

Recovery / Resilience Newsletter

May 2024

Welcome to June 2024 edition of Pyrenees Shire Council's recovery/resilience newsletter. It's been a while since the last newsletter went out and there's been a lot happening in particular the Bayindeen Rocky Road fire. Whilst we've had a fire and the Recovery Team has been busy supporting communities that have been affected, work is still being done to support those affected by the Oct/Nov 2022 floods.

What is recovery?

Recovery is the journey to help communities following a natural disaster. This is to ensure people, places, infrastructure, economy and the environment can become healthy, well, safe, connected, productive and resilient. Support is provided by other people, service groups, organisations, councils and other government departments. By doing so, it helps to heal and build resilience for future emergencies.

Support can come in many forms. Here is a list of some of the support on offer. Please call Emergency Recovery Victoria's Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760. Council's Recovery Team are also available to support you and if you need other support that's not listed, please reach out to Council's Recovery Team on 1300 797 363.

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|--|---|
| <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 |

Recovery Drop-In Centre

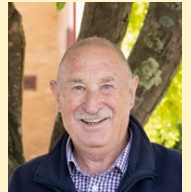
Council's Recovery Team will be available at the Beaufort Resource Centre and Library on Wednesdays from 10am to 5pm, for people looking for information and support. Pop in and have a cuppa with Tony or Jane.

You can also go into Council's main office at 5 Lawrence Street, 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

Council's Recovery Team

Tony Grimme—Community Recovery Officer—0482 783 839

Tony's role is to support communities and individuals by providing referrals for clean up, fencing, finance and any other support.



Vlad Adamek—Project Management Officer—0408 580 684

Vlad's role is to undertake the tree management program following on from Noel McKeegan.

Gillian Matthews— Recovery Administration Officer (Flood) —1300 797 363

Gill's role is to manage the admin related to the 2022 floods.



Kim Whytcross—Recovery Infrastructure Officer—1300 797 363

Kim's role is to organise repairs in infrastructure (roads, culverts etc) following the 2022 floods.

Claire-Marie Hodgkinson—Recovery Administration Officer (Fire)—1300 797 363

Claire's role is to manage the admin related to the 2024 fires.



Jane Bowker—Recovery Coordinator—0400 503 917

Jane's role is to support the planning and delivery of recovery activities and services.

Recovery Hotline

Emergency Recovery Victoria's Recovery Hotline puts you in touch with caring and helpful staff from Windermere Services to connect you to services you may need during your recovery.

Services include financial assistance, clean-up, and psychological support. Council has been working with Windermere Services to provide support in a coordinated approach. The hotline number is 1800 560 760.



WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

How are you feeling?

Partners in Wellbeing provide **free** support and advice to improve mental health and wellbeing to residents, small business owners and veterans. Sonia Gibson from Partners in Wellbeing is available at the Beaufort Library on Wednesdays. Alternatively, you can call Partners in Wellbeing 9am-10pm weekdays and 9am-5pm weekends on 1300 375 330. <https://partnersinwellbeing.org.au>



Do you need help with fencing?

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

BlazeAid registrations: admin@blazeaid.com.au

LandMate registrations: recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

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://wswrcs.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>



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 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.

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 connections to phone and internet?

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 have a community project or program idea?

Bendigo Bank has launched the Community Recovery Bushfire Program for recovery project/programs. Grants up to \$10,000 are available. Visit <https://foundation.smartygrants.com.au/PyreneesBushfires> to apply for the funding. For information email Foundation.Mailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

The grants close 1 July 2024.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Infrastructure Repair Update after floods

Council is currently putting together packages of work to finish the repairs to infrastructure that was flood damaged. On the ground works have stopped for the time being until approval is given by the State Government to go ahead with the packages of work. Council is working closely with the State Government to progress the approvals and it is hoped that work can recommence again soon.

Recovery/Resilience Grants Program

Council, at its meeting this month, approved more than \$31,000 worth of community recovery/resilience grants, awarded to 17 local community and business organisations. Some of the projects approved were events, supply of first aid kits, bus trip and initiatives to increase membership. Projects are centred on connecting people, assist in recovery and building resilience. The annual community grant program will be run later in 2024.

THINGS TO HELP PREPARE YOU IN 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](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires)



AIDR Volunteer Leadership Program

Would you be interested in doing a volunteer leadership program through the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience? This program equips volunteers from community organisations, not-for-profits, disaster relief organisations and local government within the emergency management sector, with the skills and confidence to grow as leaders. It brings together volunteers to build knowledge and share experiences.

The next program is running in Melbourne on 16-18 August 2024 (applications close 19 July 2024). If you want more

information about the program visit <https://www.aidr.org.au/programs/volunteer-leadership-program/>. If you're interested please contact the Recovery Team.



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.



Are you a artisanal producer and want to be emergency ready?

SES, through the Central Highlands Growers and Producers Hub and Commerce Ballarat, is holding an Emergency Ready online session on 10 July 7-8pm. This session is

for artisanal producers (those who produce food such as breads, cheeses, fruit preserves, cured meats, oils etc). To register go to [Eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au) and search for Emergency Ready



CALL FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Are you interested in being a part of the Community Recovery Committee? This Committee is being formed to ensure community's views and needs are actively included across all recovery activities. An expression of interest will be advertised in the next couple of weeks for those wanting to be involved in community-led recovery so that people and communities can recover well and build resilience.

A notice will go out on Council's website, Facebook page and in the Advocate.

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

Vlad Adamek—Project Officer—0408 580 684

Jane Bowker—Recovery Coordinator—0400 503 917

Gillian Matthews—Recovery Administration Officer (Flood)

Claire-Marie Hodgkinson—Recovery Administration Officer (Fire)

Kim Whytcross—Recovery Infrastructure Officer

Pyrenees Shire Council: 1800 797 363

Email: recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

DISTRIBUTION OF 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 Flood 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 Flood 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