

Recovery Newsletter

SOUTH WARD COMMUNITY DISASTER RECOVERY COMMITTEE

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Photo: Glenys Webster, Yinnar Memorial Hall Committee Chair and Robyn Duffy, Latrobe City Recovery Manager, discuss the installation of the Disaster Satellite Service at Yinnar.

NBN DISASTER SATELLITE SERVICE FOR SOUTH WARD TOWNS

Boolarra, Budgerie and Yinnar will have free satellite access to backup communications connection at their public halls in times of disaster, providing full satellite broadband functionality including Wi-Fi and video streaming.

This emergency service has been provided by the Federal Government to help communities stay connected during emergencies. These three South Ward communities have joined eight other sites in Latrobe City to gain the service. Council's Recovery Manager, Robyn Duffy, made the successful application to the Federal Government, supported by the South Ward Community Disaster Recovery Committee (CDRC).

RECOVERY EVENTS AT BUDGEREE

The Budgerie community has suffered from both bushfire and storm disasters in the past three years. The Budgerie Hall Committee, with support from South Ward CDRC, is gearing up to offer two free community recovery activities in 2022, once Covid restrictions have eased. A program of Zumba classes spanning several months will be offered at no cost to participants. An evening Bush Dance will also be conducted at the Budgerie Hall.

"Coming together strengthens our community ties which is vital for our sense of wellbeing and connection with others," Hall Committee Chair, Leanne Potter told the CDRC.

BUSHFIRE PREPARE – A BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM:

A bushfire preparedness program to assist you to prepare your property. Includes an online learning package and resources - A Safer Together project.

This online 'Bushfire Prepare' course is free to complete and covers seven modules:

- 1.Fire Behaviour
- 2.Your Bushfire Plan
- 3.Fire Management Arrangements
- 4.Fuel Management Options
- 5.Managing Safety
- 6.Equipment Operation
- 7.Planning and Conducting Your Burn

The learning modules are self-paced and can be done as an individual or with family and friends.

The course can be accessed at <https://bushfireprepare.online/>



Photo: AusNet contractors pruning the dead and dangerous trees on Healeys Road.

VOLUNTEERS AND BUSINESS COMBINE IN DANGEROUS TREE REMOVAL

A group of large and dangerous trees left standing in Yinnar South following the 2019 bushfire have been removed thanks to the work of AusNet Services contractors and volunteer organisation Disaster Relief Australia (DRA).

Following an approach from Latrobe City's Bushfire Recovery Officer, AusNet undertook major pruning of the dead gums to prevent danger to adjacent power lines. DRA then arranged for the removal of the trees to ground level.



Photo: South Ward Recovery Chair, Annette Deppeler with members of the Yinnar South Locality Recovery Team reviewing flood damage on Middle Creek.

COMMUNITY INPUT TO STORM/FLOOD RECOVERY IN SOUTH WARD

In August 2021, Council agreed to the establishment of the South Ward Community Disaster Recovery Committee (CDRC), building on the Bushfire Recovery Committee in place since 2019.

The CDRC has since established volunteer locality recovery teams which are now operating in:

- Budgerie/Budgerie East/Grand Ridge
- Boolarra/Darlimurla/Delburn
- Boolarra South/Mirboo
- Jeeralang Junction/Jeeralang
- Yinnar South

These local volunteer Teams, working with Council staff, are intended to act as the eyes, ears and voice of local communities regarding recovery issues and needs.

Their input will contribute to the Storm/Flood Recovery Action Plan to be documented for South Ward. The Recovery Action Plan will identify and support the South Ward communities' needs and aspirations and assist to

secure and spend recovery funds when available from the state and federal governments.

The locality recovery teams would welcome additional volunteers from their localities to assist in supporting community-led disaster recovery. For further information contact John Harris, Deputy Chair, CDRC at john.harris@speedweb.com.au

FREE CHAINSAW COURSES

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE BEING CALLED FOR TWO CHAINSAW COURSES TO BE RUN IN 2022 - CROSSCUT – OPERATE & MAINTAIN CHAINSAWS

The courses will be free for participants and made possible with funding from Emergency Management Victoria.

When a course date is set, responders will be offered a place on a first-come first-served basis.

To register your interest contact Mark King, Latrobe City Council Community Recovery and Resilience Officer at southwardcdrc@latrobe.vic.gov.au



COURSE CONTENT

- Choosing an appropriate chainsaw and equipment for various applications – in particular crosscutting.
- Maintaining, fuelling and cleaning of chainsaws
- Chain types and parts, selection, tension and sharpening
- Trouble shooting
- Chainsaw safety – OHS / WHS issues for chainsaw use in the workplace
- Kickback, other reactive forces and risk issues
- Cutting – body position, stance, grip and boring/plunge cuts
- Crosscut and ripping – working with logs on the ground and the various tension and compression loadings on those logs

Note from the course provider: Please note that course are comprehensive and demanding; we ensure participants are legitimately competent before we will issue a certificate of competency. Students need to prepare properly, well before the training day, ensuring the chainsaw theory work has been completed and understood.

DURATION / CLASS SIZE

There is a one-day and a two-day course on offer.

Four to five participants maximum per class.

YINNAR SOUTH COMMUNITY RECOVERY DAY

Unfortunately, the Yinnar Community Recovery Day has been postponed due to COVID-19. The event was planned for Sunday 23 January, 2022, from 11am – 3pm, at the Martin Walker Park, Yinnar South. A new date will be released later.

The South Ward CDRC rely on and appreciate help from volunteers. If you would be interested in helping with an event, please contact Annette Deppeler, CDRC, at elamdeppeler1@bigpond.com or 51 691 553.

YINNAR/YINNAR SOUTH LANDCARE SUPPORT FOR REVEGETATION WORKS

Property owners in the area affected by the Budgerie, Jumbuk, Yinnar South Fire in March 2019, who are interested in revegetation works on their properties, Yinnar/Yinnar South Landcare is happy to support you. Please register your interest by contacting the group at the following yinnar.landcare@gmail.com

RECOVERY ACTIVITY – SUSTAINABLE GARDENING AUSTRALIA WORKSHOPS

Don't miss this great opportunity to participate in these free community workshops that will incorporate both theory and practical activities, presented by Sustainable Gardening Australia. The workshops are being delivered in partnership with Yinnar Community Garden, Yinnar-Yinnar South Landcare Group, and Food For All Latrobe Valley and have been made possible with funding from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

Registrations are essential.

SUNDAY 30 JANUARY, 2022

Workshop #1, 10am-12pm: Native garden soil and plant care
Dive into the world of soil and how to care for it so your Indigenous / wildlife garden flourishes and becomes a welcome home for wildlife.

Workshop #2, 1pm-3pm: Weeds; Dancing with nature in the garden
Learn how to identify and control weeds using an integrated approach that minimises negative impacts on the environment.

Venue: Yinnar Community Garden

Meet at the Switch Room, Arc. (Main Rd Yinnar)

BYO Lunch

Places are limited. For more information and to sign up, visit:
<https://bit.ly/3mISnyk>

SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY, 2022

Workshop #1, 10am-12pm: Getting started with organic growing
This workshop will set you up to start your organic gardening journey so you and the environment can enjoy the benefits of growing some of your own fresh and healthy food.

Workshop #2, 1pm-3pm: Climate action through gardening
Connect with the environment and implement changes to reduce your contribution to climate change and help build climate resilience. In this workshop we will use the Climate7 framework to explore how gardening can be a part of your climate action plan.

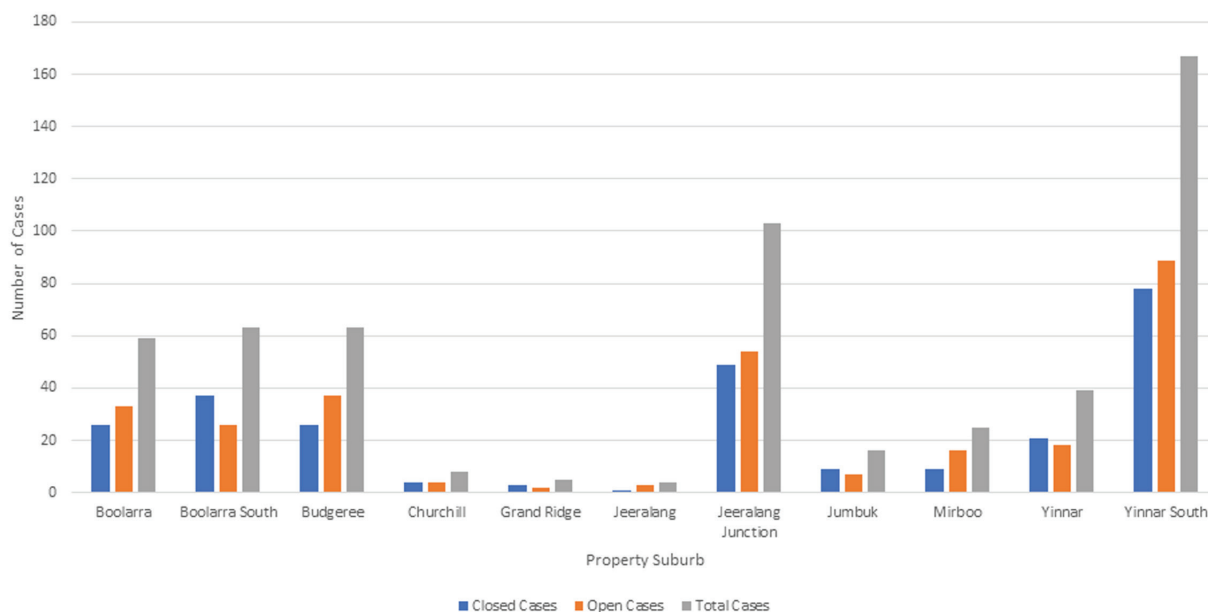
Venue: Yinnar Community Garden (behind ARC)

19-23 Main Rd, Yinnar

BYO Lunch

Places are limited. For more information and to sign up, visit:
<https://bit.ly/3AYATDn>

South Ward Storm/Flood Assistance Cases



STORM/FLOOD IMPACTS IN THE SOUTH WARD

Latrobe City Council has received 552 requests for assistance in the South Ward following the June 2021 storm event. All requests are individually case managed by a Latrobe City Council Recovery Support Officer. Almost 48 per cent of cases have been completely closed off, with the remaining cases still being managed and receiving ongoing support. This includes cases that have been referred on to external agencies for assistance.

The above graph shows a breakdown of storm/flood assistance cases managed by Latrobe City Council across South Ward since the June 2021 storm event.

VICTORIAN FLOODS AND STORMS CLEAN-UP AND RESTORATION GRANTS

Grant assistance is now available through Rural Finance under joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding to assist primary producers who have been directly affected by the Victorian Floods and Storms which occurred from 9-11 June 2021. The grants will assist those affected with the costs associated with clean-up and recovery activities needed to reinstate their primary production enterprise.

The maximum grant amount available under the program is \$25,000 (GST exclusive).

To be eligible for assistance, applications must be received by Rural Finance before the closing date of the program on 31 May 2022.

For more information, including eligibility and how to apply, visit
<https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/>