

Tuesday 30 July 2024

Storm Recovery Update



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.

Farewell to Disaster Relief Australia

Over the past eight weeks, in conjunction with Emergency Recovery Victoria, Disaster Relief Australia have deployed 145 dedicated volunteers, supplemented by 69 spontaneous and/or corporate volunteers to work on storm-damaged properties around Mirboo North. Their assistance in our area has now concluded, but this support has contributed 6,541 volunteer hours and completed more than 60 jobs.

A huge thanks to Disaster Relief Australia and all of the volunteers involved: the support with property clean-up has been hugely appreciated, but the positivity and enthusiasm of the volunteers has also helped lift everyone's spirits.

Baths Road Reserve Update

Congratulations to the Friends of Baths Road Reserve who ran a community planting day at the Reserve on Sunday 28 July. The group have worked diligently to maintain this pocket of native forest at the heart of the Mirboo North community and received grant funding last year, before the storm. Ground cover plants were planted in an area of the Reserve that was safe, improving biodiversity and reducing weeds along the southern boundary.

Baths Road Reserve is still closed to the public due to safety issues relating to hazardous trees. Council has engaged arborists who are currently working on identifying and removing hazardous trees so the walking tracks can be re-opened in due course.

Mirboo North Timber Reclamation Project

Having gathered wind-blown wood over the last few months, the Timber Reclamation Project group is working through plans for making sure that this wood benefits the local community.

In the interim, they have donated one large pine log to the Mirboo North Winterfest for a wooden sculpture; the artist will create the sculpture using chainsaws on Sunday 4 August between 9.00am and 2.00pm.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Timber Reclamation Project, the next meeting will be at the Mirboo North Hotel on Tuesday 27 August from 5.30pm.

Mirboo North Swimming Pool

As mentioned last time, Council has been working closely with its insurers in relation to the damage at the Pool. It isn't clear how long repairs to the pool will take, but we expect there will be an indication once a builder is appointed.

We know that this is a community priority, and we will continue to provide regular updates on progress.

FREE Mulch Available

Mirboo North's Transfer Station has a free supply of mulch available for the community. Please visit the Transfer Station to pick up the mulch during their operating hours:

Wednesday and Friday: 1.00pm to 5.00pm.

Sunday: 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Recovery Support

Remember: 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, including the removal of eligible dangerous trees.

To find out more, call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on **1800 560 760**.

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 second Thursday** from 10.00am to 3.00pm – the next one being on 8 August. 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** or request an appointment at www.gcls.org.au.

Upcoming Event

Winterfest Mirboo North

A mid-winter family festival in Mirboo North on 3 and 4 August, which includes a magical lantern parade, wintry food to feast on, drinks to warm you up by the fires, and music to make you feel good.

There are three elements of the festival which link to recovery: a live wood sculpture performance, the Forest and Friends Community Ceremony at 12.00pm on Sunday 4 August, and 'clootie' writing – where clooties are burned at a pivotal moment during the ceremony.

To find out more, please visit the website: www.mirboonorthwinterfest.com.au.

Previous Events

Parma for a South Gippsland Farmer

Held on Monday 22 July at the Mirboo North Hotel, this event provided an opportunity for local farmers to connect and share stories. Over dinner, Warren Davies, the 'Unbreakable Farmer', shared his experiences and insights, including how to navigate current challenges and thrive within farming. It was great to see many in attendance stay on afterwards, enjoying the company and conversation.

Network Outage Review – feedback closing 31 July

Many community members gave feedback on the Interim Report from the Network Outage Review in-person on 17 July at the Baromi Centre. If you didn't make it, you can provide feedback until 31 July at: www.engage.vic.gov.au/network-outage-review