

Upper Murray Community Recovery

Upper Murray Weekly Recovery Update - 28 May 2020
www.towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery

'Project Rainwater' Helps Twenty Families

Twenty bushfire-affected families have been the grateful recipients of a new rainwater tank. The initiative was first started by Dwayne Heath from Inspired Plumbing, who had close connections in the Upper Murray and was quick to volunteer his services following the bushfires. Finding a solution to provide a sustainable water supply was identified as a real need. Dwayne was quick to round up his tradie colleagues and some donated materials, allowing him to begin providing water tanks and camp showers to community members. As the initiative grew, the Recovery Team came on board which allowed the initiative to identify others in need. Other organisations also threw their support behind the project including Deloitte who stepped in to manage the project, Anglicare who donated the tanks, GIVIT who funded the installation through local plumbers and excavators and Reece who provided a grant to cover the plumbing materials.

Council's Recovery Team, in partnership with Bushfire Recovery Victoria, have arranged ongoing water cartage, providing a solution to challenges around ongoing access to water catchment.

The project has helped over twenty fire-affected families in the area. It is a great example of a collaboration between the community, government and organisations and individuals wanting to help. *Contributed by: Peter Williams, Volunteer Project Coordinator.*

A Heart Warming Gift

The Recovery Team received a special package last week, a handmade 'rocket' quilt from Bendigo. The quilt arrived with a note from its donor Jenny, asking that it be given to a young boy who lost his home in the bushfires.

The quilt found its new home with Logan, bringing a huge smile to his face. A beautiful little gesture all the way from Bendigo.



Firewood Collection Sites

Nine firewood collection areas are open through Forest Fire Management Vic (FFMVic). Any wood that is suitable firewood has been salvaged from hazardous tree works.

State and Local government have been working to ensure firewood could be collected from designated areas before the Autumn season closes on the **30th of June**.

Residents are advised that a large portion of the wood is green, making it more suitable to stockpile ahead of next winter.

For the latest information including interactive maps showing designated firewood collection areas and load limits, visit www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood, or call 136 186.

If you continue to have challenges sourcing firewood for this season, call 1800 518 222.

Bushfire Royal Commission

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements commenced this week with public hearings. Council has provided a submission that covers thirteen recommendations. The submission is available at www.towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery, along with the submission to the Victorian IGEM's Fire Season Inquiry – Phase 1.

Upper Murray Recovery Hub

Recovery services have continued to operate virtually throughout COVID-19. Following the easing of restrictions, the Hub is now open for drop-in visits with limited numbers to maintain physical distancing.

If you need one-on-one assistance in relation to a specific issue, please make an appointment so we can schedule the available space. Call 1800 518 222 or email recovery@towong.vic.gov.au.

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Recovery Contacts

- **Towong Shire Council Recovery Helpline:** 1800 518 222 or email recovery@towong.vic.gov.au
- **Bushfire Recovery Victoria - 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 www.towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery or www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-victoria