



Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2021

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

Be Ready and Prepared

Council encourages our Alpine communities to prepare for emergencies like storms, floods, grass or bushfires this spring, in line with messaging from CFA, SES, and VicEmergency.

One way you can prepare is to create your Emergency Kit, because being ready with a few important emergency items can save your life. Emergency Kits help people cope, stay informed, and look after the basic needs of family members, including pets, in an emergency.

Take these three simple steps to begin creating your Emergency Kit today:

1. Start with key items for power and internet outages: get a battery powered radio, torch, and a portable power bank charger to stay connected and informed during an emergency.
2. Add a first aid kit, 3+ day supply of long-life food (include babies and pets), safe drinking water, gloves, spare batteries, and your home emergency plan.
3. When preparing to leave, add your medicine or prescription, your identification, and spare clothes.

Our communities are also encouraged to access the Alpine Preparedness Newsletter to begin preparing for the upcoming bushfire season. This newsletter includes practical advice about how to prepare your property, including your home and garden, and direct residents to useful resources from key emergency agencies.

Access this newsletter now by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/alpine-community-recovery-committee>.

Online Wellbeing Directory

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.

Access the help available by connecting with Navspace. Visit <https://navspace.org.au/>.

Navspace was generously funded by the state of Victoria through a Bushfire Recovery Victoria grants program in response to the 2019-20 bushfires, which impacted northeast Victorian communities.

Commercial Landlord Hardship Fund

Eligible small landlords are invited to apply for grants up to \$6,000 per eligible tenancy under the third round of the Victorian Government's Commercial Landlord Hardship Fund.

This grant is available for small landlords who waive commercial rent for their tenants between 28 July, 2021 and 15 January, 2022 under the Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme (CTRS).

Find out more, including eligibility requirements and details about necessary supporting evidence, by visiting <https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/commercial-landlord-hardship-fund-3> or calling Business Victoria on 13 22 15.

Applications close on Saturday, 15 January, 2022 or when funds are exhausted.

ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News
Edition 10 | September 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

Malcolm McPherson
Dinner Plain

Jane Shadbolt
Bright and Surrounds

Dani Sheean
Falls Creek

Lachlan Thomas
Harrietville and Surrounds

Nicholas Wright
Kiewa Valley

LIVING WITH COVID-19

The Alpine CRC realise that the repeated lockdowns are having a significant impact on community connectedness and cohesiveness.

The energy and enthusiasm for planning community-based activities is being challenged and this inertia extends well beyond the repeated cancellation of activities. People are tired, looking inward, and unable to consider planning for future events, from annual plans within community organisations to more specific activities. The Alpine CRC's concern is that, as the energy of our volunteers fades, so does the long-term community knowledge on how to run and manage these events. It is this knowledge and networking that is so pivotal for communities when an emergency arises.

A specific concern of the Alpine CRC is how this lack of opportunity and energy at a community level is translating into community preparedness for 2021/22 bushfire season. Many planned activities to raise awareness on preparing for the upcoming bushfire season have had to be delayed and postponed for the second year.

The Alpine CRC are keen to explore what can be done within our current COVIDSafe situation, to energise our many volunteer organisations within our region. We are raising this issue within government circles and are seeking proactive consideration to promoting preparedness needs for the upcoming summer.

So we want to hear from you. By listening to our communities, the Alpine CRC can gather information that will help us when advocating for specific solutions to the challenges you are experiencing at the moment.

The Alpine CRC would like to hear your opinion on:

- What are the barriers and challenges, including and beyond lockdown, that you or your community organisation are experiencing?
- What could help improve the current situation?
- What is it that we can do to help ourselves?

Please send any comments you have to the Alpine CRC by emailing info@alpinecrc.org.au.

If you feel that you or your loved ones would benefit from talking with someone about the issues you are facing, please take the time to visit Navspace on <https://navspace.org.au/> and find the person best for you.

DELWP: 18 MONTHS ON

DELWP has provided an accessible snapshot that highlights the breadth of bushfire recovery work completed to date. This infographic outlines work completed in the Alpine and Upper Murray regions, including information about biodiversity recovery, hazardous tree treatment, and road restoration. Access this information and learn more by visiting <https://bit.ly/3ILD3W6>.

The Alpine CRC want to hear your views and concerns about this work so we can further explore next steps with DELWP. If you have anything you wish to raise, contact the Alpine CRC by emailing info@alpinecrc.org.au.

BE PREPARED FOR UPCOMING FIRE SEASONS

The Alpine CRC heard from many in the community about the importance of being prepared before any emergency. Having a well prepared and practised plan is critical to your survival during an emergency event. The following agencies have valuable resources available to ensure that you and your loved ones are ready in the event of a disaster:

- CFA Guide to Preparing Your Property <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property>
- CFA Local <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice>
- CFA Plan and Prepare <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare>
- Red Cross RediPlan <https://www.redcross.org.au/prepare>
- Regional Roads Victoria Hotline <https://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au>
- VicEmergency Hotline <https://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond>

The Alpine CRC worked with Alpine Shire Council and the Alpine Resort Management Boards to put together an emergency preparedness newsletter highlighting important resources to help you plan and prepare. Access this newsletter by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/alpine-community-recovery-committee>.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program NOW EXTENDED | The \$280 million Black Summer Bushfire Recovery (BSBR) grants program is offering funding ranging from \$20,000 to \$10 million to help communities address priorities for recovery and resilience after the 2019-20 bushfires. Closes 6 October, 2021. Visit <https://recovery.gov.au/black-summer-grants>.

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>.

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.

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>.

UPCOMING

Bushfire Recovery Victoria Local Economic Recovery (LER) Round 3: Opening dates are yet to be confirmed. Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/local-economic-recovery-program-bushfire-affected-communities>.