

# Bruthen, Clifton Creek and Sarsfield Recovery Update

DECEMBER 2020



## Bruthen surveys distributed

The Bruthen Community Recovery Committee sits under the auspice of the Bruthen and District Citizens Association and the committee has developed and distributed surveys to all residents in the district and are in the process of gathering responses.

The link to the survey is still active if you would like to contribute ideas and priorities for the district. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3Z26KBB>

The committee will be taking a break over the school holiday period and will start developing the recovery plan in early 2021 to enable them to apply for grants to support the district's priorities.

A water bore has been put in at the recreation reserve and a 100,000L tank is being installed in January.

East Gippsland Water have fixed issues and tweaked the system to allow tanks to fill faster and the Bruthen District Community Association with assistance from Council has applied to Bushfire Recovery Victoria for a static water tank to protect the township.

Also, mental health and psychological first aid training has been programmed through the Neighbourhood House for early 2021.

## Clifton Creek upgrades

The Clifton Creek recovery team has been working hard upgrading the hall and recreation reserve.

Works on upgrading two of the three tennis courts has begun, a new kitchen



is in and a new playground has gone in with the community working very hard to finish off landscaping on the weekend of 5 December.

The team has engaged a project manager to help deliver these projects and have done an amazing job in bringing community together and supporting each other.

An anniversary event for 27 December is to be confirmed. Please keep an eye out on for more information.

## Sarsfield committee vote

The Sarsfield Recreation Reserve and Hall committee stood up a recovery committee early after the fires and has recently established the Sarsfield Community Association. An inaugural annual general meeting was recently held, and a committee voted in – well done to all involved.

The committee has developed and distributed a survey to all Sarsfield residents asking for input into the

community's recovery planning process. Many great responses were received and will be used, along with the ideas gathered before the survey, to start developing a recovery plan in early 2021.

The 'Sarsfield Snaps' program has been a huge success this year and looks to grow in 2021. The program helps bring the junior community together and gives local kids a chance to express themselves by taking photos of their everyday life and be creative while exploring the natural world around them. A calendar full of snaps has been sent to all Sarsfield residents in time for Christmas.

Wednesday 30 December will be an opportunity for the Sarsfield community to come together in recognition of 12 months since the fires hit Sarsfield. This event will provide the community the opportunity to gather to support each other, connect, share stories and laughs. Time will also be dedicated to reflection and recognition of the journey travelled

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## Place Manager introduction

Council has designated eight Place Managers to support districts with a direct contact for their community recovery needs. Place Managers act as facilitators - building community connections and capacity and sharing information and knowledge in order to strengthen community resilience, improving two-way communication and supporting outcomes (between community and Council), and providing a platform where community can articulate needs and Council can support.



Kathryn Macdonald is the Place Manager for Sarsfield, Bruthen and Clifton Creek, working with these communities on recovery.

## Survey now open

We are currently conducting our Community Perceptions Survey to assist in developing the Council Plan and

encourage you to have your say on the future of the shire. There are three ways to complete the survey:

- Online through our YourSay website
- Pick up a hard copy from one of our Customer Service Centres
- For those who have difficulty completing the survey online or handwriting responses, you can contact our customer service team to complete the survey over the phone.

The types of questions you will be asked in the survey include what you value about living in East Gippsland, what services are important to you and what is your vision for our future.

Submissions close Friday 29 January 2021. We appreciate you taking the time to provide your valuable feedback. By completing this survey you can go into the draw to win one of 10 \$50 gift cards.

All details and individual responses are confidential. If you have any questions about the survey or Council Plan process, please contact us.

## More useful information

As individuals and communities mark (or have marked) the anniversary of the events of the 2019-20 bushfire season, which ran from November to February, we know this may be a difficult time for some people.

Mayor Cr Mendy Urie recently said our families, friends, neighbours, colleagues and visitors were all impacted by these events.

"The effects are deep and long lasting. Many people continue to do it tough. We need to look out for those who need extra time and extra care and we need to be kind to one another," Cr Urie said.

To read the Mayor's bushfire anniversary message, visit <https://bit.ly/2L2cSXH>

### Useful links:

Beyond Blue – the first year after bushfire: <https://bit.ly/3qhxZp7>  
Trauma and Grief Network – understanding anniversary reactions: <https://bit.ly/36we65O>

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