

FLOOD RECOVERY NEWSLETTER



Edition 12: 31 March 2023

ARC JUSTICE SUPPORTING FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

FREE Flood and Storm Legal Help

In addition to the physical damage, disasters like floods can also cause legal damage. People impacted by flooding may be facing legal problems to do with insurance, property, renting, employment, family violence or family law.

Some people also have trouble accessing important legal documents or obtaining emergency or other social security payments.

Based in Bendigo, Arc Justice's lawyers and advocates can provide essential information and advice.



We provide free legal information and advice to people in the Loddon Campaspe region.

 **03 5445 0909**

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL RECRUITS TWO NEW ROAD ENGINEERS

Kalyan Khanal and Luke McClelland (pictured below) are two new project engineers working for the Loddon Shire Council on the road repair program following the October 2022 floods.

The estimated repair bill for the flood damage to Council assets is approximately \$46 million, including 56 floodway repairs, one bridge replacement and over 337 km of road repairs. Kalyan and Luke will oversee the panel of contractors undertaking the road repairs across the shire to bring our shire-owned roads back to a safe standard.



Community Recovery Contacts

Loddon Shire Council's Flood Recovery team would love to hear from you and assist you through your flood recovery. Please get in touch if you would like to chat about flood recovery for you and your community.

Call Mal: 0499 978 145 or Josie: 0474 911 783

Rural Finance Grants closing soon

Primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations across Victoria affected by the floods and storms commencing October 2022 can apply for a package of support to help in their recovery effort.

This support is also available to primary producers impacted by the hailstorms late in 2022.

The **Victorian Primary Producer Flood Recovery Grant** of up to \$75,000 is available to support clean-up, relief and recovery. **Closing 4pm, 13 July 2023.**

The **Victorian Rural Landholder Grant** of up to \$25,000 is available to help rural landholders who have an eligible smaller-scale primary production enterprise with clean-up, relief and recovery. **Closing 4pm, 13 July 2023.**

The **Victorian Primary Producer Flood Recovery Transport Support Program** is available to help pay for the transport of emergency fodder or stock drinking water, and moving stock to agistment, sale or slaughter. This program provides a subsidy of up to \$15,000 paid at 50 per cent of the total costs. **Closing 4pm, 13 July 2023.**

Primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations whose properties have been directly impacted are eligible to apply for a **Victorian Primary Producer Flood Recovery Concessional Loan** of up to \$250,000 to restore or replace damaged assets, and meet general expenses incurred while the clean-up is underway. **Closing 4pm, 13 July 2023.**

Victorian small businesses and not-for-profit organisations who have been directly impacted by the October 2022 floods are eligible to apply for **concessional loans of up to \$250,000** to restore or replace damaged assets, and meet general expenses incurred while the clean-up is underway. **Closing 25 May 2023.**

For more information visit the Rural Finance website: <https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/victorian-primary-producer-flood-recovery-package>

FOR RELIEF & PERSONAL HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE CALL 1800 226 226

There is never any excuse for Family Violence



Family violence can escalate and increase as an impact of environmental disasters, including floods.

Are you concerned about your relationship?

Many of us experience stress as a result of the devastating impacts of the recent floods.

Some people may find themselves trying to exert more control over family members in harmful ways.

If you are concerned about your behaviour towards family members, we are here to help. Reach out today.

Our flood recovery team is ready and here to help.

Centre for Non-Violence covers the Loddon region – includes City of Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields, Mt Alexander, Macedon Ranges, Loddon, and Campaspe shires.

Contact us:
Centre for Non-Violence 1800 884 292 | www.cnv.org.au/we-are-here-to-help

The Orange Door (Loddon Area) 1800 512 359 - for intake and referrals
| **The 24-hour statewide Safe Steps family violence crisis response line is 1800 015 188 | Men's Referral Service 1300 766 491 | In an emergency, call 000**

COMMUNITY GRANTS AVAILABLE

Building Farm Spirit



Are you planning a community event to help the health and wellbeing of farmers and farm families impacted by the floods and flood recovery?

The National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) #BuildingFarmSpirit program is partnering with Victoria's community groups, local agriculture industry, not-for-profit organisations, sporting clubs and individuals with grants of \$500 to \$1,500 for activities that provide social connection and mental health promotion for farmers and farming communities.

Social connection is an important part of supporting farmer mental health. You may like to host a barbeque lunch or dinner and get a local speaker who has lived experience to share their story, follow your AGM or regular meeting with a guest speaker, start a walking group, book-club or podcast community or tie an activity to a local festival.

If you have an idea for a community event or program that promotes social connection and wellbeing for farmers and farm families, go to www.farmerhealth.org.au/buildingfarmspirit and register your interest.

Flood Recovery Grants



Community Bank Inglewood & Districts

Community Bank Inglewood & Districts is proud to be backing local communities in their flood-recovery efforts by offering special one-off grants of \$500 for events in communities affected by the October floods.

If you're part of a local club or organisation planning an event for a flood-affected community, drop the bank a line. The application process is simple, and they can help talk you through the requirements. Bring some joy to your community!

For more information, email Company Secretary Robyn on companysecretary@idcel.com.au

Rural Financial Counselling Service in Wedderburn 5 April

The impact of the October 2022 flood crisis throughout Victoria will be felt by many communities well after the waters recede. During times of crisis, financial burden, feelings of stress, anxiety and loss can be overwhelming.

Staff from the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) will be in attendance at the Wedderburn Community House on Wednesday 5 April 2023. The service is free and confidential.

For information, or to make an appointment, call 1300 735 578.

Respect StoryWalk at Little Lake Boort 6-21 April

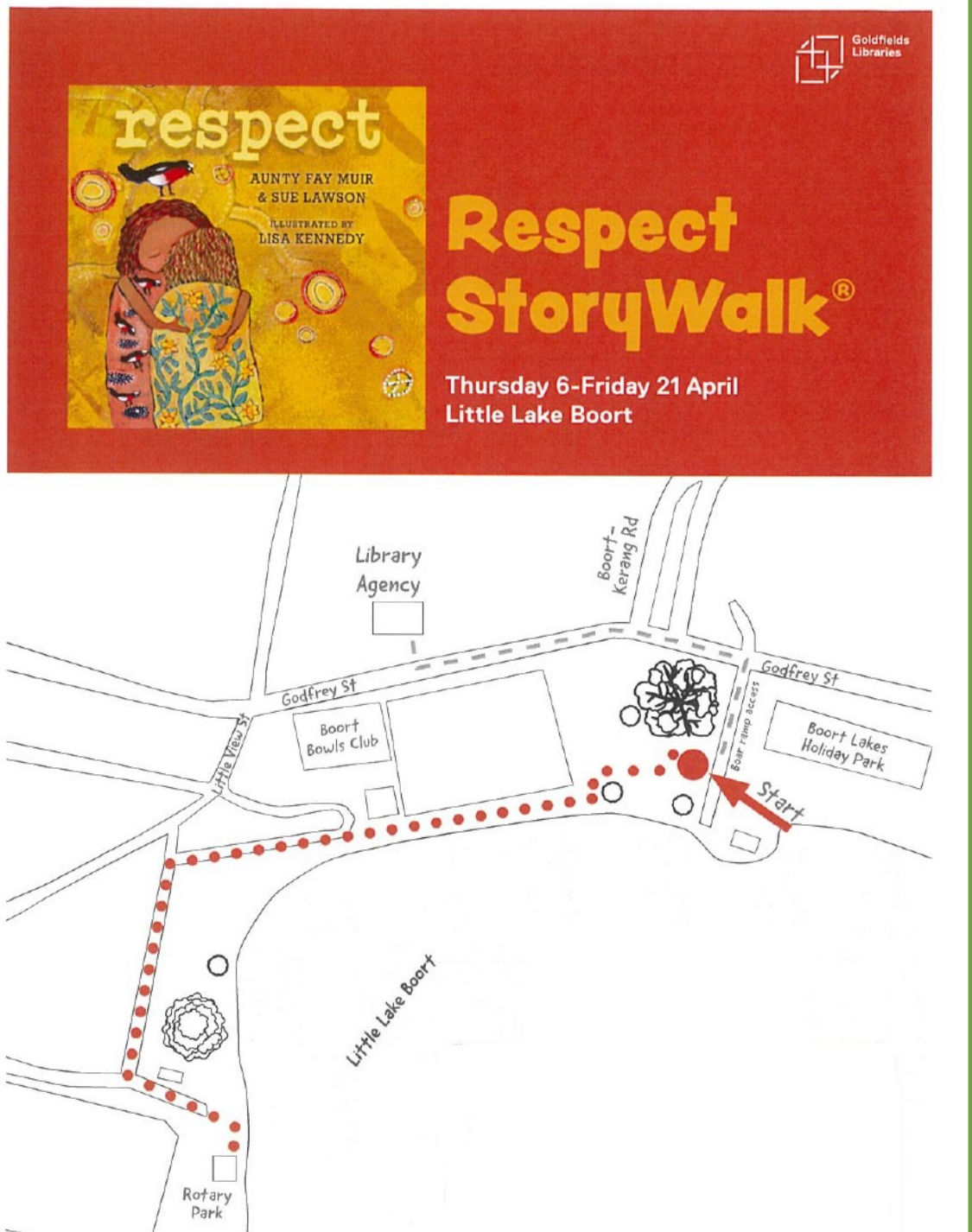
A StoryWalk sets up the pages of a picture book along a short walking trail, giving children and families a unique reading experience.

Enjoy this beautiful story welcoming children to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nations culture. The delightful illustrations gently encourage us to respect others, our country and ourselves.

Enjoy this short walk along Little Lake Boort, and:

- Take time to explore each page
- Ask questions about the pictures and words
- Relate them to real life.

PARENTAL SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN IS REQUIRED.



The poster features the book cover for 'respect' by Aunty Fay Muir & Sue Lawson, illustrated by Lisa Kennedy. The cover shows a woman in traditional Indigenous dress. The poster text reads: 'Respect StoryWalk® Thursday 6-Friday 21 April Little Lake Boort'. The Goldfields Libraries logo is in the top right. Below the poster is a map of Little Lake Boort showing the walking trail marked with red dots. Landmarks include the Library Agency, Boort Bowls Club, Godfrey St, Boort Lakes Holiday Park, and Rotary Park. A red arrow points to the 'Start' location near the Boort Lakes Holiday Park.

DFFH Flood Re-establishment Assistance still available

You can get financial help to return home if you cannot live in your home because it is damaged or destroyed; or you cannot access your home for more than seven days because of flooding. This is called 'Re-establishment Assistance'. It is only available for your principal place of residence.

Re-establishment Assistance can help to pay for:

- clean-up
- emergency accommodation
- repairs
- rebuilding your home
- replacing some damaged contents.

This help is means tested. You can only get it if you: do not have building (home) insurance or contents insurance AND are experiencing financial hardship. Call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 to register your details for Re-establishment Assistance.

Health and wellbeing support

- Royal Flying Doctor Service - Flying Doctor Wellbeing Available to those aged 18+. Call (03) 8412 0480.
- Rural Financial Counselling Service - free and confidential financial support - Call 1300 735 578
- Mind Australia-Bendigo: Call 1300 286 463 or visit mindaustralia.org.au
- Orange Door - You have a right to be safe - Call 1800 512 359
- Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO) - An intake organisation for Alcohol and other Drugs, Mental health, Youth and other clinical services for the Loddon area.
- 1800respect - Confidential information, counselling and support service. Call 1800 737 732
- Nurse on Call: 24 hour caring and professional health advice 1300 60 60 24.
- 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
- Seniors Rights Victoria - Elder abuse, prevention and support - 1300 368 821
- Emerging Minds: Provides resources for parents, carers, and families about infant and child mental health: emergingminds.com.au
- 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
- 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.

Flood waste statistics

Loddon Shire Council staff collected and disposed of 374 cubic metres (46.8 tonnes) of flood damaged goods after the October 2022 floods.



Beat the bite!

Protect yourself
and your family from
mosquito-borne diseases

For more information visit
www.betterhealth.vic.gov.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

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: www.facebook.com/LoddonShire/