

Tuesday 22 October 2024

Storm Recovery Update



South Gippsland
Shire Council

Drop into Council's Recovery Centre located at the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation for help connecting to mental health, wellbeing, financial and business advice services.

Open: Tuesday and Thursday from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

Mirboo North Swimming Pool

Repair works at the Mirboo North Pool are continuing with the focus currently on the plant room, where significant damage was sustained. The works are being completed by a contractor, who has been engaged by Council's insurer to complete the works. The repairs are fully covered under Council's insurance policy.

Works currently underway or complete include:

- Canteen and pool storage areas cleaned.
- Building Permit for pool shed obtained.
- Building Permit for boundary fence progressed.
- Pool shed and heat pumps ordered.
- Splash park play area equipment repaired.

Work on the pool remains on schedule, with the plant room remaining a priority as it is both the most complex and important in relation to the reopening.

Baths Road Reserve

Council staff will be at the car park opposite the Shire Hall at 10.30am on Sunday 27 October 2024 to take interested community members on half-hour guided walks of the Reserve. The walks will provide an update on storm-related impacts to the Reserve, as well as an overview of work completed since the storm and future works planned in the Reserve. Future works to reduce any increased bushfire risk in the Reserve will be completed with support from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

Several tracks are now open in Baths Road Reserve, with the community now able to access the Balook Street and Pool Tracks, as well as sections of the Wildflower Track. Work is continuing in the Reserve, however the Link Track, King Fern Track and sections of the Wildflower Track are still closed. When visiting, please keep to the tracks in the Reserve, and if any areas are closed, obey signage and fencing for your own safety.

The Friends of Baths Road Reserve will also be holding a Working Bee from 10.00am to 12.00pm on the same day. Please contact www.mnlandcare.net.au/contact for more information on how you can get involved in the Working Bee.

Dr. Rob Gordon is Back

Dr. Rob Gordon is returning to Mirboo North on Wednesday 13 November to share his insights into practical and emotional responses after emergency events, what to expect nine months into recovery, and how to build resilience for future emergencies. This Recovery and Resilience Session will take place at the Mirboo North Shire Hall from 6.00pm (tea and coffee at 6.00pm, Rob Gordon speaking from 6.30pm).

Community Recovery Feedback

Community feedback posters have been finalised and are currently displayed at the Co-Space, the Mirboo North Library and in other locations across Mirboo North. The posters have been created to share your feedback on recovery priorities from earlier this year, as well as giving an update on activities completed and future planned recovery activities.

Recovery Support

Recovery support is still available and depending on what you need, can be as simple as telephone advice on what programs and services can help you.

To find out more, call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on **1800 560 760**.

FREE Financial Counselling for Farmers and Small Related Enterprises

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) provides a free and confidential financial counselling service to farmers and small related enterprises who are experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship. They can help you access available support, analyse your business situation, negotiate with lenders and develop strategies to improve your financial position.

To book an appointment, please call **1300 771 741**.

FREE Legal Outreach Service at Co-Space

Provided by Gippsland Community Legal Service and Victorian Legal Aid, this service continues at the Co-Space **every month**. The next is on 31 October 2024. The attending lawyers will assist with any queries you have – that could be insurance delays, tenancy issues or more general queries. Remember that you can call them any time on **1800 004 402**.

Healing in our Environment

We are rolling out this recovery program further to community feedback on the linkage between recovery and healing in our natural environment. Some events that link with this program are coming up:

Fire Wise Shelterbelts and Gardens (Loch)

When: Tuesday 24 October from 9.30am to 12.30pm, morning tea provided.

Where: 16 Smith Street, Loch VIC 3945.

Register: <https://events.humanitix.com/fire-wise-shelterbelts> OR visit sgln.net.au and go to the Events Calendar.

Local ecologist Kate Bennetts (Fire, Flood and Flora) will discuss how certain indigenous plant species can be used in shelterbelts and gardens to help reduce bushfire risk on farms and residential gardens. Mitch Emmett (CFA Vegetation Management Officer) and Hayley King (CFA Engagement Coordinator) will share CFA resources on landscaping for bushfire. Afterwards, we'll visit the Fire Wise shelterbelt demonstration site that has recently been planted at Loch.

Tree Planting for Biolinks and Storm Recovery

When: Saturday 9 November from 9.00am to 12.00pm.

Where: Willarah Farm, Strzelecki Highway (2 kilometres out of Mirboo North).

Register: <https://events.humanitix.com/growing-stronger-together-tree-planting-for-biolinks-and-storm-recovery-walk-and-talk>

Strzelecki Alpine Biolink and Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network are holding an informative session on the value of revegetation of private properties to assist in wildlife corridors and storm recovery. You will be able to join local ecologist Peter Gannon for a walk around Willarah Farm and hear about biolinks and how to set up successful revegetation on properties. Property owners can also learn how to submit grant applications to plant trees on their properties. Morning tea is included.