

Cann Valley Recovery Update

MARCH 2021



Major General visits

Major General Andrew Hocking (Deputy National Bushfire Recovery Agency) drove from Canberra to Cann River via the Monaro Highway on Monday 4 March to meet with some members of the CVDRG at the Hub, and the Committee of Management at Club Terrace.

He was especially interested in the mental health and wellbeing of people throughout the district and what communities had been through over the past 14 months – impact of bushfires, road closures and supply during the fires, COVID restrictions and State border closures to add just a few.

Major General Hocking referred to

Other issues discussed included:

- Red tape barriers to moving things forward
- Lack of fuel reduction over the years, and the cumulative impacts this has when national parks are locked up and become exclusion zones
- The urgent need to apply prescribed burns and cultural burns throughout the district on a more regular basis



Major General Hocking was very interested in the smaller communities impacted by the bushfires and wanted to hear their stories and how he may be able to assist with issues.

communities becoming locally enabled and resilient by building confidence in skills, capabilities and mental health in order to feel safer.

- Rapid weed growth in fuel load
- Telecommunications
- Water supply
- Fuel pod and generator provision
- Cross-border collaboration for bushfires
- Lack of local knowledge within agencies that are not based at Cann River and a lack of ongoing local employment opportunities throughout the year

Major General Hocking also planned to visit a range of other smaller communities during the week throughout East Gippsland.



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Rebuild Support Service visits

Please come and join the Rebuild Support Service for a conversation about rebuilding.

The sessions include guest speakers include Steve Pascoe, an emergency management and bushfire safety consultant and community recovery mentor who will share his lived experience on recovery and rebuilding after a fire event.

Caroline Larcher, Council's Coordinator Rebuild Support Service (RSS) will talk about how the RSS can support you in your rebuild as well as the range of assistance available.

Other agencies involved are Bushfire Recovery Victoria, Gippsland Lakes Complete Health and the Victorian Council of Churches.

- Noorinbee: Thursday 4 March, 6pm at community hall
- Club Terrace: Tuesday 9 March, 6pm at recreation reserve

If you miss either of these sessions and would like more information, please contact us on 5153 9500 and press '1'.

Community facility inspections start

We have sourced \$1 million in funding from Bushfire Recovery Victoria's (BRV) Local Economic Recovery (LER) program. This was announced in 2020 although there was some delay in finalising the arrangements.

The program has been created to support the resilience and capacity of a number of community facilities in East Gippsland. This is to assist bringing communities together in recovery but

also to prepare for future emergency events by updating and upgrading eligible facilities.

The program is underway and is commencing with assessment and confirmation of the facilities to be included in the program (for example, in some communities there is more than one facility and so it is necessary to determine which is most appropriate to include).

Candidate facilities will undergo inspections and a risk assessment to determine suitability for upgrade. Our Community Facilities team have also been undertaking condition assessments of several facilities to inform planning and this information will be considered. It is possible that after this preliminary work that some facilities will not be suitable for upgrade, but we will be in contact where this is the case.

There are several elements intended to be implemented at eligible facilities, including:

- Ember proofing
- Switchboard upgrades
- Resilience telecommunications including AV equipment.

We will project manage the upgrades and will be going to market for this work soon. We are prioritising the risk assessment and the availability of AV equipment noting that some Community Recovery Committees have indicated that this would be of value for their current work.

If you have plans for work on your facility, please contact us so we can understand how it fits together. For more information contact Place Manager Annie Kentwell or Paul Oakes, Project Manager, on 5153 9500 and select 1.

Rural Movie Nights

We have successfully secured Drought Recovery Funding through Regional Development Victoria to support drought

impacted communities across the shire.

The funding provides the opportunity for 10 outdoor movie nights and we have partnered with the team at Sun Cinema Bairnsdale, who will be bringing family movies to your community on The Sun Bus – a double decker bus fitted with big screen and complete with popcorn and choc tops!

Sun Cinema Bairnsdale is working in partnership with community groups to organise these family friendly movie nights.

- Cann River: Friday 9 April

Household water offer

Applications are open now for rural landowners who have no water in their primary tanks. We have allocated funding to ADRA to arrange the transport of household water for up to 400 rural households who rely on rainwater for their in-home water supply.

This will provide rural residents hit hardest by drought conditions one delivery of 10,000 litres of household water without paying for cartage (only \$50 for the water).

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your eligibility please or apply please call Ian Harris on 0492 835 499 or email

adrabairnsdale@gmail.com.

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Cann Valley District Representative Group

The Cann Valley District Representative Group (CVDRG) has now met for the third time and began the discussion on the priorities identified in the Cann Valley District Community Plan 2019 endorsed by Council in December 2019.

These priorities and others since the fires will be worked through in depth at a workshop on Wednesday 10 March from 10am to 4pm with a follow up meeting on Thursday 11 March from 5.30 to 7pm.

The Cann Valley District Community Newsletter was also discussed regarding frequency of distribution, content, duplication of information with Jinga, readability and the design of the document.

The newsletter was originally developed to get in touch around the district to let community know about what was going on regarding recovery and good news stories.

CVDRG would appreciate any feedback regarding the newsletter. Please contact Place Manager Annie Kentwell on AnnieK@egipps.vic.gov.au, 0418 542 099 or drop any feedback in at the Hub.

The earlier to meetings were a meet and greet session and where members discussed their motivations for being in the group. All members showed a love and passion for the district and believed that the district has so much to offer.

There has been so much change over the years, especially economically, socially, culturally and environmentally, that they wanted to rekindle the essence of the area for it to flourish.

As several members stated: "Change comes from people, so we need to drive that change, we need to have

the willingness to work together as we have such an opportunity right now, so let's get it happening".

If you have miss either of these sessions and would like more information, please contact us on 5153 9500 and press '1'.

Great news from Tamboon-Peachtree Association

The Tamboon-Peachtree Association, in particular Ron Luhrs, have been successful in securing a grant from St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria (Vinnies) to the tune of \$20,000.

The funds will be used for the purchase of the following items to improve the defence of the Cann Valley community:

- 24,000-litre water tank
- Pressure pump and sprinkler system for the Emergency Service Facility (ESF) building
- 2 x 600-litre slip-on firefighting units
- Personal protective equipment for volunteers
- Internal wiring and lighting in the ESF
- Contribution towards sustainable electricity supply (installation of solar panels and battery storage)

The tank and pressure pump will be used on the Emergency Services Facility to accommodate a sink, shower, toilet and an external sprinkler system. Planning permit application approval is pending, and once finalised the group will be able to proceed with the building of the facility. This is being funded by a CBA Bushfire Recovery Grant.

Meanwhile, Tamboon-Peachtree stubbie holders are now available for purchase. These are available through Sue and Ado Marchi or talk to other committee members for assistance.

Quick fill pump arrives

Cann Valley Fire Brigade has taken delivery of a 'big pump' quick fill trailer pump.

This pump will be located at Cann Valley Fire Station and is for use in the South East Region and is one of five housed at stations across Victoria.

On Thursday 14 February District 11 DMO Steve O'Shea delivered the new big pump and provided operational training and familiarisation to CFA and DELWP crews.

Four Cann Valley CFA members, two Bemm River CFA members and two Cann River DELWP crew carried out setting up and operating the pump in the river at Cann River just below the bridge.

The trailer pump has a single axle, equipped with a water-cooled diesel engine with a nominal pump output of 2,000 L/min @700 kPa. Primarily utilised for water fill points on the fire ground with the ability to fill two tankers at the same time, however it can also be connected to a hydrant if necessary.

Council news

The February edition of the My Council, My Community **newsletter** is out now and includes plenty of information on council projects, services, decisions and upcoming events. There's also a section dedicated to Bushfire Recovery. To read the newsletter visit our website or **subscribe to the newsletter** to receive it straight in your inbox

Also, for updates on general local business support, activity and news, business operators are encouraged to sign up to Council's **Business Connect e-newsletter**. Alternatively you can always email the team on economic.development@egipps.vic.gov.au