

Flood Recovery in Murrindindi Shire

Edition #2

In this edition

As flood recovery efforts continue, we are pleased to provide you with some updates. We know there are many people who are still dealing with impacts from the October 2022 floods, and there is information in this newsletter to support you in your recovery.


This past month has reminded us that emergencies can happen at any time, with emergency warnings sent out for the Flowerdale and Maintongoon fires. Due to the cooperation of many response agencies and the community banding together, the fires were well managed and were brought under control, with impacts contained within the mineral earth break established early on. Agencies used new technology and practices including helicopters equipped with Forward Looking Infra-Red cameras to find and geo-locate hotspots, and aerial night water-bombing operations at Flowerdale.

Even if you were not directly impacted, these events can bring up feelings of stress and anxiety. This is a common and valid response. If you feel like you may need extra support, have a look at some of the services available in the Wellbeing and Mental Health section of this newsletter.

Continue reading for information from Murrindindi Shire Council and partner agencies and organisations involved in the recovery efforts across Murrindindi Shire.

Topics

- Online Flood Hub
- Available support
 - Practical support
 - Business support
- Local updates
- Other updates

A graphic for the Flood Recovery Hotline. At the top left is the 'EMERGENCY RECOVERY VICTORIA' logo. The main text reads 'FLOOD RECOVERY HOTLINE' in white on a blue background, followed by the phone number '1800 560 760' in large white digits. Below the number, it says 'Press 9 for an interpreter'. Further down, the operating hours are listed: 'Open 8:00am-6:00pm Monday to Friday and 10:00am-6:00pm on weekends'. On the left side, there is an illustration of a person with purple hair wearing a headset and looking at a laptop. In the bottom right corner is the 'VICTORIA State Government' logo.

EMERGENCY RECOVERY
VICTORIA

FLOOD RECOVERY HOTLINE
1800 560 760

Press 9 for an interpreter

Open 8:00am-6:00pm Monday to Friday
and 10:00am-6:00pm on weekends

VICTORIA
State
Government

Flood Recovery Hotline

As you navigate your way through recovering from the floods, it is important to remember that you aren't alone, and there is support available for you.

You can call the Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760. Operators can help you with clean-up services, finding a place to stay, financial support and mental health and wellbeing support.

The Hotline is open 7 days a week between 8.00 am - 6.00 pm Monday to Friday, and between 10.00 am - 6.00 pm on Saturday and Sunday.



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Online Flood Hub

Council has a dedicated Flood Hub on our website, where we share updates about the Victorian Floods along with links to important information and resources to help you and your loved ones. Visit the Flood Hub at:

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022

Available Support

Health and wellbeing support

Goulburn Flood Recovery Service

If you have been affected by the October 2022 Floods, you are eligible to receive support from a Flood Recovery Support Worker, through the Goulburn Flood Recovery Service.

Find out more at our Flood Hub, or contact the Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760.



Mental health and wellbeing support

Disasters can have a devastating impact on people. You don't have to go through it alone. If you or a loved one needs extra support, speak with your local doctor, a mental health professional, counsellor or psychologist. It can also be helpful to talk to someone who is independent but still understanding.

Visit the Flood Hub for a list of services.



goulburn
flood
recovery
service

**Were you
affected by
the floods in
October
2022?**

**Referrals for
our service
are via
Emergency
Response
Victoria**

**Flood
Recovery
Hotline
1800560760**

**This contact
number is
the pathway
to being
allocated to
our service**

You are eligible for a Flood Recovery Worker. Some of the ways our Flood Recovery Workers can help are:

- Providing information and advice
- Providing assistance with paperwork and accessing grants.
- Referral to areas of support (ie. financial counselling or mental health support)
- Support for business and farmers affected by the floods

Flood Response Support for Victorian primary producers

The National Centre for Farmer Health offers initiatives for primary producers impacted by the floods. This organisation delivers initiatives to support farmer mental health and wellbeing.

These include:

- **Farmer Online Assist Program:** Provides Victoria's flood-affected farmers with up to three free sessions with a farmer health trained and registered psychologist.
- **#BuildingFarmSpirit social media campaign:** Provides a welcoming space for farmers to share stories of how they navigate challenging times and is open to all forms of creativity.

Find out more on their website:

farmerhealth.org.au/buildingfarmspirit

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Family violence support

Cases of family violence may increase after an emergency. Several organisations are working within Murrindindi Shire to provide information and support for family violence and child protection issues.

If you or someone you know is dealing with family violence or child protection issues, The Orange Door is a first point of contact on 1800 560 760.

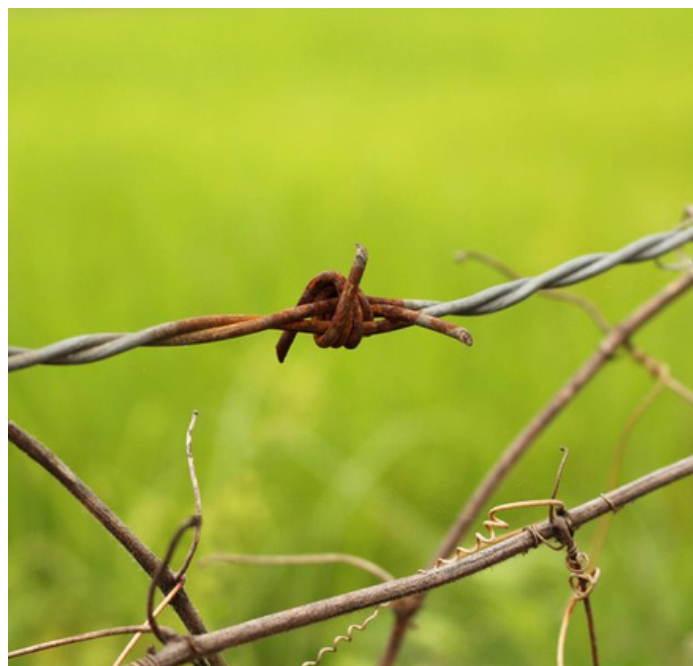
Other supports and services include:

- A dedicated Flood Recovery Support worker through the Goulburn Flood Recovery Service may be able to support you, alongside any other needs during your recovery from the floods. Connect via the Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760.
- Counselling or mental health support available through Head to Health on 1800 595 212.
- General support is available through Nexus Primary Health on 1300 77 33 52.

Financial and practical support

Financial support

Whether you're a resident, business owner, or farmer, financial support is available to you. See our Flood Hub for more information.



Flood waste disposal

Council is assisting impacted residents and businesses with disposal of flood-damaged waste, including damaged farm fencing. Click [here](#) for more information.

There is additionally free green waste disposal at Council's Resource Recovery Centres from 1 – 30 April.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022 for information on available support.



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Emergency Recovery Victoria's structural assessments

Homeowners, small business owners and not-for-profit property owners can register for an all-hazard structural assessment if eligible properties with structures have been damaged or destroyed by floods.

Register at: vic.gov.au/register-structural-assessment-october-2022-floods



Business support

Support for farmers

Farmers and service providers are encouraged to subscribe to Agriculture Victoria's Flood Recovery digital newsletter to access the latest events and information via the Agriculture Victoria website: agriculture.vic.gov.au

Murrindindi Business e-Newsletter

If you operate a business in Murrindindi Shire and have not done so yet, you can register for the Murrindindi Business e-Newsletter on our website.

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Your-Business



Business support grants

While several business grants have now closed, there are still many more open to support landholders and businesses, including:

- Victorian Primary Producer Flood Recovery Grant – Replaces the \$10,000 Primary Producer Flood Clean-Up and Relief Grants. Applications close 30 April 2023.
- Victorian Rural Landholder Grant – Tier 1 payment applications close 30 April 2023.
- Victorian Primary Producer Flood Recovery Transport Support Program – Applications close 30 April 2023.
- Victorian Primary Producer Flood Recovery Concessional Loan – Applications close 30 April 2023.
- Business and Community Sport Flood Recovery Grants – Applications close 1 May 2023, or until funds are exhausted.

For assistance in understanding what's available to you and the application process, call Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 Monday to Friday between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm.

Please note that the Agriculture Victoria grants will be closing on 30 April 2023. If you are thinking about applying, please be aware of these dates. For more details on available grants, visit the Agriculture Victoria website: agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods

Local updates

Breakaway Bridge, Acheron

Structural engineers have undertaken further detailed assessments of Breakaway Bridge in Acheron. An interim report is available, which details the extent of the impact and options available for restoring access.

Council will host a meeting in the coming weeks to discuss the report with impacted community members and businesses. Further information will be provided regarding the meeting and we hope to see many residents there.

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John Cummins Reserve, Yea

Murrindindi Shire Council is pleased to advise that John Cummins Reserve, the picnic area at the entrance of the Yea Wetlands, is now open.

Unfortunately, the walking trails and the wider Yea Wetlands will remain closed until further notice.

The Yea Wetlands was significantly impacted by the October 2022 flood event, with a number of fallen trees and damage to infrastructure including paths and boardwalks.

Following recent impact assessments, Council engaged contractors to remove these trees from the wetlands.

The Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre is open seven days a week, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm.



Parks updates

In good news for local communities, several roads have reopened in national and state parks in the Murrindindi Shire. Many parks have remained closed across the region following severe weather throughout 2021 and 2022.

The Cathedral Range State Park has partially reopened.

- Cerberus Road (on the southern approach) is open but in a very poor condition. It is accessible only by high clearance all wheel drive vehicles. Unsuitable for two wheel drives and low clearance vehicles.
- Tweed Spur Road remains closed due to road damage from the October floods. It is expected that it will remain closed until at least May/June 2023.

Lady Talbot Drive (Yarra Ranges National Park)

- Open from Marysville to the Beeches. Keppel Falls, Taggerty Cascades and Beeches Picnic Ground now accessible.
- Closed between the Beeches and Mt Margaret Road. Phantom Falls is also still closed at this stage.

These parks are important for local businesses as we attract more and more visitors back to Murrindindi Shire and boost the local economy.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022 for an overview of park closures.

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Other updates

Flood affected properties with stream frontage

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority would like to hear from landholders impacted by the October 2022 Floods, who may need assistance with damaged or lost streamside fencing and management of weed infestations.



Risk management of the Eildon water supply

Many community members have expressed anxiety about possible future flood events. Council has shared these concerns with the Victorian State Government which has now announced funding towards a flood assessment of Lake Eildon.

Read the full announcement here:

water.vic.gov.au/media-releases/2023/flood-assessments-for-lake-eppalock-and-lake-eildon

Stay up to date

If you know of anyone else who may benefit from this information, please share this with them and encourage them to subscribe to receive our Flood Recovery News direct to your inbox. Printed copies will be made available at Council's Libraries and Customer Service Centres. Subscribe online at:

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoverynewsletter



What do you want to see in future editions?

We would love to hear from you. If you have any suggestions about what you'd like to see in future editions of the newsletter, please let us know by emailing communications@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

We also encourage you to share your story with us. We'd like to know how you are coping in recovering from the floods and if you have any ideas that might be helpful for other people in our communities.