



# Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

## SEPTEMBER 2020

Welcome to the fifth 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.

## Community Bushfire Recovery Grants

Alpine Shire Council is offering the Alpine Shire a share of \$400,000 for individuals and groups to develop community projects that will contribute to community recovery following the 2019-2020 bushfires. This grant funding is an opportunity for the community to engage with a project, program or event which benefits the local community and stimulates the economy.

This opportunity is supported by Bushfire Recovery Victoria with valuable input from the Community Recovery Committee. Find out more information by visiting [www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community-bushfire-recovery-grants-program-2020-2021](http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community-bushfire-recovery-grants-program-2020-2021).

Applications close 21 October, 2020.

## State Recovery Plan

The Victorian Government has announced its Eastern Victorian Fires 2019-20 State Recovery Plan. This ongoing plan offers a detailed account of the support and services available to bushfire-affected regions for the next 12-18 months and will be updated in consultation with local Community Recovery Committees across Victoria.

To access the State Recovery Plan, visit [www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-programs-and-initiatives](http://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-programs-and-initiatives).

## Additional Funding Opportunities

**Community Sport Sector Short-Term Survival Package** – the Victorian Government has announced Round 2 of funding for the sporting sector across Victoria. The first round supported more than 5,000 clubs with \$1,000 grants each. Find out more information by visiting <https://sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding>. Applications close October, 21 2020.

**Regional Arts Victoria Community Recovery Small Grants Program** – Regional Arts Victoria is inviting individuals and organisations in the Alpine region to apply for up to \$5,000 in their Community Recovery Small Grants Program. Applicants must speak to Regional Arts Victoria staff member, Kellie Sutherland, before applying. Contact Kellie via email [ksutherland@rav.net.au](mailto:ksutherland@rav.net.au) or via phone 0459 257 637. Applications close October 31, 2020.

## Support Local Businesses

Whether you're a local or a visitor, buying from Bright and surrounds online at [www.buyfrombright.com.au](http://www.buyfrombright.com.au) is an easy and safe way for people to support their favourite Bright, Myrtleford and Mount Beauty businesses. With 38 stores from wineries, gifts, gourmet food, fashion, sportswear or toys all in one place, there really is something for everyone. With Christmas rapidly approaching, what better way to help our local businesses!

Businesses will find it's easy to set up their online shop on [www.buyfrombright.com.au](http://www.buyfrombright.com.au) by signing up and following the prompts. There is no fee to sign up, no monthly fees and lots of support to make sure your business gets the exposure it deserves.

## Reach Out for Support

You are not alone during this time. There are a number of support services available to help you with consideration of your specific needs.

Talk to someone.

**Agriculture Victoria** – one-on-one phone consultations are available during business hours to discuss agricultural recovery decisions. Contact Kylie Macreadie on 0428 975 728.

**Rural Health Connect** – a convenient and reliable online psychology platform for anyone wishing to speak to a psychologist. With no waiting lists and bulk billing available, this service is available for anyone with access to a smartphone, tablet or computer. Visit [www.ruralhealthconnect.com.au](http://www.ruralhealthconnect.com.au) or contact 0427 692 377 for more information.

**Victorian Bushfires Case Support Program** – get one-to-one help with your personal, financial and emotional needs, as well as advice as to where to go from here. Free call 1800 560 760.

**LifeLine** – speak to a support person on a dedicated line for people living through bushfire recovery. Contact 13 HELP (13 43 57).

**Beyond Blue** – get expert information about signs and symptoms of depression and how to seek help. Call the 24/7 Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service on 1800 512 348.

**headspace Albury Wodonga** – your young ones can access free support with headspace Albury Wodonga. Contact (02) 6055 9555 or email [headspaceAW@gatewayhealth.org.au](mailto:headspaceAW@gatewayhealth.org.au).

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

## CRC Update

The Community Recovery Committee (CRC) offers a warm farewell to Jodee Betheras and Michael Jowett, who have left to pursue other ventures. We thank them for their time and contributions to the establishment of the CRC. Following a selection process, we welcome Nick Wright to the CRC.

The CRC is excited to announce that they will have a new look in our newsletters! With much to share, they will provide monthly updates to present an ongoing voice for our community and keep you informed.

For more information about your CRC representatives, visit our Community Recovery Committee page: [www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community-recovery-committee](http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community-recovery-committee).

## Letter from the Chair

Chair of the CRC, Fiona Nicholls, provides an update:

The CRC have been meeting regularly for three months now and I think we feel a mixture of being excited, overwhelmed and frustrated.

**Excited** – by now being able to commence a formal consultation process. As we are all aware, opportunities for our normal face to face community consultation processes have been in short supply. The committee believes that hearing from the community is essential to understand what recovery means for you and what we can do to take responsibility for our own future. We have designed a short survey which we plan to launch in late September. The survey will be tailored to reflect our different regions and will be available with both electronic and real paper options. The information collected will be used to develop our Community Recovery Plan and actions. We plan to make the findings we receive publicly available and provide ongoing opportunities for community input.

**Overwhelmed** – by how many activities and funding opportunities are potentially available. There is no single 'pot of money' nor approach to grant funding. I personally feel like it is a complex jigsaw puzzle with State and Federal Government, local Council and philanthropic grants available – all with different objectives, timelines, hurdles and value. What we do know is that there will be a range of opportunities over a period of time (at least a couple of years). The ideal action for our community today is to identify what recovery projects are needed and to scope out what needs to be done. Successful applications for funds generally go to project plans rather than great ideas.

**Frustrated** – about how long we feel our own progress is taking. In our heads we know that a co-ordinated approach across the range of regional areas, with volunteers who also work full time, requires planning and a common understanding for there to be success. But in our hearts, we want to be in a position to be advocating now on behalf of the community for the necessary programmes, information, policy change or funding. We want our communities to feel that their needs are being met. We want to be aiding government processes and to be an effective enabler.

We look forward to listening to our communities.

## Delivered to You

Have the Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter delivered straight to you. Sign up by emailing [info@alpineshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@alpineshire.vic.gov.au).