

Tuesday 3 December 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 currently taking place include replacing the perimeter fence, installing the new pool shed and the delivery of replacement pool plant.

Works to commence soon:

- Shade sails and pool equipment to be reinstated.
- Pool to be cleaned and PH balanced.
- New children's play equipment to be installed.

Works are on track for the pool to be reopened this pool season.

**Did you know?** While the Mirboo North Pool is not yet open, you can still buy a season pass at South Gippsland SPLASH and use that pass to access pools at Leongatha, Korumburra and Poowong.

## Emergency Preparedness Information at the Recovery Centre

Drop into Council's Recovery Centre at the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation for information on how you can prepare for the summer season. The team can help you:

- Develop an emergency plan.
- Download the Vic Emergency App on your smart device.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Mirboo North Storm Debris Fact Sheet is also available at the centre. This sheet outlines planned storm debris cleanup works on public land in Mirboo North and the surrounding district.

## **Green Waste Amnesty**

Residents can dispose of their green waste for free at any of Council's transfer stations until the end of December. 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 please visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/greenwasteamnesty](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/greenwasteamnesty)

## **Recovery Support**

Recovery support is still available and depending on what you need, it 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 Legal Outreach Service**

The Gippsland Community Legal Service will not be at the Co-Space in December but are still available to assist with any queries you have about insurance delays, tenancy issues or more general queries. To find out more please call them on 1800 004 402.

## **Telling Stories: Community Stories from the Storm and Recovery**

Have you got stories to share about the storm event, the community response, and/or recovery. The Community Recovery Working Group are looking at ways to facilitate the telling of these stories through interviews, writing and images.

Additionally, Working Group will soon put out a call for photos and videos of the storm and aftermath, to be housed by the Mossman and District Historical Society.

If you have ideas, or would like to be involved, please contact Katrina at 0419 155 504 or drop into the Recovery Centre.

## **Helping each other recover – Get to know your neighbours**

The Australia Talks National Survey 2021 found 38 per cent of Australians don't know their neighbours by name. Yet research consistently shows that knowing your neighbours helps increase security and provides access to resources and support when needed.

There is nothing like a Christmas Street Party to bring the neighbourhood together, but if organising yet another party sounds like a big job, just keep it nice and simple with the following steps. Flag the idea with a couple of neighbours you know, set a time (the simplest street party is mid-afternoon) and locate an appropriate front lawn or driveway. You could deliver a flyer and ask people to bring their own snacks to share.

Most importantly – have fun!

## **Healing in our Environment**

Share your feedback on the linkage between recovery and healing in our natural environment. We also welcome your feedback on activities you'd like to see facilitated. More information can be found at the

Congratulations to Preserve our Forests for conducting a very successful guided walk for 40 participants through the Mirboo North Immediate Protection Area on 17 November. We are hoping to see another walk early in 2025.

## Funding Opportunities

### Energy Resilience Community Fund – Round 2 Open

As climate change brings increasingly severe, frequent and unpredictable weather events, the risk of prolonged power outages also increases. The Energy Resilience Community Fund provides grants of \$5-50k to community and not-for-profit organisations and small businesses for:

- Generators, solar and storage solutions to support community during a power outage.
- Upskilling or training technicians to install energy resilience solutions.
- Education and literacy projects about using energy wisely.

<https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/about-us/community/energy-resilience-community-fund>

### The Gippsland Farm Forestry Program Grants – Close 7 March 2025

Grants up to 50 per cent of the project costs are available for landowners to grow trees for timber as well as other benefits including:

- Providing shelter for stock, crops and pastures.
- Improved farm amenity and biodiversity.
- Carbon storage.

The program supports the planting of wood lots, shelterbelts or wide space plantings

[agriculture.vic.gov.au/crops-and-horticulture/farm-forestry/gippsland-farm-forestry-grant-program](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/crops-and-horticulture/farm-forestry/gippsland-farm-forestry-grant-program)