

June 9-10 Storm Event 2021 – Community Newsletter No. 17

Habitat recovery tips from Landcare

Last month Moorabool's Storm Recovery Team, in partnership with DELWP and Landcare Victoria, offered free Storm Recovery Habitat Kits to residents impacted by the June 2021 major storm. The aim of these kits was to provide habitat and vegetation on private property.

Following the program, we asked Moorabool Landcare Network Facilitator, Roger McRaid, to share some tips and tricks regarding habitat recovery. You can read his insights on our website, as well as an update from Bullarto South residents Juliet and Miles (pictured) who took part in the program: <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/News/Free-Storm-Recovery-Habitat-Kits-a-success>

Spring firewood season is now open

Firewood can be collected in state forests for home use in designated places at specific times. Spring firewood season opened on Thursday 1 September and will close on Wednesday 30 November.

Overall, there are 26 collection sites available in state forests across the Grampians region, including six in the Wombat State Forest.

If you're planning to visit a firewood collection site in the Wombat State Forest, please be aware that local road closures and public safety zones may be in place as DELWP's storm recovery efforts continue. We ask members of the public to please adhere to these closures for their own safety and the safety of our crews and any contractors who may be working in the area.

Some parts of the Grampians region have also experienced increased rainfall over the past few months, so if you're planning to collect firewood, please ensure you check the weather before heading out to make sure it's safe.

Find out where you can collect firewood in the Moorabool Shire: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/find-a-firewood-collection-area>

Read the rules for collecting firewood: <https://www.vic.gov.au/collecting-firewood>



Community Pop Up Recovery Hubs – Join us in October!

Council's Storm Recovery Team are coming to you once again with our roving Community Pop Up Hubs.

Join us for a cuppa and a chat – we're here to answer any questions you may have about the ongoing recovery journey. We will be joined by a representative from DELWP.

Please join us on:

Sunday 2 October

10am-midday: Dales Creek (At the water tanks on the corner of Acacia Avenue and Dales Creek Avenue)

1pm-3pm: Blackwood Post Office (23 Martin Street, Blackwood)

Sunday 9 October:

10am-midday: Barkstead (At the water tanks where Barkstead Rd meets Barkstead Rd South)

1pm-3pm: Korweinguboorra Recreation Reserve (1399 Ballan-Daylesford Road, Spargo Creek)

We hope to see you there!



Power back-up for community buildings

You might remember that last year we installed satellite NBN in 8 community buildings across the Shire with funding from the STAND (Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disaster) Project. These community buildings can be used as emergency hubs when disasters like storms strike, and the satellite NBN will provide means to connect with emergency agencies via internet when mobile reception is down.

The NBN connection is still dependant on a power supply to work, and as we all know, power failure is common during an emergency like a major storm.

We are pleased to announce that Council has been successful in securing further funding for the STAND project, and we will be installing trickle feed battery back-up units in 8 community buildings.

The units do not need to be installed by electricians and will be managed by the community with Council support. The battery units will extend the NBN's running time in the event of a power outage due to an emergency.

We are looking to have them installed in the coming weeks.

Council Storm Recovery Number: 5366 1323

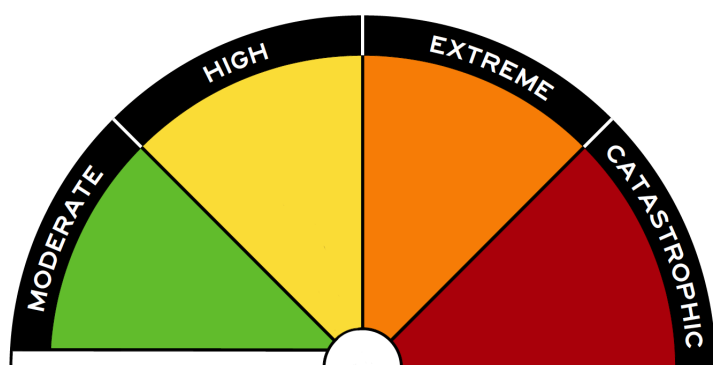
Weeds of the Moorabool Shire – free resource

With so much rain falling across the Shire, there's been an influx in weeds growing. With support for Landcare Victoria, Council recently published a field guide, Weeds of the Moorabool Shire, that will assist land managers to identify and control the main weeds in the Moorabool Shire.

You can read the full booklet on our website: <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/Waste-and-environment/Environment-and-sustainability/Weeds-of-the-Moorabool-Shire>



New Australian Fire Danger Rating System now in place



MODERATE

Plan and prepare

HIGH

Be ready to act

EXTREME

Take action now to
protect life and property

CATASTROPHIC

For your survival, leave
bushfire risk areas

A new Australian Fire Danger Rating System is in place, as of the 1st September 2022.

Fire Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire could be if one started.

They are important because they provide people with information so that they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires and grassfires.

The new Fire Danger Rating System will be used across Australia so whether you're at home or travelling interstate, you will see the same system being used.

There are four levels of fire danger in the new system:

- Moderate - Plan and prepare
- High - Be ready to act
- Extreme - Take action now to protect your life and property
- Catastrophic - For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

Fire Danger Ratings will be issued on days when there is a fire risk.

Each fire danger rating will have a clear set of messages including the actions the community can take to reduce their risk.

Ratings are forecast using Bureau of Meteorology data for up to four days in advance, based on weather and other environmental conditions such as vegetation.

The rating is your trigger to take action to stay safe.

Find out more, including what each level means and what you should do, visit the CFA website: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-and-ratings/about-fire-danger-ratings>

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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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