

# Bushfires 2019-20

## Community Newsletter

### 17 March – Edition 29



The Bushfire Recovery Centre is the place where you can find out about the many avenues of support and assistance available. To help you do this efficiently, the centre has a number of support agencies in one place.

As well as visiting the Bushfire Recovery Centre in person, you can also call the team.

The centre is a welcoming and supportive space where we can support you to understand and engage with services.

The centre is also the referral office for the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund.

Through the Bushfire Recovery Centre, you can access financial and legal support services, financial and personal counselling, and business support.

Red Cross and Salvation Army representatives are available on weekdays. Referrals can be made to the following organisations: Disaster Legal Help Victoria, Windemere, Anglicare, and Rural Financial Counselling Service.

Businesses can also be referred to Council's Economic Development team and Rural Financial Counselling Service for assistance.

You can also call the recovery centre on 5153 9500.



#### Genoa community visit

Councillors and senior shire staff yesterday visited the Genoa Wayside Stop to discuss community projects and bushfire recovery with the Genoa Town Committee.

The reinstatement of pedestrian access across the Genoa River was listed as the number one priority for the community, linking the town and wayside stop, after the bushfires destroyed the heritage-listed bridge



# Bushfires 2019-20

## Community Newsletter

### 17 March – Edition 29



#### New business support available

A new business support package is available for businesses that have been significantly economically impacted by the bushfires.

Businesses that are 40% down over a three-month period compared to last year will be eligible for \$10,000.

Applications are now open. For more details go to [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au)

#### Planning changes for fire-affected residents

If you have lost your home or business to bushfire, you can build temporary residential or commercial accommodation on your land without a planning permit, subject to safety requirements and a planning consent.

The Victorian Government will also undertake preliminary bushfire hazard and environmental assessments for your property, which will inform you about development constraints and will assist in facilitating rebuilding. The assessments can usually cost up to \$3000.

If you are considering and preparing for rebuilding, you can access a planning service to help you navigate the planning and rebuilding process.

Council suggests that you speak to its planning team about your temporary buildings on 5153 9500.

#### Fire Danger Period

The East Gippsland Fire Danger Period finished yesterday.

If you want to burn-off, the CFA is asking you to register by calling 1800 668 511 or emailing [burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au](mailto:burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au)

You need to provide information about the location, date and expected start and finish times of the burn-



*Deputy Mayor Cr Ben Buckley surveys the damage to infrastructure at Betka Beach during Council's visit to Mallacoota yesterday. The visit included a business community networking event last night and a community breakfast this morning.*

off, as well as the estimated size and what you intend to burn.

The CFA also recommends letting your neighbours know they may see smoke on the dates you plan to burn-off. It is also important to check weather and wind conditions.

#### Waste disposal

##### Prescribed waste – houses and structures

- Houses and structures (prescribed waste) can only be removed by Grocon or private contractors. Contractors must be licensed asbestos removalists and in Environment Protection Authority registered vehicles.
- All waste must be triple wrapped.
- Cost of prescribed waste is \$286 per tonne.
- 24 hours' notice must be given to nominated sites. The Bairnsdale Landfill – 5152 6535 – is

# Bushfires 2019-20

## Community Newsletter

### 17 March – Edition 29



the only site in East Gippsland accepting this waste at present.

- Council is working on the approvals and site preparation to open a section of the former Orbost Landfill to accept prescribed waste. This is about four weeks from being available.
- At this time only the Bairnsdale Landfill is accepting prescribed waste.

#### Green waste

- Burnt green waste can be taken for free to the sites listed below until further notice.
- Tree prunings / branches / grass cuttings / stumps and logs less than .3m diameter can be taken to waste site for free.
- Pine posts, treated pine and chipboard can be taken to waste sites but will need to be separated and will be charged for at our normal landfill rates unless presented with a bushfire waste voucher.

#### Metal

- Burnt metal waste can be taken for free to the sites listed below until further notice.
- Clotheslines, white goods, trampoline frames, play equipment, water tanks, scrap metals are all accepted.
- Boats - no fibreglass boats accepted.
- Trailers with melted fibreglass are not accepted as scrap metal but will be accepted into landfill at the normal charge.

#### Green waste or household metal as described above will be accepted at:

- Bairnsdale Landfill – 5152 6535
- Lakes Entrance Landfill – 5155 2148
- Mallacoota Transfer Station – 0427 144 002



- Orbost Transfer Station – 0429 412 833
- Omeo Transfer Station – 0429 865 358
- Buchan Transfer Station – 0419 359 763

For addresses and opening hours, go to [eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/waste](http://eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/waste)

Green waste and / or metal as described in this newsletter will not be accepted at:

- Bruthen Transfer Station
- Any site not listed above, due to limited space.

#### Farm fencing wire waste

Sites have been set up by DELWP and Council to stockpile agricultural metal/wire only waste.

Council has negotiated with a private contractor to collect this waste metal from stockpile sites listed below.

These stockpile collection points will be ongoing until further advised. Please do not leave fencing wire in road reserves or other public land. This is considered illegal dumping which is a fineable offence.

Fencing wire stockpile sites:

- Buchan: old sawmill, 2286 Bruthen-Buchan Road

# Bushfires 2019-20

## Community Newsletter

### 17 March – Edition 29



- Wairewa Transfer Station, Carl Smith Road
- Nowa Nowa: old railway station
- Cann River: old gravel pit off Cemetery Track
- Ensay: recreation reserve, Doctors Flat Road

Other sites are also being identified and will be publicised when available.

Please do not leave fencing wire in road reserves or other public land. This is illegal dumping and attracts a fine.

#### Free bushfire waste vouchers

- Council will be offering extra free waste vouchers to properties in the bushfire areas that have burnt items that are not included in the categories covered in this newsletter.
- These vouchers can be used for any bushfire waste, excluding prescribed waste as per the Grocon / private contractor clean-up requirements.
- Access to vouchers is through contacting any Council Customer Service Centre, and can either be posted to landowners or collected in person. Please call 03 5153 9500 and register your name and property details.
- Please note that the vouchers can be used at any nominated landfill or transfer station.
- Those presenting bushfire waste without a voucher will be expected to pay the normal fees.
- The vouchers expire on 31 August 2020.

#### Victorian Government bushfire inquiry

The inquiry has confirmed these sessions will go ahead in light of coronavirus arrangements:

Bairnsdale: Tuesday 17 March, 6-8pm

Wingan River: Wednesday 18 March, 11am-1pm

Genoa: Wednesday 18 March, 2-4pm

Mallacoota: Wednesday 18 March, 6-8pm

Tamboon: Thursday 19 March, 11am -1pm

Orbost: Thursday 19 March, 6-8pm

For more information on these sessions, and sessions coming up later in the month, go to [www.igem.vic.gov.au](http://www.igem.vic.gov.au).

#### Mobile Recovery Service

The mobile recovery service provides information and support from Red Cross and/or the Department of Health and Human Services, and Council's economic development team.

The schedule is:

##### Tuesday 17 March

Lakes Entrance – Customer Service Centre, 11am to 2pm

##### Wednesday 18 March

Anglers Rest – Blue Duck Inn, 10.30am to 12pm

Omeo – community hall, 1pm to 2.30pm

##### Thursday 19 March

Buchan – community hall, 11am to 2pm

##### Monday 23 March

Benambra – community hall, 11am to 2pm

##### Tuesday 24 March

Orbost – Customer Service Centre, 11am to 2pm

##### Wednesday 25 March

Cann River – community hall, 11am to 2pm

##### Thursday 26 March

Swifts Creek – community hall, 11am to 2pm

##### Monday 30 March

Goongerah – community hall, 11am to 2pm

# Bushfires 2019-20 Community Newsletter 17 March – Edition 29



## Tuesday 31 March

Sarsfield – community hall, 11am to 2pm

## Wednesday 1 April

Gelantipy – CFA shed, 11am to 1pm

## Friday 3 April

Club Terrace – the old school, 11am to 2pm

## Monday 6 April

Tambo Crossing – “The Rock”, 10am to 11am

Ensay – community hall, 11.30am to 2pm

## Tuesday 7 April

Wairewa – community hall, 11am to 2pm

## Wednesday 8 April

Clifton Creek – community hall, 11am to 2pm

## Thursday 9 April

Mallacoota – community hall, 11am to 12.30pm

Genoa – community hall, 2pm to 3.30pm

## Financial assistance

For details of financial assistance available:

- Contact the Bushfire Recovery Centre on 5153 9500, or visit the centre at 24 Service Street, Bairnsdale. Monday-Friday 8.30am to 5pm, Saturday 8.30am to 1pm.
- See past editions of this newsletter at [eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/bushfire](http://eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/bushfire)

## Citizen science opportunities

Pest plant and animal control will be key for biodiversity recovery. You can help by becoming a bushfire recovery citizen scientist and using your mobile phone to monitor the recovery of bushfire-affected plants and animals.

Anyone in fire-affected areas can participate, no matter their scientific knowledge or camera skills.

Some places you can start monitoring recovery include:

Frog ID: <https://www.frogid.net.au/>

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas:

<https://vbago.science/about>

I Naturalist: <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/> and their bushfire recovery project:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/environment-recovery-project-australian-bushfires-2019-2020>

Atlas of Living Australia: <https://www.ala.org.au/>

Feral Scan (pest species):

<https://www.feralscan.org.au/default.aspx>