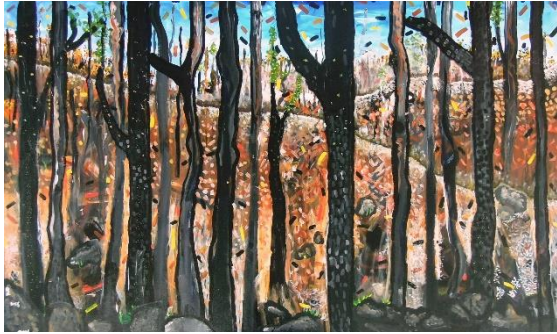


Bushfire Recovery Newsletter

August 2020



Towamba Public School students made wonderful artwork they are selling in a silent auction closing on 4 Sept. Contact the school to place your bid! 6496 7159.

BAL RATING INFO

BAL (Bushfire Attack Level) measures the risk of a building's potential exposure to ember attack, radiant heat and flame impact. BAL assessments are used to keep you safe, and to prevent the spread of fire to other locations. Council is funding all BALs for those who lost their homes in the summer bushfires.

DO I NEED TO BUILD TO MY BAL RATING?

Yes. Failing to do so would mean your property DA is not approved.

WHAT DOES AN FZ OR 40 RATING MEAN? A rating of 40 means you are required to use highly flame-resistant materials, and you must eliminate elements that can increase the spread of flames, embers or radiant heat. An FZ is the highest rating, which puts your property at risk from the flame zone. Rebuilding is not recommended in FZ zones.

WHEN WILL MY BAL RATING BE DONE?

Assessing for BAL ratings takes time. Garry Cooper, our BAL officer, has assessed 100 properties so far, working on a maximum of five per day. If you would like to register your property for a free BAL rating assessment, contact our front office on 6499 2222.

Build Back Better

While BAL assessments guide us towards rebuilding better, more resilient homes, there is no doubt that they can increase build costs. Check out this great organisation that's working with materials suppliers to lighten your load:

Building Angels: a NSW charity that helps people suffering hardships to rebuild. Their Building Back Better program offers discounts on building products, helping you to build a stronger, more resilient home.

They also have a great new project called the Phoenix Shed, where they offer advice, plans and discounts on materials to build an 8x4 shed on your property. And the good news is they are piloting the project in Cobargo. Get in touch via buildingangels.com.au or call 1800 026 435

Second round of Disaster Relief Fund delivered

A total of 317 local households have received cash payments of \$500 as the second round of the Bega Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund rolled out in late August. A total of \$158,500 was paid to people impacted by the summer bushfires. Council is working with the Social Justice Advocates of the Sapphire Coast to determine third round targeting.

Full-time Counsellor

Kathryn Sandercock is a Catholic Care counsellor that has been newly appointed to the Bega Valley for bushfire recovery, working Monday to Friday 9-5pm. Kathryn can make appointments at a location that's best for you. Phone Kathryn directly on 0488 468 067.

Struggling with recovery needs? Contact our Recovery Support Service. They're there to help ease the burden. Phone 02 6499 2345 Email recovery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

2018 Bushfire Community Support

Mary Kite has been appointed by Council to assist all residents in the bushfire affected areas of Reedy Swamp, Vimy Ridge, Tathra and Yankees Gap. She says her main role is to work with communities to develop and support projects that are important to residents. "I know that communities understand best what they need in the recovery process and I am here to find out how we can help," she said. Contact Mary on 6499 2419 or email

mkite@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Community News

The Cobargo Bushfire Relief Centre has moved to 22-34 Princes Hwy. Open Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am-4pm and Sat 10am-2pm.

The Quaama Bushfire Relief Centre is at 43 Cobargo St Quaama. Open Mon and Fri, 2-6pm, Tues, Wed, Thurs and Sat, 9am-1pm.

Stay connected

There's a lot to be gained from the simple act of getting together for a supportive yarn. If it is safe and within current COVID-19 restrictions, staying connected can really help.

News from our Cuppa & Chat sessions around the Shire have shown many communities coming up with great supportive ideas.

Some towns are doing community get togethers, like the fabulous Weaving Wellness workshop in Cobargo that gets people talking while participating in a craft. Other activities include looking at being better prepared, with bushfire readiness workshops, or in Towamba's case, the community secured a grant for a generator to better prepare the community hall.

Getting involved makes your community prepared, supportive and strong.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Coordinare is offering Strengthening Local Communities Grant up to \$30,000, for community organisations to deliver mental health and wellbeing benefits. Grant closes 21 September. <https://www.coordinare.org.au/> or call 1300 069 002.

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW will soon be opening Round 2 of its Community Assistance Grants of \$20,000 for recovery projects that benefit multiple people. Call 13 18 12.

Australian Red Cross is offering \$5000 hardship grants to homeowners needing to make their primary residence safe again. **Closes 31 August.** 1800 733 276.

The Salvation Army is offering Loss of Residence Grants of up to \$9000 for people whose owned or leased place of residence was destroyed or made uninhabitable during the summer fires.

The Salvos are also offering Education & Workplace Grants for 15-25-year old residents living in bushfire impacted communities. Call Rosalie on 0409 031 072.

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW and The Salvation Army are both offering grants for people experiencing ongoing loss or financial hardship because of the fires. Call Rosalie 0409 031 072 (Salvos), or 13 18 12 (Vinnies).

NEW Equine Fire Relief Grants. Get your horses back on the farm. Grants open 1 Sept. email: info@equestrianfirerelief.com.au

Council and the **NSW Government** are also offering numerous relief packages. Call 6499 2345 to learn more.

Bega Valley Together is your 'go to' website for bushfire recovery news. Visit the page at begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Bega-Valley-Together

If you aren't online and want to know more about the services and support networks that could help, please call us on 6499 2345.

Struggling with recovery needs? Contact our Recovery Support Service. They're there to help ease the burden. Phone 02 6499 2345 Email recovery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au