



Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

SUMMER 2021

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

From Our Mayor



A message from Alpine Shire Council
Mayor John Forsyth.

As an extremely busy visitor season begins to scale down, I urge you to look around at our beautiful Shire, take some time to appreciate the small things and check in on your own health, and the health of those around you.

I continue to be inspired by the everyday examples of our locals getting on with their lives and businesses in the face of ongoing uncertainty and stress.

Recovery comes in many different shapes and sizes. It looks different for everyone - no one experiences an emergency, trauma or ongoing stress exactly the same way as anyone else.

Recovery may be emotional, physical or financial. It may also mean recovering balance, recovering a sense of self or recovering space to sit and rest after months of hard work and pressure.

I encourage you to take some time to draw breath, to recognise that those around you are doing their best under trying circumstances, and to take time to be kind to yourself and others.

Independent Inquiry Into 2019-20 Victorian Fire Season - Phase 2

Inspector-General for Emergency Management (IGEM), Tony Pearce, is conducting the independent Inquiry into the 2019-20 Victorian Fire Season. The Inquiry's Terms of Reference for Phase 2 include an examination of:

- the effectiveness of immediate relief and recovery work and arrangements
- the creation of Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV), and the National Bushfire Recovery Agency (NBRA), and how they work together.

IGEM invites community members from the Alpine Shire and Alpine Resorts to provide feedback on the delivery and effectiveness of recovery activities 12 months since the fires in at the following meetings:

Porepunkah – Tuesday, 2 March

Porepunkah Pub, 13 Nicholson Street, Porepunkah
6.00pm – 8.00pm
Register by Friday, 26 February

Dinner Plain and Mt Hotham – Wednesday, 3 March

10.00am - 12.00pm
Ramada Resort, 12 Big Muster Drive Dinner Plain
Register by Monday, 1 March

Further meetings are being planned in Alpine Shire and locations, dates and times will be confirmed as soon as possible.

For COVID-19 safety and catering, please register online through www.igem.vic.gov.au or call (03) 8684 7900 and tell us if you require accessibility assistance when registering.

Full details on the Inquiry, its Terms of Reference, and opportunities for community participation are available from www.igem.vic.gov.au or by calling (03) 8684 7900.

Community Event Grant

Community and sporting groups are invited to apply for Round 2 of the Bushfire Recovery Community Event Funding Program, delivered by Alpine Shire Council with support from the Australian and Victorian governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement.

Grants are available for up to \$5,000 to support events that bring bushfire affected communities together, build resilience, and raise awareness of support services. Round 2 closes at 11:59pm on Sunday, 28 February, 2021. Find out more information by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community/grants-and-awards/community-grants> or by contacting Renate Griesse, Bushfire Economic Recovery Officer at Alpine Shire Council, on 03 5755 0555 or by emailing renateg@alpineshire.vic.gov.au.

LER Grant Funding - Round 1

The first round of the Bushfire Recovery Victoria (LER) grants were announced, with \$189,000 allocated to the Alpine region to improve the surface and drainage on the Possum loop track and Dargo lookout trail within the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort. Round 2 of the LER grants offer a \$14.6 million tranche, which opens Monday, 15 March, 2021. For more details, visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/local-economic-recovery-program-bushfire-affected-communities>.

National Bushfire Poetry Competition

National Bushfire Recovery Australia (NBRA) have teamed up with HarperCollins to commemorate the Black Summer bushfires. One way that communities can contribute is by entering the Kids News Bushfire Poetry Competition. The competition is open to all primary and secondary school students across Australia, with two winners - one from primary and one from secondary - chosen specifically from bushfire-affected regions. Entries close at 5pm on Saturday, 20 February. To find out more information about how to enter, visit <https://www.kidsnews.com.au/arts/kids-news-launches-bushfire-poetry-competition/news-story/25e6c852f49f1222e73ba2dba9caf6e8>.

GIVIT Funding Opportunity

Make a donation to those affected by bushfire or, if you need help, request items that will be of most support for you. GIVIT is a nationally-recognised, not-for-profit organisation where generous donations of goods can be given to individuals or charities who need it most. Donations range from vouchers through to whitegoods through to back-to-school necessities, plus more. Register today by visiting <https://www.givit.org.au/>.



Contact Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) Hub Services Coordinator, Shelley Herman, and BRV Wellbeing Support Officer, Joeline LeBlanc.

Someone To Talk To

The first step can simply be having a chat. Reach out to a local service to access support, or refer someone who you think would benefit just by having someone to talk to.

Alpine Health | 1300 514 811

<https://www.alpinehealth.org.au/healthycommunities/mental-health>

headspace Albury Wodonga | 1300 332 022

<https://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/albury-wodonga/>

Community Hub Outreach

The Community Recovery Hub welcomes community members across the Alpine Shire and Alpine Resorts. The Hub is open as a space for you to access a range of services related to your recovery and resilience. Drop in anytime for mental health support, financial assistance, or just to chat to someone to find out what you need to feel supported.

Get in touch with services at the Hub by calling 0429 529 700 or emailing alpinehub@brv.vic.gov.au. Find the Hub at the old chocolate shop at 8/3 Riverside Walk, Bright, between 10am - 4pm on Monday - Thursday, and 10am - 2pm on Friday.

Can't get there?

Hub Services Coordinator, Shelley Herman, is looking forward to engaging with Hub Outreach, where the Hub will come to a place that is convenient for the people in your community. Would you like Hub Outreach in your community? Contact Shelley directly by calling 0429 529 700 or emailing alpinehub@brv.vic.gov.au.

ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News
Edition 3 | Summer 2021



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.

MAILING LIST

Have the Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter and Alpine Chat delivered to you. Sign up 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

Dani Sheean
Falls Creek

Lachlan Thomas
Harrietville and Surrounds

Nicholas Wright
Kiewa Valley and Surrounds



WHAT'S NEW

- The Alpine CRC welcomes Gail Owen as a representative of Dinner Plain. Her breadth of knowledge is an invaluable asset to our committee.
- The Alpine CRC would like to thank Bruce Hore from Bright and surrounds and Barbara Talbot from the Kiewa Valley for their time and efforts in establishing and developing the committee that we have become. The Alpine CRC are now looking for representatives from these areas. Find out more and apply now by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community-recovery-committee>.

FIRST STEPS TO RECOVERY

One of our priorities is to make information available to our communities. To do so, we have released our First Steps to Recovery, where we outline our purpose, our committee, our community, information about the disaster, our progress, and our key focus areas for 2021. Read more about each of these by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community-recovery-committee>.

UNDERTAKE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Menzies Foundation, Collaboration for Impact, and Anecdote have come together to support communities to collect, record, reflect on, and share their stories. This opportunity amplifies our citizen leaders and trains people in our communities to interview these leaders about their experiences. If you or someone you know would like to be involved, register your interest by 15 February, 2021, by contacting the Alpine CRC at info@alpinecrc.org.au.

ALPINE CRC SURVEY

We heard from 327 people, and something that stood out straight away amongst the results is the level of care and concern people have for each other in our community. People also expressed this keen enthusiasm for gathering and connection. For some, this was about debriefing and checking in with each other now restrictions have lifted. For others, this is seen as being essential for community strengthening and building resilience.

The survey demonstrated that the community have identified a number of priorities that they believe are imperative to bushfire preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience. To address these priorities, the Alpine CRC will meet with relevant agencies and feedback their responses to the community through this newsletter as Community Priorities.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES: DELWP

The survey suggested that our communities regard environmental protection and management as the number one priority for future bushfire preparation. So much so, that this priority was ranked amongst the highest across all our communities. The Alpine CRC met with DELWP to find out how they have been addressing this priority. For more information on any of the following, visit <https://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/communities-and-regions/bushfire-recovery>.

- replacing boundary fencing on both public and private land
 - repairing 490km of firebreaks on public land while managing plant species and erosion
 - repairing 440km of roads and numerous bridges
 - looking to divert hazardous trees to community depots for firewood
 - managing and repairing waterways by removing barriers for native fish to swim upstream
 - reseeded 6000ha of Alpine Ash using existing seed banks
 - assessing and rehabilitating the long-footed potoroo, spotted-tree frog, and Macquarie perch
 - focusing on high-threat weeds, including broom in the Buckland Valley and willow in Buffalo River
 - trying to secure funding for other weeds, including blackberries as it is acknowledged that they are an extreme issue
 - culling 3000 pests animals in eastern Victoria, including deer, goats, pigs, and foxes
 - undergoing work at Mt Buffalo, particularly around the chalet, and at the Tawonga Caravan Park
 - helping to establish stand-alone power systems so that communities can be more sufficient when in need of power
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JOIN THE ALPINE CRC

The Alpine CRC is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) for representatives from **Bright and surrounds** and the **Kiewa Valley** to join the Alpine CRC.

The Alpine CRC represents the Alpine Shire and Alpine Resorts, ensuring that local know-how and expertise are front and centre in longer term bushfire recovery planning.

Community members from a variety of backgrounds and experiences in Bright and surrounds and the Kiewa Valley are encouraged to apply.

EOIs close 7pm Monday, 22nd February, 2021. For more information or a copy of the EOI pack:

- visit alpineshire.vic.gov.au
- email the Alpine CRC at info@alpinecrc.org.au
- call Alpine Shire Council on 5755 0555

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>.

FRRR | Strengthening Rural Communities

Grants up to \$25,000 are available for a broad range of community-led initiatives that benefit local communities. Round 8 closes at 5pm on Tuesday, 23 February, 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.

Murray PHN | Bushfire Community Recovery

Murray PHN invites community groups and organisations to apply for grants for up to \$10,000 to deliver grassroots activities. Grants close on 12 March, 2021. Find out more by visiting <https://www.murrayphn.org.au/bushfiregrants/> or by contacting Greg Calder on 0417 620 859 or gcalder@murrayphn.org.au.

Red Cross | Bushfire Additional Support

Funding is available to those who have previously applied for a Red Cross grant and continue to require support. Round 2 closes on Friday, 19 February, 2021. Find out more by visiting <https://www.redcross.org.au/grants> or by contacting 1800 733 276 or grants@redcross.org.au.

Upcoming

- **Bushfire Recovery Victoria Local Economic Recovery (LER) Round 2:** opens March, 2021. Find out more by visiting <https://www.vic.gov.au/local-economic-recovery-program-bushfire-affected-communities>.
- **Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Round 2:** opens May, 2021. Find out more by visiting <https://www.communityenterprisefoundation.com.au/>.