



Update from the Community Recovery Officer

Thank you for joining us for this April edition of Recovery & Resilience news. For those new sign-ups, WELCOME! We're so glad you're here.

A slightly condensed newsletter, but never a dull moment. We are finalising some fabulous resources with the National Bushfire Recovery Agency and can't wait to send them out there! We are also excited to see some new projects announced, that came about from hearing your stories and experiences, so stay tuned for updates!

Our emotions are often a stepping stone to start...or stop, to transition, to begin something new, to let things come and to let things go. Sometimes how we express that emotion isn't one we're always proud of.

This has come up for a few people I've spoken to. The situations they found themselves in were trying, no doubt. However, they found themselves becoming more annoyed, upset, angry or sad than the situation would perhaps (on the surface) call for.

Your emotional reaction is **your** emotional reaction and it is valid. You're feelings are always correct based on what you are going through.

What you don't want is an "over reaction" that does damage or makes the current situation worse than it already is.

It's often easier said than done but one good practice is to be an observer to your thoughts and feelings. Whenever you are in a situation and you find yourself becoming upset, slow things down by taking a breath and check in with yourself. Take stock of the thoughts and feelings you are having and ask yourself, "where is this coming from?"

You may get your answer and by understanding the moment you can conscientiously deal with what is going on right now.

Until next time

Rachel Nicoll - Community Recovery Officer (0419 100 085).



Have you been impacted and affected by the recent rain and floods?

Lithgow City Council is providing support our community following the storms and floods. There are a range of supports available.

For the most current information visit <https://council.lithgow.com/flooding-assistance/> New information will be added to this page as it comes to hand so please check it regularly. Please register with the Community Recovery Officer on 0419 100 085 for regular updates if you have not done so already.

For Disaster Assistance it is important to register by visiting Service NSW or www.service.nsw.gov.au or phoning 13 77 88.

To make a request for support or assistance with clean up you can also call customer service on 6354 9999 or email council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

NEWS & UPDATES

Bushfire-generated Green Waste Clean-Up and Processing Program

Lithgow City Council received over 80 private landholder registrations for 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.

A report of the scope of works is now being finalised to submit to the EPA for the Stream B part of this program by 30 June, at which time the EPA will assess and start to award funding for the Stream B Clean-Up and Processing Grants.

Bushfire Community Recovery & Resilience Fund (BCRRF)

Lithgow City Council has been successful in two applications under the Bushfire Community Recovery & Resilience Fund (BCRRF) – Stream 2 for a total of \$600,000 in important safety projects in the wake of the Gospers Mountain fire emergency.

Lithgow's Civic Ballroom is set to receive \$300,000 for upgrades to be used as an emergency evacuation centre ensuring the building and grounds of the Tony Luchetti Sportsground is better equipped to respond and support residents in times of need.

The need for the Lithgow Emergency Access and Resilience Network project came as a result of the bushfires of late 2019-20.

The fund is further providing another \$300,000 to Lithgow City Council for the "WE'RE Wolgan" (Wolgan Emergency Response and Evacuation) Plan.

WE'RE Wolgan's task is to engage with the local community of the Wolgan Valley to develop an Emergency Evacuation Plan to maximise their capacity to be better equipped for any future disasters and emergency events.

Resilience NSW has an interactive map which details the 173 BCRRF projects across NSW at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/bushfire-community-recovery-and-resilience-fund>

HomeBuilder extended

Were you one of the 121,000 people who took advantage of the HomeBuilder grant?

If so, good news – the government has increased the construction commencement period, from six to 18 months. This is in response to unanticipated delays in the construction industry caused by Covid-related supply constraints.

Though grant applications are now closed, all applicants who signed contracts during the eligibility period, between 4 June 2020 and 31 March 2021, will receive this extension.

For more information visit:

<https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/homebuilder>

Community Recovery Officers Available to Assist with Flood Recovery

In a joint media release, Federal Minister for Emergency Management David Littleproud and New South Wales Deputy Premier and Minister Responsible for Disaster Recovery John Barilaro announced a 12-month extension to the provision of NSW bushfire Community Recovery Officers (CROs), with their support services extending to flood recovery as well.

The extension means community-based liaison officers are available to help bushfire and flood victims navigate immediate assistance, grants for household and structural repairs, and other recovery needs.

There are currently 22 Community Recovery Officers working across NSW, with the addition of a 23rd Community Recovery Officer to assist Mid-Western Regional Council.

CRO assistance is funded through the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



National Emergency Medal

The 2019-20 bushfires were declared a nationally-significant emergency for the purpose of the National Emergency Medal late last year.

The National Emergency Medal recognises frontline responders, volunteers and community supporters.

For information about eligibility, how to apply on behalf of an organisation or as a private citizen, the processing of applications, notification of outcome, and emergency and service declarations, please visit

<https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/national-emergency-medal>



Were you part of the response to the bushfires 2019-20?

You may be eligible for the National Emergency Medal.

For more information on how to apply please visit www.gg.gov.au



NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDAL

Get involved in a heritage garden project at Eskbank House Museum

Eskbank House Museum is looking to bring together a small group of gardening and history enthusiasts to participate in a project to develop and nurture a heritage garden.

Mary's Garden is an imagined garden based on historic photographs, 19th century gardening practices, and the plant species known to be available in Australia during Mary Brown's time at Eskbank House. It incorporates elements common in Australian and Scottish approaches to gardening during the mid-19th century.

The project will involve gardening workshops, field trips, talks and hands on gardening. The group will meet regularly for working-bees to establish the garden and for seasonal planting, and the garden will also be made accessible to participants 5 days a week so they can spend as much time pottering as they wish. Gardening workshops and working-bees, including establishing an edible garden and working with environmental challenges and risk, will be led by Jessica Lawn from Arborvitae.

As a horticulturist and arborist experienced with heritage gardens throughout the Blue Mountains region, Jessica has cared for many gardens at risk and nurtured their recovery following periods of drought and fires.



"Such a unique educational resource will attract new visitors to the museum," Mayor Ray Thompson said. "Importantly, however, the garden will provide a space for the community reconnect following the impact of fires on our region."

Registration closes Wednesday 12th May. The first group meeting is scheduled for w/c 17th May with specific dates reflecting participants availability and Council is particularly interested in engaging fire affected or at risk residents.

For further information or to register your interest please contact:
Summar Hipworth, Cultural Development Officer
6354 9999 or summar.hipworth@lithgow.nsw.gov.au
Eskbank House Museum, cnr Inch and Bennett Street, Lithgow



GRANTS & ASSISTANCE

Community Wellbeing Grants of up to \$10,000 launched

The Community Wellbeing Grants of up to \$10,000 are now available for organisations or community groups that are based within bushfire affected areas in the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Lithgow areas to deliver projects that build community capacity, skills or knowledge, and which promote and/or refer to support services.

These grants follow on from the 'micro-grants' of \$1,000 released last year for individuals to conduct grass roots community connection activities such as picnics, high tea's, dance lessons and relaxation activities. The 'micro-grants' are still available and applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted.

Have an idea but not quite sure if it would be suitable? Or do you want to do something for your community but you're just not quite sure what? Community Engagement Officer, Esther Perry, may be able to help. Please call 4708 8142 to chat.



COMMUNITY WELLBEING GRANTS

APPLY NOW!

Grants of up to \$1,000

until funds are exhausted

Grants of up to \$10,000

closes 11.59pm Friday 14 May 2021

www.nbmphn.com.au/CommunityGrants



Community Building Partnership 2021 Program



Apply for a grant from the NSW Government and get your community infrastructure project started.

Applications close 14 May 2021.

Visit nsw.gov.au/cbp to learn more.

Community Building Partnership Program

The NSW Community Building Partnership program awards grants for community infrastructure projects.

In 2021, there is a maximum of \$300,000 to allocate in each electorate. Incorporated not-for-profit community organisations and local councils are eligible to apply for grants of between \$5000 and \$150,000.

The average grant awarded is around \$20,000.

For information and how to apply visit

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/projects/community-building-partnership>



Westfund Health Insurance Grants

Community organisations in the local area are again being given the opportunity to share in part of \$120,000 funding as part of Westfund Health Insurance's annual Community Grants program. The Westfund Community Program also includes their Here for Hearts program, which provides access to defibrillators for eligible organisations.

Applications for Round One of the Westfund Community Grants Program 2021 are now open and will close on Thursday, May 13, 2021.

To apply online, or for more information about the eligibility criteria, visit

<https://www.westfund.com.au/about/community/westfund-community-grants-program/>.

Need help with your application? If you have any questions, Westfund's team is available to help. Reach out via community@westfund.com.au and they'll be in touch.

The NSW Government's \$1,500 rebate scheme is now open.

Small businesses, sole traders, and non-profit organisations can apply to be reimbursed for **NSW and local government fees and charges** related to the cost of doing business, including:

- Food authority licences
- Liquor licences
- Tradesperson licences
- Event fees
- Council rates
- Business vehicle registration fees

For more information or to apply, visit:

www.service.nsw.gov.au/small-business-fees-and-charges-rebate



Eligible small businesses will have access to a rebate scheme for NSW and local government fees and charges. The NSW Government is delivering on a \$50 million commitment made in the State Budget last year, designed to bolster small businesses in the wake of the COVID-induced economic downturn.

Small businesses (including farm businesses) with total wages below \$1.2 million payroll tax threshold, and a turnover of at least \$75,000 a year will be able to claim back council fees and charges.

The rebate will be available until 30 June 2022. To apply and for more information, visit

www.service.nsw.gov.au/small-business-fees-and-charges-rebate or contact Service NSW for Business on (02) 9132 2344.



LINC invites you to come along and meet your Neighbourhood Centre team and see what Services they deliver to the Community.

When: Wednesday 12th May 2021

Where: Linc - 1 Padley Street, Lithgow

Time: 10am - 2pm



Central Tablelands Local Land Services

New landholder seminars



Have you recently purchased a rural property or are you thinking about purchasing a rural property?

Central Tablelands Local Land Services is hosting a seminar to provide you with knowledge and tips to help you to manage and enjoy your land.

This seminar is a basic introduction and opportunity to meet local staff in person and develop contacts who can answer questions and provide you with useful information now and into the future.

The seminar will include presentations from Local Land Services, NSW Police, and NSW RFS, and includes topics like:

- What services Local Land Services provides
- What do you need to know if running livestock
- Who can help you manage weeds and feral animals
- Advice on managing the natural environment
- Protecting your property from crime and fire

The sessions will run from 5.00pm to 7.00pm followed by light refreshments and time to ask questions individually and collect information.

Don't miss out! Book your place now -

- **Lithgow** (Wallerawang) 14 May - www.trybooking.com/BQWKM
- **Mudgee** - 21 May - www.trybooking.com/BQWKP
- **Orange** - 4 June - www.trybooking.com/BQWKR

For more information:

Pete Evans
Senior Land Services Officer
0438 496 851
peter.evans@lls.nsw.gov.au



[facebook.com/CentralTablelandsLLS](https://www.facebook.com/CentralTablelandsLLS)



twitter.com/CTablelandsLLS

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centraltablelands



**Local Land
Services**

