

Upper Murray Community Recovery

Farewell and Thank You to the Australian Defence Force

Towong Shire has bid farewell to the Australian Defence Force following eight weeks of support from Joint Task Force 646 as part of Operation Bushfire Assist. With almost half of the Towong Shire municipality impacted by the bushfires, ADF support was critical in managing the mammoth task at hand by providing relief and supporting initial recovery. The ADF worked together with Local and State Government and supporting agencies to provide assistance with route and property clearance, fencing, stock disposal, aviation and veterinary assistance.

Mayor David Wortmann said "I personally extend my sincere thank you to Joint Task Force 646 who have been a pleasure to work alongside. What we didn't anticipate was the incredible emotional impact the ADF had on lifting both our Council and our community at a time when we needed it most."

Captain Tama Verry said Task Force 646 were blown away by how welcoming and trusting the Upper Murray community have been. Members of Task Force 646 have already arranged to return to the area for local ANZAC Day celebrations.

The ADF kindly presented the community with a wood carving from the area, the gift will be displayed at the Corryong Information Centre.



Captain Tama Verry, Mayor David Wortmann, WO2 Virginia Morris and Commander Lieutenant Colonel Colin Lingo with the 'thank you' carving from the ADF.

Inspector-General seeks local input for Inquiry

The independent inquiry into the 2019-2020 Victorian fire season will examine Victoria's preparedness for and response to the bushfires. Inspector-General Tony Pearce will visit the Upper Murray to understand views and experiences. Community members are encouraged to attend, please register through inquiry-corryong.eventbrite.com.au

- **Corryong Memorial Hall - Thursday 12 March**
Doors open 5pm, meeting 6-8pm, light supper provided.
- **Cudgewa Hall - Thursday 12 March 2-4pm. No registration required.**

Has your fire-affected property been assessed?

A property assessment is an in-depth assessment of how a property has been impacted by bushfire. The assessment, led by Council, includes checking the safety of partially or completely damaged buildings and issuing building orders, the condition of septic tank systems, water tanks, and identifying hazards such as asbestos. This work will also potentially assist property owners' insurance claims and clean-up.

Other agencies from around Victoria have been brought in to assist us get this work done. Teams visiting properties in fire affected areas will liaise with homeowners, as best they can, to enter properties. Team members wear ID badges and will leave a notice for home owners if the property is unattended at the time. Over the next few weeks, teams will continue working around Mount Alfred, Tom Groggin, Tintaldra and surrounds.

Considering the removal of native vegetation?

Prior to any removal of native vegetation please familiarise yourself with permit requirements and if any exemptions apply. To find out more speak to a member of the Planning team at the Recovery Hub or visit www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation



Recovery Contacts

- **Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub:** Cnr Donaldson St & Towong Rd Corryong, Open 9am-4.30pm Monday-Friday
- **Towong Shire Council Recovery Helpline:** 1800 518 222 or email recovery@towong.vic.gov.au
- **Bushfire Recovery Case Support Coordinators:** 1800 560 760 or email connect@brv.vic.gov.au
- **Register for the Bushfire Clean-Up Program:** 1800 560 760 or visit vic.gov.au/bushfire-clean-up-program
- **Resources and Updates:** Visit towong.vic.gov.au or vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-victoria