



Bayindeen fire recovery – Council focuses on safety and support



Crews removing hazardous trees in the Main Lead area.

Pyrenees Shire Council is leading fire recovery efforts, helping communities clean up and recover from the massive Bayindeen fires in late February.

Council started recovery work as soon as it was safe, providing support and information and undertaking necessary work to ensure the community's safety. Council is also lobbying state and federal governments for essential disaster funding to ensure the financial viability of recovery work.

Council officers have been working on:

- Tree removal along roadsides to ensure safety.
- Assessing roads and infrastructure for damage.
- Visiting local businesses to provide support.
- Holding outreach sessions for residents to access information and support services.
- Working with the community to ensure water used by the CFA for the fires is replenished.
- Connecting residents with organisations for fence replacement, clean-ups and other support.
- Conducting assessments and producing reports to secure state and federal government funding.

There is much more work to do, and Council is committed to helping rebuild

infrastructure in fire-affected areas and supporting residents to recover well. If you've been impacted by the fire, we encourage you to get in touch with us to register your details – please don't hesitate to seek help.

Some of the recovery support available from local organisations and governments includes:

- Financial - disaster recovery payment.
- Help on your property - refilling dams and tanks, rebuilding fences, finding feed for your stock.
- Mental health support.
- Services to help you and your family cope with stress and trauma.
- Legal and insurance support.
- Support for businesses.

For more information, turn to page 2, phone 1300 797 363 or visit: pyrenees.vic.gov.au/firerecovery

Australian Governor General visits Beaufort

Beaufort hosted a visit by the Governor General of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley in early March.

His Excellency and Mrs Hurley visited to thank the many fire crews, emergency services, volunteers, businesses and local organisations for their tireless efforts during the fire emergency.

During their visit, His Excellency and Mrs Hurley visited the Beaufort CFA, talking to a number of fire fighters and volunteers and personally thanking them for their work.

They then enjoyed lunch with around 30 locals, the Mayor Cr Robert Vance and other Pyrenees Shire Councillors, where they chatted and shared stories.



Beaufort CFA members chat with the Governor General.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

De Cameron Ward – Cr Robert Vance (Mayor)
P 0447 384 500
E decameron@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Avoca Ward – Cr Ron Eason
P 0417 508 471
E avoca@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Mount Emu Ward – Cr Tanya Kehoe
P 0439 571 480
E mountemu@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Beaufort Ward – Cr Damian Ferrari
P 0437 662 295
E beaufort@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Ercildoune Ward – Cr David Clark
P 0417 374 704
E ercildoune@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

FIRE RECOVERY

Support, information and advice

From fencing reinstatement to financial aid and mental health support, if you need help recovering from the Bayindeen fires, there is a wide range of services, support and information available to you.

Read on for more information about the kinds of support on offer but please note, this is not an exhaustive list - if you're looking for information that isn't listed on this page, please phone Council on **1300 797 363** or visit our website pyrenees.vic.gov.au/firerecovery



FOR RESIDENTS

Emergency Recovery Hotline

Phone 1800 560 760 from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday or register online at www.vic.gov.au/recovery-support

Services Australia disaster recovery payment

www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/western-victoria-bushfires-february-2024-australian-government-disaster-recovery-payment

Rates relief

If your property has been damaged or destroyed by fire, rates relief may be available through a revaluation. Contact Council on 1300 797 363 or rates.department@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Mental health support

- Ballarat Community Health – 0490 819 710
- Headspace Ballarat (people aged 12 to 25) – 5304 4777
- The Orange Door Ballarat – 1800 219 819
- Uniting Care Ballarat – 5332 1286
- BADAC – 5331 5344, extension 3
- 13YARN First Nations Support – 139 276
- Beyond Blue – 1300 224 636

Clean-up support

Residents with fire-impacted homes, sheds and trees can register for clean-up support by calling 1800 560 760 or visit www.vic.gov.au/clean-support-bushfire-damaged-homes

Residents at a community fire update meeting in Beaufort on February 27.



FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Stock feed

Need for Feed Australia
www.needforfeed.org

Victorian Farmers Federation Pyrenees
Phone: 0427 498 235

Fencing

BlazeAid registrations: admin@blazeaid.com.au

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

Victorian Farmers Federation Disaster Relief Fund

www.vff.org.au/vff-disaster-relief-fund-open-for-applications-and-donations

Agriculture Victoria

www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires

Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria West

www.rfcsvictoriawest.com.au

FOR BUSINESS

Free Business Recovery Advisory Service

www.aigroup.com.au/services-and-advice/business-improvement/business-recovery-advisory-service-victoria/#EOI

Partners in Wellbeing

Financial counselling for small business owners.
Phone 1300 375 330 www.partnersinwellbeing.org.au

Will you stand for Council this October?

Could you be one of Pyrenees Shire Council's newly elected councillors this year?

Council elections will be held across Victoria in October and Pyrenees Shire Council is encouraging interested residents to find out more about becoming an elected councillor.

Council is taking part in the Municipal Association of Victoria's (MAV) Stand for Council campaign, which educates community members about the roles and responsibilities of becoming a councillor.

The campaign is built on the premise that a strong, healthy, inclusive democracy is fostered through a diverse mix of elected representatives with differing skills, experience and views.

Prospective local candidates will be able to attend information sessions in Beaufort and Avoca (dates to be confirmed) or one that will be held on Thursday 8 August at the Ballarat Town Hall.

Pyrenees Shire Council Mayor Cr Robert Vance said being an elected representative is a rewarding and fulfilling role.

Cr Vance was first elected to the then-Avoca Shire Council in 1987. He joined the Pyrenees Shire Council post amalgamations in 1996 until 2002, being re-elected in 2008, 2012, 2016 and 2020.

"As a Councillor, you make a real difference in the community at a grassroots level," he said.

"Your local council is the government tier closest to the people and it's a very rewarding job, allowing you to give back to the community you live in. I encourage any interested Pyrenees residents to find out more about becoming a councillor and consider standing at this October's election."

Find out more at www.mav.asn.au/council-elections-2024/stand-for-council-2024. You can register for information sessions at www.mav.clients.squiz.net/stand-for-council-2024. For more information phone Kathy Bramwell at Pyrenees Shire Council on 1300 797 363.

Councillor Cuppa and a Chat

Pyrenees Shire Councillors are available for regular informal catch-ups in locations around the Shire. You can pop into our Cuppa and a Chat sessions, which are held monthly in locations rotating around Pyrenees Shire.

Upcoming dates and locations include 14 May from 5pm at the Stoneleigh CFA Shed and 11 June from 5pm at the Avoca Gunga Hub.

For more information and a full list of dates and locations for 2024, visit pyrenees.vic.gov.au/cuppaandchat

Ditch the paper - get your rates and animal registration renewals via email



You can receive your rates bills and pet registration renewals via email by signing up to Council's eRates service.

Once registered, you'll no longer receive a paper bill in the mail and a PDF will be sent to you electronically.

To sign up visit:
erates.pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Cr Robert Vance joins Victorian Government Mayoral Advisory Committee



Pyrenees Mayor Cr Robert Vance has been appointed to the Victorian Government's Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel (LGMAP) for 2024.

The LGMAP is appointed and chaired by the Minister for Local Government, and advises the minister on a range of legislative, regulatory, strategic and policy decisions that impact the local government sector. This year's panel will have a focus on governance, representation and inclusion.

Cr Vance said he was honoured to be chosen for the panel and is looking forward to contributing a regional perspective.



WHAT'S ON IN THE PYRENEES

Pyrenees Unearthed Wine and Food Festival

April 13, 11am–5pm | Avoca River Bank, Dundas Street

Trawalla Hall Old Time Dance

April 20, from 8pm | Trawalla Hall

Back to Waterloo Day

April 27, 1pm–5pm | Waterloo Hall

Play in the Pyrenees – Avoca by the River

April 27, 1pm–5:30pm

123rd Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally

May 4–5, from 10am–5pm | 1234 Carngham-Lake Goldsmith Road, Lake Goldsmith

Free social media and content marketing workshop

May 7, from 2pm–5pm | Beeripmo Centre, Beaufort. Bookings essential – register on Council's website pyrenees.vic.gov.au

A full list of Pyrenees events is available here: visitpyrenees.com.au/whats-on

Goldfields Recreation Reserve projects update

Work is progressing well on projects in and around the Goldfields Recreation Reserve and Lake Beaufort.



COMPLETED

Cricket nets

Three brand-new cricket practice nets (above) and a storage shed for local clubs were opened in early February. The new facilities provide a better practice surface, improving safety for users. The facility was funded with a grant from the Victorian Government, and contributions from Pyrenees Shire Council, Beaufort Community Bank, the Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund the Beaufort Cricket Club.

Lake path upgrades

Completed last year, upgrades to the paths around Lake Beaufort included safety upgrades and replacing and repairing infrastructure



such as paths, drainage and footbridges. This work encourages greater use of the area, supporting tourism and community health and wellbeing.

Beaufort Lake foreshore barbecue shelter

A multi-purpose shelter (above) has opened, providing a community gathering space in a picturesque setting. The shelter includes a public barbecue and performance space, and is designed to have minimal impact on the view from the nearby community centre.

NEARING COMPLETION

Oval lights and power upgrade

At the time this newsletter went to print, work on this project was nearing completion. New lights for evening training had been installed and an infrastructure upgrade to power the new lights completed. The final part of the work is to align the lights' beams on to the oval's playing surface, which was due to be completed during April.

Pyrenees Shire Council acknowledges the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Djab Wurrung and Wotjobaluk tribes, whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire. We pay our respects to the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by the Elders and people of these tribes.