

Moorabool Shire Council

MOORABOOL STORM EVENT 2021— COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER NO 4



Council Storm Recovery Number: 5366 1323

Community Pop Up Hubs

Our Pop Up Community Hubs in Korweinguboorra and Blackwood have been temporarily paused during the COVID-19 lockdown. Our Council Storm Recovery Number is operational on 5366 1323. Call this number to get assistance with any issues you are experiencing since the storm. You can also get direct referrals for counselling services and support as needed.

Registrations are open for **Bushfire Recovery Victoria's Storm and Flood Clean-Up program**, and the assessment of hazardous trees on private property. Learn more, check your eligibility and register your property today by visiting www.brvc.vic.gov.au/cleanup or calling the Storm and Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 between 8am – 7pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on weekends.



**REGISTER FOR
CLEAN-UP ON
PRIVATE PROPERTY**

**STORM AND FLOOD
RECOVERY SUPPORT
HOTLINE**

1800 560 760



Financial support available for you:

Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)

The RFCS provides free financial counselling to farmers and small businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. Rural Financial Counselling Service remains available for farmers seeking support and can be contacted on 1300 735 578.

If **tax and super affairs** are contributing to your worries, the ATO is here to help and has a range of practical support options available, including prioritising any refunds owed, setting up payment plans to help with your circumstances and reissuing tax documents or records. You can visit the ATO website at www.ato.gov.au/disasters or call the ATO Infoline on 1800 806 218 for more information.

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Last week, Fire Forest Management Vic crews were out in the Wombat State Forest checking on the critically endangered Wombat Bossiaea (*Bossiaea vombutus*) following the June storm event.

The Wombat Bossiaea is a leafless member of the pea family, which grows up to two metres tall. Instead of leaves, it has flattened blue-green branches, and produces yellow and red 'pea' flowers in November-December.

The Wombat Bossiaea has only ever been found in six locations across the Wombat State Forest so it's incredibly important that this rare species is protected so that further research on it can continue

As the clean-up from the storm event continues, crews will be ensuring that the protection of all threatened species remains a top priority in the Grampians region. Image taken by Gayle Osborne.

Greenwaste skips

Following the June Storm Event, our free greenwaste skips at the transfer stations have been well utilised throughout impacted townships. We are now starting to see a decline in usage, hence will be removing the skips at this stage. Throughout the storm recovery process, we will continue to review and monitor requirements for the future provision of greenwaste.

Cleaning up after a disaster

Emergencies by their very nature are disruptive and can be very stressful. A major dilemma many households face with wind and water damage, is how and where to begin the clean up. This page contains some useful tips and practical information to help households start the clean up-both inside and outside.

<https://www.redcross.org.au/get-help/emergencies/looking-after-yourself/cleaning-up-after-a-disaster>



Agriculture Victoria has a recovery team in place to work with producers and industry following the recent storms and floods across Victoria. An important part of our role in emergencies includes assessing the impacts and damage, this will inform the types of support required both immediately and over the medium to long-term. Producers are encouraged to get in contact if they have horticultural, livestock or other agricultural issues resulting from the recent storms and floods.

Telephone: 0427 694 185

Email: recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Website: agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods

Disaster Legal Help Victoria can provide free initial legal information and referrals to people affected by floods and storm about issues including:

- insurance claims
- lost and replacement documents
- property damage.

For more information, go to <https://www.disasterlegalhelp.org.au> or call their helpline (1800 113 432) which is staffed weekdays from 8am–5pm.

Insurance

If you have property or contents insurance you should contact your insurance company as soon as possible after the storm.

- Ask your insurer for advice on actions you should take
- Do not discard or throw away damaged items without consulting your insurance company
- Make a list of items that have been damaged and take photographs if possible
- Keep receipts for any emergency repair work



For assistance with insurance contact the Insurance Council of Australia on 1800 734 621 (24 hour hotline). You can find information on lodging a claim following a disaster here: www.disasters.org.au.

Council recently finished recruiting for a Storm Recovery Support Officer, this role will support the storm affected communities in relief and ongoing recovery. The role will work closely with two new dedicated storm recovery Case Support Officers. These three roles are the first Moorabool Shire Council resources dedicated entirely to assisting the community with the storm recovery process.

They will assist residents to navigate a range of tasks such as building permits, liaising with agencies around building and land restoration, counselling, insurance and liaising with State and Local Government department. These new roles will be contactable through the current 5366 1323 number.

Council has also recently been successful in obtaining funding through Bushfire Recovery Victoria to increase the Storm Recovery team to include a Community Recovery Officer, Engagement Officer, Administration positions, Planning and Permits Recovery Officer and a Communications Officer.



Affected roadsides being attended to by Council this week

The following roads are open to the public, however they may have traffic control in place:

- Springbank Rd, Springbank
- Avenue of Honour, Bacchus Marsh
- Mt Blackwood Rd, Blackwood
- Mt Blackwood Rd, Korobeit
- Whites Rd, Buninyong
- Yankee Flat Rd, Buninyong
- Various roads in Gordon
- Various roads in Blackwood

Timber recovery

If you have wind thrown timber following the storm event that may be able to be processed by timber processors, contact VicForests Admin:
vfs.admin@vicforests.com.au.

If the timber is more than 3m length and 40cm diameter, contact VicForests detailing how much timber is on your property, your location and the dimensions. They can then get in touch to assess the timber and give you advice on how that timber can be used.

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Looking after yourself and your family

Crisis events can be very distressing and cause stress. It's normal to feel upset, anxious or overwhelmed. Stress caused by such events can impact all aspects of your life and may continue for a long time. Find tips on how to help with stress symptoms here:

<https://www.redcross.org.au/get-help/emergencies/looking-after-yourself>

Personal and Family Support		
Lifeline	24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.	Call 131 114 or visit lifeline.org.au
Beyondblue	24/7 telephone information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.	Call 1300 224 636 or visit beyondblue.org.au
MensLine Australia	24/7 service for men with relationship and family concerns.	Call 1300 78 99 78 or visit mensline.org.au
Family Relationship Service	Providing families with access to information about family relationship issues.	Call 1800 050 321 or visit familyrelationships.gov.au
Mental Health Care Plan	A mental health care plan provides Medicare rebates for up to 10 individual or 10 group appointments per year with a psychologist, occupational therapist or social worker.	Contact your local GP for a referral healthdirect.gov.au/mental-health-care-plan
GPs and Community Health Care providers	If you or a loved one need support during difficult times, visit your local Doctor (GP). Community health services also provide a range of primary health care services that could include: acute hospital care, medical centre, home and community care, district nursing, women's health, allied health services (podiatry, occupational therapy etc.), counselling, pharmacy, referrals.	Contact your local GP Contact your local Community Health service to confirm their services.
NURSE-ON-CALL	Expert health information and advice (14 hours, 7 days)	Phone: 1300 60 60 24
Australian Red Cross	For people affected by Victorian Severe Weather and Flood.	Phone: 1800 733 276 www.redcross.org.au/
Emergency Management Victoria	Advice for responding in an emergency to COVID-19 confirmed cases or close contacts or Family Violence.	https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief/#leaving_during_an_emergency

Stay up to date with Moorabool Shire Emergency Communications by signing up to our e-newsletter at <https://bit.ly/3BCNVrN>

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moorabool.vic.gov.au/storm
03 5366 1323