

# Flood Recovery Newsletter

Edition 6—14 April 2023

## HI AGAIN

Welcome to edition 6 of the Pyrenees Shire Council's flood recovery newsletter. Hope you had a good Easter albeit the cold/wet weather.

Council would like to thank all the community members, businesses and organisations that have helped with the recovery efforts so far, and often at short notice. Your efforts have been really appreciated. A special thanks goes to community members who are helping with the repairs to the Avoca Men's Shed and Recreation Reserve Complex. Your help has been invaluable.



## Rural Finance Grants

We have some great news to share!! The Rural Finance Primary Producer Recovery Grant and the Rural Landholder Grant are now closing on 13 July 2023 not 30 April 2023. This gives more time to submit applications. We know landholders and farmers have been really busy since the floods in October/November 2022 and may not have had time to look into grants yet. It is really important to Council that landholders and farmers recover well, so we requested that grant closing dates be extended.



These grants cover activities like 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.

You don't have to be a 'big' farmer to be eligible for the grants. Even if you think you may not be eligible or don't have a lot of time to look into the guidelines, it is worth a phone call to Rural Finance 1800 260 425 to find out. More information about the grants can be found on Rural Finance's website [www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/victorian-primary-producer-flood-recovery-package](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/victorian-primary-producer-flood-recovery-package).

Help can also be found by calling the Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 or Council's Flood Recovery Team on 1800 797 363. The Flood Recovery Team are happy to help with any questions or to fill out applications.

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

### Life and Community Sessions

There are some community sessions coming up. The sessions are about personal and community recovery after a natural disaster like flooding. Cathy Bunter (veterinarian) will talk about caring for your pets and animals, and David Younger (clinical psychologist/natural disaster expert) will share key messages to maintain your overall health and wellbeing including the community.

Come along, enjoy a light meal and have a chat with both Cathy and David. Sessions will be held:

- Wednesday 26th April 2023—Avoca Turf Club (307 Racecourse Road, Avoca)
- Wednesday 10th May 2023—Lexton Recreation Reserve (1 Prince Street, Lexton)
- Thursday 8th June 2023—Beaufort Community Centre (Senior Citizens – 27 – 29 Pratt Street, Beaufort).

Register your interest by calling 1300 797 363 or emailing [recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au)

## Life and Community

after a flood with David Younger and Cathy Bunter

It is now six months on from the 2022 October floods. How have you and your community been affected and what will best support recovery?

Come along to understand more about personal and community recovery with guests David Younger and Cathy Bunter. Enjoy a light meal, cuppa and a chat. Sessions will be relaxed, informal, and there will be time for discussion and to ask questions. We encourage all community members to attend.

**Session time and locations:**

Join us at 6pm for a light meal. Sessions start at 7pm.

Wednesday 26 April 2023 – Avoca Turf Club (307 Racecourse Road, Avoca)

Wednesday 10 May 2023 – Lexton Recreation Reserve (1 Prince Street, Lexton)

Thursday 8 June 2023 – Beaufort Community Centre (Senior Citizens, 27-29 Pratt Street, Beaufort)

To register your interest, please contact Pyrenees Shire Council on 1300 797 363 or [recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au)



**David Younger – David Younger Psychology**

Clinical Psychologist David Younger (a natural disaster expert) will share key messages designed to help you understand more about coping with the challenges faced after a natural disaster and what you can do to maintain your overall health and wellbeing. He will also talk about how communities can best support themselves.



**Cathy Bunter – Veterinarian**

Cathy is a veterinarian and has worked in private veterinary practices in Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania for 28 years. Cathy previously lectured at Longsight College for four years in the areas of animal health and welfare, animal nutrition, and animal production. Currently, acting as Principal Veterinary Officer with Agriculture Victoria, Cathy has experience in equine health with a special interest in Japanese encephalitis and the other arboviruses which affect humans too. Cathy and her family have their own farm in western Victoria, farming cattle and sheep, and some free-range pigs and horses.

These events are being delivered by Pyrenees Shire Council and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

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](mailto:recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au) W: [pyrenees.vic.gov.au](http://pyrenees.vic.gov.au)

## Infrastructure Repair Update

Following on from the update in the last newsletter, contractors are being engaged and pavement repairs on sealed road will commence soon on the following roads. Your patience has been very much appreciated.

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

We will keep you updated with where works are happening and if you have any questions, please contact Council on 1300 797 363.

## Works on roads under the responsibility of Regional Roads Victoria

Below is an update on works on roads which are the responsibility of Regional Roads Victoria (RRV). These works are funded under the Victorian Government's Emergency Blitz Program. If you have any questions in relation to work on the roads below please call 133 778 or visit [www.regionalroads.vic.gov.au/map/flood-capital-works-program/grampians](http://www.regionalroads.vic.gov.au/map/flood-capital-works-program/grampians)

- Western Highway
  - Pavement patching west of Beaufort—completed.
  - Pavement patching between Beggs St and Beaufort Lexton Rd in Beaufort—completed.
- Skipton Road
  - Pavement patching between Millars Road and Stockyard Hill Road—in progress.
  - Shoulder top ups at various locations and clearing of debris from culverts between Cushing Road and Murray Street—scheduled for completion at the end of May.
- Ararat-St Arnaud Road
  - Pavement patching between Degraes Road and Shays Flat Road—completed.
  - Minor bridge repairs on structures on Avoca-Stawell Road—in progress.
  - Cleaning of debris from culverts and erosion control from Potts Road to Gifford Road (not all in Pyrenees LGA) - in progress.
  - Shoulder top ups at various locations between Cemetery Road and Bennett Road—in progress.
- Sunraysia Highway
  - Asphalt patching and stabilisation works between Western Freeway exit and Dunolly Road—in progress.

- Beaufort-Lexton Road
  - Pavement patching from Topp Lane to Jack Smiths Lane—completed.
  - Drainage clearing works near Chute Lexton Road intersection—completed.
  - Landslip cleanup (repair of eroded shoulders) at three locations—in progress.
  - Reinstatement of eroded shoulder at various locations—in progress.
  - Scour and repair of culverts at various locations—in progress.
- Maryborough-St Arnaud Road
  - Culvert repair and clearing between Dunolly-Avoca Road and Homebush Road—in progress.
- Stawell-Avoca Road
  - Cleaning of debris from multiple culverts and bridge sub-structures between Sycamores Road and Moonambel-Natte Yallock Road—in progress.
- Pyrenees Highway
  - Repair and clearing of structures and culverts at six locations between Elmhurst and Avoca—in progress.
  - Shoulder works to reinstate eroded shoulder at three locations between Elmhurst and Avoca—in progress.

## 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. The Committee is accepting written submissions until 8 May 2023. Pyrenees Shire Council will be putting forward a submission. If you have any comments to make please contact the Flood Recovery Team.

More information can be found at <https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/floodinquiry>

## Phone calls from Windermere Services

Windermere Services will be contacting residents again to see how they are going and if any support is needed, now that we are 6 months on from the floods.

Support workers are available to provide referral services to access accommodation, clean-up, grants, as well as wellbeing support and financial counselling. Council and Windermere have been working closely to provide the best recovery services as possible. Please don't hesitate to reach out by calling Windermere on 1800 560 760 or Council on 1300 797 363.



## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

### [BlazeAid Team](#)

The BlazeAid team have now completed their works program in the Pyrenees. BlazeAid volunteers, camped at the Moonambel Recreation Reserve, were very busy with fence repairs. Since commencing in December 2022, team members have cleared 46km of damaged fencing and built 21km of new fencing for 42 residents. The crew have contributed 900 volunteer working days.

On behalf of Council, we would like to thank BlazeAid team members for their tireless work in helping the residents of Pyrenees. Residents have been full of praise for the assistance that has been provided. Council would also like to thank the Moonambel Recreation Reserve Committee for hosting the BlazeAid Team.

BlazeAid is always looking for volunteers, and if you are interested please visit <https://blazeaid.com.au>

Below are ways you can volunteer with BlazeAid:

- Clearing burnt or flood damaged fencing.
- Rebuilding fences.
- Administration work.
- Cooking for volunteers.
- Cleaning in camp.
- Planting trees in tree planting camps.
- Coordinating a camp (prior camp experience needed).
- Tool maintenance.

If you still have fences that need repairing the Landmate Team are able to assist. Please contact the Flood Recovery Team.



## 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.

### [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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

## 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](http://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.

## RECOVERY TEAM

Tony Grimme—Flood Recovery Officer—0482 793 839  
Gillian Matthews—Flood Recovery Administration Officer  
0459 529 838  
Kim Whytcross—Recovery Infrastructure Officer—0419 650 083  
Jane Bowker—Flood Recovery Coordinator—0400 503 917  
  
Pyrenees Shire Council : 1800 797 363  
[recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au)

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au).

Next newsletter: Friday 12 May 2023. Deadline for articles: Wednesday 10 May.

# Flood Recovery Support

## Key contacts for assistance

| 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<br>E: <a href="mailto:recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au">recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au</a><br>W: <a href="http://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au">www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au</a>   |
| Victorian Government Flood Recovery Hotline (Windermere Services) | Clean-up, temporary accommodation, financial support and mental health and wellbeing  | 1800 560 760<br>Open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.<br>10am to 6pm Saturday and Sunday  |
| Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)               | Emergency relief payments, re-establishment assistance  | 1800 226 226<br><a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/personal-hardship-assistance-program">https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/personal-hardship-assistance-program</a>  |
| 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<br><a href="https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs">https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs</a>  |
| 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<br><a href="https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation/rural-financial-counselling-service">https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation/rural-financial-counselling-service</a> |
| 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<br><a href="https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/floods/flood-and-storm-recovery-support-for-farmers">https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/floods/flood-and-storm-recovery-support-for-farmers</a>                        |
| Business Victoria   | \$5000 one off grant to cover immediate clean up, repair and replenish expenses for businesses and sport/recreation   | 13 22 15<br><a href="https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/small-business-immediate-flood-relief-program">https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/small-business-immediate-flood-relief-program</a>  |
| 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<br><a href="https://www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/">https://www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/</a>  |
| 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<br><a href="https://www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/information-and-support/natural-disaster/">https://www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/information-and-support/natural-disaster/</a>  |
| 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<br><a href="https://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support">https://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support</a>  |
| 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<br><a href="https://kidshelpline.com.au/">https://kidshelpline.com.au/</a>  |
| Disaster Legal Help Victoria                                      | Provides free legal advice, assistance and referrals for people affected by a disaster.   | 1800 113 432<br><a href="https://www.disasterlegalhelp.org.au/">https://www.disasterlegalhelp.org.au/</a>  |
| 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   | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pyreneescommunityfoodpantry">https://www.facebook.com/pyreneescommunityfoodpantry</a>  |
| 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<br><a href="https://farmerhealth.org.au">https://farmerhealth.org.au</a>  |



We acknowledge the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar and Wotjobaluk tribes, whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire. We pay our respect for the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by elders and people of these tribes.