

# Towong Shire Community Recovery Newsletter

September 2021 | Edition 19



## PLAYLES HILL SECURES \$500,000 GRANT

Council is pleased to announce that it has secured a \$500,000 grant from Bushfire Recovery Victoria's *Local Government Authorities and Community Service Organisations Program* to support the redevelopment of Playles Hill.

In the wake of 2019/20 bushfires a group of passionate community members came together to develop the idea of a botanical garden at Playles Hill as a place for locals and visitors to reflect and reconnect.

Community members have since formed the Playles Hill Project Group, which includes members of the Man from Snowy River Tourist Association, Corryong Neighbourhood House, Corryong Community Recovery Committee and other interested locals.

The Man from Snowy River Tourist Association has also secured a \$10,000 grant from the Border Trust's Bushfire Relief Fund, as well as a \$25,000 grant from NewsCorp Australia's Bushfire Fund.

The Playles Hill Working Group have been busy over the last year, workshopping ideas and commencing working bees to tidy up the site and begin landscaping.

Council has been working with the group to develop a masterplan for the site, which includes provision for: carparking walking tracks, Informative signage, viewing platform; and visitor facilities including; shade structures, BBQ facilities, park furniture, and redevelopment of the toilet block.

The plans will be further developed and finalised over the coming months, with construction set to begin in 2022.

If you'd like to be involved in the Playles Hill Project Group, contact the Corryong Neighbourhood Centre on 02 6076 2176. Or visit the community-run Playles Hill Project Facebook page at [facebook.com/PlaylesHillProject](https://facebook.com/PlaylesHillProject).



## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKSHOPS

You're invited to a workshop help shape the Community Emergency Management Plans for your community.

Community Emergency Management Plans (CEMP's) are a practical way to help communities better connect and work together before, during and after emergencies.

Led by an independent facilitator, these workshops are an opportunity to develop solutions to ensure our community is safer and more resilient toward the impacts of extreme weather events and emergencies.

### TIMES AND LOCATIONS

#### **NARIEL VALLEY**

Upper Murray Events Centre  
Monday 4 October and Monday 25 October  
6pm for 6.30-8.30pm

#### **TOWONG**

Towong Soldiers Memorial Hall  
Tuesday 5 October and Tuesday 26 October  
6pm for 6.30-8.30pm

#### **THOWGLA**

Thowlga Hall  
Wednesday 6 October  
6pm for 6.30-8.30pm

#### **TINTALDRA**

Tintaldra Hall  
Thursday 7 October  
6pm for 6.30-7.30pm

#### **CUDGEWA**

Cudgewa Recreation Reserve  
Monday 18 October  
6pm for 6.30-8.30pm

#### **BERRINGAMA/LUCYVALE**

Lucyvale Hall  
Tuesday 19 October  
6pm for 6.30-8.30pm

#### **BIGGARA**

Biggara Hall  
Tuesday 20 October  
6pm for 6.30-8.30pm

#### **CORRYONG**

Upper Murray Events Centre  
Saturday 23 October  
11am for 11:30am-1:30pm

Registrations are required for catering purpose and to ensure we can make these workshops COVID safe.

For further details and to register visit [recoveryhub.eventbrite.com.au](https://recoveryhub.eventbrite.com.au) or contact the Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub on 1800 518 222 or [recovery@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@towong.vic.gov.au).

These workshops are supported by Towong Shire Council and Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Inc. with funding for the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments Community Recovery Package.



# SPOTLIGHT ON TINTALDRA CRC



With the support of the Tintaldra community, Tania Costello accepted the nomination of CRC Chair, seeing it “as a chance to become a part of the recovery process.”

Since then the CRC have focused on delivering projects that improve social connection and assist in fire preparedness for the whole community.

When asked about the biggest challenges, Tania said the number one hurdle for her personally was “learning how to Chair a meeting and engage a committee and allow all voices to be heard.”

But there were other challenges, with ongoing COVID regulations meaning it has been difficult to get the community together on a regular basis.

Tania said the pandemic has had a really big impact on the way the CRC engages with the broader community.

“By not having casual conversations with people at the pub or other places, I feel we are missing out on capturing good ideas from people, or their views on the recovery and rebuilding process” she said.

This includes the ability to engage with the community across the river, as these communities operate as one even though the border divides them.

Despite the delays and complexities caused by COVID and ‘red tape’, many CRC priorities have been able to commence. Some aspects of each project have been completed, whilst others are well underway. Key projects have included creating the Tintaldra Hall as a Community Emergency Relief Centre, upgrading the men’s and women’s facilities at the Tintaldra Recreation Reserve, and establishing a walking track from the Town down to the Reserve.

Re-establishing the Avenue of Honour within the Tintaldra township with the planting of additional trees, installation of story boards, a monument and seating to commemorate soldiers from World War I and II, is something the group have been particularly proud of.

For Tania though, the thing she is most proud of is the way the CRC committee and members have worked together.

“I am looking forward to seeing the completion of all the projects and getting back to ‘normal’ and moving on from the fires,” she said.

Tintaldra was first settled in the 1830’s and it’s economy is now based around agriculture and tourism. There are several agricultural enterprises in the district, with beef cattle being the chief commodity produced. The river provides excellent trout and Murray cod fishing. Nearby, a sculpture of a Murray cod leaping out of the water forms part of the Great River Road.

The 2019/20 bushfires weren’t the first time Tintaldra had faced the devastation of fire, with the bushfires of January 1939 having a lasting impact.

This time, the area primarily suffered loss of agricultural land, equipment, fodder and infrastructure. There were several homes lost, with five being places of primary residences. Livestock losses were significant for some properties, and some properties lost all their pastures and hay. There was devastating impact on the flora and fauna of Mount Mittamatite Regional Park and Flora Reserve with a large percentage of the trees not regenerating and access to the park for locals and tourists only opening up again this year.



## Firewood collection season open from 1 September 2021

Firewood collection season opened on 1 September. Now is the time to plan your firewood and your energy needs for next winter.

Firewood from State Forests is an unpredictable and finite resource. The Department of Land, Water and Planning are balancing the need to ensure the wood doesn't pose a fire risk with the desire to provide the community with firewood and ensure fallen logs are still available to wildlife.

Under the current coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions, if firewood is essential for home heating or cooking people can travel to the closest designated firewood collection area as long as physical distancing requirements are followed. Stay as close to home as possible, stay COVIDSafe, and be aware of the environment around you – trees can drop limbs or fall without warning.

For more information on where to collect and the rules to follow while collecting, visit [ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region](http://ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region).

Financial assistance is available for vulnerable Victorians who rely on firewood. Full details of energy concessions are available from [ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support](http://ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support).



## Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

## Nominations now open for the 2022 Australia Day Community Awards

Nominations now open for the 2022 Australia Day Community Awards

Do you know someone who is working hard to support your local community? Someone who is making a difference to the lives of people around them? Someone who inspires you?

Now is the time to recognise them!

Towong Shire Council, in partnership with local community groups, are delighted to confirm that nominations are now open for the 2022 Australia Day Community Awards. Awards will be given for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year at ceremonies held on 26 January 2022 in Corryong, Bellbridge, Eskdale, Walwa and Tallangatta.

Nomination forms can be found:

- Online: Visit [towong.vic.gov.au/australia-day](http://towong.vic.gov.au/australia-day)
- In person: Drop into the Corryong or Tallangatta Council Offices and Libraries

Submissions close 5pm Sunday 31 October 2021.

Applications for the 2022 AgriFutures Australia Rural Women's Award are now open.

## Applications for the 2022 AgriFutures Australia Rural Women's Award are now open

The Rural Women's Award is Australia's leading Award empowering and celebrating the inclusive and courageous leadership of women involved in Australia's rural and emerging industries, businesses, and communities. Winners of the award will receive a cash prize towards their business, project or program, access to professional development opportunities and alumni networks. For details on eligibility and how to apply visit [agrifutures.com.au](http://agrifutures.com.au).



**AgriFutures®**  
**Rural Women's Award**

**Have your say  
on the future of  
Towong Shire!**



## Council Plan 2021-2025

The draft plan was endorsed by Council at its meeting on 25 August and is now on public exhibition for community feedback.

### HOW TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK

View the plan at [towong.vic.gov.au](http://towong.vic.gov.au), or request a copy from Council by contacting us on 1300 365 222 or [info@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@towong.vic.gov.au).

Send your submission addressed to the Chief Executive Officer via:

- Email: [info@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@towong.vic.gov.au)
- Post: PO Box 55, Tallangatta, Victoria, 3770

Submissions close 5pm Friday 8 October.

## Council is developing a Sport and Recreation Strategy

The strategy will guide Council's decision making on the development and maintenance of sport, recreation and physical activity infrastructure and initiatives over the next 10 years.

We want to hear from our community to understand what sport and recreation activities are important, and how our facilities could be improved.

To have your say:

- Complete an online survey: [surveymonkey.com/r/Towongsport](https://surveymonkey.com/r/Towongsport)
- Pick up a hard copy survey: Drop into the Tallangatta or Corryong Council Offices and Libraries
- Attend a pop-up session: Visit Corryong IGA on Friday 15 October from 11am - 1pm, or Tallangatta IGA on Saturday 16 October from 10am - 12pm

Survey closes 5pm Sunday 24 October.

For more information, visit [towong.vic.gov.au/facilities-services/sports-recreation](http://towong.vic.gov.au/facilities-services/sports-recreation).



## Free Property Numbering

Free property numbering is available for all rural properties in the Upper Murray. The small reflective signs, with a number and green band, make it easier for emergency services to find rural properties at night and in poor visibility. You will need to provide your name, address and property number, which may be different from your address. Signs need to be placed somewhere visible from the road. Numbers are available to farms outside Corryong, Cudgewa central and Walwa central.

If you would like to order a sign, call the Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub on 1800 518 222 or email [recovery@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@towong.vic.gov.au).

## Upper Murray Energy Resilience and Reliability project

A project to support the reliability of the Upper Murray electricity grid is being undertaken by Upper Murray Incorporated in Partnership with Indigo Power – a community-owned renewable energy company and certified social enterprise based in Beechworth.

Developed with the community following the devastating 2019-20 bushfires The Upper Murray Energy Resilience and Reliability project, will move to shore-up the region's electricity supply with a focus on energy nodes, community-scale batteries and hot water pump services.

27 energy nodes will be installed across the region. Energy nodes are key community infrastructure, such as public halls, banks, and other places, which have solar, battery and generators installed to ensure electricity supply if the grid goes down. Community-scale battery systems will be installed at emergency facilities to provide back-up power.

Working with local community the project will also provide energy efficient alternatives. This includes 22 free hot water services to Upper Murray residents who lost their primary home during the fires, and another 100 discounted services to other residents.

If you'd like to find out more about the project contact Heath Shakespeare at Indigo Power on 1800 491 739.



# FOCUS ON GRANTS

## **Australian Government - Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program**

**\$5,000 - \$2 million | Closing 6 October 2021 - 9:00pm AEDT**

Do you have projects in mind for on your property or in your community that will contribute to improving the health and ecological conditions of rivers and wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin?

How about a project in mind that aims to improve community involvement in restoring the environmental health of the Murray-Darling Basin? Or a project that will have an impact on increased economic activity and employment in Basin communities as a result of grant funding?

## **National Recovery and Resilience Agency - Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant**

**\$20,000 - \$10 million | Closing 6 October 2021**

Grants are available for projects that address social and economic recovery and resilience needs in communities impacted by the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires.

## **AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant** **Closing Friday 8 October 2021**

The AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant is a new program developed to foster growth and development in women involved in Australia's rural and emerging industries, businesses and communities. The program encourages innovation and problem solving and is looking for women with an idea, cause or vision that benefits rural or emerging industries, businesses or communities.

## **Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife Bushfire Restoration Grants**

**Up to \$5,000 | No specified closing date**

Grants are available to support tree planting and revegetation projects as part of bushfire restoration projects in and around regions impacted by the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires.

## **Regional Arts Victoria Regional Arts Fund, Quick Response Grants**

**\$2,000 - \$4,000 | No specified closing date**

Grants are available to assist regional artists, arts organisations and communities to take up professional or skills development or small project opportunities.

## **Eastern Victorian Bushfire Rebuilding Rebate Programs**

**Up to \$5,000 | Closing June 2023**

This scheme is available to support landowners rebuild their homes that were destroyed or significantly damaged in the 2019-20 Eastern Victorian Fires in the Shires of East Gippsland and Towong. In the form of a rebate, the scheme supports the reclaiming of expenses accrued through profession planning and building permit applications.

## **St Vincent de Paul Society Bushfire Community Grants**

**Up to \$20,000 | No specified closing date**

Grants are available to organisations in bushfire-affected areas, providing funding for recovery projects that benefit multiple people. You must be a registered community group or organisation in order to apply for a grant.

## For more grants visit:

### **Victorian Government**

[vic.gov.au/financial-support](https://vic.gov.au/financial-support)

### **Bushfire Support Finder**

[au-deloitte.neotalogic.com/a/bushfire-support-finder](https://au-deloitte.neotalogic.com/a/bushfire-support-finder)

### **Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal**

[frrr.org.au/grant\\_calendar.php](https://frrr.org.au/grant_calendar.php)

### **Grant Connect**

[grants.gov.au](https://grants.gov.au)

### **Indi Funding Finder**

[helenhaines.grantguru.com.au](https://helenhaines.grantguru.com.au)

# COMMUNITY DIARY

To add your event to the Community Diary, email [recovery@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@towong.vic.gov.au) or call the Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub on 1800 518 222.

## **MEN'S SHED CHAT, CUPPA AND SOCIALISE**

Every Wednesday at 9am  
Corryong Men's Shed, Strzelecki Way

## **JOEYS, CUBS & SCOUTS**

Every Thursday at 5pm  
Corryong Memorial Hall

## **KNIT N NATTER**

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
Anglican Church Hall, Corryong  
Gold coin donation

## **LINE DANCING**

Every Monday except school holidays at 10am  
Corryong RSL  
\$5

## **THE 2021 CORRYONG SHOW**

27 November  
Corryong Recreation Reserve  
Contact: Serena Klippel on [sklippel@bigpond.net.au](mailto:sklippel@bigpond.net.au)

## **UPPER MURRAY FARMERS MARKET – TWILIGHT MARKET**

Friday 8 October from 4pm - 7pm  
Attree Centre, Corryong  
Contact: [umfmarkets@gmail.com](mailto:umfmarkets@gmail.com)

## **COMMUNITY GATHERING: ACOUSTIC MUSIC AND POETRY**

3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm  
The Resting Place - Poets Paradise, Towong  
Contact: Maurie Foun on 0429 100 279

# Recovery Contacts

## Support Hotlines and Websites

Speak to someone by calling:

**Bushfire Counselling** | 1300 514 811

**Corryong Health** | 02 6076 3200

**Tallangatta Health** | 02 6071 5200

**Family Violence 1800 RESPECT 24/7** | 1800 737 732

**Albury Wodonga Mental Health Triage**

**Line 24/7** | 1300 104 211

**Lifeline Bushfire Helpline** | 13 43 57

**MensLine Australia** | 1300 789 978

**Beyond Blue** | 1300 224 636

**Standby, Support after Suicide 24/7** | 0439 173 310

**Headspace** | 1800 650 890

Or visit:

**DHHS** | [dhhs.vic.gov.au/mental-health-resources-coronavirus-covid-19](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/mental-health-resources-coronavirus-covid-19)

**Australian Red Cross** | [redcross.org.au/stories/covid-19](https://redcross.org.au/stories/covid-19)

**Beyond Blue** | [coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au](https://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au)

**Phoenix Australia Centre for post-traumatic mental health** | [phoenixaustralia.org/coronavirus-covid-19](https://phoenixaustralia.org/coronavirus-covid-19)

## Towong Shire Bushfire Recovery Team

**Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub**

**Phone:** 1800 518 222 (Monday to Friday 9am-4pm)

**Email:** [recovery@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@towong.vic.gov.au)

**Website:** [towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery](https://towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/towong.shire.council](https://facebook.com/towong.shire.council)

## Local Area Recovery Officers

If you are yet to speak to your Local Area Recovery Officer, reach out directly:

**Tanya Aramini – Thowgla, Biggara** | 0457 726 595

**Kaye Nankervis – Walwa, Mt Alfred, Guys Forest, Pine Mountain, Tintalra, Corryong** | 0436 445 187

**Tony Irwin – Colac, Cudgewa, Berringama**

**Lucyvale, Nariel Valley** | 1800 518 222

**Shea Bloom – Nariel Valley, Towong** | 0428 950 739

## Bushfire Recovery Victoria

**Free Helpline:** 1800 560 760

**Email:** [connect@brv.vic.gov.au](mailto:connect@brv.vic.gov.au)

**Website:** [brv.vic.gov.au](https://brv.vic.gov.au)

## Agriculture Victoria (Recovery)

**Phone:** 0428 975 728

## Get In Touch

We are continually reviewing and improving the recovery information we provide and how we provide it.

If you have feedback, or have a story you would like to share, call **1800 518 222** or email [recovery@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@towong.vic.gov.au).

## Subscribe Today

To subscribe to the digital newsletter, email [recovery@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@towong.vic.gov.au). For past editions of this newsletter go to [towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery](https://towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery).

**Please note:** All photos in this newsletter were taken in compliance with COVID-19 regulations.

## About This Newsletter

This monthly newsletter brings together the latest updates and information to support Towong Shire residents and businesses through bushfire recovery.

This newsletter is a joint initiative by Towong Shire Council and Bushfire Recovery Victoria, with thanks to community members and supporting agencies including DELWP, Agriculture Victoria, Environment Protection Authority Victoria, CFA, Regional Roads Victoria and Parks Victoria.