

Bushfires 2019-20 Community Newsletter 17 February – Edition 19



Community Recovery Committees help individuals and communities get back on their feet.

Bushfire Recovery Victoria's website has information on the committees, including the role of the committees, how they will be supported and where they will be located.

The website also has a form for people who want to express interest in joining a Community Recovery Committee.

For more details see the 'Help your community' page at www.brvc.vic.gov.au

VicRoads bushfire assistance in Mallacoota

VicRoads staff will be in Mallacoota next week to help with your registration and licencing enquiries.

No appointment is needed, just visit Council's Mallacoota Customer Service Centre as follows:

- Wednesday 19 February: 1pm to 5pm
- Thursday 20 February: 8.30am to 5pm
- Friday 21 February: 8.30am to 12pm

The staff will be able to answer questions such as:

- how to replace your registration documents;
- cancelling registration for fire damaged vehicles;
- claiming refunds;
- replacement licenses;
- damaged learner log book;
- and change of address.

Forge Theatre hosts free recovery concert

Council is holding a free bushfire recovery sing-along concert celebrating the sounds of the '60s and '70s early next month.

'Superstars Celebration' will be hosted by Lisa Budin Price. The audience will be encouraged to sing their hearts out during this hour-long spectacular on Thursday 5 March from 11am.

There will be a free morning tea from 10.30am.

The show is tipped to be packed with the music, stories and swagger of two of the most exciting decades in music.

Tickets are free but bookings are essential. Book now by calling 5152 1482, visiting eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/forgetheatre or at Bairnsdale or Lakes Entrance Visitor Information Centres, Council's Customer Service Centres, or the Forge Theatre Box Office.



Lisa Budin Price will host a bushfire relief concert at the Forge Theatre and Arts Hub in March.

Bushfires 2019-20 Community Newsletter 17 February – Edition 19



Community Recovery Hubs

Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) will set up Community Recovery Hubs in partnership with Council. BRV is looking for your feedback on the locations of the hubs, which are proposed to be in: Bairnsdale, Buchan, Cann River, Lakes Entrance, Mallacoota, Omeo and Orbost.

To give your feedback, call 1800 560 760 or email connect@brv.vic.gov.au.

For more information on the Community Recovery Hubs, see the 'help your community' page at www.brv.vic.gov.au

Mental health support forums

Mental Health Foundation Australia is hosting three forums to support the mental health of people affected by the bushfires. The forums are free.

The first forum will be on Monday 24 February at Lakes Entrance Golf Club, 6.30pm to 8pm, featuring Professors Peter Barlis and Greg Murray.

The second forum will be on Monday 30 March at Bairnsdale Sporting and Convention Centre, 6.30pm to 8pm, featuring Emeritus Professor Bruce J. Tonge and Professor Jayashri Kulkarni.

The third forum will be on Monday 27 April at Bruthen Mechanics Hall, 6.30pm to 8pm, featuring the same speakers as at Bairnsdale.

More information: 1300 643 287. Book at www.trybooking.com/BHYUF

Bushfire Recovery Centre

**24 Service Street, Bairnsdale. Open Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm, Sat 8.30am to 1pm.
Phone: 03 5153 9500.**

A place for all your bushfire-related enquiries. Please bring identification such as a Medicare card or rates notice and bank details for assistance

payments, if applicable. If you have general council enquiries, please go to our other Bairnsdale offices.

Mobile Recovery Service

Representatives from council and other organisations are travelling to fire-affected communities to provide recovery information. Please bring identification and bank account details. The upcoming schedule is:

Today

Gelantipy – community hall (note venue is no longer CFA shed), 4pm to 6pm

Tuesday

Chandlers Creek – intersection of Buldah Road, 10.30am to 12pm

Cann River – community hall, 1.30pm to 4pm

Wednesday

Club Terrace – letterbox, 11am to 2pm

Thursday

Anglers Rest – Blue Duck Inn, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Cassilis – next to Mt Markey Winery, 2.30pm to 4pm

Friday

Goongerah – public hall, 11am to 12pm

Bonang – community hall, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Friday's visits depend on road and fire conditions.

Mallacoota Foreshore Holiday Park re-opens

The Mallacoota Foreshore Holiday Park is re-opening to existing bookings in stages from Wednesday 19 February:

- Wednesday 19 February: Blocks 5 and 6
- Friday 21 February: Blocks 3 and 4
- Monday 24 February: Blocks 2 and 1

From Wednesday 26 February the whole park will re-open for new bookings.

Opening the park in stages allows us to meet caravan park regulation requirements, manage safety, and support the community.

Bushfires 2019-20 Community Newsletter 17 February – Edition 19



We are accepting new bookings from March 1 2020. All existing bookings will be honoured.

For more information, visit www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/mfhp



Buchan-Orbost Road re-opens

Buchan-Orbost Road is now open to the public.

While many arterial roads have re-opened, many minor roads are still closed and cannot be accessed by the public. This includes Parks Victoria roads and tracks in fire-damaged areas.

Personal protective equipment kits

Personal protective equipment kits are available for residents returning to inspect their property when it is safe to do so. The kits include:

- Disposable coveralls
- A disposable P2 mask
- Sturdy gloves
- A plastic garbage bag to dispose of the used protective equipment
- Information sheets about returning home safely and using your personal protective kit

Extra P2 masks will be available to go with each kit as it is likely more than one mask will be needed.

The kits are to be used strictly for fossicking for keepsakes, they are not for asbestos removal or for asbestos clean-up.

Kits will be available at community meetings and from the Bushfire Recovery Centre.

Property clean up program

The clean-up program covers the demolition and disposal of all buildings destroyed or damaged beyond repair by the bushfires. This includes homes, sheds and outbuildings, commercial buildings and public buildings.

It may also include the removal of fencing, trees and vehicles, but only where it is necessary for the safe clean-up of destroyed buildings.

The Victorian Government has contracted Grocon to conduct the clean-up. This program is voluntary and free for eligible property owners. You do not need to be insured.

Clean-up works are expected to start this week in some areas.

Bushfire Case Support Program

The free Bushfire Case Support Program provides practical support for bushfire affected people.

Case support coordinators can help you with:

- Discussing your needs and the next steps you could take
- Information and support to access recovery and mental health services
- Completing paperwork
- Financial counselling and help with insurance
- Small amount of financial support to help with immediate needs.

Bushfires 2019-20

Community Newsletter

17 February – Edition 19



Support can be provided face to face, over the phone or at a location that suits you.

To access this program or find out more call 1800 560 760 - 8am to 6pm weekdays and 9am to 5pm on weekends

Email: bushfirerecovery@windermere.org.au

Wildlife

You should not try to catch injured wildlife. For information about what to do if you find injured wildlife, please call: 1300 322 060 if you are near Bairnsdale or 1300 322 056 if you are near Orbost, or visit www.wildlife.vic.gov.au

Financial assistance

This information is divided into support available for: individuals and property owners, businesses and agricultural properties.

Individuals/families and property owners

Budget Direct: is offering grants of up to \$20,000 for community groups or organisations to repair or replace damaged facilities and or equipment that aren't covered by insurance.

To find out if your organisation or group is eligible and to apply, visit

www.budgetdirect.com.au/landingpages/bushfire-recovery-fund.html

Emergency water assistance: if you need emergency water assistance contact South East Water on 131 851. Eligible permanent residents in the declared bushfire affected areas of East Gippsland will be provided a tank water flush and top-up of 5,000 litres.

Electricity: Contact AusNet Services if you are trying to reconnect, understand outage lengths and to keep up to date with changing issues around electricity. Call their Bushfire support line: 1300 561

171 or visit the website,

www.ausnetservices.com.au/Misc-Pages/Bushfire-Support

Red Cross: People can now apply for three kinds of immediate assistance at

<https://www.redcross.org.au/grants> or 1800 RED CROSS (1800 733 276).

- An additional \$10,000 payment to support people whose homes were destroyed extending the total amount available to \$20,000 per household
- \$7,500 for people who were hospitalised for more than two days as a result of the fires, with grants helping to cover out of pocket medical and other related expenses
- \$5,000 for homeowners whose homes have been structurally damaged and require repairs to make them safe for people to live in.

Emergency re-establishment assistance: is available if your primary place of residence is uninhabitable for more than seven days because of an emergency. It provides up to \$42,250 per eligible household experiencing financial hardship.

Re-establishment assistance is available to people who do not have building or contents insurance.

If you think you may be eligible call 1800 961 054.

Australian Government Disaster Recovery

Payment: To receive this payment, you need to have been adversely affected by the fire. For example, your principal place of residence has been destroyed or must be demolished.

The fastest way to claim is over the phone. Call 180 22 66, or visit

www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/victorian-bushfires-december-2019-australian-government-disaster-recovery-payment#a4

Bushfires 2019-20

Community Newsletter

17 February – Edition 19



Disaster Recovery Allowance: Support for people who can show they have lost income as a direct result of the bushfires. Claims close 30 June 2020. For more details call 180 22 66 or visit the website, www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/victorian-bushfires-december-2019-disaster-recovery-allowance

Agricultural properties

Grants of up to \$75,000 per farmer are available to assist with immediate recovery activities needed to rebuild primary production enterprises. Grants can be accessed to help primary producers who have lost most of their farm assets and help remote primary producers with transport costs.

To register your interest, visit ruralfinance.com.au or call 1800 260 425.

Farm fencing

The Victorian Government will help upgrade fences for landholders repairing damaged or destroyed fences between private land and National Parks, State Parks and State forests.

Farmers can upgrade fences with concrete posts and be better able to exclude pests. The government will pay half the cost, up to \$5 a metre.

An assessment of the property and the fence must be completed before works are undertaken or payments can be made, and landholders will continue to pay labour costs and half the cost of materials. Call DELWP on 136 186.

Farm fencing burnt by bushfire: Your insurer or organisations such as BlazeAid can help cover the cost of these fences either financially or with in-kind help. Information on BlazeAid can be found on BlazeAid's Facebook page or their website, blazeaid.com.au

Farm fencing destroyed by firefighting

The Victorian Government will pay the full cost of your fences damaged by fire agencies.

Farm fencing next to state or national parks

The Victorian Government will meet 50 per cent of the cost of materials to replace or repair fencing between your land and national/state parks, and state forests destroyed or damaged by bushfires.

To claim for fencing destroyed by firefighting, and/or for fencing that adjoins national or state parks or state forests call **136 186**. You will be asked some questions and verification is needed.

Emergency water access

People affected by the bushfires can access emergency untreated water supplies at **Swifts Creek Recreation Reserve** and **Goose Gully, 90 Balfours Road, Lucknow**.

For more information visit www.srw.com.au/east-gippsland-fires/ or phone (03) 5139 3100.

Bulk billed psychology sessions

Trauma can impact people in different ways. Children are particularly susceptible to stress. The toll of stress can often take a while to manifest.

If you or someone you know are feeling overly worried, irritable or having trouble sleeping, talking to a psychologist may help.

Early intervention can be the key to preventing more serious problems further down the line.

Rural Health Connect is providing bulk billed psychologist sessions. You will be able to talk to a psychologist through video conferencing from home.

Sessions can be done outside of business hours. Please visit www.ruralhealthconnect.com.au or call 0427 692 377 for more information.