

Towong Shire Community Recovery Newsletter

May 2021 | Edition 15



Earlier this month, Mayor David Wortmann welcomed the Upper Murray's newest residents at a Baby Welcome Ceremony and family fun day at the Attree Centre in Corryong. The day included pony rides, face painting and information from services assisting families.

The Upper Murray's newest residents are Alayah Bailey, Amelia Cooper, Harvey Cooper, Austin Pryse, Bobby Dean Downs, Bryan Harrap, Erza Wallace, Evie Hogg, Finley Collins, Gamble French, Gurniwaz Singh, Henry McNamara, Henry Nankervis, Hughie Alber, Lawson Hogg, Liam Mckay, Logan Beirs, Mackenzie Cleven, Maddison Condron, Magnolia Sheather, Marcus Summinago, Matthew Hodge, Piper Tyrell, Savannah Scholtes, Sonny Whitty, Tex Parker, Wade Nimmo and Xavier Vanderwalk.

BUSHFIRE DONATIONS

THE GREAT CLOTHING AND LINEN GIVEAWAY

**SATURDAY
5 JUNE 2021**

10 AM - 1 PM
The Relief Centre
At the old Corryong
Primary School site

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE

THE GREAT CLOTHING AND LINEN GIVEAWAY

The Relief Centre, next to the Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub in Corryong will be closing on June 30. Since early 2020, the Relief Centre has housed thousands of items of donated clothing, household items, furniture and tools.

There is new stock and lots of clothing for adults and children,

toys, baby wear and bed linen, all at no cost.

Call into the Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub from Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm for access to the Relief Centre or come down on Saturday 5 June, 10am-1pm for a free sausage sizzle.

Staff Profile

Shea Bloom

Local Area Recovery Officer for Nariel and Towong



TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF

I have lived in Corryong for just over 12 years. I am married with two boys, 12 and 10 years. We love doing most things outdoors as a family, fishing is very high up on our list. Talk to me about fishing and I'll be all ears. I have worked as a local Ambulance Community Officer for eight years and as a health care worker at Corryong Health for nine years.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR ROLE

I started working with Towong Shire in April this year as a Local Area Recovery Officer for Towong and Nariel communities. Our role is to liaise with the CRCs or Community Recovery Committees. We will help out where we can and if you have a question, we will do our best to get it answered for you in the best way we can.

WHAT PART OF WORKING IN RECOVERY ARE YOU MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Getting our community the right support they need or pointing them in the right direction and ticking off the goals they have set for their own community. Focus on the whole community's health, both physical and mental health, and their general wellbeing.

WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH WHAT DRIVES YOU TO KEEP GOING?

My family, friends and community. Also fishing! Fishing is very high up on my priority list.

'Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.'

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED SO FAR?

We are forever learning, some good things some not so good. We can and will always learn from our mistakes. Communities have been through this kind of devastation before. Everyone has a story, and we were all affected in different ways and have different wants and needs.

SOMETHING YOU ARE PROUD OF?

Our entire Upper Murray community. The amount of support we had for one another directly after the fires, personally I do not know how many hugs I dealt out, but it must have gone into the hundreds to thousands. The Australian spirit that was shown with donations, fodder, clothing, offers of agistment, offers of accommodation, so many Australians wanting to help their own. How lucky are we to live here?

Are you rebuilding after the fires?

Council held workshops at Corryong and Walwa this month to inform the community about the Rebuild Program and steps in the process to rebuild sheds or homes that were destroyed in the 2019/2020 fires.

The workshops were part of the existing Rebuild Support Service run by Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV). They helped to respond to changing conditions and to make sure residents, trades and professional service providers understand the rebuilding processes and funding streams currently available.

BRV and council are working collaboratively to provide support for local community rebuilding after the 2019/20 fires.

Property owners who lost their primary place of residence in the 2019/2020 fires can get financial and technical assistance to make informed choices in planning, design and commissioning of their rebuild, including:

- A copy of the completed preliminary bushfire hazard assessment – funded by the Victorian Government on behalf of property owners, saving them up to \$3000
- Access to planners, environmental health officers and building surveyors to assist with technical advice to support the permit application process
- More than \$20,000 in rebates for other essential assessments and infrastructure required as part of the rebuilding process, such as soil tests, geotechnical risk assessments, land capability (wastewater) assessments, and installation of septic tanks and new rainwater tanks.

If you missed the workshops and want to find out more, please contact Alison Blacket, Manager Rebuild Service, Towong Shire Council on 1300 365 222 or Alison.Blacket@towong.vic.gov.au



Walwa CRC

'just getting on with it'

Walwa township and its infrastructure were spared from the impact of bushfire, but in the surrounding farm community, 90-100 per cent of pasture and paddocks were lost.

No-one was injured, but stock, sheds, homes and equipment were decimated as two fire fronts tore through the area, cutting all communication with the outside world for a week.

Walwa Community Recovery Committee (CRC) Chair, Janice Newnham said in the days and weeks following the fires, the community rallied. Volunteers operated the Bush Nursing Centre kitchen to keep people fed and community organisations came together.

"In most disasters in our area, Walwa tends to be left to our own devices. We get cut off from the outside world, so we have to be fairly resilient. We had to organise ourselves," Janice said.

"I picked people who are usually the ones to put up their hands to volunteer on different organisations, from different localities, then emailed them with a plan to gather and represent the community."

The challenge was compounded when border closures, then COVID-19 restrictions, meant residents could not get to their relief centre in Jingellic.

"It was a kick in the guts after putting all that work in, and then we couldn't get there," Janice said.

"But what we have discovered is that our community is quite stable, well-resourced and naturally resilient.

"During the emergency people stepped up ... and in the aftermath and during the recovery process, which was so interrupted by the COVID-19 restrictions, people just got on with it.

"The generosity of outsiders was incredible - BlazeAid, Fencing for Fires, church groups, Sikhs. We couldn't have done it without them, or (Council's Local Area Recovery Officer for Walwa) Kaye Nankervis."

From the outset, the focus of Walwa CRC has been to make the community even more resilient in the face of future disasters.

High on the list of their priorities is a Community Emergency Management Plan, along with community connection and telecommunications.

Almost 18 months after the fires, the Community Recovery Committee is shifting its focus to monitoring progress to ensure projects come to fruition and to organise the Community Emergency Management Plan.

It is now looking beyond recovery.

"Our football club is in recess, but the facility needs a committee of management so we might migrate to become the Walwa Progress Society or something like that."

Now the committee would like more community involvement, and to encourage more people to come to the monthly meetings in order to maintain the momentum.

"Everybody's voice is welcome, and they need to share it," Janice said.

Pictured: Janice Newnham, Walwa CRC Chair



YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT



More than 20 young people braved the chilly weather and gave a bug thumbs up to Corryong Health for putting on a Youth Movie and Pizza Night this month.



Top Left: Taryn Cumming (Corryong Health), Bonnie Whitehead, Lilly Jeffs, Issy Hart. Top Right: Lexie Galbraith, Zoe McKimmie, Gemma McNamara Bottom Left: Kris Kamba, Tahnia Whitsed and Taryn Cumming (Corryong Health) Bottom Right: Layne Klippel, Jack Jarvis, Darby Whitehead.

Davis Cottage will officially launch on Friday 18th June between 6-8pm with a community exhibition titled:

Something for Everyone

If you are a painter, musician, sculptor, poet, writer or any other form of creative, we'd love to hear from you to exhibit your work in this community group show.

*We are currently seeking submissions:
Deadline 4th June 2021*

For further information please contact Evette Pepper, Towong Shire Community Artist:
Email: fineartistsumv3707@gmail.com
Phone: 0421 280 029



Something for Everyone

Davis Cottage on Jardine Street in Corryong has been spruced-up and is now ready to be used as an Arts Centre.

An exhibition called Something for Everyone will be the first official community exhibition to re-launch Davis Cottage and will highlight the amazing local creative talent in the area.

Please show your support by attending the event, or by submitting a piece of your own art. We hope to have a varied mix of sculptures, paintings, drawings, poetry, music and much more besides. We welcome all styles and types of art and would like to see what you create.

Artwork submissions need to be supplied before 4 June 2021 to give us time to hang the exhibition, so please do get involved — don't be shy — and help to make this a great exhibition.

To obtain an art submission from, or to RSVP, please contact Evette Pepper: fineartistsumv3707@gmail.com or phone 0421 280 029.

The 'Something for Everyone' exhibition will take place on Friday 18th June, 6-8pm, so do put the date in your diary and join us for drinks and canapés (to complement a feast for the eyes and ears)!



Trees for Trout

The North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) project team of Andrew Briggs and Mick Broughton would like to thank everyone who joined them on a massive tree planting event at Nariel Creek this month.

Nariel Creek is an iconic trout stream and suffered severe damage in last year's fires.

NECMA, Corryong Angling Club, the Australian Trout Foundation, Victorian Fisheries Authority, Native Fish

Australia and the Victorian Fish Habitat & Flows Group combined in the joint seven-day effort to revegetate the riparian zones along the creek.

Pictured: Jordan, Nic Gigliotti from NECMA and Tom White from Australian Trout Foundation.

Pic credit: David Anderson twigwood.com



Cudgewa Avenue of Honour

The Cudgewa Avenue of Honour is on its way to returning to former glory with Autumn Blaze Maples to be planted along Cudgewa Valley Road south of the football club. The Cudgewa community identified these trees as the preferred option following the Arborists report on the health and safety of the trees impacted by the bushfires.



Cudgewa tennis a big hit

Cudgewa Tennis Club is celebrating their new tennis courts with work complete on the upgrade, resurfacing and installation of LED overhead lighting. The works were funded with a \$180,000 Local Economic Recovery (LER) grant of \$180,000 and \$5000 from the Council's Community Recovery Grants to upgrade the clubrooms. The official opening will be in late spring.

FOCUS ON GRANTS

Strengthening Mental Health in Rural Communities

Up to \$20,000 | Expressions of Interest by June 8

In a Good Place is a national grants program funded by CCI Giving. It provides for community-driven initiatives that reduce social isolation, increase social participation and connectedness, and encourage people in remote, rural and regional communities who are at risk of or are experiencing mental health issues to seek help.

Priority will be given to initiatives that:

1. Are delivered via non-clinical providers of mental health care, such as school counsellors and teachers, pastoral care teams, neighbourhood or community groups, or via technological or other innovative methods;
2. Improve accessibility and availability of mental health services, tools or support to areas with limited or no access to the same;
3. Provide innovative responses that are inclusive, building social connections that lead to better mental health;
4. Confront stigma surrounding help-seeking behaviour.

For program guidelines and to apply, go to www.frrr.org.au/funding/place/in-a-good-place/

Announced September 2021, funds must be used within 12 months.

AMP Foundation Tomorrow Makers

\$5,000–\$100,000 | Closes 9 June

Every year AMP's Tomorrow Fund awards \$1 million in grants to individuals working to make a positive impact in any field.

Australian citizens and permanent residents of all ages, interests and walks of life can apply for grants of between \$5,000 and \$100,000.

Since 2014, the AMP Foundation has awarded grants to over 300 Tomorrow Makers working in fields as diverse as art, athletics, science, social innovation, music, medical research and more.

Funds can be used for range of activities and expenses, including equipment, study, research, salaries, promotion and travel. Whatever it takes to make a positive impact.

To find out more or to apply go to www.ampstomorrowfund.com.au

Emergency Sporting Equipment Grant Program

Up to \$2,000 | Closes 30 June

This grant is for local sport and active recreation clubs and organisations to replace essential sports equipment that was lost or destroyed as a consequence of unpreventable and exceptional events, such as fire.

Applications are accepted from local community sport and active recreation clubs which participate in organised competition recognised by Sport Australia.

Full details, guidelines and applications at www.sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/emergency-sporting-and-recreational-equipment

Victorian Landcare Grants

Up to \$30,000 | Closes 16 June

Up to \$30,000 is available for on-ground works, capacity building activities, community education and engagement that protects, or improves natural assets such as native vegetation, native fauna, waterways, wetlands, and soils.

All Victorian Landcare and environmental volunteering groups and networks with a focus on on-ground land and natural environment improvement are eligible.

Applications need to be made through North East Catchment Management Authority.

For guidelines and to apply go to www.environment.v.gov.au/grants/victorian-landcare-grants

For information on these and other available grants, contact the Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub on 1800 518 222 or email recovery@towong.vic.gov.au

Check first before destroying native vegetation

If you are planning to remove, destroy, lop or spray native vegetation, it is best to discuss your proposal with a Council officer before submitting your application.

These activities are illegal without a permit and can incur substantial fines.

Clause 52.17 of the Towong Planning Scheme is a state-wide planning clause to ensure there is "no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation".

Council works closely with DELWP Hume region on native vegetation matters, including applications to remove native vegetation, to ensure a regional approach.

A permit is required from Council to remove, destroy, lop or spray native vegetation even if it has been burned in the 19/20 fires, is nearly dead or there are weeds in the undergrowth.

Speaking with a Council officer first will clarify whether the proposal is likely to be supported.

Sometimes further information may be needed to support your application, such as reports from specialists such as arborists and native vegetation experts.

Some exemptions are in place and include (but are not limited to):

- Clearing of native vegetation on both sides of a fence must not exceed 4 metres in total combined width
- Regrowth on land that that was lawfully cleared up to ten years ago
- Native vegetation on an area of less than 0.4ha on contiguous land in one ownership
- Native vegetation removed to enable removal or destruction of weeds (limitations apply).

For more information, contact Council's Planning team on 1800 518 222 or email Alison.Blacket@towong.vic.gov.au



RED CROSS FARM FIRST AID TRAINING

On-farm accidents are a major concern, involving workers and bystanders (including children) and happen in a range of circumstances on a variety of farm and agricultural enterprises.

Red Cross' Farm First Aid is being delivered by an accredited First Aid trainer. Participants will be given the knowledge and skills to help themselves, and others, to cope with accidents and injury both from a physical and mental wellbeing perspective.

As part of the course, there is a wellbeing section that is designed to help start the conversation around mental wellbeing and increase awareness of relevant services available for individuals, family and friends.

On completion of the course, participants receive a Statement of Attainment in Provide Basic Emergency Life Support (HLTAID002) – often required for insurance and employment opportunities.

Topics include: basic life support (DRSABCD), perform CPR, breathing emergencies, allergic reaction / anaphylaxis, cardiac emergencies, severe bleeding and wound care, fractures and dislocations, shock management, envenomation, wellbeing and mental health support and assistance, environmental impacts, reporting, recovery and resilience, legal requirements.

Training is free for primary producers, farm workers and farm contractors.

Morning and afternoon teas and lunch is provided.

To register contact Jessica on 0439 634 601.

Walwa - 16 August

Corryong -17 August

Corryong -18 August

COMMUNITY DIARY

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

Tom Siegert is

THE SUBURBAN FOOTBALLER

MANLY MUSIC Every Wednesday

(except during school holidays)

Corryong Baptist Church, Hanson Street - 10.30am to 12.00pm. Parents and young children, aged from birth to pre-school, for a half hour session of song, actions, rhymes and rhythm, followed by morning tea. \$3.

PUB TRIVIA NIGHT Every Thursday Night

Corryong Hotel Motel, Corryong from 6.30pm

RELIEF CENTRE CLOTHING AND LINEN GIVEAWAY AND SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Saturday June 5 10am-1pm

All donated clothing etc must be cleared, new stock recently arrived. At the Relief Centre in the old Primary School site.

FEDERAL FNC COMEDY NIGHT Saturday June 5

The Suburban Footballer at Corryong Events Centre from 7pm. Finger food provided. Tickets \$25 at the door.

DARTMOUTH CUP FISHING CLASSIC

June 11-13

This great comp has now been going for over 25 years. Competitors are capped at 500 so you need to get in quick to secure your spot. A fantastic weekend is planned with great prizes up for grabs. Go to Dartmouth.net.au/ Dartmouth-cup/ for details.

COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION 18 June

Davis Cottage, Jardine St, Corryong (see page 4)

TUMBARUMBA FNC 50TH ANNIVERSARY BALL

Saturday June 19

Pioneer Hall, Tumbarumba. All past and present players and members are invited to a sit-down meal and entertainment. 18+ event. To book go to facebook.com/tumbaroos

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 | www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/mental-health-resources-coronavirus-covid-19

Australian Red Cross | www.redcross.org.au/stories/covid-19

Beyond Blue | www.coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au

Phoenix Australia Centre for post-traumatic mental health | www.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

Website: www.towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery

Facebook: 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 | 0427 869 019

Shea Bloom – Nariel Valley, Towong | 0457 726 595

Bushfire Recovery Victoria

Free Helpline: 1800 560 760

Email: connect@brv.vic.gov.au

Website: www.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.

Subscribe Today

To subscribe to the digital newsletter, email recovery@towong.vic.gov.au. For past editions of this newsletter go to www.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.