

Recovery / Resilience Newsletter

Edition 10—October/November/December 2023

HI AGAIN

Welcome to edition 10 of the Pyrenees Shire Council's recovery/resilience newsletter.

A reminder that the Fire Danger Period (FDP) began at 1am on Monday 20 November 2023 for the Pyrenees Shire. Mowing, slashing, pruning and general clean-up around your property is really important to reduce the fire risk to yourself and your community.



<https://fireplanner.vic.gov.au/>

Recovery and Resilience Events/Programs Coming Up

There's a great range of events and programs coming up in 2024. These events are to get community's together and have fun. Keep an eye on Council's website and social media for the 2024 events.

Here are some of the events run in 2023 by the Flood Recovery Team in conjunction with other local businesses and organisations in the Shire. All events in 2023 have been well supported by community members and feedback has been really positive.

AVOCA MEN'S SHED RE-OPENING

The Avoca Men's Shed held a morning tea on Wednesday 15 November to celebrate being back in the shed.

Congratulations to all community members involved in working together to repair the Shed. It was a big job including lots of hard work and patience to fix up the damage and replace tools and equipment.



CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOPS

These workshops were run in Beaufort and Lexton by the Beaufort Community House & Learning with support from the Flood Recovery Team. Both workshops had a great turnout. All participants had a great day being together and drawing on



their artistic and creative skills to produce some lovely wreaths to decorate their homes.



Events are proudly supported by the Australian and Victorian Governments



Download a copy of Ag Vic's Farm Fire Preparedness Toolkit

today 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>



NOTICE:

Works have commenced on Moonambel-Natte Yallock Road, Natte Yallock.

There are contactors onsite working and **motorists are to travel at 40km/h.**



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Infrastructure Repair Update

Below are before and after photos of infrastructure repair works. More information on the repairs can be found on Council's website under the Flood Recovery Page.



Ellis Road, Beaufort



Cheesemans Road,
Beaufort



Pittong Snake
Valley Road,
Snake Valley



WHAT'S COMING UP?



eResilience is an online self-paced wellbeing program, free for eligible regional Victorians (funded by the Victorian Government Department of Health). The past few years have been incredibly challenging for so many people so Resilience Builders have developed the program for participants to learn strategies to build resilience into everyday life. Visit resiliencebuilders.com.au/tour/eresilience

Free Climate Change Resilience Course for Not For Profit people and groups

This short course is to help develop a Climate Change Action Plan. It is a self-paced learning module online and is free until end of September if you use the code GOGREEN. <https://training.comunitydirectors.com.au/catalog/info/id:18>



Drainage Investigation—Beaufort

Council's Asset Team will be conducting an investigation into the stormwater drainage system in Beaufort in the coming months. The infrastructure that feeds water into the natural drainages will be assessed for improvements. Works will then be prioritised and be dependent on Council's budget and seeking further funding. Future works will be in conjunction with the CMA.

Grants Information

Pyrenees community groups have celebrated over the last month, with many successfully funded projects through local programs including Council's Annual Funding Program, Community Bank Beaufort and the Community Bank Avoca to name just a few.

Other opportunities are also available. Council maintains an 'other grants' page on its website where you can get information on current grants that may be of interest to your group.

We encourage groups to check the link [Other grants - Pyrenees Shire Council](#) regularly to remain aware of funding opportunities for your group. Current opportunities include local History Grants and:

Emergency Sporting Equipment - Closes 31/05/2023. For Sport & active recreation clubs/organisations - replace or repair essential sporting & first aid equipment damaged as a result of fire, flood, storm or criminal damage.

Tiny Towns Fund - Closes 25/02/2024. Focus to deliver quality tourism & community facility projects, e.g. splash parks, bike trails, playgrounds & community hall and library upgrades, public art.

Should you like any advice or support, please reach out to us at commdev@pyrenees.vic.gov.au Happy grant hunting!



From the Pyrenees Shire Council

Flood Recovery Team,

We wish you all a very

Merry Christmas

And a happy and safe New Year!

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.

Give the Recovery Team a call to get a copy.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

Landmate

Landmate Teams have been very busy with fence repairs for primary producers. If you have fencing that needs repairs please contact the Flood Recovery Team.

Rural Finance Counselling Service

The Rural Finance Counselling Service offers free and independent financial information, options, decision-making support and referral services to farmers and small rural businesses who are in or at risk of financial hardship. A councillor can assist farmers to understand and apply for government support. For more information call 1300 771 741.

National Centre for Farmer Health

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

Farmer Online Assist Program

This program provides flood-affected farmers with up to three free sessions with a farmer health training and registered AHPRA accredited psychologist, without a need to have a GP mental health plan. You can register your interest in the service via the National Centre for Farmer Health website.

Business Relief Service

This is a free and confidential service offering one-on-one support from a local business relief adviser to flood affected business owners. To access this service call 13 22 15 or go online and fill out the registration form via <https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/business-relief-service>.

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 Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 or Council's Flood Recovery Team.



RECOVERY TEAM

Tony Grimme—Flood Recovery Officer—0482 793 839
Gillian Matthews—Flood Recovery Administration Officer
0459 529 838
Jane Bowker—Flood Recovery Coordinator—0400 503 917

Phone: 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 Flood Recovery Newsletter, please send your email details to the Flood 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.

Flood Recovery Support

Key contacts for assistance

Organisation	What support is provided	Contact details
Pyrenees Shire Council Flood Recovery Team	Tony Grimme, Gillian Matthews 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 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. 10am to 6pm Saturday and Sunday
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	Provides financial assistance for those affected by a natural disaster, or a downturn in your business. Flood 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
Business Victoria		13 22 15 https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/small-business-immediate-flood-relief-program
Centrelink	Support services for emergency affected persons in crisis (disaster relief payments; exceptional circumstances relief payments; bereavement payments and special benefit payments).	Ballarat 1800 050 004
Australian Red Cross	The 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	Beyond Blue has an information line that offers expert information on depression, how to recognise the signs of depression, 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/
Avoca 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/