



Alpine Shire Community

Recovery Newsletter - August 2020

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Alpine Shire Community Recovery Newsletter, a joint initiative by Alpine Shire Council and Bushfire Recovery Victoria. This monthly newsletter will provide residents, ratepayers and businesses with updates and information on community recovery.

Stage 3 Restrictions –

Changes to Services

The second round of Stage 3 restrictions for regional Victoria are in effect. The following Council facilities are closed until restrictions are eased:

- Bright Sports Centre and pool
- All playgrounds, skate parks, public barbecues and water fountains
- Bright, Mount Beauty and Myrtleford Libraries - Click and Collect is still available
- All Council-owned and managed halls and community centres
- Alpine, Myrtleford and Mount Beauty Visitor Information Centres
- Council's Community Immunisation Service has ceased operation

Porepunkah, Myrtleford and Mount Beauty transfer stations will remain open and operate with their regular trading hours. Customers are required to wear a mask to attend these sites.

Bright Council Office - Customer Service will still be on hand to assist via phone on 5755 0555 or email info@alpineshire.vic.gov.au.

Alpine Community Recovery Hub (8/3 Riverside Avenue, Bright VIC 3741) – By appointment only. Contact Hub Services Coordinator, Shelley Herman on 0429 529 700 or alpinehub@brv.vic.gov.au. All Outreach Hubs are cancelled until further notice.

Coronavirus hotline - If you suspect you may have coronavirus (COVID-19) call the dedicated hotline on 1800 675 398 – open 24 hours, 7 days. Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only.

Alpine Shire Community Resource Guide - Do you need help accessing important service information and support? For a comprehensive list of local contacts and resources visit Council's Community Resource Guide at www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community-resource-guide.

CRC Update

The Alpine Community Recovery Committee is making good progress, recently electing a Chair and Deputy Chair and exploring local needs in recovery and resilience-building. The Committee is made up of representatives from across the Alpine Shire and Alpine Resorts, to help give a voice to the broad views and recovery goals of local communities.

Fiona Nicholls was elected Chair and Steve Belli was elected Deputy Chair at the Community Recovery Committee's fourth meeting on Wednesday, 29 July. Chair Fiona Nicholls said she is excited to support her fellow committee members in providing essential representation and connection between the community and all levels of government.

"The Community Recovery Committee's role extends beyond the short-term post-emergency recovery process," she said. "We're here to work with our communities to identify recovery opportunities, and plan and assist community readiness and resilience in the face of future emergencies." Ms Nicholls said the CRC's purpose is to develop a plan for building community recovery that can feed into the Shire, State and Federal Government plans.

"The development of this plan will include a detailed consultation phase where community members will be encouraged to identify areas of concern and provide ideas for recovery," she said. "We're here to provide a community voice to all levels of government and ensure our community members are represented. Your local community representative is your best contact to share your views on recovery and ensure your voice is heard".

CRC Update cont.

Do you know your township's CRC representative? Visit our Community Recovery Committee page to meet them <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community-recovery-committee>.

Feeling Overwhelmed?

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is the first step to looking after your physical and mental health. Eating nutritious meals, exercising regularly, getting plenty of sleep, staying connected with friends and/or family and practising relaxation techniques can help to improve how you are feeling. However, if you are struggling with your mental health and need some extra support, there are a number of services available.

Head to Health – With over 550 digital mental health resources from Australian organisations, www.headtohealth.gov.au can help you to access apps and online programs.

Lifeline – For 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention for you or someone you know call 13 11 14.

Headspace - Headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation providing early intervention mental health services to 12-25 year olds, along with assistance in promoting young peoples' wellbeing. Visit <https://headspace.org.au/> for more information.

Beyond Blue – Contact the 24/7 Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service on 1800 512 348.

Medical Centres - 5755 0100 (Bright)
5751 9300 (Myrtleford)
5754 3500 (Mount Beauty)

Small Business Support

- The Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is offering 12 month free membership worth over \$700 so all Victorian businesses can access its services.
- The Australian Banking Association recommends contacting your bank to access any assistance on offer due to the financial impact of coronavirus on your business. This could include deferred loan payments, waiving fees and restructuring loans. If you're not sure who to contact, the ABA's website has a list of hardship contact details.
- ATO tailored support – Offered to businesses feeling the effects of coronavirus (COVID-19). If you're feeling overwhelmed, or getting behind with your tax and super obligations, contact the ATO (on 1800 806 218) or speak to your tax professional.
- Business Support Fund – \$5,000 grants to support

employing businesses in regional Victoria.

- Regional Tourism Accommodation Support Program - Direct financial support of up to \$225 per booking, per night, to support accommodation businesses affected by cancellations due to 'Stay at Home' restrictions and state border closures.

Visit www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/business/coronavirus-business-support for links to these services and more!

Buy From Bright and Surrounds

Buy From Bright and Surrounds is an easy and safe e-commerce platform for small business and their customers. It enables local businesses to trade online without the need to create their own online store and allows businesses to easily continue trading when their physical store is closed.

For the customer, it provides a one-stop virtual shopping experience with delivery to their door. Businesses can create their online store in three easy steps. There is no fee to sign up and no monthly fees. Go to www.buyfrombright.com.au to set-up your online store now!

Inquiry into the 2019/20

Victorian Fire Season

The Inspector-General for Emergency Management (IGEM) would like to provide an update on progress of the independent Inquiry into the 2019–20 Victorian fire season.

Inquiry Phase 1 – Preparedness and Response

The Phase 1 report focusing on the preparedness for and response to the 2019–20 Victorian fire season was delivered to the Victorian Government on 31 July 2020.

Inquiry Phase 2 – Relief and Recovery

Phase 2 of the Inquiry focuses on the effectiveness and progress of relief and recovery activities and arrangements during and after the 2019–20 Victorian fire season.

IGEM would like to hear from individuals and organisations about how the 2019-20 Victorian fires affected you; what worked well in the delivery of emergency relief and recovery activities during the first 6 months; what didn't work as well as you would have expected or preferred; and your suggestions for improvement. For more information on making a submission, and to read the full Community Update, visit www.igem.vic.gov.au.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Alpine Bushfire Recovery newsletter each month, please email info@alpineshire.vic.gov.au.