

# BUSHFIRE RECOVERY NEWSLETTER



Edition 5- August 2020

## WELCOME

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Bushfire Recovery Newsletter. This newsletter is one of the ways we are working to stay in touch, keep you updated and hear from you through your recovery journey.

The **Bushfire Assistance Hub** in Braidwood is now **open**, located in Park Lane at the Old Braidwood Library.

Opening hours: Monday-Friday, 9am – 3pm

You can come in and see us or contact the Recovery Team on **6285 6789** and [recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au).

## Getting Back Out To Communities

### Bombay and Reidsdale

Agencies and services have been enjoying getting back out into your communities and making connections with community members. We have a number of services that can provide financial assistance, wellbeing support, fencing support and other help you might need going forward through recovery.

Our latest outreaches have been at Bombay and Reidsdale. We joined Bombay at their AGM at the RFS shed. 55 people were in attendance, including services. Reidsdale saw 50 people turning up in the lovely rain at the Old Cheese Factory. The days were a great success and we thank both the community and services for their time and attendance.

Next outreach visit will be at Mongarlowe on 9 August at the RFS shed 10am

### BlazeAid

BlazeAid has been busy, having completed 147 of the registered properties and 157.8 km's of new fencing and spending a massive \$362,759.21 locally. If you are in need of help please contact Dennis McGrath on 0439 623 256



Photo at Bombay Outreach

## Good News Stories

We have been working with The Minderoo Foundation to provide housing pods for those whose homes have been lost in the fires. We are pleased that far we have been successful with three of our applications. Two pods were delivered last week and another will be delivered this week.

A big thank you to Backhouse Transport for helping the Nerriga community with the free transport of animal feed.

## Business Support

### Small business bushfire support grant

If your small business has experienced a significant decline in revenue as a result of the NSW 2019-2020 bushfires (beginning in August 2019), and it is located within a specified Local Government Area (LGA), you may be eligible for the \$10,000 small business support grant.

[www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-small-business-bushfire-support-grant#eligibility](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-small-business-bushfire-support-grant#eligibility)

## **Bushfire recovery grant for directly-impacted small businesses**

If you're a small business or non-profit organisation, and you've suffered direct damage to your premises or equipment as a result of the NSW 2019–2020 bushfire event (beginning in August 2019), you may be eligible for a bushfire recovery grant.

The bushfire recovery grant of up to \$50,000 is to help pay for costs associated with the clean-up and reinstatement of a small business or non-profit organisation's operations.

[www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-bushfire-recovery-grant-directly-impacted-small-businesses](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-bushfire-recovery-grant-directly-impacted-small-businesses)

## **QPRC Small Business Grant**

COMING SOON: QPRC will be releasing a number of grants to support local businesses with marketing, business development and local events. Please keep an eye out on the QPRC website for more details: [www.qprc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au)

## **Free Legal Service**

Legal Aid NSW is operating a Disaster Response Legal Service which provides legal help to people in NSW affected by the bushfires.

Help is available for:

- Insurance
- Credit hardship
- Housing
- Employment
- Replacement of documents (e.g. Certificate of Title)

The Disaster Response Legal Service attends all Disaster Recovery Centres. People can also access the service by calling the Disaster Response HelpLine on 1800 801 529.

## **Rates Relief**

Rates relief is available for properties where the primary residence (or business) has been destroyed. The NSW Government will pay for two instalments /six months of general rates, and Council will pay up to \$470 for two months of waste management charges.

Where property has been affected by bushfire, Council will waive interest on payment arrangements to defer rates over a period of up to two years.

If you are unable to get to a Service NSW office you can complete the form at the below link to register for rates relief:

[www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Bushfire-Recovery-and-Drought-assistance#section-2](http://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Bushfire-Recovery-and-Drought-assistance#section-2)

## **Southern Region Business Enterprise Centre Business Connect Advisors**

This is an initial FREE mobile business advisory service that is available to all businesses in NSW and subsidised by the NSW government. Businesses in bushfire-affected locations may be eligible for fully-subsidised support by our Business Connect Advisors.

A team of highly experienced Advisors are available to meet with you or talk to you by phone if you wish, to

discuss your business needs, be that general information or more specific business restructuring and recovery advice and assistance.

Register at [industry.nsw.gov.au/businessconnect](http://industry.nsw.gov.au/businessconnect), call 1300 134 359 to book a session with a local advisor or call us directly;

Contact details-

SRBEC Office 02 6297 3121

<https://srbec.com.au/bush-fire-relief/>

## **Australian Small Business Advisory Service (ASBAS) – Digital Solutions Business Advisors**

This is an initial FREE advisory service that is available to all business owners requiring help with their online presence, including; websites, Facebook and online marketing. Our team are mobile and meet with you at your business or by phone and can be contacted directly on;

SRBEC Office 02 6297 3121

<https://srbec.com.au/bush-fire-relief/>

## **Small Business Commissioner**

The Small Business Commissioner empowers small businesses with advocacy and mediation support, giving them a voice at the highest levels. The NSW Small Business Commission has developed resources to help small business owners recover from disasters, including:

Get Back to Business - a guide to recovering from disaster

[www.smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au/resources/get-back-business-guide-recovering-disaster](http://www.smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au/resources/get-back-business-guide-recovering-disaster)

Insurance claims for small business guide

[www.smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au/get-help/advocacy/quick-guide-making-insurance-claims](http://www.smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au/get-help/advocacy/quick-guide-making-insurance-claims)

## **QPRC Female Entrepreneurs & Business Leaders - Virtual Coffee**

***Coming together in these trying times....***

**When: Tuesday 4 August 2020**

**Time: 10am - 10.45am**

**Where: Via Zoom**

Please join us for a virtual networking session for female entrepreneurs and business leaders from the QPRC region. There will be an opportunity to introduce yourself and your business and share some of the challenges that you have had in your business this past 8 months.

The catch up will be hosted by Liz Kobold. Liz has recently been appointed to our region through the Entrepreneurs Programme – Strengthening Business supporting businesses that were trading during 2020 Black Summer. Liz is a proud member of the QPRC community, with over 20 years' experience in supporting businesses to grow and thrive across a variety of industries.

Please RSVP to Liz directly

[Liz.Kobold@businessaustralia.com](mailto:Liz.Kobold@businessaustralia.com) and she will send through a zoom link and calendar invite.

## PHN- COORDINARE

### Mental health support, wherever you are!

COORDINARE – South Eastern NSW PHN has been working with Southern NSW Local Health District to support our communities to recover and rebuild. COORDINARE funds a number of no-cost mental health services in the region including;

- **Bushfire support counselling service** through CatholicCare to help bushfire impacted community members plan their recovery, offering coping strategies, social supports, counselling and family-based interventions. Call 1800 068 698 or go to [www.catholiccare.cg.org.au](http://www.catholiccare.cg.org.au)
- **Grand Pacific Health** provides face-to-face or phone counselling available to South Eastern NSW residents. Call 1800 228 987.
- **Rural Outreach Mental Health Service** supports people with complex mental health issues via specialist mental health treatment. Services are provided within Southern NSW by credentialed mental health nurses via telehealth. Call 02 4421 7525 or go to [www.romhs.com.au](http://www.romhs.com.au)
- **Royal Far West** provides telehealth mental health services to children aged 0-15 years with mild to moderate mental health issues, and their families in Southern NSW. For more information call 02 8966 8500 or view their flyer at <https://bit.ly/30a66CT>
- **Headspace** provides support for 12-25 year olds. Call the Queanbeyan centre on 02 6298 0300, or for e-headspace (online web chat) call 1800 650 890.
- **We are here to help as we work towards recovery together. For more information, support options and resources go to [www.bushfiresupport.info](http://www.bushfiresupport.info)**

### Free community suicide prevention training

Free community suicide prevention training, called QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer) is available to help you become suicide aware and support those around you. QPR training is a free one-hour online course anyone can do to learn the three simple steps to help save a life from suicide. Go to [www.reachoutanytime.info](http://www.reachoutanytime.info) to find out more or complete the training.

### Community grants

Over \$367,000 has been awarded by COORDINARE to 67 community projects across South Eastern NSW as part of our natural disaster community grants funding. COORDINARE was overwhelmed by the creativity and resilience of local organisations / groups, one exciting initiative is detailed below. Read more about some of the funded activities at [https://bit.ly/bushfiregrants\\_round1](https://bit.ly/bushfiregrants_round1)

### Braidwood Holistic Therapies: Mongarlowe Mozzies Debrief

This successful community debrief and social get-together was held near Braidwood on 20 March 2020 to honour Mongarlowe's 'Mosquito' army, which defended properties and withstood active fire in the area for more than five weeks.

The event attracted almost 100 local residents and was supported by a local counsellor. It provided connections through shared cooking and socialising, children's activities, screen-printing of special 'Mongarlowe Mozzies' t-shirts to promote social cohesion and supportive friendships, recognition through awards, and a viewing of a short documentary film made by those on the fire ground. The event was very well received, with many participants commending the sense of community spirit.

## Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre

Free and confidential legal advice is available from Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre. We can advise in a wide range of areas including:

Insurance  
Employment  
Tenancy  
Credit and debt  
Centrelink payments  
Discrimination  
Power of Attorney / Guardianship  
Victims' compensation  
Domestic Violence  
Family law (separation, children, divorce)

Telephone our friendly intake team on 1800 229 529 to book a face to face or telephone appointment with our solicitors.

## CONTACT US

It is important during community-led recovery that we hear from you about how you are managing and coping, what issues you are facing and any ideas you have to support the community's renewal. Please share comments or ideas with us by contacting:

Phone: 6285 6789

Email: [recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au)

Facebook: @Queanbeyan-PalerangBushfireRecovery

**For translating and interpreting assistance call TIS on 13 14 50**