

Monday 6 May 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, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

Recovery – Replant – Renew. Thursday 14 May 7.00pm

This public meeting will discuss the effects of the storm on the local ecology as well as how to revegetate private and public areas. Hosted by Mardan Mirboo North Landcare Group and Preserve Our Forests, there will be a broad range of speakers from local environmental groups, the South Gippsland Shire and Parks Victoria, as well as information tables from the various organisations.

The event will take place at the **Walter J Tuck Reserve Football Club Rooms in Mirboo North**. A cuppa and a door prize ticket are included.

Mirboo North and District Community Recovery Session. Wednesday 22 May 5.30pm

South Gippsland Shire and the Community Recovery Working Group are pleased to host an evening at the Mirboo North Shire Hall to provide the opportunity for all residents of our storm-affected communities to gather and catch up. Guest speaker Dr Rob Gordon will share his insights into practical and emotional responses after events such as those experienced during the February storm.

Free refreshments available from 5.30pm. Dr Rob Gordon will speak at 6.00pm for about an hour. Please register your attendance for catering purposes at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/stormeventupdate or drop into the Co-space.

Ongoing Feedback via the Mirboo North & District Community Recovery Working Group

Thanks to everyone who has already provided feedback on community recovery priorities and suggest programs or events. A feedback / suggestion form will be distributed to letterboxes across the community soon. Please jot down some ideas for what the community needs over the coming months and pop the completed form in a suggestion box.

Here's how you can get in touch:

Email – recovery@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Drop In – On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week the Co-Space hosts the Recovery Centre. Feel free to drop in and have a chat with the officers who are there on those days, they can help you fill out your suggestion.

Poster Post Its – Community Posters are set up in the Recovery Centre, Library, Community Shed, Bank and St. Mary's Church. At these points you will be able to write your suggestions directly on the posters or pop it in a suggestion box. A web-based option is also coming soon.

In-Person – If you would like to give feedback in person, you can speak to one of the local members of the Working Group directly: Bernadine Brullo (Storm Cell Volunteers), Vaya Dauphin (MNSC Principal), Wayne Roberts (MN Rec Reserve President), Jess Healey (Storm Cell Volunteers), Kelly McCarthy (MCDI President), Doug Parke (CFA Treasurer), Ruth Rogan (Community Foundation), Andy McCarthy (Energy), Belinda Seabrook (Reverend at St. Mary's), Anne Marie Dieperink (Community Bank) and Marg Thomas (Environment / Preserve Our Forests).

Storm Related Green Waste

The Victorian Government have announced that free disaster waste disposal can continue at the Mirboo North Transfer Station until 30 June 2024.

Disaster waste is defined as any material deposited on a property by an emergency (green waste generated by the emergency), or material damaged by the emergency that is required to be disposed of as part of the recovery from the emergency.

In order for disposal to be covered under this extended program, people disposing of disaster waste at the Mirboo North Transfer Station will need to provide the property address of where the waste has come from.

Mirboo North's Transfer Station has returned to normal weekday operating hours and is currently open from 9.00am to 4.00pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Removal of Dangerous Trees

You can register for hazardous tree removal if:

- You live in the home, or you had tenants living there with a formal a rental agreement in place.
- You are uninsured or under-insured for damage caused by the February 2024 Victorian storms.
- Hazardous trees on your property are the direct result of the February 2024 Victorian storms, and those trees could fall, or have a branch fall, within 30 meters of your home or the main access to your home.

Fill out the form at clean-up support for storm damaged homes (www.vic.gov.au) or call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 to register.

Free Outreach Legal Service

A free outreach legal service is operating at the Community Hub/Co-space (96 Ridgway) every Friday between 10.00am and 4.00pm. If you, or someone you know has been affected by February's storm event, or you wish to learn about how to be legally prepared, you can drop-in to the outreach legal service or request an appointment via the GCLS website at: www.gcls.org.au or call 1800 004 402 (free call).

Mental Health Walk-In Support

Mental Health and Wellbeing Local in Latrobe is offering free walk-in mental health support from 23 Hazelwood Road, Morwell. For more information visit: www.neaminational.org.au/services or call 1800 571 142.

Need Help with Farm Fencing

BlazeAid volunteers will be working locally to rebuild fencing impacted by the February 13 storm event. Registration is easy, please contact the Camp Coordinator to register for assistance by emailing Yinnar@blazeaid.com.au. Want to volunteer for BlazeAid? You do not need any fencing experience, just a willingness to give it a go and learn on the job. You can even volunteer for a day or two, or a week or more.

Financial Hardship Grants for Power Outage

The deadline for Residential and Business Hardship Grant applications has now been extended until 30 June 2024. If you're a residential customer affected by the February storm event, hold a current healthcare or pension card and are not eligible for a Prolonged Power Outage Payment, apply now at:

www.ausnetservices.com.au/about/community/energy-resilience-community-fund