

WELCOME and THANK YOU for joining us!

Did you know April was Stress Awareness Month? As we bid April a fond farewell, it's a great time to reflect on and discuss how well we deal with stress and how we can do more to help make our well-being, our top priority.

Our power month of May is jam-packed with bookings and workshops and we are looking forward to welcoming more of you to these events and to work with those who continue to support our communities and each other. Thank you to all those involved!

The impact of the recent floods has highlighted yet again the importance of community resilience. The Bureau of Meteorology's 3-month seasonal outlook indicates that most of NSW has a 50% to above 80% chance of above median rainfall between April and June. While the La Niña has weakened in the tropical Pacific Ocean, it may still contribute to weather events in the coming months. The current high level of moisture in the soil is making works such as the EPA's Bushfire Generated Green Waste Program a little more challenging, while roads and infrastructure have not escaped the weather. Click [HERE](#) for the 3-month seasonal outlook.

Next week, our Community Resilience Network will meet to hear from Patrick Gennari, Unit Commander of the Lithgow NSW State Emergency Service on recent rescue and recovery works in the LGA. If you would like to receive information on the flood recovery, please register your details so that we can continue to communicate with our flood affected residents. If you would like to learn more about the Community Resilience Network and how you can be involved, please reach out using the contact details below.

Mark your calendars again for two informative (and FREE!) grant workshops covering Managing Your Project & Acquittals and Top Tips for Writing Good Grants.

Finally we'll see a range of events taking place from pop up cafes to weed workshops, to networking events and importantly an invitation for you to become involved where and when you can. I'm thrilled to see the incredible network that has grown and that we can all be a part of, and how far we have come since we began.

Rachel Nicoll - Community Recovery Officer

*Bushfire Recovery
Weed Workshop
SAT 9th APRIL at
Clarence with
Central Tablelands
Local Land Services,
Bay Tree Nursery,
Winmalee
Neighbourhood
Centre and Lithgow
Council.*



WHAT'S ON

- 2 May | Community Resilience Network meeting
- 3 May | Pop Up Cafe | Glen Davis
- 6 May | Soil and pasture health workshop | Hartley
- 10 & 11 May | Grant Workshops
- 12 May | Accidental Counsellor Training | Dargan
- 13 May | Grant Deep Dive Community Events Program
- 17 May | Pop Up Cafe | Dargan
- 21 May | Weed Workshop | Dargan
- 27-28 May | Showcase, Portland
- 29 May | Clarence, Dargan, Bell Community Event
- Plus more!

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

IN THE NEWS

INTENDING TO BURN OFF? USE THE ONLINE NOTIFICATION TOOL

The statutory Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) may have ended in NSW, however this comes with a reminder that residents and landholders need to notify fire agencies before lighting hazard reductions and pile burns.

The RFS online portal provides people with the ability to quickly and easily notify fire services when they're planning to use fire on their property, which can help prevent unnecessary emergency calls.

The online tool also notifies people of any Total Fire Bans or restrictions and advice on when not to proceed with their burn.

Landholders still need to make sure they've obtained any required permits and permissions (including Council), as well as notifying neighbours and fire authorities 24 hours before.

To notify of your intent to burn off, use the online burn notification tool at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify. Landholders can still notify the NSW RFS by contacting their local Fire Control Centre.

There are some exceptions to the burning controls with further information available on Lithgow Council's website <http://council.lithgow.com/open-burn-policy/> or by contacting Council's Customer Service Centre on 6354 9999.



The home designs aiming to cut bushfire, flood damage

After recent flood and bushfire calamities devastated houses, a group including insurers, a council and a

2022 RESILIENT AUSTRALIA AWARDS SUBMISSIONS OPEN

Submissions for the 2022 Resilient Australia Awards are now open across the Photography, School, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Community, Government, Local Government and Business categories.

For more information and to apply visit: <https://www.aidr.org.au/programs/resilient-australia-awards/>

IMMERSIVE VR EDUCATES STUDENTS ABOUT BUSHFIRES

A new virtual reality (VR) experience developed by the University of South Australia is educating children about bushfires and helping them learn how to be safer in a bushfire incident.

Read the article and research findings here: <https://www.technologydecisions.com.au/content/futureed/article/immersive-vr-educates-students-about-bushfires-975115239>

THE HOME DESIGNS AIMING TO CUT BUSHFIRE, FLOOD DAMAGE

New resilience principles, guidelines and architectural drawings developed by the non-profit Bushfire Building Council of Australia (BBCC), were released on Thursday, 28 April 2022.

The Fortis project is offering free architectural drawings and specifications, backed by insurers and government, that aim to reduce disaster damage while allowing for rapid rebuilding following disasters.

Read the full article at: <https://www.afr.com/companies/infrastructure/the-home-designs-aiming-to-cut-bushfire-flood-damage-20220426-p5ag95>

COMMUNITY

DOCUMENTARY: COMMUNITY-LED RECOVERY IN MALLACOOTA

[The People's Republic of Mallacoota](https://iview.abc.net.au/show/people-s-republic-of-mallacoota) tells the story of a regional community with a strong streak of self-reliance and deep distrust of outsiders, that kickstarts a grassroots revolution to save their town. This innovative ABC documentary series reflects the voices of the people of Mallacoota as they portray their lived experience of community-led resilience.

Further details are available at:

<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/people-s-republic-of-mallacoota>.

ONLINE BLOG: PRESERVING COMMUNITY STORIES FOLLOWING BLACK SUMMER BUSHFIRES

Magella Blinksell has gathered stories and responses of her community in a new online blog, With Our Own Eyes Eurobodalla.

Read the full article at: <https://aboutregional.com.au/sprouting-hope-amidst-despair-online-blog-preserving-community-stories-following-black-summer-bushfires/>

Or view the Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WithOurOwnEyesEurobodalla>

SURVEY: HEALTH, DISABILITY, OR SOCIAL CARE WORKERS AND ORGANISATIONS WANTED

The University of Sydney is carrying out national surveys to understand 1.) the level of frontline workers' personal preparedness for emergencies such as pandemic, bushfire, flood and cyclone; 2) the roles, capacity, and willingness of service providers in enabling their clients in emergency preparedness; and 3) the tools and training needed to improve business continuity before, during, and after a disaster.

Frontline workers or volunteers can complete this [survey](#), while organisational representatives can complete this [survey](#).

POP UP CAFES - TAKE SOME TIME ON TUESDAY

Check out our pop up cafes coming to a location near you. Come along and enjoy some activities, connect with services and enjoy a cuppa with old friends and new ones.

Dates and locations provided in the flyer.

More locations and events will be announced soon.

SAVE THE DATE! 29 MAY

Members of ABCD Inc, Clarence/Dargan RFS and Zig Zag Railway are meeting in May to understand what we are all doing, how we can work together, and how to connect the community to these ideas and thinking.

Community members from Clarence, Dargan and Bell are invited to attend an event on May 29 to hear all about these plans. Please save the date - more details to follow.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CHAINSAW TRAINING

As part of Habitat for Humanity's bushfire resilience program, they are organising some free chainsaw training for people in bushfire-exposed areas.

Dargan/Clarence/Bell courses for 10-11 and 12-13 May, have a final few places available.

Sign up at the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HabitatResilienceTraining22>

DISASTER RESPONSE NEEDS YOU, AND ME, AND ALL THE OTHER VOLUNTEERS

An opinion piece by Jamie Brown on the need for local knowledge to help those in need during disasters.

<https://www.theland.com.au/story/7700227/need-help-in-a-disaster-then-join-a-rescue-mob/>

MANAGING YOUR PROJECT & ACQUITTALS

FREE GRANT WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, 10 MAY 2022
4:30PM – 6:00PM

MALDHAN NGURR NURRA
LITHGOW TRANSFORMATION HUB
154 MORT ST, LITHGOW



Heart of the Bush
marketing



MANAGING YOUR PROJECT & ACQUITTALS

Tuesday, 10 May | Maldhan Ngurr Ngurra Lithgow Transformation Hub | 4:30PM - 6:00PM

Have you been successful in receiving grant funding for your project or idea? Has it experienced set-backs, upsets or needed changes to be made? Have you reported your achievements and measured your success?

This one-stop workshop will include:

- Managing ongoing grant funded projects
- Variation requests
- Milestone reporting
- Acquitting grants at project end, and how to manage and keep projects on track for future plans and success.

For more information and to register visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/managing-your-project-acquittals-free-grant-workshop-tickets-324447971617>

TOP TIPS FOR WRITING GOOD GRANTS

FREE GRANT WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY, 11 MAY 2022
7AM – 8:30AM

MALDHAN NGURR NURRA
LITHGOW TRANSFORMATION HUB
154 MORT ST, LITHGOW



TOP TIPS FOR WRITING GOOD GRANTS

Wednesday, 11th May | Maldhan Ngurr Ngurra Lithgow Transformation Hub | 7am – 8:30am

Do you have a 'big idea' that will benefit the Lithgow LGA? Are you seeking funding for a project but are unsure how to find, write and apply for grants? Join us on how to pull together a strong grant application and seek funding to deliver.

For more information and to register visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/top-tips-for-writing-good-grants-free-grant-workshop-tickets-324829392457>

FLOOD SUPPORT

Assistance is being provided to 57 local government areas in NSW through the jointly funded Commonwealth and NSW Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Primary producers recovering from the devastating impacts of floods can access Special Disaster Grants up to \$75,000 and, where eligible, rural landholder grants between \$10,000 and \$25,000. For further information, contact the Rural Assistance Authority [here](#).

The Australian Government has activated the Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) in 13 additional NSW Local Government Areas (LGAs): Cessnock, Cumberland, Dungog, Goulburn Mulwaree, Lithgow, Maitland, Mid-Western, Muswellbrook, Port Stephens, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Singleton, Snowy Monaro, and Upper Hunter.

Employees and sole traders who have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of a major disaster could be eligible for a Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA). This is available for a maximum of 13 weeks and is taxable. Online claiming via myGov is available 24x7 and further information is available [here](#).

Service NSW has a tool to help find a personalised list of available programs and services for those affected by severe storms or floods. Visit: <https://disasterassistance.service.nsw.gov.au/> or call 13 77 88.

General Flood Support

- [NSW Flood info and Support](#)
- [Natural Disaster Assistance Guide for Primary Industries](#)
- [Submit a damage report](#) - The primary industries natural disaster damage survey is an online survey farmers and agricultural industry representatives can use to record damage to primary production and animals from natural disasters.
- [Special Disaster Grants and Assistance](#)
- [Disaster recovery allowance](#) - a short-term income support payment to assist you've lost income as a direct result of the floods
- [Stamp duty relief](#) - for replacing insured commercial motor vehicles written off due to floods and storms.
- [Disaster relief loans](#) - concessional interest rate loans up to \$130,000 for business continuity and to replace or repair damage not covered by insurance.

On farm:

- [Farm flood guide](#)
- [Natural disaster transport subsidy](#) - up to \$15,000 to cover costs of transporting fodder/water to an affected property, stock to sale or slaughter and stock to/from agistment.
- [Primary Producers Flood Help](#) - a Guide to the support available to farmers by the Rural Financial Counselling Service.

Animal Health and Welfare:

- [Caring for Livestock in Times of Flood](#)
- [Stock Health Tips After Floods](#)
- [A guide for horse care after floods](#)
- [Safely Transporting Flood Affected Livestock](#)

Pests & Weeds after flood:

- [Identifying new and emerging weeds after a flood](#)

Natural Resource Management:

- [Managing Erosion Before and After Flood Guide](#)
- [Caring for Wildlife in Times of Flood](#)

If you have been affected by Floods and would like more information you can subscribe for updates at Council's Flooding Assistance page:
<https://council.lithgow.com/flooding-assistance/>