

Recovery / Resilience Newsletter

December 2024

Welcome to the December 2024 Pyrenees Shire Council's recovery/resilience newsletter. Wishing everyone a very merry Xmas and a safe and happy New Year. The Recovery Team is available over the Xmas / New Year period so if you have any questions, please call Jane on 0400 503 917.



Recovery Drop-In Centre

Council's Recovery Team is available at the Beaufort Resource Centre and Library on Wednesdays from 10am to 5pm, for people looking for information and support. Pop in and have a cuppa with Tony or Jane. You can also go into Council's main office in Beaufort during working hours 9am–5pm to see the Recovery Team. Alternatively, you can phone 1300 797 363 or email recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au.

The team can put you in contact with agencies to support you in the following, and if something isn't listed contact the Team.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fencing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean-up |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance referrals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Farming advice |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Events | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business advice |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emotional |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rates relief | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stock feed |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building/planning advice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donations |

On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants Program

This grant is available to assist primary producers to implement on-farm infrastructure such as constructing a new or upgrading existing stock containment areas (SCA), reticulated water systems, irrigation system upgrades, grain and fodder storage, internal re-fencing and feed system upgrades. Grants of up to \$5,000 (excluding GST) are available. Eligible primary producers are required to provide dollar for dollar matching funding co-contribution. To get information on the grant and to apply visit www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/on-farm-drought-infrastructure-grants.



 Rural Financial Counselling Service (a different agency to Rural Finance) is able to assist with the grant application process, plus other help for farmers and small business in Western Victoria.
Phone 1300 735 578 or visit <https://wswrcs.com.au/>

Fire Safety Planning—Community Meeting



Community Bushfire Meeting



Fire Safety Planning

FREE session to help you learn:

- about your local fire risk
- how best to plan and prepare for fire
- what actions you can take
- how to make a realistic and adaptable fire plan

More information:

Avoca Library
122 High Street Avoca (entry via Rutherford Street)
Wednesday 11th December 6pm
RSVP: Monday 9th December
Contact details for queries or RSVP: Nicole McGrath CFA Community Safety Team
Ph: 0419 952 242 or nicole.mcgrath@cfa.vic.gov.au

Planning for bushfire is easier than you think!

The CFA is running a free (1 hr) fire safety planning session to help you learn about your local fire risk, how best to plan and prepare for a fire, what actions to take and how to make a fire plan.

The session will be held at the Avoca Library on Wednesday 11 December at 6pm. Contact Nicole McGrath CFA on 0419 952 242 for queries or RSVP.

Supporting our young people

HeadSpace is running some sessions on Friday 13 December for students, teachers, parents and community members on the supporting our young people leading into the fire season. The sessions are free and everyone is very welcome.

Session 1 for students and teachers — 9.15am Beaufort Secondary College

Session 2 for community members and parents — 12.30pm at the Beaufort Resource Centre & Library

Session 3 for parents, students and teachers—3.30pm at the Beaufort Secondary College

For more information contact Council's Recovery Team.

HEADSPACE
INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Community Resilience and Recovery Program from Ballarat Community Health, have been working with the Pyrenees Community after the February Bushfires and Storms.

We understand there is concern in the Pyrenees community regarding youth mental health and wellbeing as we face another fire season.

We have arranged HeadSpace to come to Beaufort and provide information to students, families and community on what they can offer to support our young people and how this support is accessed.

Friday 13th December 2024

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Presentation One | 9.15am |
| Beaufort Secondary College Assembly, for students and teachers | |
| Presentation Two | 12.30pm |
| Beaufort Pyrenees Library, for community members or organisations to attend | |
| Presentation Three | 3.30pm |
| Parent information session at Beaufort Secondary, for parents, students and teachers. | |



Beaufort Office 5 Lawrence Street, Beaufort Vic 3373 T: 1300 797 363

Avoca Office 122 High Street, Avoca Vic 3467 T: 03 5465 1000

E: recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au W: pyrenees.vic.gov.au

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

How are you going?

Ballarat Community Health has a Community Resilience and Recovery Program. The Team provides **free** support and advice to help residents get back on their feet after the 2024 fire. The team can make visits or residents can see the team at the Beaufort Resource Centre on Wednesdays. Contact 5338 4500 and ask for Elizabeth Roberts or email recovery-support@bchc.org.au.



Do you need help with fencing?

Landmate is available to help with fence repairs. If you have fencing that needs repairing please contact the Recovery Team.

Was your tank or dam water used for firefighting purposes?

If so, this water may be eligible to be replaced. Please contact Jane at Council on 0400 503 917.

Do you need feed for livestock?

Need for Feed or Aussie Hay Runners can provide feed for stock. Please make contact via the details below:

Need for Feed Australia—

www.needforfeed.org

Aussie Hay Runners—0421 972 332



Do you need support with your farm or business?

The Rural Financial Counselling Service offers free and independent financial information, options, decision making support and referral services for primary producers and small rural businesses experiencing (or at risk of) financial hardship. Contact the Western Region office on 1300 735 578. Visit <https://wswrccs.com.au>

Would you like some help with your small business?

Business Victoria is offering advice and support for small business owners. Support includes financial counselling, business coaching and connection to providers/resources to improve business resilience. Contact 1300 55 66 77 or visit www.aigroup.com.au/services-and-advice/business-improvement/business-recovery-advisory-service-victoria/#EOI



Are you looking for some extra help?

GIVIT connects donations with those who need support to help after an emergency or disaster. This can be items such as vouchers, white goods, tools or fencing materials. Council is your contact to GIVIT so if you're looking some help please contact Council's Recovery Team. For information on GIVIT visit <https://www.givit.org.au>



Do you need a helping hand around your property?

Local service groups have offered to help residents with jobs they can't do themselves and wouldn't be covered by insurance. Please complete the form on Council's fire recovery webpage or call the Recovery Team.

Could you use someone to talk to about farming life?



The National Centre for Farmer Health supports primary producers whose properties, livestock or crops were damaged or lost in the floods or fire. They deliver initiatives to boost farmer mental health and wellbeing. For more information visit <https://farmerhealth.org.au/>

Do you need help with the planning process?

Council has introduced the Bushfire Planning Support Program to help landowners navigate the planning process associated with rebuilding. Please contact Council on 1300 797 363 about registering for the program.

Would you like to improve your phone and internet connections?

The Regional Tech Hub provides free independent advice if you have any concerns about your phone/internet connections and want to improve connectivity. Contact 1300 081 029 or visit <https://regionaltechhub.org.au>



Do you need some help with your insurance?

Disaster Legal Help Victoria provides information about legal issues experienced after a disaster. They can show you how to check your insurance policy and understand what it covers. They can also show you how to make an insurance claim after a disaster and ways you can escalate or resolve disputes. You can get free information and advice by calling Disaster Legal Help Victoria on 1800 113 432 weekdays 8am to 6pm. Information can be found on the Disaster Legal Help Victoria website.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING WITH INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS?

Infrastructure Repair—Update after the floods

Council has finished putting together the final packages of work to finish the infrastructure repairs that was flood damaged. These packages have been submitted to the State Government under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) for cost reimbursement. The Department is currently assessing the packages. On the ground works have stopped until approval is given. Council is working closely with the State Government to progress the approvals and it is hoped that work can recommence again soon.

Infrastructure Repair—Update after the fires

Council is also seeking approval from the State Government to repair the guardrail and signage that was fire damaged or destroyed. There is still signage out on Main Lead Road and Raglan Elmhurst Road due to the damaged guardrail caused by the fires. The safety signage will remain in place until the guard rail is replaced. As soon as approval is given this work will be completed.

Thank you to community for your patience in these matters.

THINGS TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

AgVic's Farm Fire Preparedness Toolkit

Agriculture Victoria has developed templates and checklists to develop a farm fire plan. Download a copy of Ag Vic's Farm Fire Preparedness Toolkit and use it to review or develop your fire preparedness plan. Each farm and farming business are different and require a unique approach. Developing and implementing a fire preparedness plan can help you to be better prepared for, minimise losses and recover faster, should your property be affected by fire. The Toolkit can be accessed here: <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires>



Red Cross Rediplan

Emergencies don't just include major natural disasters like bushfires, earthquakes or floods. A fall in the home that results in an unexpected hospital stay, a car accident, or serious illness can also cause significant disruption and add stress to your life. You can reduce the impact of emergencies, big and small, by being prepared.



Red Cross has produced the Emergency RediPlan to assist individuals and households create their own personalized emergency plan and prepare themselves and families.

To receive a copy please call the Recovery Team.

Red Cross RediCommunities

RediCommunities is an Australian Red Cross initiative that empowers local communities to create and implement their own disaster resilience action plans.

Recognising that local communities know their own history, strengths, risks, and resources, RediCommunities supports them in identifying their unique needs and priorities. This assistance ensures that communities can create effective disaster resilience plans tailored to their specific context.

Australian Red Cross officers are embedded in communities for typically two to three years, providing continuous support to develop and execute these plans. This approach ensures that community voices are heard and represented in disaster resilience planning.

If you want to know more visit <https://www.redcross.org.au/redicommunities/>. The Recovery Team can also provide support to get started. Call 1300 797 363.

RediCommunities is typically a 2-3 year program delivered across three phases:



CALL FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Are you interested in being a part of the Recovery and Resilience Network? This Network includes community members, local agencies and organisations that want to ensure people recovery well. We would love more community members to be involved to ensure community's views and needs are included across all recovery activities. The next meeting is on Tuesday 17 December 2024.

Please contact Jane, Council's Recovery Coordinator, on 0400 503 917 if you are interested.

LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF (VERY IMPORTANT)

Emergencies can be disruptive and stressful, and the recovery process can take time. Whether you have been directly impacted, volunteering or supporting others, it's really important to look after yourself. Some great tips for self care are:

- Spend time with people who care
- Give yourself time
- Try to keep a routine going ie. eating, sleeping, work, study
- Set realistic goals that keep you motivated, but don't take on too much.
- Talk about how you feel (the ups and downs) with friends, family and health professionals, when you are ready.

More tips are available on the Beyond Blue website There's professional support available, so please reach out to the Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 or Council's Recovery Team.



RECOVERY TEAM

Tony Grimme—Community Recovery Officer—0482 793 839

Jane Bowker—Recovery Coordinator—0400 503 917
Gillian Matthews—Recovery Administration Officer (Flood)

Claire-Marie Hodgkinson—Recovery Administration Officer (Fire)

Kim Whytcross—Senior Project Manager—Flood Infrastructure

Pyrenees Shire Council: 1800 797 363

Email: recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

RECOVERY NEWSLETTER

This newsletter will be sent out quarterly. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of Council's Recovery Newsletter, please send your email details to the Recovery Team: recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au. Copies of the newsletter are also available in hardcopy from the Resource Centres, Council's Customer Service Centre or via the website www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au.

Key contacts for support

| Organisation | What support is provided | Contact details |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pyrenees Shire Council Recovery Team | Tony Grimme and Jane Bowker can provide referrals to support agencies for clean-up, grants, psychosocial support etc | 1300 797 363 E: recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au W: www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au |
| Victorian Government Recovery Hotline (Windermere Services) | Clean-up, temporary accommodation, financial support and mental health and wellbeing | 1800 560 760 Open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. |
| Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) | Emergency relief payments, re-establishment assistance | 1800 226 226 https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/personal-hardship-assistance-program |
| Rural Finance | Financial assistance for those affected by a natural disaster, or a downturn in your business. Recovery grants, recovery packages and concessional loans are available | 1800 260 425 https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs |
| Rural Financial Counselling Service | The RFCS provides free financial counselling to farmers and small businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. | 1300 735 578 – Western Region https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation/rural-financial-counselling-service |
| Agriculture Victoria | Provides information and support for the agriculture industry. They administer a range of funds, grants and programs. | 0427 694 185 https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/floods/flood-and-storm-recovery-support-for-farmers |
| Insurance Council of Australia | Helps to navigate the insurance process if you are unhappy with a decision made by your insurer. | (02) 9253 5100 |
| Centrelink | Support services for emergency affected persons (disaster relief payments; exceptional circumstances relief payments; bereavement payments and special benefit payments). | Ballarat 1800 050 004 |
| Australian Red Cross | Supports and visits people in communities where disaster has occurred to check on their wellbeing and make referrals to other agencies. | 1800 733 276 https://www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/ |
| Lifeline | Lifeline is a 24-hour telephone service that offers confidential support and advice to help you deal with stress and personal challenges. | 13 11 14 https://www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/information-and-support/natural-disaster/ |
| Beyond Blue | Expert information on depression, how to recognise the signs, how to get help, how to help someone else and how to stay well. | 1300 224 636 https://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support |
| Kids Help Line | This is a 24-hour telephone service that provides a phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5–25. | 1800 551 800 https://kidshelpline.com.au/ |
| Disaster Legal Help Victoria | Provides free legal advice, assistance and referrals for people affected by a disaster. | 1800 113 432 https://www.disasterlegalhelp.org.au/ |
| Pyrenees Community Food Pantry | Provides temporary food relief to people within the Pyrenees region. Open every second Friday from 1pm at 13 Liebig Street, Avoca. | https://www.facebook.com/pyreneescommunityfoodpantry |
| Beaufort Food Pantry | The food pantry is open Fridays at the rear of the Beaufort Community Resource Centre (72 Neill St). The Pantry provides free food to those who need it. | 0457 469 097 |
| National Centre for Farmer Health | The centre offers a range of programs, scholarships, safety fact sheets, health & wellbeing support and tools for farmers. | (03) 5551 8533 https://farmerhealth.org.au |
| Financial Counselling Victoria– National Debt Helpline | Financial counsellors provide free, independent and non-judgemental support to people in financial difficulty | 1800 007 007 https://fcvic.org.au/disaster-recovery-financial-counselling/ |
| Partners in Wellbeing | Free support and advice to improve wellbeing, develop strategies to cope and provide emotional support. This support is for people, businesses and veterans. | 1300 375 330 https://partnersinwellbeing.org.au |
| Wildlife Victoria | Provides a helping hand for wildlife in need. | (03) 8400 7300 or https://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au |