Local Government Minister in Corryong

Victorian Local Government Minister, Shaun Leane was in Corryong last week and met with Mayor David Wortmann, Councillors and CEO Juliana Phelps.

Minister Leane also met with Acting CEO BRV, Carmel Flynn and the team at the Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub, which gave him an insight into the recovery and rebuilding challenges across the Shire.

Discussions focussed on the challenges small rural councils face with financial sustainability, the State Government’s role in helping Council to deliver key infrastructure projects and services, and the need for additional funding to help small, rural councils with emergency management.

Minister Leane welcomed the opportunity to spend time in Corryong.

“It was great to meet the staff at the Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub and to learn about the support they are providing those impacted by last summer’s devastating bushfires,” he said.

Green light for 56 projects

There are now 56 more community projects with the green light after Round 2 of Towong Shire’s Community Recovery Grants Program was endorsed by Councillors. The projects have each received up to $5000.

Round 2 expenditure of $253,464 brings the program’s total to $494,919.

Mayor David Wortmann said he was delighted to see there were more applications in Round 2 than were received in Round 1.

“Council established the Community Recovery Grants Program to provide immediate assistance to impacted communities and support community led recovery initiatives,” he said.

“I congratulate those who were successful. Council officers will work with those who were not successful to access funds from alternate sources before being reconsidered in Round 3.”

The closing date for Round 3 applications is Friday, 14 May 2021.

Funds for the Community Recovery Grants came from the Commonwealth Government’s Bushfire Recovery Program ($550,000) and the Victorian Government’s Community Recovery and Resilience Grants ($200,000).

Tourism Development Expo

Towong Shire, with Upper Murray Inc and the Man from Snowy River Tourists Association, is hosting a free Tourism Development Expo next week.

Tourism, and particularly adventure tourism, has been identified as one of Upper Murray CRC’s five priority areas.

The Expo is geared to businesses that service tourists to the area, or anyone with a tourism business idea they would like to initiate.

Find out what tourism opportunities are arising that your business may be able to leverage from; what is involved in establishing an Airbnb or Hipcamp business; and how one successful North East adventure tourism business established and flourished.

Dinner and a drink are included but seats are limited to tourism business owners or those exploring the opportunity to delve into the industry. Registration is essential.

Where: Upper Murray Events Centre
When: Thursday, 11 March from 5.30 – 9.30pm
Register: tourismexpo.eventbrite.com.au