

# BUSHFIRE RECOVERY NEWS

AUGUST 2020, ISSUE NO. 2  
WINTER EDITION

*Budgeree, Jumbuk & Yinnar South*



## WELCOME

**This newsletter goes out to our communities in Boolarra, Boolarra South, Budgeree, Jumbuk, Jeeralang Junction, Yinnar South and parts of Yinnar by Australia Post delivery. Extra copies are available from the Yinnar General Store. The newsletter is to let you know that work on the long term recovery continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Earlier this year the Budgeree, Jumbuk and Yinnar South Community Recovery Committee with support from the Yinnar and Districts Community Association, successfully applied for a grant to install a 90,430 litre water tank on the former Jumbuk Hall site. The Committee wishes to thank the Community Enterprise Foundation of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank for their support in funding the tank project.

In this edition of the newsletter we have included a short online survey about emergency preparedness. It would be great if you could take three minutes out of your day so that we can get an understanding of community thoughts around being prepared for all emergencies.

We would also like your suggestions for the recovery program. Please email to [BJYScommittee@latrobe.vic.gov.au](mailto:BJYScommittee@latrobe.vic.gov.au) or call Linda Snell, Yinnar South Recovery Officer on 0400 828 685 for a chat.

# BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Winter is a great time to ensure all your property maintenance is up to date, especially in regards to fire prevention and to review your household emergency plan. Remember, any bushfire plan – written or not – is better than no plan.

The CFA website has a wealth of important information and templates to help you prepare but leaving early is always the safest option. The CFA offer the following advice:

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-bushfire-plan/](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-bushfire-plan/)

Planning to stay and defend is a big decision. Most homes in high-risk bushfire areas are not designed for Code Red conditions. The CFA's Defending your Property page can help you decide whether or not you are capable of defending your property – and tells you about the risks and preparations involved.

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/stay-and-actively-defend/](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/stay-and-actively-defend/)



## *Protecting homes against bushfire – clearing of native vegetation*

The Victorian Government's 10/30 rule simplifies your entitlements to clear native vegetation around your property. There are planning permit exemptions so you can manage vegetation around your property. You'll need to consider the risk of erosion and landslip that can be caused by clearing vegetation. You should also consider visiting vulnerable, threatened or endangered species of fauna, including the Strzelecki Koala, Swift Parrot and Great Gliders.

Before removing any native vegetation check whether your property falls under the 10/30 or 10/50 rule to avoid any penalties. The rules only apply to buildings and fences built before certain dates.

### **10/30 rule:**

1. any vegetation, including trees, within 10 metres of your house
2. any vegetation (except for trees) within 30 metres of your house

### **10/50 rule:**

1. any vegetation, including trees, within 10 metres of your house
2. any vegetation (except for trees) within 50 metres of your house

To determine if your property is within the Bushfire Management Overlay, visit [www.land.vic.gov.au](http://www.land.vic.gov.au) [www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/bushfire/your-property/vegetation-removal-for-bushfire-protection](http://www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/bushfire/your-property/vegetation-removal-for-bushfire-protection)



# BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS

## *Permit to Burn/Burning Off*

**The Fire Danger Period ceased in the Latrobe City Municipality on 16 March 2020.**

If you are planning to burn off your green waste, twigs and branches, you need to register your burn:

1. Phone 1800 668 511
2. Complete the Burn off Notification Form and email to [burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au](mailto:burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au) or fax: 1300 674 428
3. National Relay Service Users can call 1300 555 727 and ask for Information to be relayed to ESTA via 1800 668 511

The current Latrobe City Local Law No 2 requires all owners or occupiers of land in Latrobe City to have a permit to burn. This notice is given as a blanket permit for all properties zoned Farming, Rural, Rural-Lifestyle and Rural/Residential within the Latrobe City Municipality. Before burning off :

1. Establish a fire break of no less than three metres cleared of all flammable material
2. Make sure there are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively
3. Check the weather forecast for the day of the burn and a few days afterwards
4. Check the fuel moisture conditions
5. Notify your neighbours at least two hours before starting the burn

[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/Burn-off\\_checklist\\_web.pdf](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/Burn-off_checklist_web.pdf)

Find more hints and tips on preparing your property visit:

[www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Community/Emergencies/Emergency\\_Management](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Community/Emergencies/Emergency_Management)

## *Should I stay or should I go?*

**Can you spare three minutes to complete our emergency preparedness survey?**

This will help us work together with your community to make sure in the next emergency event, everyone is prepared! The survey includes an option to have some help with making sure you and your property are well prepared.

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/areyourprepared2020](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/areyourprepared2020)



# SUPPORT SERVICES

*Council and local support services are continuing to work together to support our community during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis.*

*Help spread the word! If you know someone who might need a hand, let them know they can call Council and we will connect them with vital local services.*

The Latrobe City Community Support Helpline team is continuing to take your calls. Phone the hotline during business hours on 1300 367 700 for information or support including emergency food aid, home support services, financial counselling/assistance, family violence support or mental health services.



## COVID-19 and Isolation as Emergencies

**DR ROB GORDON**

**As the region begins to emerge from 'lockdown' due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Latrobe Health Assembly has released a video featuring Dr Rob Gordon (Clinical Psychologist) who delves into the many emotions we all may have experienced during the pandemic and as we get back to our 'new normal'.**

Emergencies do not always involve great drama, but do always involve threat and disruption to our lives. There are several threats from the COVID-19 situation.

Illness: which we have little control over. Threat associated with lack of control creates anxiety, which wants us to take the problem away. But we can't with COVID-19, so we feel stressed about an unusual threat.

Isolation: We normally take community life for granted. When we lose it, some are alone, some with families; some feel empty, some enjoy solitude, some miss privacy others enjoy the new life. Isolation can change how we feel about ourselves.

Changed routines: After a bushfire or other disruptive event, life routines are lost. When activities are routine, we don't think about them – that is what a routine is – it frees up mental energy to reflect, plan, digest what happens. Routines are the framework for our lives and needed to be efficient and effective.

Stress and fatigue: Stress is a response to demands; being at home is not normally demanding, but with COVID-19, we put a lot of energy into doing ordinary things. The stress of home schooling, interruptions of routines and competing demands all build up.

Changed demands: We organise ourselves to respond to everyday demands. Now competing demands cut across each other – teacher householder, worker.

Isolation has been very difficult for some people, for all sorts of reasons. There was no choice, it was imposed. But we can change passive into active; from something I have had to put up with into an opportunity I did not expect to have. What can we do in isolation – whatever our circumstances – that we do not normally have the chance to do? This is a creative opportunity for us and those we share our lives with.

To find out how to help yourself and your family deal with these issues, watch Dr Gordon's presentation online here - <https://youtu.be/fylkqWE9Q10>



# Creative Recovery Project

**Earlier this year there was an opportunity for the Baw Baw and Cardinia Shire Councils and Latrobe City Council to support the development of a Creative Recovery program of activities for communities. This will support recovery and resilience building following the Eastern Complex Fires of March 2019.**

Three local Gippsland artists were engaged through this program to work with the community developing skills in creative recovery for our region. This project is part of the fire recovery efforts already underway by Council in consultation with the Budgerie, Jumbuck, Yinnar South Community Recovery Committee. This project was Phase One of a Three-phase process before the pandemic. The first part of the project is to develop and implement creative recovery projects across the region over the next two years.

Where the original plan was to meet members of your community face to face, you have instead received some interesting and fun information in your letterbox. If you haven't responded yet but would like to get involved, please use the link below.

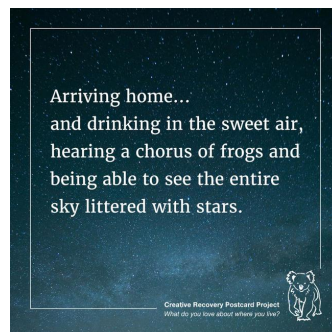
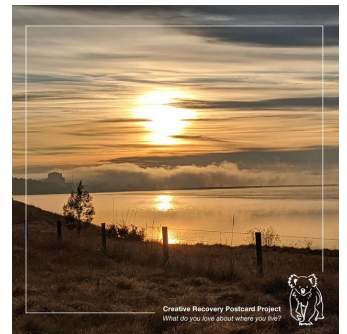
Across the areas affected by the Eastern Complex bushfires last year, we are asking people to share their photos and words that answer these questions.

- What do you love about where you live?
- What brings you peace or makes you smile?
- What is your favourite sound?
- If you were a bird, what bird would you be?

This is a new program to support communities affected by bushfires and is a partnership between Latrobe City Council, Lifeline Gippsland and the Creative Recovery Network.

The artists; Margie Mackay, Jo Caminiti and Jeremy Kasper will be working to design a community-led creative recovery project, which will be based on the answers to these questions they receive.

Please join in and let us hear about your special part of the world: [www.latrobe.questionpro.com](http://www.latrobe.questionpro.com)



## Cats, curfews & cages



**The area impacted by the bushfire is also home to either vulnerable, threatened or endangered species of fauna, including the Swift Parrot and Great Gliders. Wandering domestic and feral cats pose an enormous risk to all wildlife, but especially those species that are under pressure.**

As part of responsible pet ownership, all cats must be registered once they reach three months of age and must be desexed and microchipped to be registered.

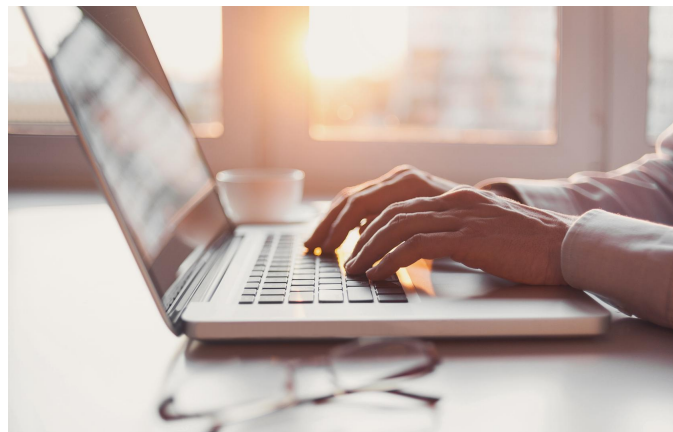
Under the provisions of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, Council resolved that a cat curfew will apply 9pm to 6am, seven days a week.

If you have nuisance or feral cats visiting your property you are able to loan a cat cage through the Latrobe City pound. Phone 1300 367 700 to secure a place on the wait list. A loan cage is also available through your local Landcare group.

Community members may purchase/utilise commercially available cat traps to trap stray or feral cats and then call Animal Control staff, who will attend and impound cats. Please be aware that Prevention of Cruelty to Animal's legislation applies to all cats that are trapped by members of the public.

For more information visit [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Home/Animals\\_and\\_Pets](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Home/Animals_and_Pets) or Domestic Animals Act 1994 for details and exemptions.

## Latrobe City Libraries



**Bored with commercial television, run out of books? Looking to start a new project or research your family history?**

Your local library has a wealth of free resources available for you to pick up or access from home. The free movie and documentary streaming services have loads of Australian content and classic movies.

Reading - books, help setting up book clubs or NoveList book matching

Digital library - eBooks and eMagazines, audio and talking books, newspapers

Streaming services - films, documentaries, television shows or kids programs

Seed Library - 'borrow' up to three packets of vegetable or herb seeds

Lifelong learning - online databases, research and learning resources

Research - local and family history with our genealogy and online databases

Not a library member? You can join online here [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/library](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/library) and take advantage of the Home Library For All service during the lockdown.



# YINNAR, YINNAR SOUTH LANDCARE GROUP

## *Community Planting Days*



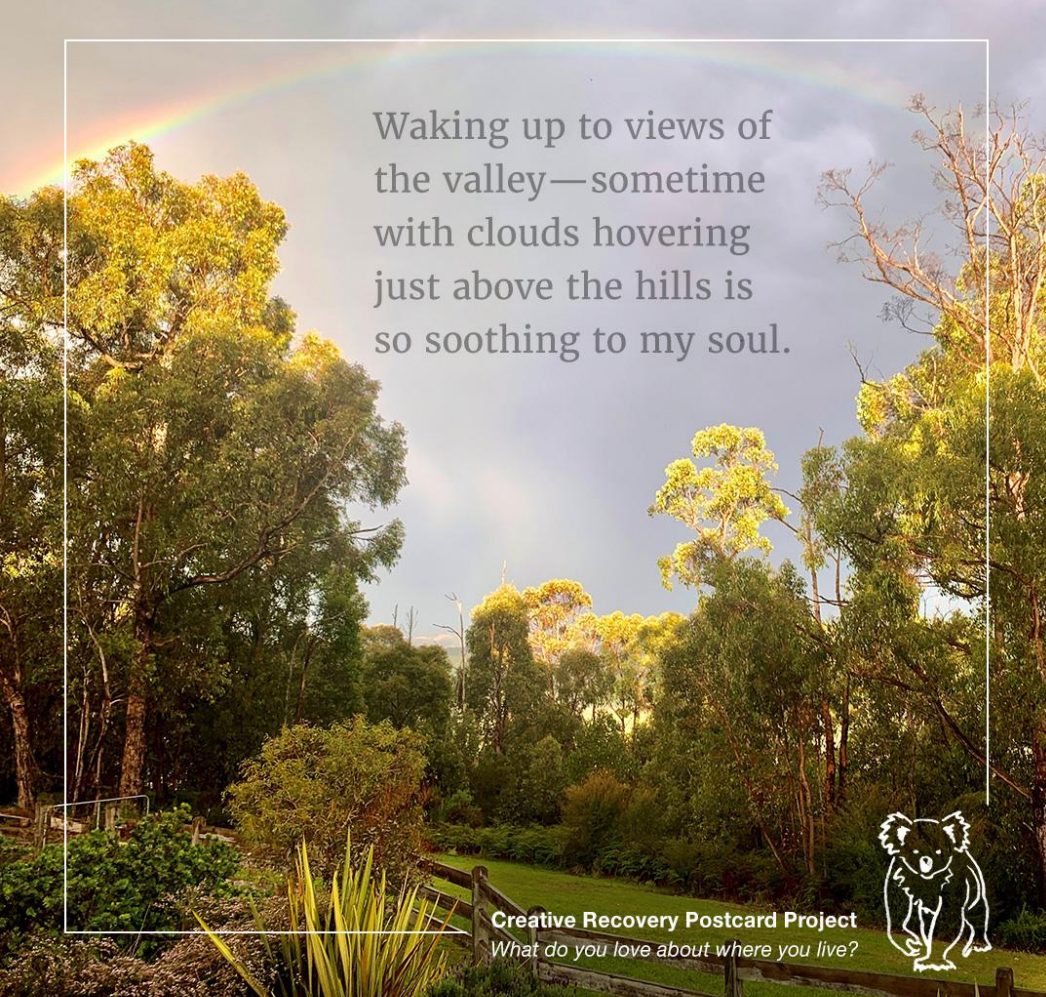
**The Yinnar-Yinnar South Landcare Group has been growing locally indigenous plants to help Middle Creek recover from the 2019 fire. They had planned two community planting days along Middle Creek which are now on hold due to the Stage 3 COVID-19 restrictions coming back into force.**

The group focus on habitat protection, revegetation, weed control, water quality, and increasing knowledge and awareness of the environment and its sustainability. They welcome new members and aim to be a well-run, active, child safe and enjoyable organisation that works to improve the local environment.

The Group invite community to participate in their planting events when the time is right. To register your interest for future events, receive more information or to find out about joining the group, please contact Linda Snell, Yinnar South Recovery Officer on 0400 828 685. Alternatively you can visit the Group's website [www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/westgippsland/yinnar-south/](http://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/westgippsland/yinnar-south/)








Waking up to views of  
the valley—sometime  
with clouds hovering  
just above the hills is  
so soothing to my soul.


**Creative Recovery Postcard Project**  
*What do you love about where you live?*




Solitude.

Up in the mountains, native  
bush, king parrots on my  
verandah, peace, connected  
sense of community,  
welcoming neighbours who  
are also my close mates.


**Creative Recovery Postcard Project**  
*What do you love about where you live?*

A black and white line drawing of a koala clinging to a tree branch. The koala is facing forward, with its arms and legs wrapped around the branch. The background is a solid dark grey.



The peaceful and  
secluded environment,  
the friendly faces,  
the community spirit  
amongst the locals  
during the good and  
the tough times.

**Creative Recovery Postcard Project**  
*What do you love about where you live?*





### Creative Recovery Postcard Project

*What do you love about where you live?*

Our stunning natural bush. An abundance of wildlife and peace.

### Creative Recovery Postcard Project

Arriving home...  
and drinking in the sweet air,  
hearing a chorus of frogs and  
being able to see the entire  
sky littered with stars.

Creative Recovery Postcard Project  
What do you love about where you live?



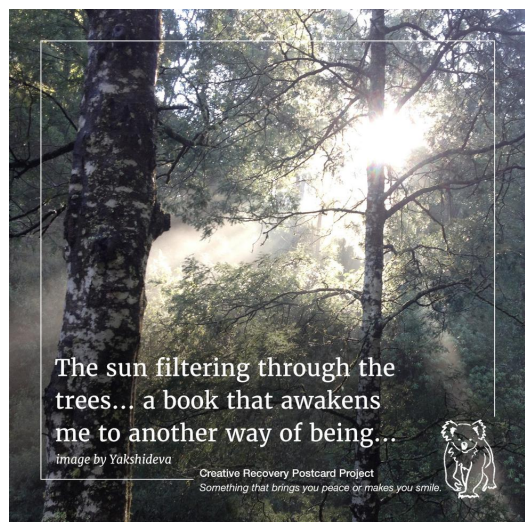
**Creative Recovery Postcard Project**  
*What do you love about where you live?*

### Creative Recovery Postcard Project

*What do you love about where you live?*

I love everything,  
I feel very lucky  
to live here.

**Creative Recovery Postcard Project**  
*What do you love about where you live?*

A photograph of a sunlit forest. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy of tall trees, creating a bright, hazy glow in the center-right of the image. The foreground shows the dark, textured bark of a large tree trunk on the left and the silhouettes of branches and leaves throughout the scene. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

The sun filtering through the trees... a book that awakens me to another way of being...

*image by Yakshideva*

Creative Recovery Postcard Project  
Something that brings you peace or makes you smile.


A small, stylized line drawing of a bear standing on its hind legs. The bear is facing left and holding a book or a similar rectangular object in its front paws. The drawing is simple, with clean lines and no shading.

image by Yakshideva

**Creative Recovery Postcard Project**  
Something that brings you peace or makes you smile

