



# FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

NUMBER 18: FRIDAY 8 JUNE



CORANGAMITE  
SHIRE

## RELIEF FUND OFFERS \$300K

The South West bushfires relief fund has raised \$300,000, including more than \$50,000 from Bendigo Bank's Community Bank network and \$80,000 from District 9780 Rotary Clubs.

Cobden & Districts Community Bank Branch and Appeal Chair, James Green, said the Appeal committee was pleased to be able to launch a funding offer for the initial distribution of funds.

"We are lucky enough to have been able to gain input to our committee from a great range of people and organisations including local shires, State Government and community organisations," he said.

"The funding offer is aimed at those directly affected through loss of property, stock and other assets."

"We are endeavouring to get the application forms directly to those impacted by the fires and will also have forms available at the Cobden and Camperdown Bendigo Bank branches, Corangamite, Moyne and Southern Grampians Shire offices, and WestVic Dairy."

Acceptance of the offer for funding will close on Friday 6 July and further funding will be undertaken in the future with a focus on events that strengthen communities affected by the St Patrick's Day fires.

"Although we are starting to distribute funds, the appeal will remain open to further donations and we encourage people wishing to contribute to the relief effort to go

on-line to [www.bendigobank.com.au/southwestvicbushfire](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/southwestvicbushfire) or visit their local Bendigo Bank branch where donations can be made," James said.

"Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and can also be made by phoning 1300 304 541."

The bushfire appeal is being supported through Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's Community Enterprise Foundation by Cobden & Districts Community Bank in partnership with Cobden District Community Health Services.

Funds raised from this appeal will be disbursed as grants and gifts to eligible charitable organisations to assist with relief, recovery and reconstruction projects for communities in the fire-affected areas of South West Victoria.

### COMMUNITY RECOVERY COMMITTEE CONVENES

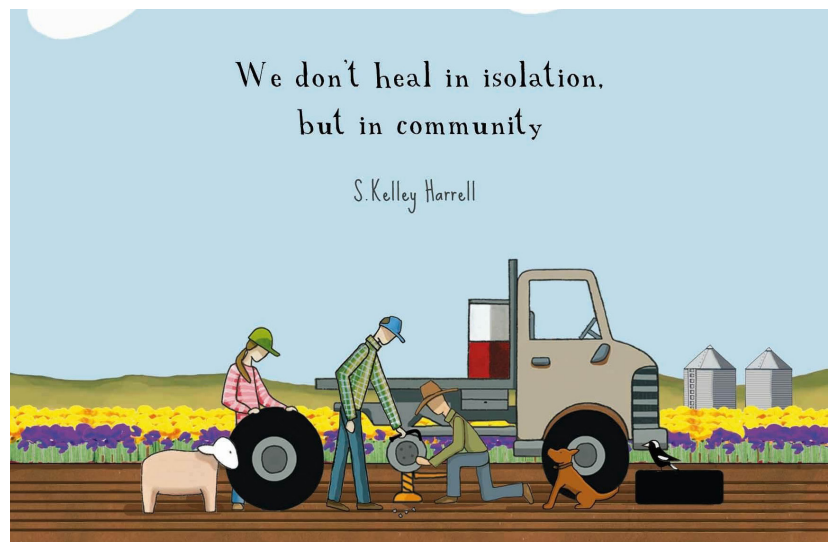
Corangamite Shire has established a Community Recovery Committee to support the communities affected by the recent fires.

The community recovery committee comprises members of the community, Council, DHHS, Agriculture Victoria, VFF, Red Cross staff.

Its work can include:

- representing the community
- facilitating dialogue between the municipal recovery manager and the community so as to regularly advise on issues of concern
- working with the municipal recovery manager and task groups to tackle specific issues
- helping coordinate recovery initiatives, including special events.

**To contact the committee, call Manager Fire Recovery Jarrod Woff or Fire Recovery Officer Sharna Whitehand on 5593 7100.**



### COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

**Camperdown:** Matthew Crane, Keith Stephens

**Terang:** Liza Fahey, Benjamin Dennis

**Cobden:** Barb Cowley, Andrew Chivell

**Scotts Creek:** Matt Makin, Gael Everet



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## EVENTS

### Emergency Management Victoria community debrief

Wednesday 13 June Garvoc Hall,  
5:30 pm - 8 pm

### Emergency Management Victoria community debrief

Monday 18 June Archie Graham  
Centre Warrnambool, 5:30 pm - 8 pm

### Emergency Management Victoria community debrief

Wednesday 20 June, Hawkesdale Hall,  
5:30 pm - 8 pm

### Snout in the Trough Fundraiser

Saturday 23 June, 7pm  
St Paul's Hall, Camperdown

### Emergency Management Victoria community debrief

Monday 25 June Peshurst Hall,  
5:30 pm - 8 pm

**Do you have a fire recovery event  
coming up? Let us know on 5593 7100  
or [shire@corangamite.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@corangamite.vic.gov.au)**

## FARM VISITS TO IDENTIFY NEEDS, SHARE ADVICE

Council's Municipal Emergency Management Officer Sharna Whitehand has been appointed to the role of Fire Recovery Officer.

She will visit all the properties impacted by the fire to make sure they have what they need, connect people with services they may need, and help them secure grants.

Sharna will check that the recovery is proceeding in line with people's needs and will identify any other avenues of assistance that may be available to them, either directly from Council, or by linking the with other agencies.

During visits she will deliver asbestos certificates for properties that have been cleaned up, and information packs including application forms for change of address and Rural Finance, BlazeAid, South West Health Care and other organisations that can help people get back on their feet in business and their personal life.

Those impacted by the fire can contact Sharna on 5593 7100.

A Fire Recovery Communications Officer will also be employed. These positions have been obtained through funding from the State and Federal Government.



## WINDROWS MAY CAUSE SMOKE

About 200 piles of hazardous trees felled after the fires have been gathered by excavators around the region. With the end of the fire danger period and arrival of cooler weather, contractors have begun controlled burns of the piles. Some smoke may be seen as a result of burning damp, green wood.

## WELLBEING SUPPORT

If you have been affected by the fires and need confidential emotional or psychological support, available 'on farm', all the Farmer Community Support Workers on 5563 4000 or 5232 5180. GPs provide emotional and psychological support, and can arrange additional assistance. If you have urgent concerns about your own, or someone else's mental health, call Mental Health Services on 1800 808 284.

### Other 24 hour helplines include:

**Lifeline: 13 11 14**

**Kid's Helpline: 1800 55 1800**

**MensLine: 1300 78 9978**

**Nurse on Call: 1800 02 2222**

## APPLY FOR YOUR \$10,000 GRANT

If you have suffered significant damage to assets in the March 2018 bushfires, you may be eligible for a clean-up grant of up to \$10,000.

Grants may be used to cover:

- equipment and materials to undertake clean-up
- additional labour costs (above and beyond normal wage expenditure)
- disposing of damaged goods and injured or dead stock
- fencing not covered by any other assistance
- reconditioning/repairing essential plant and equipment
- salvaging pastures and/or fodder crops (e.g. seed and fertiliser)
- repairs to buildings (other than housing)
- health maintenance for livestock and poultry
- purchase of fodder (not covered by other assistance)
- purchase or hire/lease costs for equipment essential to the immediate resumption of farming
- replacement of essential water used by fire fighting
- water cartage.

Applications close on 31 October 2018.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or download a fact sheet and application form from from [www.ruralfinance.com.au](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au).