

Flood Recovery Newsletter

Edition 5—17 March 2023

HI AGAIN

Welcome to the next edition of the Pyrenees Shire Council's flood recovery newsletter.

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.

In the last newsletter, we introduced the Flood Recovery Team but Gillian was away when the photo was taken. Gillian is the Flood Recovery Administration Officer and has a wealth of knowledge in all things Council. Many of you may know Gill and it is great to have Gill's expertise as part of the flood recovery team.



REMINDER: Primary Producer Grants closing soon

The Primary Producer Flood Recovery Grant is a payment of up to \$75,000 to primary producers directly affected by the floods and storms to help with clean up, re-establish properties, and get businesses up and running again.

This grant covers activities like the removal and disposal of debris and injured or dead livestock, replacing or repairing essential equipment, fixing and replacing fencing, buying fodder, water and water storage, salvaging damaged crops, grain or feed, and hiring or purchasing materials to clean up a property or equipment.

Applications must be submitted by 4pm on **30 April 2023**. Please contact Rural Finance on [1800 260 425](tel:1800260425) if you need any help with the application or have any questions.

Information on the grant can be found at <https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/victorian-primary-producer-flood-recovery-grants>

FARMER HEALTH

There's some terrific information on the National Centre for Farmer Health website. The Centre is based in Hamilton and offers a range of programs, scholarships, safety fact sheets, health & wellbeing support and tools such as the 15 minute farm safety check list. If you're in the farming space, the website is well worth a look. Visit <https://farmerhealth.org.au>



While we are on the subject of farming, Agriculture Victoria also has some good information for flood and storm affected farmers. They hold regular events to manage the recovery process and also a range of workshops and webinars to help on the farm. Ag Vic also has a recovery support team to provide assistance and can be contacted on 0427 694 185. Visit the website <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/floods>



Flood Inquiry

Victoria's major floods of October 2022 are subject to a parliamentary inquiry. The Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee will investigate the state's preparedness for and response to the disaster and is calling for public submissions on a number of items such as:

- Causes of and contributions to the flood event;
- Adequacy and effectiveness of early warning systems;
- Resourcing of SES;
- Flood event as a whole including catchments and floodplains; plus more.

The Committee is accepting written submissions until 8 May 2023. More information can be found at <https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/floodinquiry>

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Infrastructure Repair Update

So far \$7M worth of repairs on infrastructure such as roads, bridges and culverts has been identified. Council is required to submit applications to the State Government for funding approval to fix the infrastructure. Works have been prioritised based on the severity of the damage and the amount of traffic that uses the road. We know there are many roads in the Pyrenees that need repair work and we thank you, the community, for your patience and ask that you drive safely. We'll keep you up to date with where works are happening and what works will be coming up.

The first approved application was for pavement repairs on sealed roads as they are higher trafficked roads. Repairs will commence soon on the following roads:

- Lexton Ararat Road
- Landsborough Elmhurst Road
- Moonambel Natte Yallock Road
- Beaufort Waubra Road
- Waubra Talbot Road
- Homebush Road
- Park Road
- Raglan Elmhurst Road
- Nunns Road
- Back Amphitheatre Road
- Beaufort Carngham Road
- Barkly Navarre Road
- Landsborough Stawell Road
- Frenchmans Navarre Road



A second application has also been approved to repair rutting on road shoulders. Vehicles travel at higher speeds on these roads and have to move to the edge to pass another vehicle as the seal is narrower.

- Beaufort Waubra Road
- Stud Farm Road
- Old Shirley Road
- Livingstone Street
- Robertson Street
- Barkly Navarre Road
- Redbank Natte Yallock Road



A third application has been submitted to undertake more complex pavement and bridge repairs on the following roads:

- Vite Vite Road
- Back Cemetery Road
- Greenhill Creek Road
- Mount Emu Settlement
- Mortchup Mount Emu Road
- Back Waterloo Road
- Lucardies Road
- Raglan Elmhurst Road
- Beaufort Carngham Road
- Susans Lane



EMPOWERED



Are you a Pyrenees Shire local passionate about health and fitness, and your RURAL COMMUNITY?



Apply for an EMPOWERED SCHOLARSHIP worth \$7000!

Apply now to become an ACTIVE FARMERS personal trainer

Enquire with Narelle on 0448 904 947 or narelle.conroy@bhs.org.au
For more information visit: www.activefarmers.com.au



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WALK & TALK

Walking for Mental Health

26th of March 2023

8:30am at the Chinese Garden gates
Dundas Street, Avoca



Join us for a 4km walk to support mental health and wellbeing
Guest speaker Rick Corney
Followed by a free BBQ and gifts bags

Pyrenees
Mental Health & Wellbeing Network



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Tony received a National Emergency Medal!!



Tony Grimme, Council's Flood Recovery Officer received the National Emergency Medal on March 5th for services during the 2019-2020 Bushfires. This photo shows Tony being presented with the award.

Congrats Tony.

[Contact from Windermere](#)

Windermere Services, on behalf of Council, has been 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 such as 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 an assessment of the impact of the flood on the natural, built, social and economic environments. Assessments are 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.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

[BlazeAid and Landmate](#)

BlazeAid and Landmate Teams continue with fence repairs for primary producers. They have done an amazing job so far and there is still more work to do. If you have fencing that needs fixing please contact the Flood Recovery Team.

BlazeAid are camped at the Moonambel Recreation Reserve, and are looking for volunteers. If you are interested please contact Gene Purcell on 0428 860 543.

More information on BlazeAid can be found here

<https://blazeaid.com.au>

[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.

CALL FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are still open if you would like to be part of the Municipal Recovery Coordination Committee. This Committee will run for the length of time that recovery activities are needed, as per the Flood Recovery Plan. Community-led recovery is really important to ensure communities build back stronger and more resilient.

If you are interested in being a part of recovery planning, an Expression of Interest to join the Municipal Recovery Coordination Committee has been advertised. Look out on Council's website for the application form. There are also 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 7 April 2023. Deadline for articles: Wednesday 5 April.

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
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