



Update from the Community Recovery Officer

This month has seen a little role reversal take place (Community helping the recovery of the Recovery Officer!) I've been absolutely blessed and in deep gratitude for your kindness and positivity in your cards, calls and messages of support. Thank you!



"Fixing something is never as quick as the change that caused it" (🙌🏻🙌🏻 preach from my mum!). These are just some of the words of wisdom and lesson's learned and one of the reasons why the Newsletter has undergone a re-name.

Because, with saturated catchments and heavy rains causing further impacts, challenges or pressures and affecting ongoing recovery efforts - there's also our own emotional weather forecast that's just as important to be aware of. The good news is it's a forecast you can have much greater control over and there is always support available in any conditions.

This month we've been fortunate to:

- meet with Andrew Colvin, APM OAM - National Coordinator of the National Bushfire Recovery Agency to discuss the big issues and goals for ongoing bushfire recovery.
- work with the EPA to launch the Bushfire-generated Green Waste Clean-Up and Processing Program.

I couldn't be more fired up to see this program for Lithgow and strongly encourage anyone with tree issues to register. More details on page 2.

- roll out \$62,500 in Council-led Bushfire Recovery Community Grant funding. Congratulations to the successful projects which support a broad range of interests and outcomes.
- work with Resilience NSW, NBRA and local partnerships on Mental Health Resources for the Greater Sydney region.
- support recovery through community events including Lithgow Show, coffee catch-ups and seniors week events.
- And more on the way... 😊



Recovery Support Services at Lithgow Show

Until next time

Rachel Nicoll - Community Recovery Officer (02 6354 9960).

CONGRATULATIONS to the 10 community organisations that were successful in the Bushfire Recovery Community Grants round. They are:

- Minga'an, awarded \$10,000 to develop and deliver cultural healing and education workshops
- Wolgan Valley Assoc Inc, awarded \$4,859 for the development of a community-based website
- Rydal Showground Land Managers, awarded \$10,000 to achieve showground upgrades
- Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre, awarded \$10,000 for a community capacity builders program
- Hartley Reserve Land Managers, awarded \$5,641 to install a water tank and connections
- Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum, awarded \$4,000 toward an outdoor recreation area and improvements
- Lithgow Greyhound Racing Club, awarded \$5,000 for Club upgrades and sustainability
- Australian Ecosystems Foundation, awarded \$4,000 toward working bee weekends
- Lithgow & District Community Nursery, awarded \$4,000 for enhancement of Nursery premises
- Lithgow Valley Archers Inc, awarded \$5,000 to purchase a water tank and upgrades in fire recovery



GRANTS & ASSISTANCE

Bushfire-generated Green Waste Clean-Up and Processing Program

Lithgow Council is working with the NSW Environment Protection Authority's Bushfire-Generated Green Waste Clean-Up and Processing Program to assess remaining green waste generated by the 2019/20 bushfires.



Impacted residents are being encouraged to register with Council for the program which aims to:

- assess and document outstanding green waste generated by the 2019/20 bushfires
- manage the clean-up of outstanding green waste generated by the 2019/20 bushfires
- provide opportunities to beneficially reuse processed green waste products in bushfire-affected regions, and
- provide regional employment opportunities in bushfire-affected communities

The program, managed by the EPA, provides grants to scope, assess and report on bushfire-generated green waste. Council will also use this opportunity to measure the vegetation regrowth since the fires.

Property owners must contact Lithgow Council to register and discuss arrangements for the assessment process and obtain a consent form to be signed by the property owner authorising works within private property. The assessment will help Council to apply for clean-up and processing grants. It does not guarantee funding or further green waste works unless approved by the EPA.

Council recognises that due to the time since the fires, waste may have already been cleaned up by insurance, contractors, and property owners. However, retrospective disposal costs are not within the scope of this program.

A Frequently Asked Questions document has been prepared and can be downloaded [here](#).

To register [click here](#) for an online form. Residents can also contact the Customer Service Team who are happy to assist with registrations over the phone. Hard copies of the consent form are available at Council's reception and will be available at upcoming community events.

Registrations must be received by Council by **Monday, 12 April 2021** and we kindly ask if you could please help to spread the word.

Full details of the program are available on the website: [Bushfire Assistance - Lithgow City Council](http://council.lithgow.com/bushfire-assistance/) (<http://council.lithgow.com/bushfire-assistance/>).

**Bushfire-generated Green Waste
Clean-Up and Processing Program
(Stream A – Data collection initiative).**

**Registrations Close
12 April 2021**



RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICE CONTINUES

The DPI's Rural Recovery Support Service has been extended until December 2021 with Recovery Officer Anthea Chapman continuing to work across Lithgow City Council, Blue Mountains Council, Mid Western Regional, Singleton, Cessnock and the Hawkesbury.

Anthea works with primary producers, small landholders and communities to support their recovery. Get in touch via rural.recovery@dpi.nsw.gov.au or 0409 440 297 anthea.chapman@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Get Grubby!



Thanks to funding from the Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Fund, Lithgow City Council is proud to be offering The Get Grubby Program for Families in the Lithgow region.

Each month, families receive a bumper email, jam packed with ideas, activities, printables, songs, videos and exclusive resources to help you grow a family garden, make compost and cook the harvest, along with recycling fun, sustainable DIY, nature play and getting grubby outdoors!

<https://vimeo.com/519036337>

Strengthening Rural Communities Program Funding



FRRR

Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal

The Strengthening Rural Communities Program aims to give the thousands of small rural, regional and remote communities across Australia an opportunity to access funding to support broad community activities. This program has now been extended to include bushfire recovery.

Round 9 opens: 24 February 2021 9:00am

Closes: 25 May 2021 5:00pm

Grants announced: 10 September 2021 10:00am

In Round 9, the following two grant funding streams are available:

Small and Vital Stream

- grant applications up to \$10,000
- communities with fewer than 15,000 people
- communities outside major cities are eligible
- projects initiated and delivered by local community groups and not-for-profits
- organisations without DGR status. (DGR is an entity or fund that can receive tax-deductible gifts).

Bushfire Recovery Stream

- grant applications up to \$25,000
- projects that support the recovery of rural, regional or remote communities affected by the Sept 2019-Feb 2020 bushfires
- projects initiated and delivered by local community groups
- organisations without DGR status. (DGR is an entity or fund that can receive tax-deductible gifts).

For more information, visit the [Strengthening Rural Communities](https://www.frrr.org.au) website, email info@frrr.org.au or call Kate Nolan on 1800 170 020.

[Strengthening Rural Communities Round 9 Program Guidelines](#)

Get Ready Seniors - 14 April, 2021 | 10am-11am

Join Lithgow City Council and the Lithgow Red Cross for one of our free talks during Seniors Week to help you make informed choices about preparing and planning for emergencies.

The gathering is an opportunity for seniors to come together for a community morning tea, along with their carers and community members.

This is a Get Ready Lithgow City Council Event funded under the Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Fund.

Please call or text Rachel Nicoll, Community Recovery Officer to register for this COVID Safe event on 0419 100 085.

Get Ready Seniors

FREE Seniors Week Event
14 April 2021
10am - 11am

Lithgow Workies Club



Doing a quick planning exercise can help you plan and prepare for emergencies if and when you need it. For more information contact Lithgow Council at Recovery@Lithgow.nsw.gov.au OR 02 6354 9999

Supported by the



REDiKit Emergency Information

Name			
Your address			
Your Phone numbers			
Date of Birth			
Name of Care worker Phone number			
Name of Close relative/friend Phone numbers			
Blood type	Medicare number Expiry date	Health Insurance provider/membership number	Type of he insuranc
Do you suffer from any of the following		yes	no
Heart disorders			
Diabetes			Epilepsy
Asthma			High blood pressure
Migraines			Fainting spells
If other medical conditions, please specify			Dizziness
Do you have any kind of adaptive equipment / Allergies & sensitivities			Details

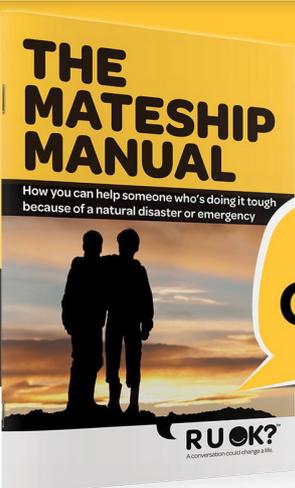
R U OK? Mateship Manual

How you can help someone who's doing it tough because of a natural disaster or emergency

Natural disasters and emergencies disrupt lives and routines. When things around us change, we change too - and what that means for us emotionally is different for everyone.

The new R U OK? Mateship Manual provides guidance and tips to help you support a family member, friend, neighbour or workmate affected by a natural disaster or an emergency now and into the future.

To learn the signs that someone might be struggling and how to ask them "are you OK?" and provide support you can download a free digital copy. If you'd like a printed copy you can fill in the online form or contact the Community Recovery Officer and we can help to order copies for you or your community.



FREE GUIDE

THE MATESHIP MANUAL

How you can help someone who's doing it tough because of a natural disaster or emergency

SUPPORTING SOMEONE AFFECTED BY A NATURAL DISASTER OR EMERGENCY



Resilient Australia and NSW Get Ready Community Awards OPEN

Did you know that the Lithgow and District Workmen's Club's Supporting Our Community Project received a Highly Commended in the Business Category of the 2020 Resilient Australia Awards?

The **Resilient Australia Awards** celebrate and promote initiatives that build whole of community resilience to disasters and emergencies around Australia, as well as images capturing resilience in action.

The **NSW Get Ready Community Award** recognises a local community that has worked together to make their community more prepared and better able to recover from disasters.

Council is calling on local organisations and groups working on initiatives to help the Lithgow community to apply. Key details for both awards are below.



Resilient Australia Award categories are:

- Resilient Australia Business Award
- Resilient Australia Community Award
- Resilient Australia Government Award
- Resilient Australia Local Government Award
- Resilient Australia School Award
- Resilient Australia Photography Award

Key dates:

Submissions open: Tuesday 9 March 2021

Submissions close: Thursday 3 June 2021

ENTER ONLINE:

[\(https://www.aidr.org.au/programs/resilient-australia-awards/\)](https://www.aidr.org.au/programs/resilient-australia-awards/)

For more information email:

NSWResilientAustraliaAwards@resilience.nsw.gov.au

GET READY

Community Award 2021

The NSW Government Get Ready Community Award recognises and celebrates the work communities do to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.

Key dates:

- Entries open: Monday 15 March 2021
- Entries close: Tuesday 15 June 2021
- Finalists notified: Friday 23 July 2021
- Awards ceremony: 18 August 2021
- Unsuccessful applications notified: After the awards ceremony

ENTER ONLINE:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/resilience-nsw/get-ready-community-award>

For more information email:

getreadynsw@resilience.nsw.gov.au

Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood Centre (LINC)



Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood Centre have a limited number of small appliances available for bushfire affected residents in the LGA.

If you, or someone you know could use these donations from the 2019/20 bushfire response, please contact LINC on Phone: (02) 6352 2077 or drop in at 1 Padley St, Lithgow NSW 2790.

ENVIRONMENT

TRANSPORT FOR NSW TREE PLANTINGS AND NEST BOXES



Transport
for NSW

Transport for NSW has the opportunity to assist with bushfire recovery in fire affected areas of NSW by planting 13,500 trees. There is also opportunity for supply and install 1500 nest boxes and constructed hollows.

Transport Environment is compiling a register of land holders (public and private), and indigenous managed land, who may be interested in having vegetation planted on their properties before the end of this financial year.

This has been marked for the Lithgow LGA, however allows some extension into adjoining LGAs.

Please contact Rachel Nicoll, Community Recovery Officer on 0419 100 085 or email Rachel.Nicoll@Lithgow.nsw.gov.au to register your interest.

GET WISE ON WEEDS

Sustained rainfall following the bushfires has meant weeds such as St John's wort, African lovegrass, Chilean needle grass, Paterson's curse, blackberry, sweet briar and woody weeds have flourished.

The NSW WeedWise app and website <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/> provides key information to help users reduce the impact of priority weeds in NSW. The app profiles over 300 weeds, describing their status under the Biosecurity Act 2015, control information and registered herbicide options.

Users, ranging from home gardeners and residents to farmers, land managers and weeds professionals, can search or browse weed names (common or scientific); recognise a weed by its physical description and image gallery; and find out about its impacts, where it occurs, how it spreads and its preferred habitat.

It is important to understand the biosecurity duties associated with plants that pose weed risks in NSW.

For technical advice and assistance with identification please contact your council weeds officer.

For further information call the NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline on 1800 680 244 or send an email to weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au

