford with psychologist Dustin Cleverley. Make a referral via APMHA Healthcare by contacting 1300 514 811.

Youth support is available in partnership with NESAY, with support now in place for young people aged 10 and older: a youth worker, primary school counsellor, secondary school counsellor, and a Rural Mental Health Wellbeing worker. These positions offer a mix of face-to-face and telehealth appointments. Refer a young person by emailing [referrals@alpineyouthsupport.org.au](mailto:referrals@alpineyouthsupport.org.au).

More information about mental health services available in the Alpine Shire can be found at [www.alpinehealth.org.au/healthy-communities/mental-health-support](http://www.alpinehealth.org.au/healthy-communities/mental-health-support).

## Bushfires Case Support Program

The Bushfires Case Support Program links people to personal support and financial counselling support. Contact them by calling 1800 560 760.

# ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News

Edition 1 | October 2020



## 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.

## GET IN TOUCH

Email [info@alpinecrc.org.au](mailto:info@alpinecrc.org.au)

## WHO WE ARE

**Fiona Nicholls | Chair**  
Myrtleford and Surrounds

**Steve Belli | Deputy Chair**  
Mount Hotham

**Bruce Hore**  
Bright and Surrounds

**Mark Hubbard**  
Dinner Plain

**Kellie Gray**  
Bright and Surrounds

**Fiona Laird**  
Harrietville and Surrounds

**Sally McDonald**  
Myrtleford and Surrounds

**Malcolm McPherson**  
Dinner Plain

**Dani Sheean**  
Falls Creek

**Barbara Talbot**  
Kiewa Valley and Surrounds

**Lachlan Thomas**  
Harrietville and Surrounds

**Nicholas Wright**  
Kiewa Valley and Surrounds

## WHAT'S NEW

- The CRC launched a survey at the beginning of September to gain a deeper understanding of the recovery needs of local Alpine communities. Over 200 people across the region have completed the survey, which is a great result so far with valuable information to inform the Community Recovery Plan. The survey is open until November 1 and can be accessed by visiting [www.surveymonkey.com/r/alpinecrc1](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/alpinecrc1).
- We have worked with Alpine Shire Council to support upgrades for telecommunications resilience across the region.
- Local Economic Recovery (LER) Grants have been announced by the state and federal government. The CRC worked co-operatively with other local organisations to successfully lobby for the Alpine Resort communities to be included in this funding opportunity.

## WHAT'S COMING UP

- It is the season for preparing our properties for the upcoming summer. Watch the Alpine Shire Council website for further information on green waste days and other bushfire preparedness information.
- Future newsletters will share key findings from our survey. These findings will also be used to guide planning to support community resilience and recovery into the future.
- The Inspector General Emergency Management is conducting the Independent Inquiry into the 2019–20 Victorian Fire Season. People from the Alpine district are invited to share their experiences of emergency relief and early recovery since the fires by joining a focus group. Please register online by visiting [www.igem.vic.gov.au/vicfires-inquiry](http://www.igem.vic.gov.au/vicfires-inquiry) or call Anne-Louise 0409 249 054.

## GRANTS

- The LER Grants are community-led opportunities that fund the development of local-level projects that contribute to regional economy or local community. These funds will be allocated at different stages with a major tranche available from the middle of next year, so there is time to get the necessary planning for recovery projects underway. More information about the LER grants can be found over the page.
- REC Solar is offering community organisations in bushfire-affected regions the opportunity to apply for a premium solar system free of charge, which will be fully installed by solar experts. Full program details and eligibility criteria can be found at [www.reconstruct.net.au](http://www.reconstruct.net.au).
- There is no single pot of money approach to grant funding. What we do know is that there will be a range of opportunities over a period of time (at least a couple of years). The ideal action for our community today is to identify what recovery projects are needed and to scope out what needs to be done. Successful applications for funds generally go to project plans rather than great ideas.
- The Federal Member for Indi's website includes information on grants including short videos outlining how to apply for grants, a grant finder link, and a regular newsletter detailing available grants. Access the grant finder by visiting <https://helenhaines.grantguru.com.au/>.