

Council Storm Recovery Number: 5366 1323

Moorabool June 9-10 Storm Event 2021 – Community Newsletter No. 14

Solitary Native Bee Hotel Workshops

We're hosting two workshops on how to make native solitary bee hotels!

So what exactly is a bee hotel?

There are over 1600 species of bee in Australia, and most of them are solitary. That means they don't live in hives but lay their eggs in small gaps in trees, reeds, and the ground.

These bee hotels are made out of repurposed plastic bottles and debris from plants, giving native solitary bees a safe place to live. This is especially important as Moorabool's natural environment continues to recover from last year's major storms.

Native bees are extremely important to our ecosystem - they pollinate native plants, many of which can't be pollinated by introduced bees.

We're holding two workshops in May so you can learn how to construct these bee hotels! All ages are welcome to participate in this family-friendly event.

Workshop One

Saturday 14 May
1pm until 3pm
Trentham Neighbourhood Centre

Workshop Two

Sunday 15 May
1pm until 3pm
Ballan Neighbourhood Centre

Participants will be able to take bee hotels home with them, and the remainder will be donated to a Habitat Recovery Program.



Picture of a native bee hotel



Blackwood Easter Woodchop

Blackwood Easter Wood Chop

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to say hi to the Storm Recovery Team at the Blackwood Wood Chop and Easter Carnival on Saturday 16 April.

It was great to speak to members of the community and identify residents who hadn't yet been in contact with us but require help with their storm recovery.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for further Storm Recovery community activities.

Resilient Australia Awards

The awards recognise outstanding contributions in each state and territory across seven categories: business, community, government, local government, mental health and wellbeing, school, and photography.

The awards recognise a wide range of initiatives with past projects centred on risk assessment and mitigation, mental health and wellbeing, education, training and research, and community engagement, as well as response and recovery.

State and territory winners are considered for national awards, along with projects entered directly to the national awards – projects selected as national finalists will benefit from national exposure through a range of communication channels.

Entries in the 2022 awards program must relate to projects or initiatives that commenced after 1 January 2020, or demonstrate significant outcomes or enhancements since 1 January 2020.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.aidr.org.au/programs/resilient-australia-awards/>

BRV's Residential Flood and Storm Clean-up Program is complete

Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) have announced that their Residential Clean-Up Program is now complete.

A total of 1012 properties destroyed or damaged beyond repair during the June 2021 storm event have now been cleaned up by BRV, at no cost to the resident.

Read some case studies from the program here:
<https://www.vic.gov.au/storm-clean-up-program>



How to access mental health support

Storm and Flood Recovery Support Hotline

Call 1800 560 760 and a Recovery Support Worker can assist you in accessing mental health support through Central Highlands Rural Health. This hotline can also link you in with a financial counselling service.

Partners in Wellbeing Helpline

Free and confidential wellbeing coaching for businesses and individuals. This service is available 7 days a week via email, chat or phone call. Find more info at: <https://www.partnersinwellbeing.org.au/>

Australian Red Cross

Support and resources to look after yourself and your family when disasters happen. Visit <https://www.redcross.org.au/get-help/emergencies/looking-after-yourself>

Beyond Blue

Information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health, whatever their age and wherever they live. Call 1300 22 4636 or visit <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

Lifeline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention. Call 13 11 14 or visit <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

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Recovery grants for primary producers

Are you a primary producer who was impacted by the 9-10 June storm event in 2021? You may be eligible for this grant opportunity.

The maximum amount available for this program is \$25,000 and the money will go towards clean-up and recovery activities needed to reinstate primary production enterprises.

To apply or to see if you're eligible, visit <https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/victorian-floods-and-storms-clean-up-and-restoration-grants>



A delivery of free fence posts

Free fence posts for primary producers

If you are a farmer or primary producer who has been impacted by any of the recent storms, you may be eligible for Rural Aid's free fence post initiative. These fence posts are repurposed from storm-damaged trees, obtained over the course of BRV's Residential Storm and Flood Clean-up program and processed at the Macedon Ranges Shire transfer station.

For more information and to register, visit faa.ruralaid.org.au/fence-post-program/

Storm and Flood Financial Counselling Program

The Storm and Flood Financial Counselling Program is open to Victorians affected by the June 2021 storms and floods.

The program can connect you to a financial counsellor to help you to:

- Access relief for utility bills and other payments
- Understand your government income and other entitlements
- Negotiate with your bank on debt issues
- Identify if your insurance outcome is fair and appropriate
- Explore your options and advocate on your behalf.

Speaking to a financial counsellor early can help stabilise your finances, reduce stress and allow you to focus on other areas.

The Storm and Flood Financial Counselling Program is available on the Storm and Flood Recovery Hotline, a single state-wide number (1800 560 760).

You can also contact CAFS (Child and Family Services Ballarat) directly and speak to a free, confidential financial counsellor regarding your circumstances. To make an appointment or to discuss your options, call CAFS on (03) 5337 3333 or freecall 1800 692 237. There are no wait lists to access support.

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Call for content: have you got photos of the storms?

Have you got photos from the June and October storms?

We're planning a book to commemorate one year post the storm, in June 2022, and we need images from you!

We are looking for community photo submissions, depicting:

- During the storm
- Post the storm
- Your clean-up journey
- Local wildlife and vegetation
- The impact on the Wombat State Forest

Email all content through to our Storm Recovery Communications Officer:
tsass@moorabool.vic.gov.au

Preparing for future storms

SES Victoria have some excellent resources online about how to prepare for future storm events.

Find out more: <https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe/emergencies/storm>

Here's what you can do to plan and stay safe before a storm hits:

- Plan for what you will do and take with you if you need to evacuate. Find out how to prepare your home and/or workplace, and consider the advice below.
- Before a storm hits:
 - o Park your car undercover and away from trees.
 - o Clean your gutters, downpipes and drains to ensure they are not blocked.
 - o Check that loose items such as outdoor furniture, umbrellas and trampolines are safely secured.
- Be alert to dangerous road conditions when driving, including low visibility, fallen and damaged trees and powerlines. Avoid travel if possible.
- Be prepared - You may be isolated for an extended period of time. Make sure you have essential supplies prepared to last for at least three to five days, including food, drinking water, medications and pet food. You may lose services including power, water, sewerage and gas.
- Stay informed – monitor weather warnings and forecasts at the Bureau of Meteorology website, and warnings through the VicEmergency app and hotline (1800 226 226).



Storm Damage



Picture by Margaret McCarthy, Regrowth



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