

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.

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

Thanks to all those who came to the Guided Walk in Baths Road Reserve on Sunday 27 October to see regeneration in action and hear about what has been happening in the reserve and upcoming management plans for fuel reduction. In summary:

- Several tracks through the Reserve are open for walkers, with some smaller tracks still marked as closed. When visiting the Reserve, keep on the open tracks and obey signage and fencing.
- The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) has commenced biodiversity surveying in the Reserve to identify biodiversity values to inform how storm debris can be managed to reduce bushfire risk. These surveys are being undertaken by trained ecologists and researchers who will be walking through the Reserve at both day and night.
- DEECA and South Gippsland Shire Council are working on a plan to remove and relocate coarse, woody debris in badly impacted sections of Baths Road Reserve to reduce fuel load and enhance firefighter access. Further information and a fact sheet are available at the Recovery Centre at the Co-Space, 96 Ridgway.

Recovery and Resilience Session – Dr. Rob Gordon

South Gippsland Shire Council and the Community Recovery Working Group are pleased to host a FREE recovery and resilience session in November. Guest speaker Dr. Rob Gordon will return to Mirboo North to share his insights into practical and emotional responses in the second half of the first year of recovery and how to build resilience for future emergencies.

Dr. Rob Gordon PhD is a clinical psychologist and has worked with people and communities throughout Australia and New Zealand after traumatic events such as storms, bushfires and floods for over 30 years. He provides practical steps to help you plan a way through this recovery journey for yourself and your families. Council, the CFA and other agencies will be available before and after the session to provide advice on emergency planning to support your resilience leading into summer.

- Date: Wednesday 13 November 2024.
- Time: Tea and coffee from 6.00pm. Dr. Rob Gordon speaking from 6.30pm.
- Location: Mirboo North Shire Hall.
- Register: By visiting www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/stormeventupdate

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**.

Time Out for Wellbeing Workshop

BooFIIT and the Bendigo Community Bank Mirboo North and District are providing a wellbeing workshop led by experienced local facilitator Jeanette White. This workshop will take you on a journey of self-discovery as we explore personal wellbeing and the power of connection. You'll reflect on warning signs when your needs aren't being met, what belongs on your "not to do" list, and how to bring more of what works well into your life. You'll leave with new tools, a plan to support your wellbeing, and an opportunity to share ideas with others. Registrations are essential at: www.mirboonorth.com/boofiit-events/time-out

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 28 November 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**.

Green Waste Amnesty

The Green Waste Amnesty period has started and will continue until the end of December. Residents can dispose of their green waste for free at any of Council's transfer stations until the end of the amnesty period. The Amnesty aims to encourage residents to prepare their properties for the fire season by removing potential fire hazards. Certain weeds are not allowed, or palm fronds and related species. For more information, see Council's website or drop into the Recovery Centre on Tuesday and Thursday between 10.00am and 3.00pm.

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:

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.

Guided Walk through Mirboo North Immediate Protection Area

When: Sunday 17 November from 9.00am for a 1.5 to 2 hour walk (good level of fitness required).

Where: Immediate Protection Area Forests – behind the Pumping Station, corner Strzelecki Highway and Samson Road, Mirboo North. Parking available at Lyrebird Forest Walk and the Pumping Station.

Register: As places are limited, please register by 14 November 2024 by emailing preserveourforestsmn@yahoo.com or calling **0408 319 397**. Further details will be provided upon registration.

Join Preserve Our Forests Mirboo North on a guided walk through the lush native forest of the Mirboo North Immediate Protection Area. Biodiversity experts will guide you on an informative and interesting walk through this stunning area. Learn all about the flora and fauna that live there and why it's such an important local asset.