

FLOOD RECOVERY NEWSLETTER



Edition 6: 9 January 2023

Thanks BlazeAid and our Bridgewater volunteers



BlazeAid volunteers camped in Bridgewater and ventured out each day to help our farming community with fencing repairs and flood clean up.

Melissa Jones, CEO, BlazeAid, provided a snapshot of the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve Camp volunteer effort:

- Camp ran for 8 weeks (895 volunteer days)
- 874 meals served
- 70 registered farming properties assisted
- 65 km of fence clearing and 50 km of fence rebuilding
- An estimated \$537,000 of total works alone.

Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the tremendous community support from our volunteers who looked after the Bridgewater BlazeAid crew. In particular we recognise Bryan Ryan and Sue Coghlan (Bridgewater Recreation Reserve Committee); Jany Clutton for coordinating all the food donations; Claire Harrison and her loyal band of Active Farmers; the Bridgewater Cricket Club & Derby Tennis Club for sharing the facility; and Bendigo Bank's Community Bank Inglewood and Districts for donating a \$50,000 grant to BlazeAid.

Financial Hardship

With rates due 15 February, Loddon Shire Council has a financial hardship policy to assist ratepayers who are experiencing genuine financial hardship. (See our website).

#BuildingFarmSpirit

The National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) has a grant program (\$500 to \$1500 per event) to promote good mental health in agriculture - particularly during challenging times. The program is open until 30 May 2023. Local agriculture industry groups, not-for-profit organisations, and community champions are all well placed to boost farmer mental health and wellbeing through community events and programs that provide social connection and mental health promotion for farmers and farming communities. For more information go to farmerhealth.org.au or email Sally Cunningham, Flood Support Officer, NCFH, sally.cunningham@wdhs.net

Community Recovery contacts

Loddon Shire Council has two staff dedicated to supporting Shire residents with flood recovery.

Mal Brown, Community Recovery Manager, M: 0499 978 145

Josie McKinnon, Community Recovery Officer, M: 0474 911 783

Visit the RFCS in Bridgewater

Rural Financial Counsellor, Anna McGee, is working out of the Bridgewater Railway Station every Tuesday 9am - 4pm. Call 1300 735 578 for an appointment.

Information for farmers

Farmers looking for useful and reliable information on how to navigate your flood recovery journey should visit Agriculture Victoria's website and Facebook page.

Visit the flood recovery website at:

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/floods>

Renting - Disaster Advice

Flooding has resulted in widespread damage to residential properties. Consumer Affairs Victoria has an excellent resource for both renters and landlords, covering rights and responsibilities when rental properties have been damaged or destroyed.

For information go to:

<https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/resources-and-tools/advice-in-a-disaster/renting>

Want to improve your skills in dealing with a crisis?

Loddon Shire Council, in conjunction with Lifeline Loddon Mallee, are offering three free courses in a set of toolbox skills for those moments when you might least expect to be called upon in a counseling or caring capacity.

- Thursday 2 February 2023 (9 am to 5 pm) Senior Citizens Centre, Kerr St, **Wedderburn**, 3518
 - Friday 3 February 2023 (9 am to 5 pm) Memorial Hall, Kelly St, **Pyramid Hill**, 3575
 - Friday 17 February 2023 (9 am to 5 pm) Tarnagulla Public Hall, Commercial Rd, **Tarnagulla**, 3551
- Register at eventbrite.com.au (search Accidental Counsellor Foundations)

FOR RELIEF & PERSONAL HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE CALL 1800 226 226

Health and wellbeing support

- Nurse on Call: 24 hour caring and professional health advice 1300 60 60 24.
- National Relay Service: Assistance making a phone call if you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impediment. Speak and listen number: 1300 555 727. Teletypewriter number: 133 677. SMS relay number: 0423 677 767.
- Translation and Interpreter Services: Provides access to phone and on-site interpreting services. Requests must be submitted at least 48 hours in advance. www.tisnational.gov.au
- Lifeline: 24hr crisis support and suicide prevention services: 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au
- Beyond Blue: Information and support for anxiety and/or depression: 1300 224 636 or beyondblue.com.au
- Kids Help Line: 24hr phone and online counselling service for people aged 5-25: 1800 551 800 or kidshelpline.com.au
- Emerging Minds: Provides resources for parents, carer's and families about infant and child mental health: emergingminds.com.au

Local support services

Community Health / Hospitals

Boort District Health
3 Kiniry St, Boort
P: (03) 5451 5200

Inglewood and District Health Services
3 Hospital St, Inglewood
P: (03) 5431 7000

Northern District Community Health
P: (03) 5451 0200

Boort Medical Centre
2 Coutts St, Boort
P:(03) 5451 5200

Dingee Bush Nursing Centre
21 King St, Dingee
P:(03) 5436 8309

Marong Medical Centre
8 Hospital St, Inglewood
P:(03) 5438 3308

Boort and Pyramid Hill Community Health
P:(03) 5451 0200

Wedderburn Health Clinic
25 Wilson St, Wedderburn
P: (03) 5494 3511

Legal Services
Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Service
P: 1800 450 909

Neighbourhood Houses
Boort Resource and Information Centre (BRIC)
119-121 Godfrey St, Boort
P: (03) 5455 2716

Inglewood Community Neighbourhood House
Cnr Verdon & Market St, Inglewood
P: (03)5455 2716

Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House
43 Kelly St, Pyramid Hill
P: (03) 5455 7129

Wedderburn Community House
24 Wilson St, Wedderburn
P: (03) 5494 3489

Animal and insect related hazards

- When returning to a flood-affected area remember that wild animals including rodents, snakes or spiders may be trapped in your home, shed or garden.
- If you have been bitten by a snake, get immediate medical attention by calling 000.
- If you have been bitten by or injured by an animal or insect, seek advice from a doctor.

Beat the bite

Mosquitos can breed in floodwaters. If you're travelling through or visiting this region make sure you:

- Cover up - wear long, loose-fitting clothing.
- Use mosquito repellents containing picardin or DEET on all exposed skin.
- Limit outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are about.
- Use 'knockdown' fly spray, mosquito coils or plug-in repellent where you gather to sit or eat outdoors.
- Don't forget the kids – always check the insect repellent label. On babies, you might need to spray or rub repellent on their clothes instead of their skin. Avoid applying repellent to the hands of babies or young children.

Japanese encephalitis (JE)

Free vaccinations are now available for people aged 2 months or older who live or routinely work in Loddon Shire, AND

- Spend at least 4 hours per day for unavoidable work, recreation, educational or other essential activities.
- Are living in temporary or flood damaged accommodation
- Are engaged in the prolonged outdoor recovery efforts of stagnant water.

Please be advised that there is a state-wide shortage of JEV vaccine and you may be placed on a waiting list.

Appointments to receive the vaccination can be made by contacting one of the following clinics.

- Inglewood Pharmacy – 5438 3021
- Wedderburn Health Clinic – 5494 3511
- Boort Community Pharmacy – 5455 2044
- Boort District Medical Centre – 5451 5220

Loddon Shire services

For up-to-date information regarding flood recovery and council services:

- Visit our website at www.loddon.vic.gov.au
- Call our office between 8.15am-4.45pm, Monday-Friday on (03) 5494 1200; or
- Go to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LoddonShire/