

Flood Recovery Newsletter

Edition 4—February 2023

WELCOME

Welcome to the Pyrenees Shire Council's flood recovery newsletter and is a follow on from the community updates provided by Council in October and November 2022.

This newsletter is designed to keep the Pyrenees community up to date with the latest information and support to help recover from the flood events. We know the impacts can be felt for quite some time after natural disasters, and we hope this newsletter can go some way to help make the recovery process easier by providing access to quality information.

Communication should be two-way and Council is encouraging residents to provide input and feedback by contacting the Flood Recovery Team on 1300 797 363.

WHAT IS RECOVERY?

Recovery seeks to address the diverse needs of individuals and communities following a disaster. It often commences during the response phase and can continue for years after.

The objectives are to support communities to successfully deal with the impacts of an emergency in the social, built, economic and natural environments. By doing so, it helps to heal from and build resilience for future emergencies.

Pyrenees Shire Council has legislative responsibility to lead recovery activities at a local level in partnership with agencies, non-government organisations, local service providers and communities.

Flood Recovery Team

Council's Flood Recovery Team is now up and running. The focus of the team is to assist the long-term recovery, re-building and resilience of the Pyrenees community following the October/November 2022 flood events. The team is available to provide support and advice in the recovery process. Please reach out by calling one of the Team members on 1300 797 363, if you haven't already been contacted.

Meet the team:

Community Recovery Officer: Tony Grimme

Tony's role is to engage with and support communities, individuals and businesses impacted by the flood events. Tony is on-hand to assist with recovery activities such as referrals for clean-up, farm fencing, psychosocial support etc. You may have already received a phone call or a visit from Tony.

Recovery Infrastructure Officer: Kim Whytcross

Kim's role is to ensure that the rehabilitation of public infrastructure (roads, drainage, footpaths and bridges) works is undertaken.

Flood Recovery Administration Officer: Gillian Matthews

Gillian's role is to provide general support to the Flood Recovery Team and manage the necessary financial services such as recovery budget and claims for reimbursement.

Flood Recovery Coordinator: Jane Bowker

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



Four domains of community recovery : Office of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements



L to R: Tony Grimme, Kim Whytcross and Jane Bowker

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'S COMING UP?

Infrastructure Repairs

Damage to Council's infrastructure/assets (roads, bridges, culverts etc) has been estimated at \$15M. Restoring the assets is funded through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and rehabilitation works must be completed within the next 12 months. This will be an enormous task. An assessment to understand the extent of works required and to prioritise these works has been completed. 953 actions are required across the municipality. Kim Whyt-cross has been engaged to coordinate the repairs and work will commence soon.



Akers Lane, Glenpatrick

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Avoca Recreation Reserve and Men's Shed

Repair works are progressing at the Avoca Recreation Reserve and Avoca Men's Shed. The petanque piste has been repaired and the tennis/netball courts cleaned. The oval has also been repaired including the cricket pitch. Cricket, petanque and tennis are back to playing albeit a little differently with the complex being closed for repairs.

The hygienist works have been completed at the Avoca Rec Res complex and Men's Shed and the refit works are being planned.

Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve

The recreation reserve was inundated with flood water though thankfully the complex didn't have water through it, only under. A thorough clean has been completed on shedding. The oval fence is being repaired and funding is being sought to repair the cricket nets.

Toll Bark Park in Lexton

The park's wooden log barrier is now back in place. There is some historical sentiment with the logs so it's great to see them back. There has also been some clean up and maintenance in the township following the floods.



Phone calls from Windermere

Windermere Services, on behalf of Council, has been busy contacting affected residents in the Pyrenees to see how they are going after the flood events and to see if any support is needed. Windermere case support workers have been providing referral services to access accommodation, clean-up, helping to understand available payments, as well as wellbeing support and financial counselling.

Secondary Impact Assessments (SIAs)

A1 has been engaged through Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) to coordinate Secondary Impact Assessments on behalf of Council. SIAs are the assessment of the impact of the flood on the natural, built, social and economic environments. For Pyrenees, assessments are being done by building surveyors, environmental health officers and structural engineers on resident's homes and community facilities. If you would like an assessment please contact the Flood Recovery Team.

FARM
Well

FREE EVENT
10AM - 2PM
SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY

Succession Planning Workshop

with Dr. Mike Stephens and guest speaker Alexandra Gartmann

The FARMwell project warmly invites farming families from across Ararat, Pyrenees & Northern Grampians Shires to attend a **FREE succession planning workshop** on Sunday 26th February at the **Alexandra Oval Community Centre, Ararat**.



Dr. Mike Stephens

Dr. Mike Stephens is the founder, a Board Director and a senior Business Consultant for Meridian Agriculture. Dr Stephens has a farm management, recruiting and project management background and will provide succession planning advice to workshop participants.



Alexandra Gartmann

After lunch, Alexandra Gartmann will present to participants. Alexandra is a passionate advocate and champion for rural and regional Australia. Alexandra is the inaugural Chair of the Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Council, is a Director of the Australian Farm Institute, and a Trustee of the Helen MacPherson Smith Trust.

MORNING TEA AND LUNCH PROVIDED

Please RSVP by Tuesday, 21st February 2023 via the QR code

Questions? Contact Narelle via email at narelle.conroy@bhs.org.au or on 0448 904 947



<http://bhs.to/lcVEs>

Proudly supported by



Grampians Public Health Unit

[Rural Water Supply Feasibility Study](#)

A public information session was held at the Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve to talk about the Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Rural Water Supply Project. The proposed project will provide water security for farms and small communities across parts of the Central Goldfields, Northern Grampians and Pyrenees shires. Guest speakers from Agriculture Victoria, Grampians Health, and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water made presentations and Council's Flood Recovery Team was on-hand to catch up with residents about flood recovery.



[BlazeAid and Landmate](#)

BlazeAid and Landmate Teams have been very busy with fence repairs for primary producers. Landmate have also been cleaning up flood debris.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

[Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment](#)

Lump sum payment (\$1000 p/adult \$400 p/child) to help people seriously affected by the October 2022 floods. You have until 16 June 2023 to make a claim. Visit www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/victorian-floods-october-2022-australian-government-disaster-recovery-payment

[Australian Government Disaster Recovery Allowance](#)

For anyone who has lost income as a direct result of the floods. You have until 28 May 2023 to make a claim. Visit www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/victorian-floods-october-2022-disaster-recovery-allowance

[Rural Finance](#)

There are a number of recovery packages available for primary producers, small businesses and not for profit organisations. Visit www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/victorian-primary-producer-flood-recovery-package or call 1800 260 425

[Waste pick-up](#)

If you still have flood damaged carpets, whitegoods, furniture or sandbags that need collecting, call Council to organise collection. No general household waste, building materials or hazardous materials such as asbestos will be picked up. You can call Council to find out how to dispose of these items.

OTHER INFORMATION

[Flood Recovery Plan](#)

Given the complexities of the recovery process, pre-planning and coordination is essential and the Flood Recovery Plan has been developed to coordinate the flood recovery operation. A copy is available on Council's website.



CALL FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Recovery isn't about the government telling communities how it's going to be. Community-led recovery must be about listening, working together, and ensuring that rebuilding and recovery are both locally driven and delivered, so that they can help build back stronger and more resilient. We're guided by communities and their priorities.

If you are interested in being a part of recovery planning, an Expression of Interest to join the Municipal Recovery Coordination Committee will be advertised this week. Look out on Council's website for the application form. There will also be hard copies available at the resource centres. If you would like a hard copy posted, please call Council on 1300 797 363.

LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF (VERY IMPORTANT)

Emergencies such as floods 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 www.beyondblue.org.au/mental-health/natural-disasters-and-your-mental-health



There's professional support available, so please reach out to the Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 or Council's Flood Recovery Team on 1300 797 363.

DISTRIBUTION OF RECOVERY NEWSLETTER

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.

Next newsletter: Friday 10 March 2023. Deadline for articles: Thursday 9 March.

Flood Recovery Support

Key contacts for assistance

Organisation	What support is provided	Contact details
Pyrenees Shire Council Flood Recovery Team	Jane Bowker and Tony Grimme 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	Primary Producer Recovery Grants up to \$75,000, Rural Landholder Grants up to \$25,000, Primary Producer Concessional Loans up to \$250,000 and Primary Producer Transport Subsidies up to \$15,000.	0427 694 185 https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/floods/flood-and-storm-recovery-support-for-farmers
Business Victoria	\$5000 one off grant to cover immediate clean up, repair and replenish expenses for businesses and sport/recreation	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