

WELCOME and THANK YOU for joining us!

Welcome and thank you for checking in again with us for another monthly update and as 2022 kicks into gear.

It's all happening weather-wise. Our heart goes out to all the people impacted by the extreme weather and floods right now. The clean-up and recovery ahead is a big job and after an exhausting 2-plus years of Bushfires, Floods and Covid, people need as much support as they can get.

For assistance in floods and storms call the NSW SES on 132 500 or visit www.ses.nsw.gov.au for more information about what to do if there is a flood warning.

For information about traffic and road closures www.livetraffic.com or call the 24 hour traffic enquiry line on 132 701.

NSW Health has prepared a range of resources on [maintaining health during and after floods](#), including what to do about cleaning up after a flood, and how you can reduce your risk of injury, sickness or infection in the aftermath of floods and storms.

Wet weather can encourage mould to grow, which may affect your health. This [fact sheet](#) provides information on what mould is, how mould can affect your health, and how to reduce the potential hazard associated with mould growth within your home.

In February we celebrated the successful recipients of the Black Summer Bushfire Grants. Congratulations to the 17 projects awarded across the Lithgow LGA. We couldn't be more proud of what this will deliver to our region! Read on for more information on the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program or visit the [National Recovery and Resilience Agency](#).

Whether you successfully received grant funding, just missed one or interested in learning more, we're thrilled to introduce the first of two grant workshops to inspire, uplift and upskill attendees. Registrations are now open, so check out our workshops including our [Rebuild, Recharge, Renew business workshop](#) as part of NSW Small Business Month - March 2022.

The month also witnessed a number of community meetings and gatherings (Kandos & Capertee Community Catch ups, Planting Seeds of Recovery to name a few) and there's plenty more on the way. Keep your eyes peeled!

Finally, at the end of February we were proud to mark an important stage of the [EPA's Bushfire Generated Green Waste Program](#) and a Healing Ceremony with Minginga Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation gathering at Maiyingu Marragu. The program aims to address fire affected dangerous trees and residual green waste generated by the 2019-20 bushfires through assessment, documentation, and clean-up. Works will commence in March and benefit over 80 individual landowners and businesses, as well as fire affected public lands and roadside reserves.



Rachel Nicoll - Community Recovery Officer

Bushfire: <https://council.lithgow.com/bushfire-assistance/>

Storm and Flood: <https://council.lithgow.com/flooding-assistance/>

Email: Recovery@Lithgow.nsw.gov.au | Phone: 02 6354 9960

CONGRATULATIONS BLACK SUMMER BUSHFIRE GRANTS

The Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program covers 110 local government areas in Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, South Australia, Tasmania, and Victoria that were disaster declared by the states and territories under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements as a result of the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires.

The Australian Government initially committed \$276 million. An additional \$111 million was then provided to ensure that all 524 recommended projects could be funded.

- Green Rebuild Toolkit (Lithgow & other LGAs) \$161,399.00
- Australian Red Cross 2019/2020 Australian Bushfire Recovery Program (Lithgow & other LGAs) \$7,256,492.00
Read the [Red Cross Media Release](#)
- Blue Mountains Critical High Acuity Transport Service - Careflight Limited (Hawkesbury, Lithgow, Blue Mountains) \$1,592,306.00
- Mingaan Cultural Fire Training program - \$389,450.00
- Mingaan - Wurimbirra-ayili-nya Ngiyanhigin,gu Ngurung - \$1,340,060.00
- Rural Health Connect Pty Ltd - Online psychology and financial counselling in bushfire affected regions - \$389,250.00
- NSW SES Volunteers Association Ltd - The First Responder Resilience Program (FRRP) - \$463,900.00
- Zig Zag Railway - Establishing the Clarence Station Community Resilience Centre - \$1,499,000.00
- Lithgow Workmen's Club Kitchen Infrastructure and Equipment Upgrade - \$683,349.00
- Headspace Lithgow - [Lithgow headspace Family Support Program](#) - \$726,746.00
- Lithgow Women's Shed - [Beyond Bushfire-Building Women, Building Community](#) - \$2,166,574.00
- Secret Creek - Restoration of community walking track at the Secret Creek Sanctuary - \$289,304.00
- Capertee and District Progress Association Incorporated - [Category 6 Bulk Water Tanker](#) - \$500,000.00
- The Foundations - STEAMworks Lithgow Valley Regional Science Hub - \$299,690.00
- Western Sydney University - Regenerating Lithgow - People, Place and Planet - \$828,264.00
- Wolgan Valley Association Incorporated - Wolgan Valley Community Centre - \$850,000.00
- Lithgow Council - Lithgow Live and Local - \$51,646.00

2022 MOUNT PIPER COMMUNITY GRANTS

Mt Piper community grants are now open for applications and will close Friday the 2nd of April at 5pm.

The grants are seeking to support local projects which focus on education and social inclusion.

Visit: <https://www.energyaustralia.com.au/about-us/energy-generation/mt-piper-power-station/mt-piper-community> or email community@energyaustralia.com.au to apply or find out more.



**Mt Piper
Community
Grants**

Applications are now open and will close 2nd of April 2022.

[energyaustralia.com.au](https://www.energyaustralia.com.au)



EnergyAustralia

GRANTS cont.

Keep an eye on these great grant opportunities.

Strengthening Rural Communities

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) program aims to give the thousands of small rural, regional and remote communities across Australia an opportunity to access funding to support broad community needs.

Three funding streams are available:

1. Rebuilding Regional Communities (RRC): two tiers – grants up to \$10,000 and grants up to \$50,000 to respond to ongoing impacts and recovery from the COVID pandemic;
2. Bushfire Recovery: grants up to \$25,000 for 2019/20 bushfire recovery; and
3. Small & Vital: grants up to \$10,000 for broad initiatives that strengthen local people, places, and climate solutions with a preference for smaller communities (populations under 15,000).

Grants are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and assessed quarterly.

Visit: <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/strengthening-rural-communities/>

GRANT WORKSHOPS WITH MELANIE TRETHOWAN

Join us for not one but **TWO** incredible workshops presented by Melanie Trethowan of Heart of the Bush Marketing, as part of Lithgow City Council's Small Business Month. These workshops aim to facilitate your business or community's progression more effectively and efficiently through leveraging grant funding. It's free to all in the Lithgow LGA so bring a supporter or collaborator along!

Tue 29 March | Where is Your Group Heading? Getting Strategic

This workshop will help you to identify how to think, plan and strategise to be grant ready for future success!
Maldhan Ngurr Ngurra Lithgow Transformation Hub – 4PM - 5:30PM

Wed 30 March | Small Business and Not for Profit grants

Learn how grants operate, how to prepare project plans for grant funding, how to identify and select the right grant and more!
Zig Zag Hotel Motel - 7AM - 8:30AM

For more information and to register visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/lithgow-city-council-31677941159>.

ANZ Community Foundation

The Foundation aims to support projects run by charitable organisations which offer a direct and tangible benefit to local communities.

Grant round opened 2 February 2022 and closes 17 March 2022

[ANZ Community Foundation 2022 Guidelines](#)

Website: [Equity Trustees](#) | [ANZ Community Foundation \(eqt.com.au\)](#)

[Country Shows Support Package](#) - close Friday, 29 April 2022.

[NSW Regional Business Event Development Fund Applications](#) close Wednesday, 1 June 2022



SAVE THE DATE!!



Community Mural Day
13th March 2022
The Foundations, Portland
From 10am - 3pm

Join us for a day of reflection,
fun and creativity as we celebrate
moving forward after bushfire.

Supported by your local Rural Mental Health
Coordinator and Farm Gate Counsellor.

Painting will be facilitated by John Moran.
Please wear clothes to paint in and bring a
paintbrush if you have one.

Food will be available to purchase from
the Quota Club ladies on the day,
or bring your own picnic.

we change lives
QUOTA

ramhp
RURAL ADVERSITY
MENTAL HEALTH
PROGRAM

This event kindly sponsored by Bunnings
and The Foundations at Portland

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government

COMMUNITY MURAL DAY

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Please wear clothes to paint in and bring a paintbrush if you have one.

Food will be available to purchase from the Quota Club on the day. Or bring your own picnic.



NATURE & NURTURE GROUP & BUS TOURS

The free Nature & Nurture bus tours will run monthly and will explore the Lithgow LGA and experience the re-growth post bushfire.

Enjoy a picnic lunch at a unique location every time. The first trip will be May 23rd, and will run from 12-2pm, with pick up from LINC. Spots are limited and bookings are essential.

On Mondays once a month LINC will be host the Nature and Nurture Group in the LINC Hall. Light refreshments will be provided along with giveaways and the opportunity to chat with local services and develop a sense of connection.

This will commence Monday the 4th April between 12 and 2pm.

VISIT US AT THE 2022 WESTFUND LITHGOW SHOW!

Come say hello at the Lithgow Show! Stop by on Saturday, 19th March (mark your calendars!) at the Health Hub for a check in and find information and resources from RAMHP, Rural Financial Counselling Service, Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre, LINC, Lithgow Council and more.



LINC

Nature & Nurture Bus Tours

Proudly supported by Vinnies Community Bushfire Grant Program

Mondays 12pm to 2pm
May 23rd, June 20th,
July 18th, August 15th,
September 19th, October 17th,
November 21st

Free
Light lunch provided
Disability Access
Bookings are essential
To book contact LINC on
6352 2077 or linc@linc.org.au

[Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood Centre](#) [linc1padley](#)



LINC

Nature & Nurture Group

Proudly supported by Vinnies Community Bushfire Grant Program

Mondays 12pm to 2pm
April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th,
July 11th, August 1st,
September 5th, October 3rd,
November 7th, December 5th

LINC Hall
1 Padley Street, Lithgow
For more information
contact LINC on
6352 2077 or linc@linc.org.au

[Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood Centre](#) [linc1padley](#)

Rebuild, Recharge, Renew

NSW Small Business Month - March 2022

Enjoy an afternoon of networking with other small businesses and learn some skills, strategies and tactics to help power up your business.

Monday 28 March, 4 - 6 PM

Venue: Maldhan Ngurr Ngurra Lithgow Transformation Hub,
154 Mort St, Lithgow



REBUILD, RECHARGE, RENEW DURING NSW SMALL BUSINESS MONTH - MARCH 2022

The business world is changing. The last few years have seen many shifts and changes and what worked in the past may not be working as well as it once did. Take a step back and move yourself forward in this specifically designed workshop during Small Business Month 2022.

Join Lithgow City Council, in partnership with the Australian Government's Strengthening Business Program on how to re-boot or boost business growth and attract new business by giving you a better understanding of what customers and your employees are looking for.

Enjoy an afternoon of networking with other small businesses and learn the skills, strategies and tactics that will enable you to take your business towards future success at the Maldhan Ngurr Ngurra Lithgow Transformation Hub on Monday 28 March from 4pm-6pm. To book your spot visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rebuild-recharge-renew-tickets-291094199587>

MISSED THE STORM AND FLOOD WEBINAR?

Did you miss our Storm and Flood Webinar? Don't worry, there's a recording available online so you can watch it at any time.

IMPACTED BY STORMS & FLOODS?

Webinar Recording
21 February, 2022 | 4.30 PM - 5.00 PM

Protect and Prepare your Business or Not-for-Profit

Cecilia Hunt
Coordination Officer, Central West Orana and Far West
Resilience NSW

Russell Meadley
Business Connect Advisor
CENTRAL NSW BUSINESS HQ

Jodie Dietsch
Council Relationship Manager - Western
Service NSW

Resilience NSW, Central NSW Business HQ and Service NSW provided a great breakdown of the Storm and Flood Disaster Recovery Small Business Grant (November - December 2021 storm & floods) to help pay for costs of clean-up and reinstatement of a small business or not-for-profit organisations operations who suffered direct damage.

You can also hear practical tips for getting your business running again after an incident or crisis as well as questions asked of our presenters.

Watch the recording [HERE](#).

For more information on storm and flood assistance, visit <https://council.lithgow.com/flooding-assistance/>.

If you have any questions related to the webinar, don't hesitate to contact us via 02 6354 9960 or send an email to recovery@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

FIRE-AFFECTED FARMER SURVEY

The University of South Australia is conducting a study to assist fire-affected farmers. The project seeks to understand the unique psychological impacts of bushfires on farmers and more importantly, determine how farmers would like to be supported to address these challenges.

The aim is to help in the co-design of new ifarmwell website content (www.ifarmwell.com.au) that informs farmers, and their supporters of ways they can prepare psychologically for future bushfires, including to help them rebuild if they have experienced them in the past, in a farming-focused way.

For more information and how to participate contact Dr Kate Gunn at Kate.Gunn@unisa.edu.au or ring +61 4 178 52537 or click [here](#).

HOW DEAD TREES - AND YOUR EXPERIENCE - MAY HELP SAVE FUTURE LIVES

Dr Rachael Nolan with the NSW Bushfire Risk Management Research Hub is calling on the public to help with their post-bushfire research by providing vital information. The NSW Bushfire Risk Management Research Hub and Western Sydney University are researching what has and hasn't survived post fires.

Read more about Dr Nolan's work and how you can be a part of this research at: <https://aboutregional.com.au/how-dead-trees-and-your-experience-may-help-save-future-lives/>

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES NATURAL DISASTER DAMAGE SURVEY

NSW DPI asks any primary producer affected by the floods to fill out the natural disaster damage survey. DPI uses these surveys to determine the scale and severity of the impact and what assistance and resources are required. Surveys can be submitted any time and can be accessed on a phone or computer.

Find the survey at: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/emergency/community/primary-industries-natural-disaster-damage-survey>



Step By Step Bushfire Recovery Support Program Wraps Up

After two years of delivering much needed care and support to bushfire and flood affected residents in Lithgow, Hawkesbury, the Mid Western Region and the Blue Mountains, Step By Step is winding up.

Funded by Resilience NSW and managed by Gateway Family Services, Step By Step have supported hundreds of people in their recovery from disaster. One resident kindly commented "We lost our house and all we owned, without Step By Step I don't think we would have been able to survive. They were angels."

It has been our privilege to walk alongside residents through the myriad of challenges presented post bushfire and flood. As one of the team said, "working with Step By Step I've had people cry on my shoulder, I've been yelled at and people have told me that they wanted to give up. But all along I've known that they were not really cranky at me, it has been the exhaustion, stress and frustration of it all. We were people who continued to turn up, to be there, to be present to people's grief and anger and to just try and listen and be of some help".

"There's still a lot of need out there" says Anne Crestani, Manager of Step By Step. "If you need ongoing practical support please reach out to the Community Recovery Officers at your Local Council. And for wellbeing or mental health support, we have the Well Being team of counsellors at Gateway. They are free and there's no referral needed."

Free Wellbeing Counselling
Lithgow & Mid Western

Alan 0490 824 690 alanh@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au

Community Recovery Officer
Lithgow City Council:

Rachel Nicoll
(02) 6354 9999 rachel.nicoll@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

