

# Recovery / Resilience Newsletter

Edition 9—September 2023

## HI AGAIN

Welcome to edition 9 of the Pyrenees Shire Council's recovery/resilience newsletter. It's lovely to feel spring in the air and hope you've been able to get outside and enjoy some of the sunshine.



## Council's Community Funding Program

The 2023/24 funding program is now open and closes 23 October 2023. Funding is available for events, projects, equipment, minor capital works, and one-off programs/activities. The Community Development team are available to support you in your application and use of the grants portal. Please contact the team on 1300 797 363. More information can be found on Council's website [www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/community/community-funding-program](http://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/community/community-funding-program)

## 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.

## Recovery and Resilience Events Coming Up

There's a great range of events and programs coming up. These events are to get community's together and have fun. There will be more things to do in the coming months and information can be found on Council's website <https://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/community/events-and-activities>

- Resilient Redbank 10.30am—1.30pm 1 October 2023 Redbank Hall
- Snake Valley Neighbours Day 10am—2pm 8 October 2023 St Bridget's Catholic Church
- Pyrenees Connection 2pm til late 28 October 2023—Lexton Community Hub—Live music, art workshops, kids and youth activities and more. Register for your free ticket at [www.pyreneeshideout.com.au/tickets](http://www.pyreneeshideout.com.au/tickets).
- RUOK Workshop 11am—12pm 31 October 2023—Beaufort Visitor and Information Centre followed by a free BBQ Lunch at the Beaufort Band Rotunda
- Lexton Together 12 November 2023—Lexton Fire Station—Cleaning up Lexton through fire prevention and community resilience activities .



Beaufort Community House and Learning Centre Term 4 2023

### CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

**COST \$40**

**WILL BE HELD ON**  
26 NOVEMBER  
12PM - 3PM  
The Flywheel Bar & Cafe  
27-29 Neil St. Beaufort

Get your creative mojo flowing in time for Christmas with this wreath making workshop with Helen from Greivilla Cottage to be held at the Flywheel Bar & Cafe.  
Grab a friend and learn a new skill while enjoying a light lunch in a friendly and inclusive environment.

To book & secure a spot:  
[www.bhlc.org](http://www.bhlc.org)  
1349 3170  
bhlc@bhlc.org

This event is supported by the Pyrenees Shire Flood Recovery funding jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments.

Australian Government Pyrenees VICTORIA

- Xmas Wreath Workshop 12pm—3pm 26 Nov 2023 Fly-wheel Bar & Café, Beaufort Book through Community House & Learning Centre.

Beaufort Community House and Learning Centre Term 4 2023

**IN LEXTON**

### CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

**COST \$40**

**WILL BE HELD ON**  
3 DECEMBER  
1PM - 4PM  
LEXTON PUBLIC HALL

Get your creative mojo flowing in time for Christmas with this wreath making workshop from local florist, Helen Jolley. Grab a friend and learn a new skill while enjoying a scrumptious high tea in a friendly and inclusive environment.

To book & secure a spot:  
[www.bhlc.org](http://www.bhlc.org)  
1349 3170  
bhlc@bhlc.org

This event is supported by the Pyrenees Shire Flood Recovery funding jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments.

Australian Government Pyrenees VICTORIA

- Xmas Wreath Workshop 12pm—3pm 1 Dec 2023 Lexton Public Hall. Book through Community House & Learning Centre.

These events are supported by the Australian and Victorian and Governments



Pyrenees Hideout Festival Present

## Pyrenees CONNECTION

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

LEXTON COMMUNITY HUB  
Saturday, 28th OCT 2023  
2pm til Late

Bill Chambers  
Marcus Cassells & The Baha Collective  
The Long & Short of It  
deborahN  
Brendan Scott  
Sarah Catania

Music & Arts Workshops • Kids & Youth Activities and more.....

Register for your free ticket at:  
[www.pyreneeshideout.com.au/tickets](http://www.pyreneeshideout.com.au/tickets)

Supported by the Victorian Government through Music Victoria's Live Music for Flood Recovery Program.

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## Resilient REDBANK

1 October 2023  
10:30am - 1:30pm  
Redbank Community Hall/  
Redbank Rural Fire Brigade  
Station

Head to Redbank on October 1 for an action-packed day for the whole family at the Resilient Redbank event!

Resilient Redbank is a free event for all residents of Redbank and surrounding areas. It is an opportunity to:

- Build your confidence and resilience to face future challenges
- Connect with your neighbours and make new friends
- Strengthen your social network and sense of belonging by meeting other people who care about our community
- Enjoy activities, games, giveaways and free food

You will also have a chance to chat with emergency professionals and connect with community organisations like the Australian Red Cross and Disaster Legal

Join us for a fun and informative day to celebrate and strengthen our community!

• Increase your knowledge and skills on how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies

Pyrenees Shire Council

## 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.

The State and Federal government have announced additional funding under the *Council Priority Betterment Program* for Pyrenees Shire Council. This funding will ensure some infrastructure can be improved to make the infrastructure more resilient to future flood events.



Footbridge on Mountain Creek Road in Moonambel



Reservoir Road, Smythesdale



Cains Road, Natte Yallock



## 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](https://resiliencebuilders.com.au/tour/eresilience)

### [Business Victoria—Small Business Bus Visit](#)

The business bus is available in Beaufort on Monday 2 October 2023 at the Band Rotunda. Advisors are available to help start/build/transform your small business. Bookings are essential for the 45 min session. Walk-ins are also welcome for general information.



### [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.communitydirectors.com.au/catalog/info/id:180>



### [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](#).

### [Council's Community Development Team visits](#)

Council's Community Development team is visiting townships around the shire. The team supports community, sport, leisure, arts and community grants. Here is where the Team will be for the reset of 2023:

27 Sept, 11 Oct, 25 Oct, 8 Nov, 22 Nov and 6 Dec —Gunga Community Hub, Avoca.

In 2024, a member of the Recovery Team will also join the Comm Dev Team to visit townships.

## Grants

### 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>.

## 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



## 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](mailto:recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au)

## DISTRIBUTION OF RECOVERY NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is sent out monthly. 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).

# 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>