



# newsletter

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 0

## Welcome!

FROM RECOVERY COORDINATOR

There has been a lot of talk about the 'anniversary' of the bushfires both locally and throughout the entire state. How should we commemorate such a difficult but significant time? What date do we consider the anniversary to be? Is it a time for reflection or looking forward? The answers to these questions are so very different for each one of us.

In light of this, Kempsey Shire Council will be holding a

photography exhibition, themed Black Summer and Beyond.

These photos, shared by residents throughout our Valley, represent individual perspectives, but collectively they tell the story of what our community has experienced over the past twelve months.

I encourage you to visit the free roving exhibition, which will be displayed throughout the Shire, starting at Willawarrin on Saturday 7 November. Together, the photos are truly

heartbreaking and humbling but also uplifting and hopeful.

The other big news is the Bushfire Recovery Community Grants Program has been launched. An amazing \$300,000 is up for grabs so be sure to check details in this month's newsletter!

All the best

Jo McGoldrick

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

Chris Farley works in the Recovery team and is a mental health clinician appointed by Mid North Coast Local Health District.

Chris can help you understand how the bushfires may be affecting your mental health and connect you with other support services.

The following free services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Mental Health Line  
1800 011 511**

**Lifeline Bushfire  
Recovery Line 13 43 57**

**Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800**



# \$300,000 AVAILABLE IN GRANTS FOR BUSHFIRE RECOVERY PROJECTS

## BUSHFIRE RECOVERY COMMUNITY GRANTS

Local not-for-profit community groups are being invited to apply for a share of \$300,000 in funding for projects that contribute to the Shire's recovery after the devastating summer bushfires.

Under the Bushfire

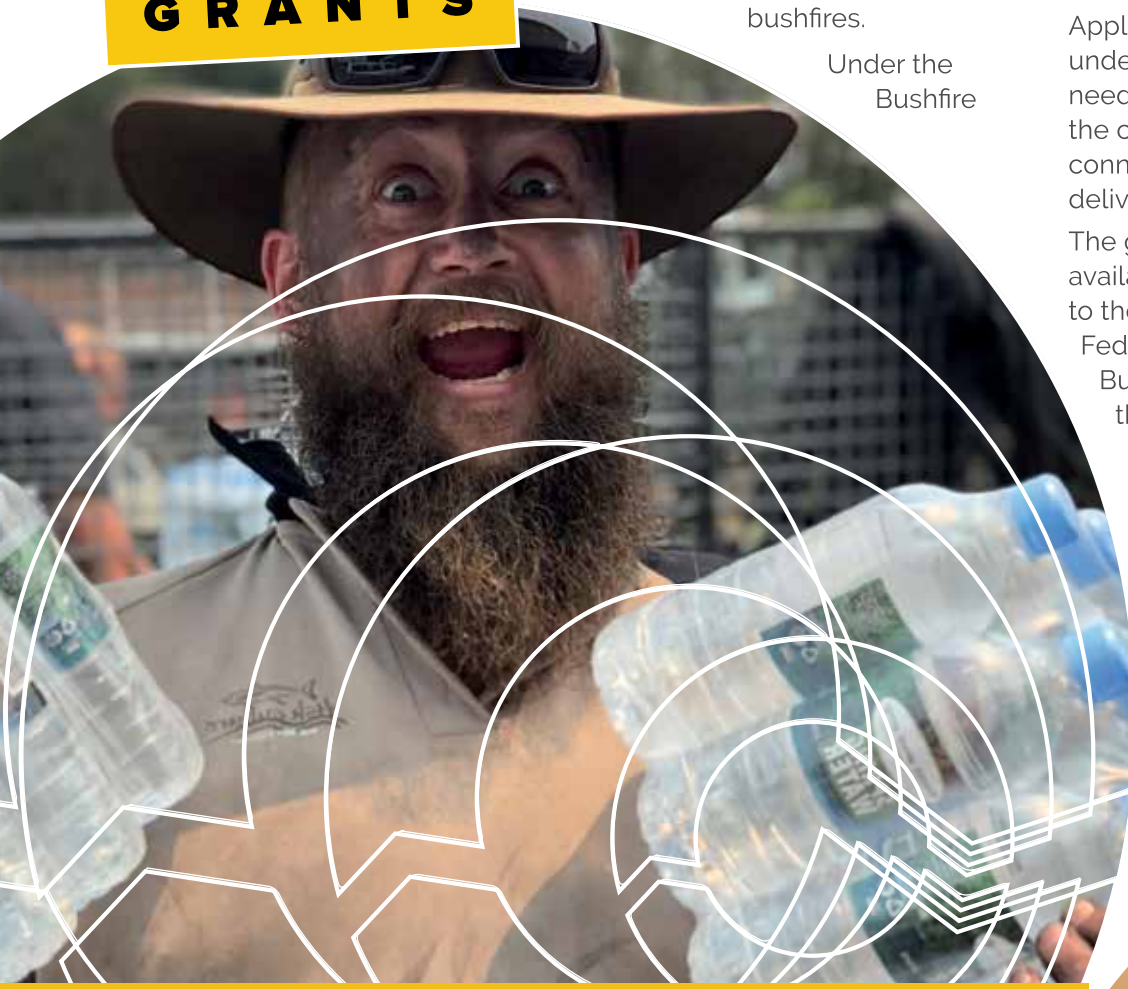
Recovery Community Grants Program, Council is offering \$300,000 for community-led projects, with a maximum of \$30,000 available for any one project.

Applications will be assessed under the criteria of community need, impact or benefit to the community, community connectedness and capacity to deliver.

The grants have been made available for Council to deliver to the community thanks to the Federal Government, National Bushfire Recovery Agency and the NSW State Government through Resilience NSW as part of the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund.

**Applications close 17 November.**

**For more information head to the Recovery website.**



## TREE PLANTING FOR SUCCESS WORKSHOPS

Council and Macleay Landcare's workshops held across September were a huge success with over 100 local residents attending.

Those who participated will be contacted by KSC Recovery Team soon to arrange collection of their FREE trees.



# BLAZE AID MOVES ON – THANK YOU

BlazeAid volunteers have rebuilt 127.3km of fencing in the Macleay Valley and have cleared 95.3km of fencing in 3881 volunteer days.

Last month, Council held a Civic Reception in Frederickton to thank the BlazeAid volunteers for their efforts in the shire's recovery.



# THE BLACK SUMMER & BEYOND EXHIBITION



**BLACK SUMMER**  
*& beyond*

Black Summer and Beyond, is an exhibition of images from the Macleay that tell the story of the bushfires and our recovery.

The exhibition, submitted by the community, will form the basis of a traveling exhibition that will tour across the shire in order to give everyone in the shire the opportunity to attend and commemorate the one-year anniversary of the 2019 fires.

The Official Opening of the Exhibition will be held at 10am Saturday 7 November at the Willawarrin Hall and the community is invited to attend.

If you can't make it to the Official Opening, the exhibition will be available to the public over the following dates and locations:

**Willawarrin Hall**  
**Saturday 7 – Sunday 15**  
**November**

**Bellbrook Hall**  
**Friday 19 – Monday 22**  
**November**

**Sherwood Hall**  
**Friday 27 - Monday 30**  
**November**

**Opening hours will be**  
**10am – 3pm, with FREE ENTRY**



# BUSHFIRE PREPARATION - 5 SIMPLE STEPS



## 1. Know your risk

Think about the area you live in and the types of disasters that could affect you.



## 2. Plan now for what you will do

Sit down and talk with your family and plan for what you will do if a disaster affects your area.



## 3. Get your home ready

Prepare your home by doing general home maintenance and checking your insurance.



## 4. Be aware

Find out how to prepare and what to do if there is a disaster in your area. Connect with NSW emergency services to stay informed.



## 5. Look out for each other

Share information with your family, friends, neighbours and those who may need assistance.

## Alert Levels



**Advice** A fire has started - stay up to date in case the situation changes.



**Watch and Act** Leaving early is the **safest** option for your survival.



**Extreme Warning** You may be in danger and need to **take action immediately**. Any delay risks your life.

## Stay updated



**1800 679 737** Bushfire Information Line



**95.5FM** MidCoast ABC Radio



**rfs.nsw.gov.au/firesnearme** RFS website



**Fires Near Me** NSW Download the NSW RFS app

**Social media** NSW RFS Facebook and Twitter

## NSW RFS Danger Ratings

### Low-Moderate / High / Very High

**What does it mean?** Review your **Bushfire Survival Plan**. Keep yourself informed and monitor conditions. Be ready to act if necessary.

### Severe

**What does it mean?** Leaving early is the safest option for your survival.

Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety – but only stay if you are physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.

If you're not prepared, leave early in the day.

### Extreme

**What does it mean?** Leaving early is the safest option for your survival.

If you are not prepared to the highest level, leave early in the day.

Only consider staying if you are prepared to the highest level – such as your home is specially designed, constructed or modified, and situated to withstand a fire, you are well prepared and can actively defend it if a fire starts.

### Catastrophic

**What does it mean?** For your survival, leaving early is the only option.

Leave bushfire prone areas the night before or early in the day – do not just wait and see what happens.

Make a decision about when you will leave, where you will go, how you will get there and when you will return.

Homes are not designed to withstand fires in catastrophic conditions so you should leave early. Follow your Bushfire Survival Plan and go to a safe place.

