



# Alpine Shire Community

## Recovery Newsletter - June 2020

Welcome to the second 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.

### We are open

Facilities across the Alpine Shire have reopened their doors following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. This includes our Bright Council Office, Visitor Information Centres and libraries.

Our facilities will continue to operate under the Victorian Government's social distancing guidelines and staff are undertaking regular cleaning.

Please help us by utilising the sanitation stations in place, maintaining appropriate social distancing and not attending any facility if you are unwell. Information on the latest restrictions can be found at [www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria](http://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria).

You can reach Council by telephone and email:

**Phone:** (03) 5755 0555 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

**Email:** [info@alpineshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@alpineshire.vic.gov.au)

**Follow:** [www/facebook/alpineshirecouncil](http://www/facebook/alpineshirecouncil)

**Visit:** [www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au)

Bushfire Recovery Victoria is also here to help via their free helpline:

**Phone:** 1800 560 760

**Visit:** [www.br.vic.gov.au](http://www.br.vic.gov.au)

**Email:** [connect@br.vic.gov.au](mailto:connect@br.vic.gov.au)

### Alpine Community

### Recovery Hub

Your Community Recovery Hub is open and available to all

residents of Alpine Shire and surrounds, whether you were directly flame-affected or not. The Hub is here to provide you with personal financial assistance, wellbeing support, small business advice and more.

Our hub is staffed weekdays and led by a dedicated Hub Coordinator, who will be your familiar face on the ground, working with you, your family, your business and your community on long-term recovery.

Shelley Herman (pictured) is the Alpine Hub Coordinator.

Find out a little bit more about Shelley, below:

My husband and I first visited the region 20 years ago and like so many, we instantly fell in love with it. In 2009 we made Bright our home. Since then I have kept myself busy raising three beautiful daughters and working at The Mountain Clinic in Bright as physiotherapist.

I am extremely excited about this new role and the opportunity to help our locals work through their recovery to build a stronger, more connected and resilient community.

#### Visit Alpine Community Recovery Hub today:

Unit 8, 3 Riverside Avenue, Bright, VIC 3741  
(Located in the old chocolate shop on Riverside Walk)

**Phone:** 0429 529 700

**Email:** [alpinehub@br.vic.gov.au](mailto:alpinehub@br.vic.gov.au)

The site operates in line with a specific response plan that considers physical barriers, space restrictions and forward bookings to support a safe environment for the hub staff and clients.



## Alpine Community

### Recovery Committee

Council and Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) have been coordinating the formation of an Alpine Community Recovery Committee (CRC) as a result of the serious and widespread recent bushfires.

The role of the Committee is to give a voice to the broad views and recovery goals of affected communities and to provide a link between communities, Council and other support organisations to assist with the recovery process and planning.

Following an Expression of Interest and selection process, we are excited to announce that your Community Recovery Committee representatives are:

**Myrtleford and surrounds** – Sally McDonald and Fiona Nicholls

**Bright and surrounds** – Bruce Hore and Kellie Gray

**Harrietville and surrounds** – Fiona Laird and Lachlan Thomas

**Kiewa Valley** – Jodee Betheras, Barbara Talbot and Michael Jowett

**Dinner Plain** – Malcolm McPherson and Mark Hubbard

**Falls Creek** – Dani Sheean

**Mount Hotham** – Steve Belli

The first committee meeting is being held on Wednesday, 17 June.

### Secondary Impact Assessments

49 properties in the Alpine Shire were contacted as part of Secondary Impact Assessments (SIA) in April and May.

This was to assess the extent of damage and disruption as a result of January's bushfire emergency and to provide further assistance as required. This information will enable appropriate planning and recovery arrangements to be established to support the community and to monitor the recovery process.

If you were directly impacted and we have not been in contact with you, we encourage you to reach out to the Alpine Shire Council Bushfire Recovery Team at bushfirerecovery@alpineshire.vic.gov.au or 5755 0555.

## You're Not Alone

Beyond Blue has released a series of six podcast episodes accessible from the Beyond Blue website, iTunes and Spotify called 'Not Alone'. The first episode features a CFA volunteer who discusses their experience with the Black Saturday bushfires and how they learned to deal with the PTSD that followed.

**Beyond Blue:** 1300 224 636 [www.beyondblue.org.uk](http://www.beyondblue.org.uk)

Help is available if you are experiencing a mental health crisis. The free Victorian Bushfires Case Support Program is also available to link people to personal support they may need. It can be accessed at 1800 560 760.

**Lifeline:** 13 11 14 or text 0477 13 11 14

**Mental Health Service:** 1300 881 104

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

5751 9300 (Myrtleford)

5754 3500 (Mt Beauty)

## Financial Support

A range of financial support options are available to you, including support for small businesses and primary producers, support for individuals and families and financial counselling services.

If you're struggling financially because of the bushfires, we encourage you to call Bushfire Recovery Victoria on 1800 560 760 to discuss what's available for you and refer you to our dedicated Victorian Bushfires Case Support Program if needed.

Financial support services can also be accessed through your Community Recovery Hub.

For more information visit Bushfire Recovery Victoria [www.br.vic.gov.au](http://www.br.vic.gov.au).

## Small Business Grants

Grants are still available for local businesses. We strongly encourage owners and operators to review the financial support that is available.

Do not self-assess your eligibility. Even if you do not strictly meet the criteria it's worth finding out more, particularly for bushfire grants. It is easy to apply.

If you have any questions call 1800 560 760 or drop in to the Community Recovery Hub.