

Tuesday 10 September 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

Work on the Mirboo North Pool has commenced to repair extensive damage sustained during the February storm event. The storm event damaged infrastructure that is critical for the operation of the pool, which must be repaired or replaced before the pool can be used by the community. Required repairs include works on fencing, shelters, pavilion building, play equipment and other items. The cost of the repairs will be fully covered by Council's insurance arrangements.

Regrettably, the pool will not be reopened in time for the start of the usual season, however it is hoped that the repairs will be completed in time to re-open the pool later in the summer season. Further information can be found in a media release from Council, which can be found on our website.

Baths Road Reserve Update – Main tracks re-opening soon

Due to the recent wild weather, further trees have fallen at Baths Road Reserve. The community and Council are working hard to get the walking tracks safely reopened. We are aiming to have the main reserve walking tracks opened within the coming weeks for community use.

Once the temporary fencing is removed, please keep to the tracks in the Reserve, and if any areas are still closed, obey signage and fencing for your own safety. Currently, planning is underway to organise an opening celebration and information session on proposed future works in the Reserve, likely early October.

Community Recovery Feedback

Community feedback posters have been finalised and are currently displayed at the Co-Space, with further circulation throughout the community happening this week. These posters have been created to share information on the community suggestions recorded, activities completed to date, and future planned recovery activities. Thanks again to all those community members that took the time to provide feedback.

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.

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

Centrelink Bus at Mirboo North

The Mobile Service Centre will be in Mirboo North on 10 September between 9.00am and 4.00pm to help people with services and payments. Staff can help with payments and services for Medicare, Centrelink and information about Department of Veterans' Affairs programs.

Location: Opposite the Shire Hall, Strzelecki Highway.

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 19 September. 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**.

Power Outage Compensation

After power outages, there are guaranteed service levels that electricity distributors are required to provide certain customers. The type and amount of compensation available varies depending on a range of factors, including the number of outage experiences in a calendar year and the amount of time of the unplanned outage. The amounts can range between \$40 and \$380.

How to access this? You don't need to action anything on your end or create a claim for a guaranteed service levels payment. This is processed automatically from the distributor to your retailer. This is then applied as a credit to your electricity bill.

For more information, visit: **www.ausnetservices.com.au/outages/claims**.

Upcoming Events

Farm Business Resilience Course

The Farm Business Resilience Program supports farmers to develop the knowledge and skills they need to improve their farm business and be better equipped to manage the impacts of seasonal conditions and a changing climate. Agriculture Victoria is inviting you to join other farmers in a **free** short course with specialists on the following topics:

- Business planning, risk identification and management.
- Farm finances and profitable decision-making.
- Managing people on farms.
- Business and personal wellbeing.

The course will be delivered in six modules – Modules One to Three were completed on Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 August, and Modules Four to Six on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 September from 9.00am to 2.30pm at the Mirboo North Golf Club.

To register for Modules Four to Six, visit the Agriculture Victoria website:

www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/event-listing. For more information, contact Scott from Agriculture Victoria on scott.botten@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Hope N' Help – Food Hampers

Hope N' Help are giving out food hampers again soon from their base in the building adjoining the Grand Ridge Brewery. Anyone who would appreciate a hot cuppa, a free hamper to help manage the cost of living, or those just in need of some company, please drop by and see the amazing team down at the Equip Church.

Available to individuals and families from 1.00pm on Thursday 19 September at Equip Church.

Recent Events

New Season, New Hope – 1 September

On the first day of spring, Sunday 1 September at 2.00pm, a combined Christian service took place, welcoming in new life to celebrate the end of winter. It was initially planned to be at Baromi Park, however the wild weather moved the ceremony indoors.

New Season, New Hope involved the blessing of a Queensland Box tree to symbolise new beginnings, regrowth and recovery for Mirboo North. The Grainstore was the perfect venue, with over 50 people joining the beautiful ceremony, coming together for a service of thanksgiving and remembrance.

The Queensland Box tree is to be planted, along with the installation of a plaque, in the coming weeks in Baromi Park.