



# Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

## OCTOBER 2021

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

### IGEM Phase 2 Report

Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) are excited to announce that, on Thursday 14 October 2021, the Phase 2 report of the Inspector-General for Emergency Management (IGEM) Inquiry into the 2019-20 Victorian Fire Season was tabled in Parliament.

The report includes a range of observations and findings and makes 15 recommendations to improve Victoria's relief and recovery arrangements at the system-level. The Victorian Government has released a statement supporting all 15 recommendations.

We know that many Community Recovery Committees and their members were engaged in the consultation for the preparation of this report, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your time to provide details of your experiences.

One of the key recommendations in the report is the establishment of a permanent entity dedicated to coordinating recovery for all future emergencies. Over the coming months the Victorian Government will be working with the whole emergency management sector to design that dedicated recovery organisation.

In the meantime, BRV has been tasked with taking on state and regional recovery coordination for all future emergencies. This doesn't change our commitment to our bushfire and storm and flood affected communities. We remain dedicated to supporting community-led recovery in the Alpine region.

Read the full report and the Victorian Government response here: <https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/publications/government-response-to-the-igem-inquiry-into-the-2019-20-victorian-fire-season-phase-2>.

### Community Vision and Council Plan

A Community Vision with a focus on resilience, prosperity, and sustainability is part of a suite of vital guiding documents adopted by Council in October.

On Tuesday 5 October, 2021, Council adopted its Community Vision 2040, four-year Council Plan and 10-year Financial Plan.

Alpine Shire Mayor John Forsyth said the development of the Community Vision and Council Plan gave Council an insight to the future aspirations of the Alpine community.

"We have a responsibility to listen to our communities as we make our way through the current pandemic and plan for a prosperous future," he said.

"We know that our community is seeking strong leadership on critical issues that impact them, like housing availability and climate change. These documents articulate our commitment to continue to lead and support our community in a way that is collaborative, decisive and bold."

Following broad community engagement, the Community Vision and Council Plan were drafted and finalised through deliberative engagement with the volunteer Alpine Community Panel.

Thank you to the Panel members, who gave their time to share their views, working together and with Council staff - you were an essential part of the process!

A number of amendments were made to the final document to account for feedback submitted by the community during the final public submission phase, which closed in early September.

Access the Community Vision and Council Plan by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/council/our-council/corporate-plans-and-reports>.

## Green Waste Days

Council encourages our communities to tidy up their properties ahead of our upcoming bushfire season by participating in our free Green Waste Days. Removing hazardous and flammable materials from your property is vital to reducing fire risk and keeping you and your loved ones safe.

**When** Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 November 2021

**Time** 10am – 2pm

**Where** Mount Beauty Transfer Station  
Myrtleford Transfer Station  
Porepunkah Transfer Station

Members of the community are advised that they must adhere to the following terms:

- Maximum load of 2m<sup>3</sup> per load (subject to change)
- Loads must be clean and free of wire, netting, and contaminants
- No stumps are allowed
- No commercial loads are allowed

## Regional Events Funds

Regional communities are invited to apply for funding opportunities that support the acquisition, growth, or planning of events across regional areas. Visit Victoria is offering two funding opportunities:

**Regional Events Fund** with three funding streams available.

**Regional Community Events Fund** with grants of up to \$25,000 available.

The Alpine Shire has a rich and varied events calendar, which boosts the regional economy, supports businesses, and provides a range of experiences for locals and visitors alike. Both funding opportunities support events held in regional Victoria, showcasing regional tourism strengths, and helping public community events grow and thrive.

Learn more and apply by visiting <https://corporate.visitvictoria.com/events/regional-events>.

## Find Support with Navspace

Access wellbeing support when you need it by visiting Navspace, an online guide to mental health and wellbeing support services in northeast Victoria.

Navspace is a directory that connects you and your loved ones to a range of services available right here in the Alpine Shire and Resorts, including mental health services and disaster support. This website has been developed to support ongoing community recovery and service response, particularly relating to local disasters.

Visit <https://navspace.org.au/>.

## Events for Recovery

Thanks to joint funding from the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Council is excited to announce the following events scheduled to take place in November 2021.

**Emergency Ready Trivia Nights** For adults only from 7pm at the following locations. Register by visiting <https://alpineshire.eventbrite.com.au>.

- **Myrtleford** Wednesday 17 November at Club Savoy
- **Mount Beauty** Friday 19 November at the Mount Beauty Community Centre
- **Bright** Saturday 20 November at The Pavilion

**Voices of the Valley, a Bushfire Recovery Concert in Freeburgh** Sunday 21 November at Freeburgh Hall Reserve. Gates open at 11:30am, with the concert starting at 1pm.

**RUOK Coming Out of the Smoke Picnic in Mount Beauty** Saturday 27 November at the foreshore and Bicentennial Park. Picnic starts at 11am.

**Family Fun Day in Harrietteville** Sunday 28 November at Harrietteville Cricket Club. Community members from Harrietteville, Freeburgh, and Smoko are invited to come down and celebrate being with community.

Please note that all events will be COVIDSafe and will run according to COVID-19 restrictions as provided by the Victorian Government.

## Business Recovery Advisor

Ross Smith recently joined the Victorian Government, Business Recovery Advisory Service, supporting all bushfire impacted businesses in North East Victoria. Ross has been local to Yackandandah for over ten years and joins us after an extensive career in local government economic development. Ross has also owned and operated small businesses in the past.

This journey brought Ross to working as a Business Recovery Adviser, which is ideal as he has a real passion for small business: "I have huge respect for small business owners—these entrepreneurs drive our economy, taking all the risk and not always getting the rewards they deserve, particularly in today's turbulent environment".

Ross is an excellent communicator, a great listener, and he would love to hear from you. Residents in the Alpine Shire and Resorts are invited to seek free, one-on-one support from Ross by visiting the Business Victoria website at <https://lnkd.in/gSbxk6Sa>.

# ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News  
Edition 11 | October 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](mailto: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.**

The Alpine CRC is pleased to introduce Charlotte Chambers as their newest member, representing Bright and Surrounds. Charlotte brings a fresh perspective to the committee as a young person and the Alpine CRC is fortunate to have her on board.

The Alpine CRC farewell and thank Malcolm MacPherson and Kellie Gray for their incisive contributions to the Committee and wish them all the best.

## COMMUNITY PRIORITIES: PREPAREDNESS WITH THE CFA

The Alpine CRC recently spoke to a representative from the Country Fire Authority (CFA), who gave us insight into the upcoming season and highlighted resources available to our communities to ensure they are ready and prepared. They shared with us some key messages that we encourage our communities to take on board as we come into our next bushfire season.

### Prepare your property by landscaping for the season

- CFA Guide to Preparing Your Property <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property>
- CFA Landscaping for Bushfire <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property/landscaping>
- CFA Local <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice>

### Have an emergency plan and kit prepared and ready to go

- CFA Plan and Prepare <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare>
- Red Cross RediPlan <https://www.redcross.org.au/prepare>
- SES Emergency Kit <https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe/create-an-emergency-plan>

### Have more than one method of getting emergency information

The CFA recommend hotlines, emergency broadcasters, news outlets, and the official social media sites of CFA, SES, and Vic Emergency.

- Regional Roads Victoria Hotline <https://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au> | 1800 226 226
- VicEmergency Hotline <https://emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare> | 133 778
- Alpine Radio [www.alpineradio.com.au](http://www.alpineradio.com.au) | 96.5FM in the Kiewa Valley, 92.9FM in the Ovens Valley, and 94.5FM in Harrietville
- ABC Goulburn Murray [www.abc.net.au/radio/goulburnmurray](http://www.abc.net.au/radio/goulburnmurray) | 106.5FM in the Kiewa Valley, 89.7FM in Bright, and 91.7FM in Myrtleford
- CFA Social Media <https://www.facebook.com/cfavic> and <https://www.instagram.com/cfavic/>
- SES Victoria Social Media <https://www.facebook.com/viceses> and <https://www.instagram.com/vicesesnews/>
- Vic Emergency Social Media <https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency> and <https://www.instagram.com/vicemergency/>

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology has released their Climate and Water Outlook for November 2021 – January 2022. Learn more about the upcoming weather patterns by visiting <https://youtu.be/YNz3-IKsNCc>.

## NATIONAL PREPARING AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA) recently announced their Preparing Australian Communities - Local Stream grant, which will open across Australia on Friday 10 December 2021 and close at 5pm on Thursday 6 January 2022. 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.

For more information, including guidelines, a sample application form, and a sample grant agreement, visit [www.business.gov.au/PACPL](http://www.business.gov.au/PACPL). The NRRA have indicated that additional resources will be published soon.

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## COPING WITH COVID-19

As Victoria moves forward in the Victorian Government's roadmap to reopening, the Alpine CRC would like to assure our communities that we are still advocating for improved support to cope with COVID-19 requirements and we still want to hear from you. Please send any comments you have to the Alpine CRC by emailing [info@alpinecrc.org.au](mailto:info@alpinecrc.org.au).

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**Agriculture Victoria Small Scale and Craft Program** | Eligible small-scale and craft agribusinesses are invited to apply for up to \$100,000. Stream 3 closes 19 November 2021. Visit <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/smallscaleandcraftprogram>.

**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](mailto: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 11 closes 23 November 2021. Visit <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/strengthening-rural-communities> or contact Vivienne McCrory on 1800 170 020 or [info@frrr.org.au](mailto: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>.

**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>.