

WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

Our thoughts and well wishes to everyone affected by yet another disaster, the fourth major flood in Greater Sydney in less than 18 months.

Please note: If you find yourself in a life threatening situation, dial **000**. If you require assistance due to flood or storm damage, please phone the NSW SES on **132 500**. Do not drive through or enter flood waters. Roads may have been damaged severely, and debris or hazards continue to present risks.

What a month of June! The calendar was filled with a beautiful neighbourhood get together at Bell, Pop Up Cafes at Running Stream and Tarana and our thanks to Sonia Cox (RAMHP Coordinator) and the team for the Men's only events at Clarence & Dargan and Running Stream.

The NSW Bushfires Coronial Inquiry was heard over two weeks at the Katoomba Local Court. Full details of the proceedings can be found [HERE](#).

Despite the evidence now being heard and the conditions (that seemed insurmountable) faced, an incredible posse of people came together.

The National Emergency Medal is awarded to persons who rendered sustained or significant service during nationally-significant emergencies in Australia, including those members who gave so much during the 2019-2020 Bush Fires.

It was an honour to see brigade members from Clarence and Dargan recognised with the medal presentation and to acknowledge medal recipients from across the region for their contribution and commitment to their community. Thank you.

In July, the programs continue with a Family Fun Day at Cullen Bullen. Big thanks to LINC, Lithgow Lions, Portland SES, Cullen Bullen RFS, Cullen Bullen Progress Association, Lithgow Girl Guides, Uniting, Red Cross, Lithgow Community Nursery, Lithgow Council and people of Cullen Bullen for a fabulous day! Stay tuned for our Tradies Breakfast, Rising from the Ashes Mural and more in the coming weeks.

- Rachel Nicoll - Community Recovery Officer



Clarence Dargan RFS members AGM and National Emergency Medal award presentation.



CULLEN BULLEN



FAMILY FUN DAY!!



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

LEGAL AID PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT DISASTER RECOVERY

The Disaster Response Legal Service has recently updated their range of publications on legal issues during disaster recovery.

You can view and order publications on the Legal Aid NSW website covering:

- What to do after a disaster: your insurance questions answered
- Your workplace rights during a disaster
- The council wants to condemn my property – what are my rights?

Postcards about the ways the DRLS can support those impacted by disaster, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities are also available.

NEW FIRE DANGER RATINGS

As of September 1, the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System will have four levels, with action-oriented messages, logical colours and simple descriptions to encourage people to take action to protect themselves and others in the face of bushfire risks.

The AFDRS is a project of national significance being developed collaboratively by state, territory and federal governments. It aims to improve public safety and reduce the impacts of bushfires by:

- Improving the scientific accuracy behind fire danger predictions.
- Improving the way fire danger is communicated.
- Providing government and industry with better decision-making tools.
- Reducing the costs associated with bushfire impacts.

For more information visit:

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/fire-danger-ratings-are-changing-soon>



RECORD INVESTMENT IN EMERGENCY SERVICES

\$400 million will be invested over the next four years in Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW), the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and the NSW State Emergency Service (SES), bringing the NSW Government's investment in emergency services in 2022-23 to more than \$4.2 billion to make communities safer and stronger.

Read the media release here:

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/ministerial-media-releases/record-investment-in-emergency-services>

HOME INSURANCE TRAPS TO WATCH FOR

It's no wonder home insurance has been on the minds of many Aussies.

For those living in bushfire-prone or affected areas, the colder months are an important time to check up on your bushfire cover and safety plan, in order to ensure your claims don't get rejected and leave you severely out of pocket.

Check out Mozo's guide to some of the bigger questions, including common exclusions to watch for and the impact the bushfires could have on your premium:

<https://mozo.com.au/insurance/home-insurance/articles/home-insurance-traps-to-watch-for-after-australia-s-bushfire-crisis>

WEBINARS: BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Get Bushfire Resilient offers free webinars with information about fire preparation to assist in better decision making. Presenters are experts in fire science, fire behaviour and the best safety strategies for households living with fire risk.

Topics coming up include horses and bushfire (20 July), vegetation and bushfire (10 Aug), places of last resort (24 Aug) and getting kids involved in bushfire planning (7 Sep).

Visit: <https://bushfireresilience.org.au/>

Small Business Month 1 - 30 November 2022



CONNECT FOR SUCCESS DURING NSW SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

Grants of up to \$5,000 for chambers of commerce, industry associations, not-for-profit organisations and NSW local councils are available to help them organise events for the sixth NSW Small Business Month in November 2022.

The theme of this year's Small Business Month is '**Connect for Success**', which reflects the NSW Government's determination to help small businesses recover from COVID, floods, other economic challenges and look toward a brighter future.

Grant applications open for November 2022 program

Chambers of commerce, industry associations, not-for-profit organisations and NSW local councils can apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 (GST exempt) to deliver activities that directly benefit and support their local small business community from 1 to 30 November 2022.

Grant applications will close at **5pm AEST on 5 August 2022**.

See more information, read the [grant guidelines](#) and apply on the [website](#).

GRANTS AND PAYMENTS FOR BUSINESSES, NFPS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS AFFECTED BY FLOODS

If your business, community group, child care or not-for-profit has been affected by severe weather and flooding in NSW, there is financial support and other assistance you can apply for.

Use the [Disaster Assistance Finder](#) to find support available to you.

To speak to someone on the phone, call Service NSW on **13 77 88**

For more information visit:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/floods/financial-support/businesses>

SAFework SMALL BUSINESS REBATE

The \$1000 rebate is available to small businesses and not-for-profits with fewer than 50 full-time employees. Sole traders can also apply.

The rebate helps organisations purchase items to help clean up or improve work health and safety. To apply, you must attend an eligible SafeWork NSW event.

Organisations affected by either the February/March or the July 2022 flooding may apply. [Apply for the SafeWork small business rebate](#).

COMMUNITY WELLBEING GRANTS



After a difficult few years, the Nepean - Blue Mountains PHN [Community Wellbeing and Resilience Grants](#) are now available.

These \$5,000 grants are designed to build on existing connections as well as create new links and support networks.

They will enable communities to choose how to respond to the losses, anxiety and distress they have experienced, as well as actively participate in their recovery.

Social connection events, community workshops, information sharing and skills development are examples of eligible activities. For more information and to apply click [HERE](#).

CLUBGRANTS NSW

ORGANISATIONS can now apply for funding to support community projects thanks to the NSW Government's Clubgrants program.

To be eligible to apply, you must be a not-for-profit organisation and provide the following project and/or services:

- community welfare or social services,
- community development,
- community health services or employment assistance activities.

You are also eligible if you or your organisation is involved in community or professional sport.

Check the application steps to determine if you can apply via ClubGRANTS Online.

Find Your Local Grant Round at: <https://www.clubgrants.com.au/find-your-local-grant-round>



LITHGOW DISASTER RECOVERY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Jen Quealy is the Disaster Recovery Community Development Worker. This role is currently funded by the Primary Health Network for the Lithgow LGA until December 2022. Available to the role is \$50,000 of small project funding for local emerging and established community groups.

Jen is able to assist community groups and organisations with training, resources, funding and support for projects/programs/activities with a prime focus to capacity build and improve the resilience of communities to support each other through disaster recovery and preparation for future disasters.

Jennifer Quealy | Disaster Recovery Community Development Officer
Phone: (02) 6354 9999 or email:

Jennifer.Quealy@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

LITHGOW READINESS RALLY 15 OCTOBER 2022!

The Lithgow Readiness Rally has been set for Saturday 15th October 2022. Due to Covid-19, this event was held virtually in 2021 and will see a return to the in-person event among the stakeholders, emergency services and exhibitors involved.

The Lithgow Readiness Rally is a full day community event for the Lithgow LGA including presentations and discussion sessions and an expo providing attendees access to information and resources around disaster preparedness.

This is a FREE public event held at the Maldhan Ngurr Ngurra Lithgow Transformation Hub and Lithgow Union Theatre.

Visit: <https://www.readinessrally.com.au/> for the latest news and information in the lead up to this showcase event.

Rising from the Ashes



All community are invited to the launch of the 'Rising from the Ashes' mural at Monkey Creek Café.

Local artist Tracey Fitzgerald has been working on the mural to signify the strength and resilience of communities after the 2019/20 bushfires. Come and share food, good company and laughter- **Saturday 30th July from 12 noon**
RSVP for catering-47544050

This activity has been funded by Wentworth HealthCare, provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network as part of the Australian Government's response to the 2019/20 bushfires

A Bushfire Recovery Project auspiced by Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre Inc.

62 White Cross Rd
P.O. Box 4031
Winmalee NSW 2777
ABN 82 441 986 299
0247544050

LITHGOW TRADES BREAKFAST



**20TH JULY
FREE**

Date: Wednesday 20 July, 2022 | Time: 7am-8.30am

Location: The Tin Shed, Bridge Street Lithgow

Cost: FREE

We are inviting all trades working in the local building industry to this FREE breakfast event at the Lithgow Tin Shed.

The purpose of the event is to:

- Present community feedback following the recent bushfires and floods in relation to repairs, new builds and profits
- Listen to the perspective of the trades that have been involved in the rebuild process or may be involved in the future
- Hear from local Tradespeople about the supports that you would find useful.

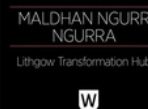
This event is being held in partnership between Lithgow City Council and Western Sydney University, Lithgow Transformation Hub.

Numbers are limited so be sure to book your ticket today and we look forward to seeing you there.

TICKETS-<https://events.humanitix.com/lithgow-trades-breakfast>



**Resilience
NSW**



SPOTLIGHT

Connect with people, places and the planet with these wonderful resources. Tap into them — for yourself, your families, workplaces, schools and communities — from reducing loneliness, to helping us to achieve our goals, and supporting us through life's ups and downs. Why not explore (and share) the great things going on around us and worth celebrating!

COMMUNITY SITES & PAGES episode 1

Association of Bell Clarence & Dargan Inc

A community-based association dedicated to promoting the well-being and resilience of our 350 residents of Bell, Clarence and Dargan, NSW. We were formed following the devastating Black Summer fires of December 2019. Visit <https://abcdinc.org.au/>

Capertee Progress Association

Community Organisation that manages the Capertee Memorial Hall on behalf of the Capertee township and surrounding districts. Follow them on [Facebook](#)

Hartley District Progress Association

For the Hartley Valley Community as a means to communicate within the valley and to a wider audience about who we are, what we have to share, and how we can benefit each other. Follow on [Facebook](#)

Wallerawang Lidsdale Progress Association

A community based organisation trying to make our towns better places to live in by gathering information to improve facilities, roads etc for all. Follow them on [Facebook](#)

Wolgan Valley Association

All the latest news from the Wolgan Valley Association, Wolgan Valley, NSW. <https://wolganvalley.org.au/>

FIRE-RESILIENT MUSEUM AND CAFE FOR ZIG ZAG RAILWAY

A fire-resilient museum and cafe built to withstand ember attacks will double as a fire shelter during bushfire emergencies in a new construction project at Zig Zag Railway.



The Clarence Station Community Resilience Centre project has been made possible with \$1.5 million thanks to the former Coalition Government's *Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant Program*.

Once complete, the new multi-purpose building will operate year-

round as a museum, waiting room and a café for people visiting the tourist attraction. It will also serve as a community meeting hall with a projector, sound equipment, tables and chairs. The facility will have fireproof water tanks onsite to run a sprinkler system to assist firefighting efforts, as well as additional tanks to provide potable water for residents during future recovery periods.

The Clarence, Dargan, Newnes Junction and Bell communities bore the brunt of the catastrophic 2019/20 Black Summer Bushfires in our region, with more than 30 homes destroyed. The iconic Zig Zag Railway lost vital infrastructure, storage containers, railway sleepers and an amenity block.

Bushfire recovery takes years but this is another great step in the road to recovery for the Lithgow region.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Citizen Science is when members of the public collect and analyse data relating to the natural environment. Amateur naturalists, school students and community groups volunteer to contribute valuable skills, knowledge, and ideas to scientific projects.

From reporting pest animals to recording sightings of Small Purple-pea, Local Land Services run a number of projects that have an element of Citizen Science. But your involvement doesn't stop there. There are many apps available to support identification, location and reporting observations that contribute to improving the landscapes around us.

Local Land Services Citizen Science packs contain tools and information about various projects and activities in our region that you can get involved in. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the natural environment and being part of observing what's happening in your area!

To pick up your own Citizen Science Resource Pack at your nearest Local Land Services Office in September, register your details [HERE](#)

LITHGOW DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Lithgow District Chamber of Commerce (LDCC) supports local businesses and organisations with a range of events and services that help build a solid and sustainable local economy for the future of Lithgow and the surrounding towns and villages.

For more information visit: <https://www.lithgow.org.au/>

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

The Government is supporting small businesses to upskill their employees by introducing the Skills and Training Boost. Under the [Federal Budget 2022-23](#), small businesses (with aggregated annual turnover less than \$50 million) will have access to a 20% bonus tax deduction for the cost of external training courses delivered to their employees by providers registered in Australia.

This means that for every \$100 you spend on training, you can get a \$120 tax deduction.

There is no limit on how much spending on training courses can be deducted by a small business at the bonus rate of 120%, but certain rules apply:

- The course must be run by an external education provider;
- The training provider needs to be registered in Australia;
- In-house and on-the-job training is not eligible, nor is money spent training people who are not employees of the business;
- The courses can be provided in person (only in Australia) or online.

This boost will apply to eligible expenditure incurred between 29 March 2022 and 30 June 2024.



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

AusIndustry
Entrepreneurs' Programme

Strengthening Business
is open to businesses
located in the Lithgow
and Oberon LGAs. Call
today to learn how we
can help your business.

Scan the QR code for our
contact details.



REWIRE



Glen Stewart

0437 417 117

glen@rfcsnsw.com.au

Hi, I'm Glen! I'm the Small Business Coach covering your area. I'm here to offer you and your business the help you need to get back on track, and put some steps into place so you can build your dream business. Give me a call for a confidential chat.

Rewire is a **fully subsidised** service, funded by the Federal Government. The only thing we require is your time and commitment to making your business a success.

We help you to:

- Understand your financial problems
- Create and implement plans to improve your business
- Create a long term business plan & identify goals
- Identify and navigate grants & programs
- Assist you in building a cash flow forecast and budget
- Review your existing lending facilities
- Negotiate with creditors & access dispute resolution services
- Provide tailored access to specialised third-party advice

Apply online at rewireproject.com.au or
call 1800 570 655

Funded by



Australian Government



Project delivered by



Rural Financial Counselling Service
New South Wales

[therewireproject](#) [@rewireproject](#) www.rewireproject.com.au 1800 570 655

Small Business Flood Relief Support

We're supporting flood-affected small businesses to stay resilient and continue to connect with their customers and communities through Meta Technologies, including Facebook and Instagram.

Eligible small businesses have access to:

- Facebook and Instagram business page guidance and advice
- One-on-one business consultation
- AUD\$200 Facebook advertising coupon to promote your business

A free Meta Boost education workshop will be announced soon!

REGISTER AT

<https://fb.me/australiafloodrelief>



Available until 30 August 2022.

Meta