

# Flood Recovery Newsletter

Edition 8—6 July 2023

## HI AGAIN

Welcome to edition 8 of the Pyrenees Shire Council's flood recovery newsletter. Hope you are all well and warm on these chilly days.

### Rural Finance Grants

A reminder that the Rural Finance grants for primary producers close next week at 4pm on **13 July 2023**. 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. If you want to put in an application, and need some help, please don't hesitate to call the Flood Recovery Team on 1800 797 363.

### Community Recovery Session at Lexton

There was a good turn up for the community recovery session in Lexton on 10

May (funded by DFFH). David Younger and Kathy Bunter spoke about personal and community recovery including looking after your animals and what sort of weeds and animal diseases you may expect following a flood event. Here is a link to a 3 minute talk from David on self care <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=309112N5THY&t=43s>



### Lexton Flood Management Plan

Great news! The Victorian Government will be funding the development of the Lexton Flood Management Plan. This project, managed by Pyrenees Shire with technical support from North Central Catchment Management Authority, will include a full flood study and assessment of mitigation options for the township of Lexton. The information produced will enhance the flood resilience of the Lexton community by improving and building on the available flood information. The project will include consultation with the local community to collate local knowledge and assess potential mitigation options. The information including flood mapping produced by the study will be made freely available to the public and will also be used to inform VICSES Floodsafe programs.



### Financial Counselling Victoria

Financial Counselling Victoria has qualified and professional financial counsellors available to provide free, confidential and independent support to individuals experiencing financial hardship. Financial stress can be caused by the cost of living going up, loss of income, financial abuse and/or natural disasters.

A counsellor can help someone:

- access relief for utility bills and other payments
- understand their government income and other entitlements
- negotiate with their bank on debt issues
- review and understand their insurance options
- explore their options and can advocate on their behalf.

This service is provided through CAFS in Ballarat. You can make an appointment by calling 1800 692 237.

**Free financial counselling for people affected by emergencies**

Financial counsellors provide free, independent and non-judgemental support to people in financial difficulty.

A financial counsellor can help you understand...

 Insurance	 Utility relief	 Debts
 Government assistance	 Consumer & financial rights	 Housing payments

To speak with your local financial counsellor contact Cafs  
by email: [welcome@cafs.org.au](mailto:welcome@cafs.org.au)  
or call: 1800 692 237

 Financial counsellors provide free assistance, advocacy and information to people experiencing financial difficulty.



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)

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

### Avoca Men's Shed

Great news again! The repairs have been completed on the Avoca Men's Shed and members are busy moving back in. It has been quite some time since you could hear the tinkering of tools but they're now back to doing what they do best; making things for the community. Pop in and see the new and improved space.



The Men's Shed is open Monday and Friday mornings and all day Wednesday. You would be made to feel very welcome if you wanted to drop in have a chat. Being a shed member is a great opportunity to share meaningful activities, learn new skills, attend health and wellbeing events, and make friends.

### Infrastructure Repair Update

Below are some more pictures of infrastructure repair works.

Major culvert works on High Street, Redbank



Shoulder works on Old Shirley Road in Beaufort



More information on the repairs can be found on Council's website under the Flood Recovery Page.

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

### Community-led Recovery & Resilience Initiatives

Do you have a great idea to help your community recover from natural disasters? Council's Recovery Team is looking for your help. The Team wants to work with residents and/or community groups to build community connection, resilience and adapt to extreme weather events. No idea is too big or too small!!



Ideas could be:

- Create a recovery/resilience plan in your area.
- Community gatherings/events.
- Ways to understand extreme weather events in your area.
- Build community connection to help each other in emergencies.

We know you can be busy at times, and we don't want to take up too much of your precious time. You can contribute as much or as little as you like. You won't be asked to sit on a committee and the team members can come out to you. Please contact the Recovery Team on 1300 797 363. Alternatively, you can fill out the form on Council website under the flood recovery page.

### Agriculture Victoria—Farm Business Resilience Program

AgVic is running a short course, online, to provide farmers with the opportunity to develop a plan for their farm business. The program will run in August in a series of 2—3 hour workshops. For more information about the program, contact Elizabeth Alsop on 0457 838 537 or check out Farm Business Resilience Program on the AgVic website.



### Phone calls from Windermere Services

Windermere Services are 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 possible. Please don't hesitate to reach out by calling Windermere on 1800 560 760 or Council on 1300 797 363.



## Grants

### *Rebuilding Futures Grant (Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR))*

This grant provides disaster recovery support for Victorian communities impacted by the 2022 floods onwards. It aims to support local not-for-profit community organisations to undertake community-identified and community-led recovery activities that can strengthen resilience and enable projects for building back better. Funding amount is up to \$25,000 and **applications close 13 July 2023**. Information can be found on the FRRR website <https://frrr.org.au/funding/disaster-resilience-and-climate-solutions/rebuilding-futures>

### *Business Groups Flood Recovery Grants*

Chambers of commerce, trader groups, industry associations and other business groups can apply for grants of \$20K to \$50K to deliver locally led projects that help flood-affected small businesses. **Applications close 31 October 2023**. More information can be found <https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/business-groups-flood-recovery-grants>.

## **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/>

### Catchment Management Authorities (CMA) Support

The Catchment Management Authorities in the Pyrenees provide support during and after flood events with activities such as clean up, repairing and establishing erosion control, replacing habitat structures, repairing or replacing riparian fencing, vegetation management and weed control.

Landholders can register flood damage by calling the relevant CMA in your area:

Glenelg Hopkins CMA—5571 2526  
North Central CMA— 5448 7124  
Wimmera CMA—5382 1544

### 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>.

### Business Relief Service

This helpline enables small business owners and employees to get free and confidential access to wellbeing coaches, financial counsellors and business advisers. Call 1300 375 330 or visit <https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/partners-in-wellbeing-helpline>.

## **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.

## **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

Phone: 1800 797 363

Email: [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 4 August 2023. Deadline for articles: Wednesday 2 August.

# 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: <a href="mailto:recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au">recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au</a> 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 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 <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 <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 <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	Provides information and support for the agriculture industry . They administer a range of funds, grants and programs.	0427 694 185 <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		13 22 15 <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 <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 <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 <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 <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 <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 <a href="https://farmerhealth.org.au">https://farmerhealth.org.au</a>
Financial Counselling Victoria—National Debt Helpline	Financial counsellors provide free, independent and non-judgemental support to people in financial difficulty	1800 007 007 <a href="https://fcvic.org.au/disaster-recovery-financial-counselling/">https://fcvic.org.au/disaster-recovery-financial-counselling/</a>