

Buchan Phoenix

Rising from the ashes...

Communication for the community by the community.

April 2020 Issue 43

Produced by Buchan District Outreach Inc. trading as Buchan Neighbourhood House A14882S



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The newsletter is delivered to every household in the District and is also available online at buchan.vic.au or via Facebook at Buchan Neighbourhood House. All editions are available electronically at the State Library online site (Trove). If you are not receiving the newsletter please contact us and we will ensure that a copy is mailed to your address.

Newsletters can be posted for an annual fee of \$16.50 incl. GST per 12 editions to anyone outside the district, or contact us with your email address and we can send an electronic version for free. Dates for submissions will be advertised in each edition and we welcome your contributions.

Submissions closing date for the next edition will be Monday 4th May.

We welcome articles and contributions from everyone and encourage our local clubs, groups, agencies organisations and businesses to send us their information.

Submissions can be sent to info.buchan@gmail.com or drop them into the Neighbourhood House.

Advertisements are \$55 for 12 editions or \$5.50 per edition.

The Buchan Neighbourhood House takes no responsibility for opinions expressed by contributors to the *Buchan Phoenix*. The Editors reserve the right to reject articles and advertisements and to edit submissions if necessary. **All submissions should include the author's full name, address and phone number, but may be anonymous if preferred.** Buchan Neighbourhood House is open Monday to Thursday from 10.00am—4.30pm.

So much has happened since our last edition.

Adaptability, resilience, and the ability to accept change are now our everyday challenges as is the need, more than ever to stay connected.

Every one of us will experience COVID 19 very differently as was the case with the fires but as with the fires we are a supportive, dynamic community who are more than capable of looking after each other and getting on with it.

I don't live alone but have friends who do and they are starting to find that having very minimal human contact is becoming difficult. And there are those who are currently living under much more confined conditions due to the bushfires and feeling frustrated as services and developments are hampered. There is possibly even less for them to do without a home and garden and for others more things that need doing than before.

There are our families who may be finding it harder to keep everyone from getting bored and are looking at remote learning challenges and our older adults including myself who fear the idea that our loved ones or ourselves will be infected. There will be financial struggles due to business and job losses all of which may cause distress for many of us.

We are all in this together as we understand that everyone is in a very different situation. I'm noticing as I stay in isolation as much as possible working from home that phone calls are longer than usual with everyone taking some time to chat.

And because I have spent so much time away in the past few months, staying at home has given me sometime to catch up on things that have been neglected for sometime and Tracey and I are still working our usual hours and are contactable by phone or email. Vera is not currently working so I'm editing the newsletter this month.

So my plan to help keep me sane during COVID-19 is to do the following

- Keep to a routine and set myself daily tasks
- Exercise. (I don't exercise in the traditional way but I do garden)
- Keep in contact with family and friends
- Learn new things
- Be kind and understanding
- Be creative
- And don't do too much naval gazing

Stay safe and stay connected

Evelyn Schmidt

Coordinator

Buchan Neighbourhood House

Corona Virus COVID-19

To stay informed visit www.health.gov.au or call the Coronavirus Information line on 1800 020 080, 24 hours a day, seven days per week.



The *Buchan Phoenix* would like to acknowledge the Gunaikurnai People, Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Darren Chester

Federal Member for Gippsland

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#lovegippsland



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community

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and Communications Budget



Wanted to buy

Acreage – Buchan and surrounds.

Ideally within a 20 minute drive from Buchan.

Would consider up to 500 acres or thereabouts.

Will consider with or without house.

Phone: 0419 008 393

For all your Bushfire information get
the current East Gippsland Shire
Council **Bushfires 2019 –20**
Community Newsletter subscribe by
emailing media@egipps.vic.gov.au.

Salt Room Therapy

A natural treatment!

- Salt room sessions can help skin conditions such as psoriasis and eczema and a range of respiratory ailments, including sinus, colds, asthma, allergies and bronchitis. Also aids the immune system and general health and wellbeing.
- Use in conjunction with medications you have been prescribed.
- Salt therapy is 30 mins in duration and costs \$30 per session.
- Sit comfortably in the spacious salt chamber while listening to music or meditating. One or two people at a time.
- Sometimes called halo therapy, the chamber is designed to provide a relaxing and unusual experience.
 - Bookings essential.

Phone Sandra on 5155 9416 or 0428 559 470 for an appointment.



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For information contact

Peter Washington

0418 337 955



Buchan Neighbourhood House

TOOL LIBRARY

The Tool library is now located at the Neighbourhood House with a new container situated between the main building and the Nissen Hut. Tools in the library are available to borrow by anyone.

Items in the library include extension leads, grinders, generators, industrial vac, drills, nail guns, bench saws, circular saws, sanders and lots more. All items have been tagged and tested. Just give us a call and we can arrange access to borrow these tools.

The Victorian Men's Shed Association has offered to build shelving for the tool library but are now closed and this will occur sometime in the future when the situation changes. They have also offered to provide a donation of tools but I have asked them to wait until we can work out what we need. The Lions Club of Bairnsdale have also offered to donate some more tools to the library.



TOOLS TO KEEP

Second hand tools donated to the community are currently available outside the Neighbourhood House next the new Tool Library Container. These are for anyone in our community and include spades, shovels, saws, garden tools and guttering fixtures to name just a few.

Please just take what you need.

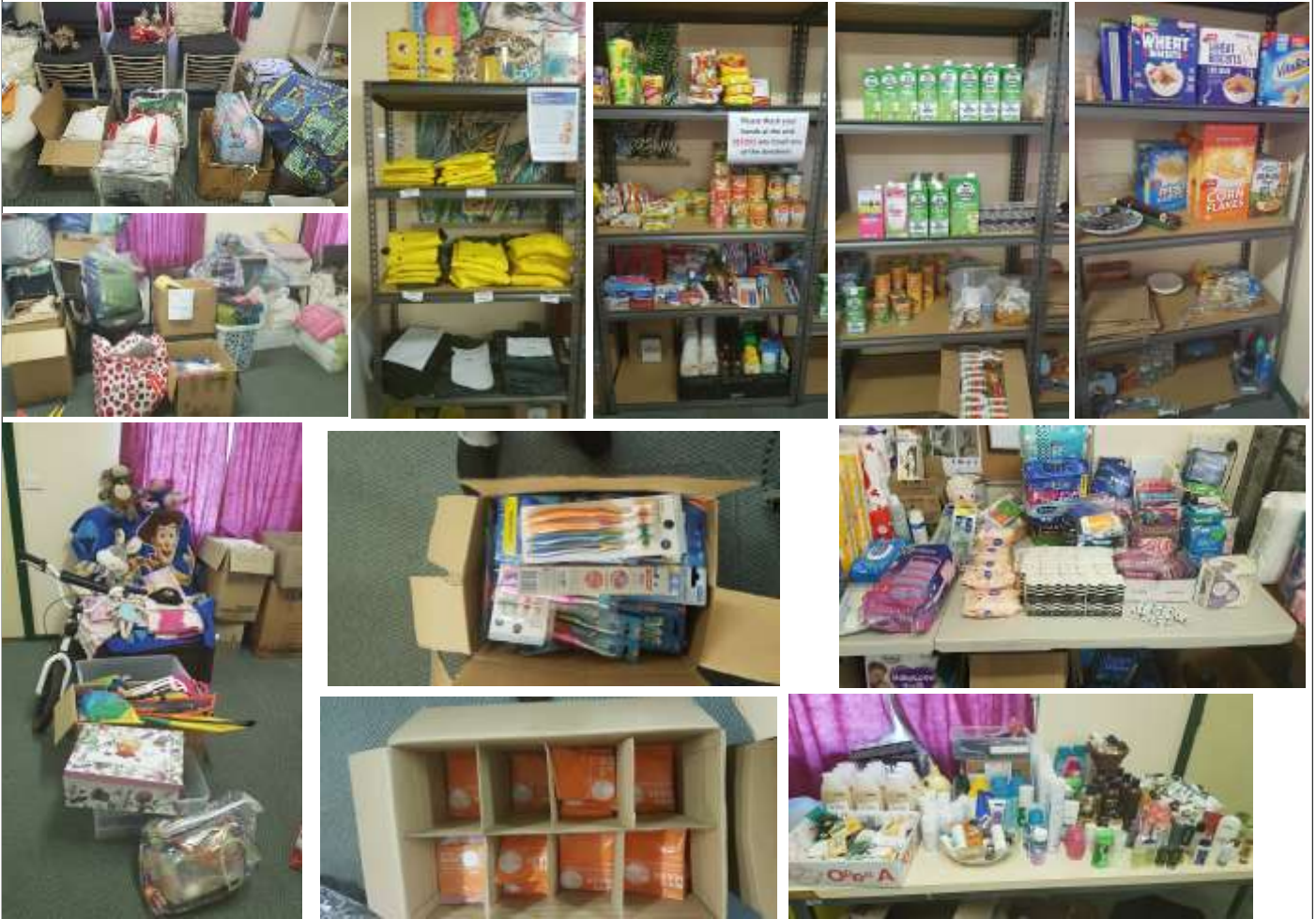


DONATIONS AT THE HALL

The donations at the hall (mainly clothing and bedding) will be remaining there until the opportunity shops reopen to accept donations. We may be able to provide some further access to these donations in the future.

DONATIONS AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

If you would like to access these donations, please just give us a call and we can arrange to open the House. To give everyone a better idea of what is left I have taken some photos. There is no pet food!



Items include bedding, kids toys, games and books, personal products, toothbrushes. Long life milk, 2 minutes noodles, cereal, masks , shampoo, conditioner and other bathroom items.

GETTING THE THINGS WE NEED

Judy Gray , Treasurer at the Neighbourhood House has been ringing around to check in with people and find out if they need any assistance in their road to recovery as we still have offers of donations and requests to help that we would like to match to what is needed. Please ring Judy on 0428 736 315.

LIONS CLUB VOUCHERS

Both the Neighbourhood House and the Buchan and Gelantipy Bush Nursing Services have been assisting Uniting Church minister Laurie Baker to reach out and get the \$1500 vouchers to member's of the community.

NATIVE, FROST HARDY PLANTS AVAILABLE

Have you lost gardens, trees and/or shelter belts in the recent Buchan and District fires? Please let me know what you need and I'll aim to get them for you as you need them. Contact Grace Davis 0457583940 or gracedavis626@hotmail.com

Some locals have already received plants and fruit trees from donated stock given by the Lakes Entrance Garden Club and via vouchers donated from a local Nursery. There are plenty of plants and some Nursery vouchers still available for anyone ready to begin planting. The natives are suitable for our climate.

If you are ready to plant natives now, please contact me as I'm picking up 100 native, FROST HARDY PLANTS this Friday 17th April.

They will be ready for you by APPOINTMENT ONLY so we can continue physical distancing. Please call to arrange a time.

Approximately 1000 native plants will be available for us from early Spring to Summer as Garden Clubs across Victoria are taking cuttings and potting on plants for us now. There will also be other non-natives available. How generous!

We're also looking out for grants available for shelter belts down the track.

Stay safe and the plants are coming back!

ROTARY CLUB CONTAINER DONATIONS

Our Vice President Susanne Davies has been working together with Pearl from Rotary Bairnsdale to follow up once again, about what is happening with the delivery. We are all going to have to be patient as Pearl explained, that due to the Corona-virus the Logistics people in Melbourne that are going to roll these out, will not allow the truck drivers to truck them up at this time when we all should be in lock down unless it is an essential service. We understand you are so in need of your shipping container being delivered and hope this is the last glitch we encounter.

Bottled Water is still available and we will be keeping this replenished. We have 600ml bottles at the side of the building on the veranda for ANYONE in the community who is in need of drinking water.

We are still providing access to the internet, computers, scanners and printing and selling water tokens for the standpipe.

Staff will be at the House from time to time and are happy to open the Centre by appointment to come and use the facilities and access these resources.

COMMUNITY PHONE BOOK

We are currently printing 100 updated Community Phone books as there are no longer any available. We will be printing out another 100 booklets at a later date as numbers and information are continually changing.

If you are requiring any other assistance at this time, please do not hesitate to call us.
We will continue to print the newsletter and will be posting information on our Facebook Page.
It seems that we may be working this way until May

(Idle) Thoughts on Self Isolation.

My decision to isolate was made early in the piece, at the behest of my very loving, and very worried son.

I got away with an emergency trip to the dentist a month ago (last chance to stockpile the only teabags I like, Lindt chocolate, dishwasher tablets and heaps of dried beans and lentils), but I haven't been further than 3 ks from home since.

And although I really miss all you Buchan people, (especially the ratbag element), I love not working and just being home. I especially love not rushing. If this is retirement bring it on.

As a Baby Boomer I've still got an extra 18 months to wait after I make 65 soon. And that looks a long way off from where I sit to day.

I'm lucky. I have a gorgeous house (thanks to a legion of contributing blokes lead by my brother Michael, who built the house for me he should have built for himself). I have 25 acres I have cherished for over 34 years. I have Tim home to look after me (again), camping in our shed. We always have done better living close but under separate roofs. I always have a vegie garden and preserves. And a full pantry and freezer. Growing up in Wulgulmerang taught me to stockpile everything.

No toilet paper issues because I buy ethical 'Who Gives a Crap' bamboo fibre rolls by the carton as part of my constant, one-woman campaign to save the world.

And no shortage of things to do. The jobs that need doing and the fun stuff I've never have time for.

And good friends here in W Tree who have shopped for me, bartered food we haven't got, fixed things etc.

The biggest laugh was James Bolitho stuffing newspapers and flour and beer into my letterbox, and videos he deemed "appropriate".

'Seeking a Friend for The End of The World', and 'The Last Man on Earth'.

So far so good.

Contributed by Deborah Woodburn.

Jenny McLean sent in this piece after the Neighbourhood House asked for some stories to share via our Facebook Page. Thank you Jen for sharing your story.

How has the Corona Virus been for you?

So life for me has not been the same since 2 days after Christmas when Dave sent me to Melbourne with the kids and the dog to be out of harms way and I am so glad he did. He stayed and fought fires to protect our beautiful town and I did not see him again for 7 weeks when I finally ventured back and by the grace of God our bush home was spared, even though the Tara was burning.

Meanwhile in Melbourne I got to enjoy our first grandson and be present at the birth of his cousin, our second grandson... (out of the ashes....) Dave was able to slip down to Melbourne for a few days and revel in the joy of two long awaited babies, one of whom is his doppelganger! Not wanting to leave the house unprotected, he soon returned to Buchan and once the smoke had cleared I returned too.

And now, having not been able to come home, I am not allowed to leave home! How the tide has turned...Initially I recommenced my art classes in Bairnsdale until they also were cancelled so now I have found another way- I am teaching myself to draw through you tube tutorials. There are so many resources on the internet and many wonderful tutorials.

I am keeping my distance from Bairnsdale and only shopping early and back before lunch. I have noticed that most people are complying with social distancing and together we will pull through this. It certainly makes me proud to see Victorians doing the right thing and has given me faith in the power of unity. What us humans are capable of in adversity is mind blowing and has certainly been proven over and over again in the past few months. How this will change our world and the lessons learnt is yet to be seen but I think it will be positive.

The following events at the Neighbourhood House have been postponed until further notice
 Monday community lunches with Di Robinson
 Massage with Sharon Dent
 Mental Health First Aid
 Carers workshops with Jo

Media Release

The Hon Luke Donnellan MP
 Minister for Child Protection
 Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers



Tuesday, 17 March 2020

BOOST FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES AFFECTED BY BUSHFIRES

The Andrews Labor Government is standing with fire-affected communities across Victoria, with a funding boost for frontline Neighbourhood Houses.

Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Luke Donnellan today announced 15 neighbourhood houses will receive an extra \$10,000 each in recognition of the incredible efforts of staff and volunteers from Cane River to Corryong.

Neighbourhood Houses were a focal point and sanctuary for many communities in the path of this summer's bushfires, with people turning to them for shelter, material relief like clothes and food, communications help and emotional support.

The investment will help pay for the extra support given to generously by Neighbourhood Houses through this time – including the costs of electricity, utilities and wages.

The Neighbourhood Houses that will receive the one-off payment are:

- Buchan Neighbourhood House
- Bruthen and District Neighbourhood House
- Benambra Neighbourhood House
- Bemm River District Neighbourhood House
- Oribet Neighbourhood House
- Cane River Community Centre
- Community Centre Swifts Creek Inc
- Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House
- Bragolong Community House Inc
- Corryong Neighbourhood House
- Bendoc Resource Centre and Neighbourhood House
- Malacoota District Health and Support Service Neighbourhood House
- Tallangatta Neighbourhood House
- Tubbut Neighbourhood House
- Lakes Entrance Neighbourhood House

The \$150,000 investment complements the work of the Labor Government's \$14.4 million Bushfire Care Support Program – which offers free, tailored support to people directly impacted by bushfires – and its \$23.4 million investment in better mental health and wellbeing support.

Affected Victorians can access a case support coordinator by contacting their local council, visiting a recovery centre or calling 1800 560 760.

Fire Recovery Infrastructure Grant

The VFF have just opened a grant program for up to \$3000 grant for infrastructure items to support farmers who have experienced fire damage on their property in the recent fires.

The grants are to support farmers, whose properties were damaged in the recent fires, to purchase infrastructure items – e.g. fencing materials, water infrastructure (pipes, troughs), livestock handling (cattle yards), seed or fertiliser.

Applications open on Tuesday 14 April 2020. **Funds will be allocated on a 'first in, best dressed' basis until the available funding is committed.** Therefore, the electronic grant application process is encouraged.

See link below for further information and for the application form.

https://www.vff.org.au/vff/Projects/Fire_Recovery_Grants/vff/Projects/Fire_Recovery_Grants.aspx?hkey=a29b497b-df95-4b92-8a1d-fc798195fcf6

FIREWOOD COLLECTION

1st March to 30th June 2020

MAPS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

The maps are for sites in the Colquhoun, Ramrod - near Bruthen - and south of the Princes Hwy near Wombat and Waygara. One new area has opened since the last newsletter but no word on the coupes opening where the trees from the road side clearing tree have gone.

They are also online at <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/find-a-firewood-collection-area>

Willow Café Tea Rooms

Local Resident Carla Palmer had planned to open the Willow Tea Rooms this Easter but needless to say that is not happening. But when we do get back to being able to socialise, these beautiful cosy tea rooms will be opening on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Mondays or book for that special group gathering for high teas.

Carla has designed the tea rooms so you can meander through the different room set ups decorated in old world charm. You can relax by the open fire during the colder months or pick your own favourite table to sit at.

This is Carla's new adventure after selling Willow Collective Boutique in Lakes Entrance to focus on helping the community post fires to grow into a fantastic tourist destination. The tea rooms are a great place to visit with family and friends and ideal for bikers, (push or motor), car enthusiasts, walkers and more....

So here are some glimpses of what we have to look forward to.





The Royal Flying Doctor Service is offering Campbell Sinclair and Robin Lewington of the RFDS Wellbeing Program at the Buchan and Gelantipy Bush Nursing Centres. This is a free and confidential service.

Clinicians can help you with:

- Building coping skills
- Getting back to your regular life
- Learning skills for coping with your current stresses and pressures
- Resolving family issues and keeping your family together
- A learning to "sleep better without drugs" program
- And more...

Please make a booking at the Buchan BNC on 5155 9222 or Gelantipy BNC on 5155 0274

Rob Gordon Presentation

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 social distancing requirements advised by the Public Health Officer it is not possible for Dr Rob Gordon to come to the community in person.

Council and Bush Fire Recovery Victoria are working on providing a recorded webinar and more information will be provided as to when the presentation will be available.

Rob Gordon did do a presentation on April using zoom via Red Cross. Watch this space.

Rob Gordon is a clinical psychologist who has been working in the field of disaster recovery since Ash Wednesday in 1983. He is a consultant to Red Cross and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and has worked with people and communities after the Port Arthur shooting, the Bali Bombing, Black Saturday, the Christchurch Earthquake as well as numerous floods, fires, cyclones and other events throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Disaster expert Dr Rob Gordon presented this webinar **Bushfire Recovery during COVID-19 Looking after yourself, family, friends and community** on Thursday 7th April to talk about how we recover from bushfire while responding to COVID-19.

And here is a link to the recording if you would like to listen to it. https://youtu.be/1iQealJg_1Q

It provides some great insights and was attended by over 300 people from across Australia. I would highly recommend anyone in Buchan to have a listen as he talks about the effects of COVID-19 and how we can ensure we are all safe and well.



East Gippsland Water

latest billing cycle to all customers by a month to provide some respite with 35 days allowed for payment instead of the normal 28 days.

Financial Relief Available

A range of financial relief measures have been established to help East Gippsland Water customers directly impacted by the recent bushfires.

We estimate 200 homes and businesses were destroyed in the East Gippsland Water service area, and significant service disruption caused to some communities.

We are supporting impacted customers by easing some of the financial pressure at this very difficult time. We have delayed our

For customers directly affected by fire damage or service disruption, measures include:

- Waiving water and sewerage bills for 12 months for a customer's home or business destroyed or made uninhabitable by bushfire.
- Rebates from customers affected by water service interruptions due to the bushfires.

Customers experiencing financial hardship and those with special circumstances, should contact our Customer team on **1800 671 841** to discuss support available, including eligibility for any rebates.

Your mobile number is an important contact: During the bushfires we were able to SMS customers with important information about service disruptions and water quality. This was very effective in getting out targeted messages to local communities very quickly.

We would like to make this service even better, by getting more customers to register their mobile phone contact details with us. This will make it easier for us to get in touch with you when we need to. Simply contact our Customer team on 1800 671 841, or go to the home page of our website and click on "Change billing details."

Before watering your garden check what restrictions apply call **1800 671 841**
24-hour emergency and faults **1300 134 202**

Resources

Facebook Help Centre
facebook.com/help

Facebook Blueprint
facebook.com/business/learn

Facebook for Business
facebook.com/business

Instagram for Business
business.instagram.com

On Wednesday 8th April I attended a webinar about Facebook and Instagram for businesses or organisations hosted by Melissa Westcott. If you would like to also watch it, this link will take you there <https://www.facebook.com/facebookappAU/videos/527092351285957/>
The webinar provided some great resources which I wanted to share.

Facebook are also currently offering Small Business Bushfire support and you can find out more at <https://www.facebook.com/boost/bushfires?path=bushfires>

And join the Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/boost.australia/> This Group is intended to build a community for small businesses and community leaders across Australia.

It is moderated during business hours, Monday to Friday which means the Facebook Team are there to support those who are interested in boosting their business-related Facebook knowledge, managing online communities and learning from each other.



And here is some information from Facebook about **FUNDING FOR FACEBOOK GROUPS!**

We have seen an incredible range of people from across Australia coming together through the power of Facebook Groups to coordinate and support the community response both online and offline. We listened to many leaders of Facebook Groups who told us they want to do more for the communities they bring

together, so we have created the **Facebook Australia Groups Fund: Bushfire and Drought Recovery.**

We are providing grants of AUD\$1,000 - \$10,000 to Facebook Group Admins, from a fund of AUD\$500,000, to support the facilitation and ongoing activities of the Facebook Group to respond to the bushfire and drought crisis. Grants can be used to fund a variety of events, resources, tools and access that empower face-to-face or in-person ("offline") activities of Facebook Groups and their members.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS HERE:

https://fbaustraliagroupsfund.splashthat.com/?fbclid=IwAR1t_hUj65Kk9TxRS4oDkfh5Pgqf1TQRr1U2Ke_mQCTT3BZ9SYXq-jDs0

An update from Suzanne Davies

The 100 x Ornamental Pear Trees that T.G.A. Nurseries from Somerville have donated, Van Berkel's Transport donated their time to pick these trees up in stages and their truck driver has now completed the delivery and all the trees have been dropped off at Lakes Entrance Hardware, where Peter their Gardening expert is caring for them. Tammy Woodgate has kindly offered (I think with her mum Lynda Carney) to drive their big enclosed horse floats to Lakes to pick them up sometime after Easter. The Ornamental Pear Trees will be delivered to Micheal and Sophie Sandy's property (Jim Sandy's place) where people that have lost their homes and or gardens can go and pick them up. I will be sending them a to advise Sophie and Michael who is eligible to receive these trees, so they can evenly distribute accordingly. Please contact Sophie to arrange a convenient time.

There has been an idea put forward by Monica Gardener that originally had this idea to reach out to wholesale nurseries and had done most of the work before I came on board to support her. That we could keep 10 of these trees to plant at the Bluff in Buchan to not only provide shade in Summer but to have these beautiful trees as a memorial to Mick Roberts, Our Local and Regional Emergency Services and various Community members across this Buchan Gelantipy District that stepped up and supported others when these Catastrophic Wildfires hit our district.

Remember that you will need to water these trees, until all their deciduous leaves fall off, then you can plant these beautiful trees on your property.

We would like to request, if you could please take some photos of when you plant your trees, so we can send them off to TGA, Van Berkel's Transport and Lakes Timber and Hardware. Before these photos are taken in Winter, I will be writing thank you cards on behalf of our fire affected communities to the 3 companies that generously donated to make this happen.

Monica and I hope you enjoy watching these trees grow and the colors of their leaves change in the Autumn from Green to rich Autumn colours, before another winter sets in next year.

Gippsland Community Wellbeing Grants

Events seeking funding should look into the Gippsland Primary Health Network One Good Community grant program, Gippsland Community Wellbeing Grant. This program is hoping to draw on the strength of communities who positively impact health and wellbeing in drought affected areas.

The focus of the grants are projects with activities that promote and lead to long term volunteerism and participation by people, improving social connectedness, networking and wellbeing. Community events and workshops, such as markets, festivals and exhibitions, will be considered.

The grant program is open now and will be an on-going program until further assessment. For more information, please visit: www.onegoodcommunity.gphn.org.au/gippsland-community-wellbeing-grants/

Grants open for clubs affected by bushfires and other natural disasters

Even though the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) global pandemic has brought the sporting world to its knees, it is important to not forget about the countless Australians affected by a devastating summer of natural disasters.

Before the Coronavirus forced almost every single sport and competition in the world to be either cancelled or suspended, Australia endured one of its worst bushfire seasons in history, with 34 lives lost, an estimated one billion animal lives lost, and 18.6 million hectares of land burnt.

The Australian Sports Foundation has announced the opening of sport recovery grants for community sports clubs and others affected during the recent natural disasters, in partnership with the Australian Olympic Committee, Commonwealth Games Australia and Paralympics Australia.

Australian Sports Foundation Chief Executive Officer, Patrick Walker, said due to the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 on the sport community, it is easy to forget about those still recovering from what has been colloquially referred to as the 'Black Summer'. "With the understandable focus on challenges to community sport presented by COVID-19, it's easy to forget that there are clubs in communities all over Australia that suffered severe loss during our summer of natural disasters," Walker said in an announcement on LinkedIn.

"We want to make sure that affected clubs are not disadvantaged when we are able to resume community sport once again.

"If your club, or members, were affected, you can apply for a grant to replace lost or damaged uniforms, kit and equipment, or to help affected members through free or subsidised registrations," he said.

Australian Sports Foundation has also announced the Sports Recovery Grants values are up to \$20,000, and priority will be given to applications from volunteer run organisations, with the grants covering those affected not only by the bushfires, but also from floods and other disasters.

If your club or your members were affected by the summer of natural disasters, you can find out more about the full criteria and apply for a grant by visiting <https://grants.sportsfoundation.org.au/>

News Corp Bushfire Fund Grants

Closing Date: 05-May-2020 05:00 PM

Location:AUSWIDE

Web Document Location: https://www.frrr.org.au/NC_Bushfire_Grants

Contact:Company FRRR

News Corp has partnered with FRRR to enable the delivery of the News Corp Bushfire Fund grants.

This support is for local not-for-profit organisations and community groups that are delivering locally-led projects and activities to assist people in their recovery as a result of the 2019/2020 bushfires.

Program objectives

Through the provision of grants, the aim of this program is to address a range of needs, including but not limited to: Community infrastructure and equipment that strengthens volunteer community groups and their activities;

Emergency equipment and facilities (excludes individual aid);

Mental health and wellbeing; and Rebuilding communities - from infrastructure repairs or upgrades to governance, capacity building or operational support.

Applications for funding are invited from local not-for-profit organisations and community groups that support communities in designated fire-affected regions.

Eligibility

Not-for-profit community-based organisations operating in rural areas of Australia in a Local Government Area (LGA) with a bushfire disaster declaration from September 2019 to January / February 2020;

Organisations with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate; Organisations with and without Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) endorsement;

An organisation is eligible to submit one application per grant round.

Projects funded should be undertaken within a period of 12 months from receipt of funds.

Funding Rounds

The program has a budget of \$1 million and will provide grants of up to \$25,000 to support the recovery of communities in rural areas of Australia in an LGA with a bushfire disaster declaration from September 2019 to January / February 2020. It is anticipated that there will be three funding rounds.

Applications will be accepted at any time and assessed initially as follows:

Round 1

Applications received between 3 April 2020 and before 5 May 2020 will be announced by early June 2020.

Buchan Gelantipy and Districts Renewal Association

This group has been established as part of the recovery process in lieu of there being an established group representative across the whole district. A ballot process was run to elect 11 representatives for this committee. Of the membership at the time the ballot process closed, 92% of ballot papers were returned. Elected from this process were:

Anne Brewer
Greg Brick
Janice Coates
Chris Cooper
Donald Graham
Annemarie Henderson
Kate Hodge
Jeffery McCole
Donna Mraz
Kirsty Pearce
Mary Wheeler

The first meeting of the Association was held on Monday 3 March 2020 at the Buchan Recreation Reserve. The next meeting on 10 March 2020 elected the office bearers as follows:

Kate Hodge – President
Donald Graham – Vice President
Anne Brewer – Secretary
Kirstie Pearce – Treasurer
Mary Wheeler – Assistant

As at 2 April 2020, the Association is made up of 153 general members. Membership is open to anyone from the district or with a relationship to the district and membership is free.

Drought Relief Bore

Southern Rural Water in partnership with East Gippsland Shire Council are installing a Drought Relief Bore and associated infrastructure adjacent to the Buchan Recreation Reserve (exact location TBD). This project is partly funded by the State Government and the Commonwealth Government. Included in the installation will be a 100 000litre tank, bore infrastructure and a 5kWh solar system connected to the grid.

The timing on this project is unknown at the moment as it has had to be suspended during the COVID19 pandemic situation.

Buchan Recovery Hub

Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) are the lead agency in establishing Recovery Hubs in key locations across bushfire impacted areas. Buchan has been identified as an ideal location for a hub. The key purpose of the Buchan Recovery Hub will be to provide:

a safe, central place for community members that operates as a one-stop-shop for recovery services and programs – for example Case Managers, Centrelink, DHHS, Council Planning support, Building expertise etc.

As the Buchan District is so large, a mobile recovery service will be coordinated and operated out of the Buchan Recovery Hub.

The Buchan Recovery Hub will have a coordinator employed by Bushfire Recovery Victoria onsite. This may be in a modified form during the COVID 19 pandemic. The community will still be able to access this facility and all services it provides through the use of technology in the interim.

After an exhaustive process, the Buchan Recreation Reserve has been deemed the only appropriate facility in town to establish this hub (based on a number of criteria including access, size, car parking, long term use). Representatives from the Buchan Recreation Reserve and Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) have met onsite at the Recreation Reserve to determine the compatibility of establishing the Buchan Recovery Hub with other uses and users at the reserve. BRV are now in the process of establishing the proposed building (transportable buildings 2-3) footprint, other services and a lease agreement.

If all aspects align as per the plan, the hub should be operational by the first week of May 2020.

GROCON

As you may have already seen, GROCON have established a satellite administration and operations office in Buchan at the Hall. This will house a couple of staff who will oversee the clean-up process around the Buchan District. GROCON are leasing this facility directly from the Hall Committee of Management.

Volunteer Base Camp

Just prior to the STAY HOME advice from the Victorian Chief Medical Officer, representatives in the Buchan community were working toward establishing a volunteer base camp. This site would support the large numbers of volunteers that were on offer to the Buchan District. Long term the Recreation Reserve was not going to be an ideal site for both the volunteer base camp and the regular user group activities that occur throughout the year.

This camp will cater for up to 15 powered sites, with shower and toilet facilities and water availability. There will also be enough space for non-powered campsites. Several local businesses have donated materials and services to make this happen. The land has also been generously donated for this use for as long as the community needs it.

This project is currently on hold with the view of re-instating once the COVID situation has lessened and volunteer groups are again moving around the region, state and nation.

BlazeAid

As of Monday 20 April, the Buchan BlazeAid camp will close (currently located at the Canni race course) due to lessening volunteer numbers and the ability to meet the social distancing requirements during this time. It is understood that some volunteers will be relocating to the Wulgulmerang BlazeAid camp which has been in lockdown for over a month and has been practising social distancing for that time.

Kate Hodge
President



All options will be available until 24 April. This ensures the Inquiry team has time to use the information in the first phase of the Inquiry: Preparedness for and response to the 2019-20 Victorian fire season.

Community submissions (post or email)

Write about any or all of your experiences in relation to preparedness and response to the 2019-20 fires.

Please submit via:
Email: igem@igem.vic.gov.au

Post: Inspector-General for Emergency Management
GPO Box 4356
Melbourne VIC 3000

Telephone surveys

Answer questions in relation to the preparedness and response to the 2019-20 fire season. All questions are voluntary and you can select topics that interest you the most.

To take the survey over your phone, please call IGEM on (03) 8684 7920 or email: igem@igem.vic.gov.au to let us know your:

- your interest in doing a survey
- name
- contact number
- preferred time for IGEM to call you.

People who register via phone or email will receive a call-back from IGEM at the time they have nominated.

Telephone submissions

You will be able to discuss your experiences in relation to preparedness and response to the 2019-20 fires. The IGEM team member who you speak with will take notes that will be used as evidence in the Inquiry.

To provide a submission over the phone, please call IGEM on (03) 8684 7920 or email: igem@igem.vic.gov.au to let us know your:

- your interest in providing a submission
- name
- contact number
- preferred time for IGEM to call you.

People who register via phone or email will receive a call-back from IGEM at the time they have nominated.

Ongoing opportunities

Phase 2 of the Inquiry will provide another range of opportunities for individuals to contribute. The second phase will focus on relief and recovery.

IGEM intends to resume face-to-face community meetings once it is safe to do so.

\$1 MILLION TO UPGRADE COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN EAST GIPPSLAND

Thursday, April 9, 2020



Community facilities across East Gippsland are set for a million-dollar facelift, according to local MP Darren Chester.

Mr Chester said funding had been approved under the Drought Communities Program to improve water storage, upgrade town halls and a major redevelopment of the Swifts Creek swimming pool.

"The drought followed by bushfires and now the coronavirus has placed a lot of pressure on small communities across East Gippsland and it would be difficult for local hall and recreation reserve committees to raise this money by themselves," Mr Chester said.

"I'm pleased the Federal Government is working with East Gippsland Shire Council to keep investing in our region's future during these challenging times.

"I look forward to work starting as soon as possible on all of these projects which will deliver short-term jobs and long-term community benefits."

Facilities to be upgraded include:

- the Swifts Creek swimming pool, including new change rooms and footpaths
- community halls in Cann River, Mallacoota, Lindenow, Johnsonville, Bruthen and Benambra;
- Bendoc playground, Wairewa playground and Orbost skate park;
- recreation reserves at Swan Reach, Swifts Creek, Bruthen, **Buchan**, Ensay, Lindenow, Orbost and Sarsfield where water tanks and infrastructure will be upgraded;
- Benambra and Goongerah, where new water tanks will be installed;
- Lucknow Recreation Reserve, where the bore water supply will be improved; and
- recreation reserves at Ensay, Lindenow, Swifts Creek, Bruthen and Swan Reach, where existing infrastructure will be improved.

East Gippsland Shire Mayor Cr John White has welcomed the Federal Government funding and indicated work would start as soon as possible on each project.

"These projects are very important to the communities that regularly use these facilities," Cr White said.

"This funding from the Federal Government has provided us with a valuable opportunity to undertake a number of small but valuable projects and allow the community to benefit from those improved facilities sooner."

"I'm also pleased that we have been able to upgrade and expand our network of water tanks, which is particularly important during drought and during bushfires."

This is the second time East Gippsland Shire Council has received funding through the Drought Communities Program. The Shire spent its first allocation on improvements at the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange and installing water tanks for use by the CFA for firefighting.

Drought Communities Program funding is available to eligible councils for local infrastructure projects and other drought-relief activities. The program provides short-term support, including by boosting local employment and procurement, and addressing social and community needs.

Consumer Affairs Victoria is providing advice for incorporated associations to help them manage their obligations during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. This advice covers:

- holding regular meetings, including their Annual General Meeting (AGM); Special General Meetings (SGMs) or other meetings; and lodging annual statements with Consumer Affairs Victoria
- having their financial statements reviewed or audited (if applicable).

AGMs, SGMs and lodging your annual statement

Incorporated associations conducting meetings must observe social distancing measures, to combat the spread of coronavirus.

If your incorporated association is scheduled to hold a meeting you should consider:

- using alternative means to hold meetings, including teleconference or video conference - we recommend this for all incorporated associations, particularly for larger ones.

To seek an extension please complete our extension of time to hold an AGM or lodge financial statements form and submit to cav.registration@justice.vic.gov.au.

If you do need to hold a physical meeting:

- ensure the venue is large enough so attendees are able to maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metres from each other.

Other social distancing requirements must be adhered to according the latest government guidelines

- practice good personal hygiene including:
- cleaning your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- covering your nose and mouth with a tissue or a flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing.

Committees can continue holding meetings where necessary by adhering to the social distancing requirements and consideration of the use of alternative technologies.

**East Gippsland Shire
Outreach Services**
Bairnsdale Library are offering access to library books.

If you reserve books, you will be able to arrange a time to pick them up from Bairnsdale. They will ask you when you will be picking them up and an approximate time. They will put them in to a bag with your name on it and put it in the back foyer. You just ring the doorbell and someone will let you in to pick up your books. You can also collect on other peoples behalf.

You can reserve books online.

https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Libraries/Catalogue_Member_Login

**ANZAC DAY
BUCHAN SOUTH AVENUE OF HONOUR
Saturday, 25th APRIL 2020**

**This event has been cancelled so please light a candle or
use your mobile and stand at the gate at 5.55 am and
share a minutes silence.**



BUCHAN REC AND HALL COMMITTEE

Due to Covid 19, DELWP Committees of Management maybe asked to hold their Triannual AGMS in 2021 with current committees remaining in place until the postponed elections. The Buchan Recreation and Hall Committee of Management are therefore seeking members of the community to join the committee and assist us with the management of these community facilities. Funding support and grant opportunities and an increased use by these facilities by a number groups and organisations has meant a great deal of extra work for the current committee and we are looking for some more support. Please contact the Secretary on 0427 586 038 or email buchanhallandrec@gmail.com

**BUSHFIRE CASE SUPPORT PROGRAM
SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

After a bushfire, sometimes people are unsure of what to do next.

The Bushfire case support program provides practical support for people who have been affected by the Victorian bushfires.

Support can be provided face to face, over the phone or at a location that suits you.

This is for people from bushfire impacted areas in East Gippsland and North East Victoria and is a free service.

To access this program or find out more:
Call: **1800 560 760** – 8am – 6pm weekdays
and 9am – 5pm on weekends

Email: bushfirerecovery@windermere.org.au



**Small Business Bushfire
Support Grant
GUIDELINES**

Small Business Bushfire Support Grant

The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments have announced Small Business Bushfire Support Grants of up to \$10,000 to support small businesses who have experienced a significant loss of income due to the Victorian bushfires that commenced 21 November 2019.

These grants are available to small businesses in the local council areas of Alpine, East Gippsland and Towong.

Grant assistance is also available to small businesses who work within the eligible disaster areas on a regular basis, provided they can demonstrate significant impact.

The Victorian Small Business Support Grant is funded by the Commonwealth Government. These grants are provided to support eligible small businesses to recover from the bushfires and rebuild resilient businesses, for example:

- meeting business costs, including utilities, salaries and rent;
- seeking financial advice to support the recovery of the business;
- developing the business through marketing and communications activities; or
- improvements to make the business more resilient to future disasters.

Eligibility criteria are contained in the following Guidelines.

Please read the Guidelines before completing the Application Form.

Completed application forms, together with supporting documentation must be submitted to Rural Finance by **30 September 2020** via:

Post: Rural Finance, PO Box 1313, Bendigo Central 3582

Email: govservices@ruralfinance.com.au

Fax: 0441 8001

For further information please contact Rural Finance on 1800 260 425.

Rural Finance
PO Box 1313
Bendigo Central 3582
P 1800 260 425 F (03) 5441 8001
govservices@ruralfinance.com.au
www.ruralfinance.com.au



**Justice of the Peace
Arrangements can be
made with
Janice Coates
Phone: 5155 9301**



Church Services

All services are currently postponed. You can access services online and on the TV.

Catholic Church

St Dymphna's, Woodgates Road, Buchan.

Meets 3rd Saturday of the month at 9am until further notice. For service details contact Mary Wheeler 5155 9330

Uniting Church

The Andrew Davidson Memorial Uniting Church, Main Street, Buchan. Services are held at St Mary's Anglican Church, Main Street, Buchan.

For service details contact Leona Lavell 5155 9395

Anglican Church

St Mary's, Main Street, Buchan. Meets 1st Sunday of each month.

For service details contact Rhonda Coates 5155 9373