

# SKIPTON FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

Number 6: Wednesday 18 February 2026



**KEY CONTACTS: CORANGAMITE 5593 7100 | PYRENEES 1300 797 363**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### The Heart Project Art Exhibition

Sunday 22 February, 11 am - 5pm  
Beaufort Shire Hall

An immersive and emotional exhibition of works inspired by and reflecting on the 2024 Bayindeen-Rocky Road Bushfires by participants of The Heart Project.

Registrations for catering purposes

[events.humanitix.com/heart-project-exhibition](https://events.humanitix.com/heart-project-exhibition)

### Carranballac Rec Reserve Fundraiser with Merv Hughes

Friday 27 February, 12 - 6 pm  
The Royal Hotel, Snake Valley

A fundraiser event to bring our communities together and raise funds for the Carranballac Recreation Reserve. Featuring the talented Billy Menhennet and Merv Hughes!

Tickets can be purchased at:

[www.trybooking.com/DITGQ](https://www.trybooking.com/DITGQ)

## FIRE RECOVERY ENQUIRIES

For support enquiries, please contact your local Council.

Pyrenees Shire - 1300 797 363

Corangamite Shire - 5593 7100

If you are looking to lodge a claim for financial assistance contact:

- VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226 for Emergency Relief Payments
- Services Australia for Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payments or Disaster Recovery Allowance  
[servicesaustralia.gov.au](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au)

Please note: the Skipton Information Hub is **now closed**. The Streatham Recovery Hub is open on Fridays 1 - 4 pm at the Streatham Hall.

## COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS RECOVERY NETWORK

The Streatham-Skipton Fire Community Business Recovery Network was established on 22 January to ensure community needs are heard and reflected in all recovery efforts.

The Network brings together agencies involved in recovery and community representatives from across the fire-affected area, including the Skipton to Streatham Fire Recovery Group. It is chaired by Corangamite Shire Mayor Kate Makin, with Megan Read as deputy chair.

The Network is developing Community Recovery Action Plans outlining immediate, medium and long-term recovery actions. These plans will guide priorities and help secure funding. More updates will be shared soon.

### For more information, contact your local council:

- Ararat Rural City Council:  
Chandra Willmott – 5355 0200
- Pyrenees Shire Council:  
Ray Davies – 1300 797 363
- Corangamite Shire Council:  
Belinda Bennett – 5593 7100

Network Community Representatives include:

• Andrew Bodman	• Lyn Heenan
• Carmen Stewart	• Megan Read
• Dale McIntyre	• Peter Liston
• Deb Bain	• Richard Graham
• Luke Fay	• Vern Dawson
• Luke Jackson	

More details on support resources:



Corangamite  
[go.vic.gov.au/3YDCaOq](https://go.vic.gov.au/3YDCaOq)



Pyrenees  
[go.vic.gov.au/4t0gFW7](https://go.vic.gov.au/4t0gFW7)

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## BLAZEAI

Blazeaid has volunteers available to assist with rebuilding and repairing internal and external fences in the Skipton area.

This includes clean up of fences. Contact Christine Male on 0418 745 994 to register for assistance.

## RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE

RFCS Victoria West is available to assist farmers and small business owners impacted by the recent fires. Support is available in person, by phone on 1300 735 578, online at [wswrcs.com.au](http://wswrcs.com.au) or by sending an email to [enquiry@finwellsupport.com.au](mailto:enquiry@finwellsupport.com.au)

## RATES RELIEF

**PYRENEES SHIRE COUNCIL** recognises the need for respect and compassion in cases of financial hardship. Take the time to focus on you and your family's wellbeing and then reach out and let our team know what support you need. Where we know there has been structure impact, we will organise a rates revaluation and issue supplementary valuation notices accordingly.

Contact Council on 1300 797 363.

**CORANGAMITE SHIRE COUNCIL'S** Rates Collection & Hardship Policy recognises the need for respect and compassion in cases of financial hardship. The Policy provides for hardship support such as deferral of rates and payment plans.

Property owners are encouraged to call Council on 5593 7100 to discuss their situation.

## COMMUNITY BANK BEAUFORT

Community Bank Beaufort will establish a dedicated account to manage donations for people affected by the Streatham-Skipton bushfire. More details to come.



## CLEAN UP SUPPORT

Glenelg Hopkins CMA have works crews that can install sediment control measures to protect stock water points and waterways, as well as assist with clean-up and fence repairs. Contact 5571 2526 or email [ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au). Free removal of eligible bushfire-affected structures. [go.vic.gov.au/4qVjvtN](http://go.vic.gov.au/4qVjvtN)

## VICTORIAN PRIMARY PRODUCER BUSHFIRE RECOVERY GRANTS

Grants of up to \$75,000 to assist with the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of primary production enterprises that have suffered direct damage as a result of bushfires. Go to [ruralfinance.com.au/grants](http://ruralfinance.com.au/grants)

## LEGAL AND INSURANCE SUPPORT

These agencies provide free legal assistance, including help with insurance claims.

- Allied Justice 1800 466 488 or [alliedjustice.org.au](http://alliedjustice.org.au)
- Disaster Legal Aid 1800 113 432 or [disasterlegalhelp.org.au](http://disasterlegalhelp.org.au)
- Australian Financial Complaints Authority [afca.org.au/](http://afca.org.au/)

## IT'S OK TO NOT BE OK

### RURAL AID:

1300 175 594

### KID'S HELPLINE:

1800 551 800

### NATIONAL CENTRE FOR FARMER HEALTH:

1300 375 330

### MENSLINE:

1300 789 978

### 1800RESPECT

1800 737 732

### GRAMPIANS COMMUNITY HEALTH:

Head to Health: 1800 595 212

Step Thru Care: 5338 4500

### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: 24/7

1800 808 284

### AMBER COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY ROAD TRAUMA

1300 367 797

### BEYONDBLUE:

1300 224 636

### LIFELINE: 13 11 14