

## Fire Recovery Newsletter

If you have any questions, or need more information please call  
1300 656 564 or email [recovery@moyne.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@moyne.vic.gov.au)

### Community-Led Recovery

Moyne Shire in collaboration with Corangamite Shire and Southern Grampians Shire is proposing to establish Community Recovery Committees to support the communities affected by both the Garvoc Fire and Gazette–Hawkesdale Fire.

#### What's a Community Recovery Committee?

Local community recovery committees are established to help people meet and contribute to the recovery process after an emergency event such as our recent bushfires. A community recovery committee may comprise:

- Members of the community
- Personnel from Local Council, DHHS, Agriculture Victoria, VFF, Red Cross or other relevant local stakeholders.

The community recovery committee's work may include:

- representing the community in the recovery process
- facilitating dialogue between the municipal recovery manager and the community so as to regularly advise on issues of concern
- working with the municipal recovery manager and task groups to tackle specific issues
- assisting in the coordination of recovery initiatives undertaken in the community including special events.

**Please call:** Mat Deans 1300 656 564 if you would like to participate. We'd be glad to see you!



CORANGAMITE  
SHIRE



Southern Grampians  
SHIRE COUNCIL

### Personal Support

Lifeline: 1300 11 14. Men's Line: 1300 78 9978. Kid's Help Line: 1800 55 1800.  
Nurse on Call: 1300 60 6024

## Blaze Aid

Are you registered with Blaze Aid? We've discovered that some farmers who thought they were have since found out they are not. Please check! Call BlazeAid in Macarthur on 0437 397 665 or Terang on 0437 817 330



## Pasture Advice

One-on-one pasture recovery advice is now available to assist landholders affected by the March fires.

Through this new service, extension officers from Agriculture Victoria and WestVic Dairy will provide tailored information about:

- The impact of fire on your pasture
- How your pasture might respond to an autumn break
- How you can best plan for getting pastures back into production

Fires can have a drastic effect on a pasture. It can change the composition of the pastures and lead to a reduction in the growth and carrying capacity of the pasture in the following season. Fire changes pastures in different ways depending on the intensity of the fire, the pasture species present, the fertility of the soil, the time of the autumn break and follow up rains.

To speak to an extension officer about your situation and or to organise a free visit **Please call:** Agriculture Victoria Michele Jolliffe 0428 581 883. WestVic Dairy Helen Chenoweth (03) 5557 1000.

If you need fodder for your livestock, **Please call:** VFF on 1300 882 833.

The Rural Financial Counselling Service is also available to offer free and independent financial support to primary producers and non-agriculture related small businesses.

**Please call:** 1300 735 578.

Detailed information about recovering from fire, including a pasture recovery quick reference guide, can be found at [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/firerecovery](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/firerecovery)

## Wellbeing Support

Confidential emotional/psychological support, available 'on farm' is available. Please contact the farmer community Support Workers on 5563 4000 or 5232 5180.

General practitioners are also valuable providers of emotional/psychological support, and if required, can arrange additional assistance.

If you have urgent concerns about your own mental health, or the health of others, **Please call:** Mental Health Services on 1800 808 284 (24 hours).

## Contaminated Water

If you live in a fire-affected area your drinking water tank could have become contaminated from debris, ash, dead animals or aerial fire retardants.

If the water tastes, looks or smells unusual, do not drink it or give it to animals.

Use bottled water for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth et cetera until tanks can be cleaned and refilled.

**Please call:** Wannon Water on 1300 926 666 to flush clean and refill your tanks.

Wannon Water will arrange for a water carter to refill the tanks with potable water. This will be one 14,000L load per household, unless specific circumstances require more.

Town water is not affected.

## Tax Office Assistance

Australian Taxation Office assistance is available to fire-affected residents. If you have been affected by a disaster, such as the recent bushfires, don't worry about your tax affairs right away.

### Support is available while you recover

The ATO understands that during this time there are more immediate problems you will be facing.

### Assistance for small businesses

If you are affected by the recent bushfires, the ATO can help with your lodgement program and reconstructing records.

Find out more at [www.ato.gov.au/individuals/dealing-with-disasters](http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/dealing-with-disasters) please call: 1800 806 218.

Legal Advice

Disaster Legal Help Victoria provides free legal advice, assistance and referrals to people affected by a disaster.

For assistance, please phone Disaster Legal Help Victoria's free helpline **Please call:** 1800 113 432. This phone line is open 8.45 am-5.15 pm, Monday to Friday.

## Volunteering

If you'd like to volunteer to directly assist, HelpOut is working with the impacted communities to address their urgent needs.

Volunteers are encouraged to register online at Volunteering Victoria's HelpOut portal - [www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au/helpout](http://www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au/helpout)

## Thank you!

Thank to go to the businesses that have recently donated goods.

Coles Gateway Plaza and Woolworths Warrnambool East who have donated Easter Eggs and Pet Stock Warrnambool who donated a pallet of dog food.

If you need pet food, **Please call:** 1300 656 564.

