



# Alpine Community

## Recovery Newsletter - July 2020

Welcome to the third edition of the Alpine 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.

### 6 Months of Recovery

The past six months have been tumultuous, to say the least. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community's bushfire recovery, looking back on the past six months there are still many achievements to celebrate - and many more to look forward to.

Working hand-in-hand with Bushfire Recovery Victoria, our Community Recovery team has helped almost 500 local businesses to access the much-needed \$10,000 bushfire recovery grant and coordinated the opening of the essential Alpine Recovery Hub.

Who can forget the incredible experience of seeing superstar Katy Perry perform live in Bright or the hugely successful High Country Comeback event in Melbourne earlier in the year?

The recent formation of the Alpine Community Recovery Committee (CRC) is a fantastic step forward in championing community-led recovery, and I can't wait to see where our CRC will go from here. The Buy From Bright e-commerce initiative is going strong, with similar online platforms for Myrtleford and Mount Beauty set to be rolled out soon.

We know this year has been a difficult one for our community and businesses, and there are still challenges to come. Despite this, there's plenty to look forward to.

An increase in community grant funding this year will enable us to help our community groups achieve their

goals, and we will continue to keep everyone informed of opportunities for funding and support. Outreach Hub services will be available to offer support to communities and link them to service providers.

We know this is a time of stress, uncertainty and unprecedented pressure on our community. It's so important for everyone to treat each other with kindness and respect - we're all in this together.

Mayor Peter Roper.

### 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.

The update provides information about finalising the Phase 1 report and planning for Phase 2. The second phase will focus on the effectiveness and progress of relief and recovery activities and arrangements during and after the 2019-20 Victorian fire season. To read the update go to: [www.igem.vic.gov.au/fire-season-inquiry](http://www.igem.vic.gov.au/fire-season-inquiry).

### Mental Health and Wellbeing

Bushfire Recovery Victoria's Case Support Program is available to Alpine residents free of charge. You can access the Case Support Program by calling 1800 560 760.

There is also support available specifically for families and children to help with recovery.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing (cont.)

Headspace Albury Wodonga is a service which supports young people through challenging times and is dedicated in ensuring that those who need it can access help. Headspace is a free support service for young people aged 12-25. They can help with concerns around mental health, general health, study and work and alcohol and drug use. Currently you can speak to someone over the phone, on-line or in person, by appointment.



For more information, contact Headspace on 02 6055 9555 or email [headspaceAW@gatewayhealth.org.au](mailto:headspaceAW@gatewayhealth.org.au). For more digital support options and information, visit [www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au).

## Parenting After Bushfires

Gateway Health are running a free program for families who have experienced the trauma of bushfires. The program has been designed specifically to help parents to support children through the aftermath of such a devastating event.



The telephone delivered program consists of four one hour sessions and can be tailored to meet the needs of individual families with additional sessions as required. For more information or to enrol, please contact the Positive Parenting telephone service at Gateway Health on 1800 880 660.

## Environmental Recovery

DELWP is in the process of re-seeding nearly 13,000 hectares of public land impacted by the fires across north east Victoria. Reseeding works will focus on areas that have been previously burnt by fires in 2003, 2007, 2014 and our most recent summer.

Many of these forest areas are not old enough to regenerate naturally, and need this seed collection and sowing project to ensure their survival.

Seed for sowing 1,035 ha in the Ovens District has been allocated, bagged, and is ready for sowing during the next suitable weather.



## Mobile Recovery Hub

Shelley, your Hub Coordinator from the Alpine Region Recovery Hub, will be hosting a mobile Hub in Mount Beauty and Myrtleford.

Shelley will be at the Mount Beauty Information Centre, every Tuesday from 1pm - 4pm starting 21 July.

The Mobile Recovery Hub will also be at Myrtleford Senior Citizens Centre every Thursday from 1pm - 4pm starting 23 July. For more information, contact Shelley on 0429 529 700.

## Grants and Funding

There are a wide range of grants available to aid you and your community in your recovery from this summer's bushfires. We encourage you to contact Shelley at the Recovery Hub on 0429 529 700 if you need assistance applying for a grant, or working out which ones you might be eligible for. Here are a few grants that you could be eligible for:

### **\$10,000 Grants for Small Business and Primary Producers**

The \$10,000 Small Business Bushfire Support Grant is still available. Approximately 500 Alpine businesses have received the \$10,000 bushfire support grant available to Small Businesses and Primary Producers who experienced loss of income from the bushfires.

It's easy to apply and you aren't required to upload any financial documents if you don't have them right now. Visit [www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/small-business-bushfire-support-grant](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/small-business-bushfire-support-grant).

Rural Finance can help you find out which grants you're eligible for. Contact Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or email [governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au](mailto:governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au).

### **Victorian Bushfire Concessional Loans**

Concessional Loans of up to \$500,000 provide fire-affected primary producers, small businesses, and not-for-profits with concessional loans to help them in their recovery efforts.

These loans are intended for primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profits who have suffered significant damage to their assets and/or a significant loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.

For further information contact [governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au](mailto:governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au) or call

## Grants and Funding (cont.)

1800 260 425. Applications close on 31 August 2020.

### Bushfire Recovery Grants for Community Facilities

Community groups, not-for-profits, Aboriginal organisations and other social enterprises can apply for the Bushfire Recovery Grants for Community Facilities of up to \$50,000.

Bushfire Recovery Grants for Community Facilities have been established to support local organisations to repair and improve damaged or destroyed community facilities in fire affected communities. Examples of projects that could be funded through the community facilities grants include repair of playgrounds, skate parks, pavilions or other outdoor facilities and much more,

Grant funding cannot be used for offsetting of salaries, operating costs for existing staff, feasibility studies, business plans and third-party sponsorship. For more information and to apply, please visit [www.brvc.vic.gov.au](http://www.brvc.vic.gov.au).

### The Creative Recovery Small Grants Program

The Creative Recovery Small Grants Program supports community connection, engagement and resilience for communities impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires in regional Victoria, with up to \$5,000 available for individuals and organisations. Applications close 31 October 2020.

To apply or view grant guidelines, visit [www.rav.net.au/funding-opportunities/creative-recovery-small-grants-program/](http://www.rav.net.au/funding-opportunities/creative-recovery-small-grants-program/).

## Your Community Recovery Committee

The Alpine Community Recovery Committee (CRC) represents bushfire-affected communities across the Alpine region, ensuring that local know-how and expertise are front and centre in longer term recovery planning.

Coordinated by Alpine Shire Council and Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV), the Alpine CRC is an essential link between communities, council and other support organisations to assist with recovery and planning into the future. CRC representatives are vital in providing a conduit for community voices to be heard in recovery planning.

The representatives were selected following a month-long public Expression of Interest period, followed by interviews with panellists from BRV and Council.

Your Alpine Community Recovery Committee representatives are:

## Myrtleford and surrounds

### Sally McDonald

Sally has been a resident of the Myrtleford district for over 50 years, and has a broad interest in community development. A former Myrtleford Shire Councillor, former Chamber of Commerce President and former local business proprietor, Sally has been active as a community representative on a range of local and regional committees over many years. With a commitment to the rural sector and conservation of our unique bushland environment, Sally is a current member of Landcare and Myrtleford Splash Park Committee.

### Fiona Nicholls

A resident of the Ovens Valley for four years, Fiona is the current Vic Chair of the Into Our Hands Community Foundation and a member of the CSIRO Land and Water Advisory Committee. Fiona believes in the value of local business to support community health and wellbeing. She is keen to use her stakeholder management skills to bring a broad range of the local views to this committee.

## Bright and surrounds

### Bruce Hore

As the owner of an Information Technology and cybersecurity consulting business and Secretary of the Bright and District Chamber of Commerce, Bruce wants to see a successful Bright and districts, ensuring a sustainable and robust economy. Bruce has represented Bright and District businesses to multiple Federal Government and business forums concerning business impacts to the area during the Bushfires, including the Prime Minister's Bushfire Small Business Forum.

### Kellie Gray

A local resident for more than 20 years, Kellie owns a real estate business which employs 10 staff. She hears a lot about how the bushfires impacted her tenants at residential properties as well as commercially for many of her business tenants. Kellie is the president of the Bright Junior Football Association and treasurer Bright Courthouse Committee, as well as a committee member for Bright Little Athletics.

## Harrietville and surrounds

### Fiona Laird

As owner and Manager of Mountain View Retreat, Fiona is constantly in touch with all accommodation and hospitality properties in Harrietville, who regularly work together to plan and create events to benefit the community as a whole. Fiona is a member of

## Your Community Recovery Committee (cont.)

the Harrietville Community Forum, Australia Camps Association, Tourism North East and Victoria Tourism, and also assists with the Tronoh Dredge Committee when required.

### Lachlan Thomas

Lachlan works in the events industry and has grown up in a tourism focussed family, so enjoys promoting his community as a destination. It is important to him that younger demographics are included in these initiatives for the betterment of our future. Lachlan is currently an active member in the Harrietville Tronoh Committee as a voice for young people, and has attended committee meetings for the Harrietville Community Forum.

### Kiewa Valley

#### Jodee Betheras

Jodee has been a Kiewa Valley resident for 20 years and has lived through the 2003, 2006, 2009 and 2019/2020 bushfires. She is a secondary school teacher, farmer, and small business owner. Jodee has been the Upper Kiewa Valley Community Association Chair since 2013 and an active member of the Mount Beauty & District Community Band since the mid 2000s.

#### Barbara Talbot

Barbara is a long-time resident of Alpine Shire and former proprietor of the Old Tawonga Store, a tour guide with Outback Spirit, station and restaurant cook at a number of food premises. She has witnessed many local natural disasters, including bushfires and floods. Barbara is currently a member of the Mount Beauty Hospital and Kiewa Valley House Op Shop and Tawonga & District Community Association.

### Dinner Plain

#### Malcolm McPherson

As a property owner at Dinner Plain since 1997, and resident for 13 years, Malcolm is an active downhill skier and volunteer Mountain Host. A member of the Dinner Plain Residents and Business Operators Society, Malcolm was a member of the former Dinner Plain Management Committee for eight years. He was previously Chairman of Western Power Corporation and continues to be a non-executive director of an ASX listed company.

#### Mark Hubbard

As a long-time Dinner Plain resident and business owner, Mark is a member of the Dinner Plain Residents and Business Operators Society and former interim CEO for Falls Creek Resort Management Board. Raised in Colorado, he has been an Alpine enthusiast all his life. Mark has spent more than 30 years as a director /

company secretary / CFO in ASX listed companies.

### Falls Creek

#### Dani Sheean

A permanent resident of Falls Creek for 17 years, Dani owns and operates an OHS consulting business and an accommodation property in Falls Creek. As part of the business stakeholder group in the resort, Dani has a broad network of stakeholders. She is currently a member of the Community and Health Advisory Group (Alpine Health) and CFA Women's Reference Group.

### Mount Hotham

#### Steve Belli

Steve is a hospitality and tourism business operator who runs a number of businesses in Mount Hotham and Dinner Plain. He is president of Mount Hotham Chamber of Commerce, which provides a voice for Mount Hotham businesses and some Dinner Plain businesses. Steve is Deputy Chair of the Alpine Resorts Industry Advisory Group, which reports into the Minister for Environment via the ARCC.

## Here to Help

#### Alpine Shire Council:

5755 0555 [info@alpineshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@alpineshire.vic.gov.au)

#### Alpine Community Recovery Hub:

Unit 8, 3 Riverside Avenue, Bright, VIC 3741  
(Located in the old chocolate shop on Riverside Walk)  
Phone: 0429 529 700  
Email: [alpinehub@brv.vic.gov.au](mailto:alpinehub@brv.vic.gov.au)

#### Upper Murray Family Health Centre:

03 5720 0000 (Wangaratta branch)

#### Vic. Aboriginal Child Care Agency:

03 5722 2203 [bushfiresupport@vacca.org](mailto:bushfiresupport@vacca.org)

#### Centre Against Violence: 03 5722 2203

Lifeline: 13 11 14

#### Alpine Health: 5755 0100 (Bright)

5751 9300 (Myrtleford)

5754 3500 (Mt Beauty)

[www.alpinehealth.org.au](http://www.alpinehealth.org.au)