

Community Newsletter

Longwood Berrys Lane Bushfire 1 April 2026

Strathbogie Shire Recovery Hub – here for you

Recovery looks different for everyone, and it takes time.

Since opening its doors, the Strathbogie Shire Recovery Hub in Euroa has welcomed more than 600 visitors, becoming a central place for support, connection and practical help for those impacted by the recent fires.

Whether you're navigating rebuilding, managing paperwork or simply need someone to talk to, the Hub is here for you.

Each week, a range of Council staff and support services are available to help residents move forward with confidence.

Planning & Building Support

A Duty Planner and Deputy Municipal Building Surveyor are available every Wednesday from noon to 3pm to provide advice on rebuilding, permits and next steps.

Environmental Health Support

Environmental Health Officers are also available during this time to assist with septic system concerns, including damage assessments, safety advice, repairs or new installations, and guidance for safe clean-up.

More than a service — a place to connect

Recovery is about more than rebuilding homes — it's about rebuilding connections.

The Hub will be hosting regular community meetings, information sessions and wellbeing activities, creating opportunities for people to come together, share experiences and support one another.

Did you know?

- You can drop in without an appointment — no booking needed
- The Hub offers free access to printing and scanning for recovery-related documents
- Private rooms are available if you need a confidential conversation

- Support is available even if you're unsure where to start, that's what the Hub is for

You don't have to do this alone

Recovery can feel overwhelming at times, but support is available and it starts with a simple conversation.

The Recovery Hub is here to help you, every step of the way.

Visit the Recovery Hub

34 Railway Street, Euroa

Open Monday to Friday

9am to 3pm or by appointment 180 065 993.



Communities come together for recovery

It was a busy and inspiring weekend across Strathbogie Shire, with communities coming together to connect, share stories and take important steps forward in recovery.

At the Recovery Hub Community Day in Euroa, more than just a morning tea, it was a chance for people to reconnect in a relaxed and welcoming setting. Locals dropped in to enjoy a bacon and egg roll thanks to Euroa Rotary, grab a coffee, and spend time chatting with neighbours and the Council Recovery Hub team.

There was plenty happening for all ages. Children got involved in activities with Euroa Gym, while others took time out to get creative with the Biodiversity Recovery Alliance — painting nesting boxes, trying nature crafts and even building bee hotels. BlazeAid volunteers were also on hand, offering practical support and information for those looking to get involved or access help.

The following day, communities from Longwood East, Longwood, Locksley, Upton Hill and Avenel gathered at the Upton Hill Fire Station for Recovery on the Hill. Over breakfast and coffee, locals began an important conversation about what recovery looks like for their community. It was a valuable opportunity to share experiences, raise ideas and start shaping a path forward together.



Sunday afternoon the recovery team were in Ruffly for a Community Conversation focused on exploring different recovery models and how the community can work together to guide recovery in the months and years ahead.



One thing was clear across the weekend and that was that people are ready to tell their stories, strengthen connections, support one another and ensure everyone has a voice in shaping its future.

Council thanks everyone who attended, contributed and continues to support their neighbours. This is what community-led recovery looks like.

Poly Tank recycling program – supporting our fire-affected communities

There's some positive progress for communities impacted by the fires, with a new recycling initiative nearly ready to launch.

Strathbogie Shire Council has been working closely with the Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network and Polymer Processors to create a free recycling pathway for fire-damaged poly materials, including water tanks, pipes and IBCs.

Rather than sending these materials to landfill, they'll soon be able to be recycled into new tanks and pipes—reducing environmental impact and helping ease the financial burden on residents. It's estimated that more than 200 damaged poly tanks could be diverted from landfill through this program.

This initiative is a great example of what can be achieved when local community groups, businesses and Council come together. It's also been designed with accessibility in mind, recognising that transport and disposal can be challenging following a disaster.

We're almost ready to get started, with most approvals now in place:

- Council EPA approval - received
- processor EPA approval - received
- transport approval - currently in progress.

We thank the community for your patience as we work through these final steps.

What can be recycled?



Residents affected by the fires will be able to recycle:

- poly tanks
- poly pipe
- fire-damaged IBCs (Intermediate Bulk Container).

Materials will need to be cut into pieces no larger than 1m x 1m, with all metal fittings removed.

Once the program opens, items can be dropped off at:

Euroa Transfer Station, 46 Tip Road, Euroa

There's no strict limit on quantities, but if you have more than two large tanks, please contact Council ahead of time so we can plan accordingly.

Need a hand?

We know this isn't an easy job. Council is currently exploring options with the Department of Justice and Community Safety to help with cutting and transporting materials. If this goes ahead, it will support residents who may need help on their properties.

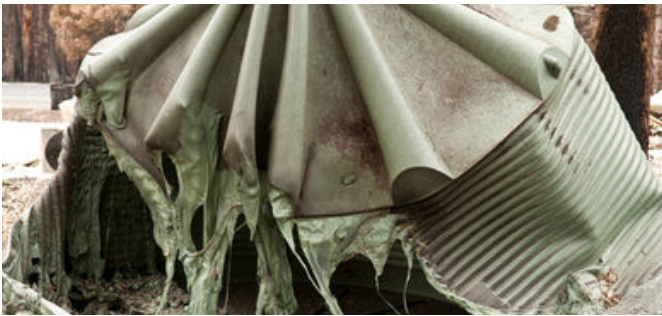
If you need help completing the form our Community Recovery Officers at the Recovery Hub, 34 Railway Street will be able to assist you.

Register your interest

An Expression of Interest form is available at:

<http://tiny.cc/polyrecovery>

This will help Council understand demand and keep you updated.



Funding boost to support Strathbogie Shire's bushfire recovery

Strathbogie Shire Council has welcomed new support from the Australian and Victorian Governments to strengthen recovery efforts following this summer's devastating bushfires.

As part of a statewide package, Strathbogie Shire will benefit from funding to support locally led recovery initiatives, including the establishment of Community Recovery Officers and investment in the Recovery Hub.

This initiative recognises what our community already knows, recovery is not one-size-fits-all. It works best when it's shaped by local people, local knowledge and local needs.

Community Recovery Officers will play a key role on the ground, working directly with residents, community groups and local services to ensure support is practical, coordinated and responsive. Alongside this, the Recovery Hub will continue to provide a place for people to access information, services and connection.

The scale of this summer's bushfires has been significant across Victoria, with more than 430,000 hectares burnt and over 1500 structures damaged or

destroyed. While the immediate emergency has passed, recovery is ongoing—and for many, the journey is just beginning.

CEO Rachele Quattrocchi said the funding was an important step in supporting the community over the long-term.

"Recovery doesn't happen overnight. It takes time, care and strong local support. This funding allows us to continue standing alongside our community—listening, responding and helping people navigate what comes next."

Residents are reminded that support is available. More information can be found on the Emergency Recovery Victoria website or by calling the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760.

Rates update for bushfire-affected properties

Strathbogie Shire Council is continuing to support residents impacted by the January 2026 bushfires, including adjustments to rate notices where needed.

Third instalment rate notices have not been issued for properties within the bushfire impact zone. Council is currently working closely with valuers to reassess these properties to ensure rates fairly reflect the impact of the fires.

Once revaluations are complete:

- any necessary adjustments will be applied
- remaining balances for the 2025-26 financial year will be included in the fourth instalment notice.

Fourth instalment notices for all ratepayers are expected to be distributed in late May 2026, with payments due by Monday, 22 June, 2026.

If you have already paid your 2025-26 rates in full, you will not receive a third or fourth instalment notice. However, any adjustments will still be processed, and you will be contacted with details of any changes.

Council understands this is a challenging time for many in our community and appreciates your patience as we work through the revaluation and rating process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Council's Customer Service team for assistance 180 065 993.

DRA arrives to support Strathbogie Shire recovery

We are very pleased to announce that Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) will be arriving in our region from Wednesday, following several weeks of advocacy to secure this much needed support for our community. While the team will be based in Merton, its priority focus is assisting residents within Strathbogie Shire.

DRA volunteers will be in the area for several weeks, working in partnership with Emergency Recovery Victoria and in coordination with regional and local government. The deployment will provide hands on assistance with a range of bushfire recovery tasks, including:

- clearing, pruning, trimming and removing bushfire affected trees and timber
- processing timber for firewood
- collecting and clearing scattered green waste
- clearing and removing bushfire affected fence lines
- removing non hazardous waste and debris from impacted sites.

This list is not exhaustive. Residents with fire impacted properties are encouraged to register their needs as soon as possible at bit.ly/DRAhelp.

This is a significant and long awaited boost for our region's recovery, and we encourage everyone to help spread the word so residents can access support promptly.



Inland Rail Community Grants Program

The Inland Rail Community Grants Program supports regional communities along the Beveridge-Parkes alignment. Since 2019, more than 300 local projects across NSW, Queensland and Victoria have received more than \$1 million in funding.

The program now focuses on communities between Beveridge (VIC) and Parkes (NSW), offering grants of \$1000-\$4000 for short term projects that strengthen local prosperity, wellbeing and sustainability. Eligible initiatives include community facility upgrades, STEM activities in schools, business development programs and local events.

Annual grant rounds

- Round 1: 1 February – 30 April
- Round 2: 1 May – 31 July

- Round 3: 1 August – 31 October
- Round 4: 1 November – 31 January

How to apply: Community groups, not for profits and local government bodies are encouraged to apply. Check the Inland Rail Community Grants Program Guidelines for eligibility, assessment details and funding conditions. For more information go to: <https://inlandrail.com.au/opportunities/community-grants/>

Reminder: VERRF payments now re opened

Bushfire affected? Did you miss out on this support?

The Victorian Emergency Relief and Recovery Foundation (VERRF) payments have re opened and are available until 1 May, 2026.

The Victorian Emergency Relief and Recovery Foundation (VERRF) is a charitable trust, supported by the State Government of Victoria.

Did you know? You can apply if:

- your home was significantly damaged or destroyed and deemed uninhabitable
- the damage was caused by a Victorian bushfire during the 2025-26 summer
- the property was your main place of residence at the time
- renters can apply (one application per household)
- business owners, sole traders and primary producers can apply if the place they trade from is also their main place of residence.

Find out more or apply online at: <https://www.vic.gov.au/apply-victorian-emergency-relief-and-recovery-foundation-payment>

Sharing our community's story

Since the January fires, our community has shown incredible strength and care for one another.

We know many of you have captured moments along the way, whether it's the landscape, the response, small acts of kindness or the path to recovery.

If you feel comfortable, we invite you to share your photos with us to help tell our community's story.

There's no pressure to take part, please only share if it feels right for you.

Send photos to: Communications@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Include your name, location and (if you'd like) a short description.

Your images may be used in future Council communications, with credit.

Thank you for being part of a community that continues to look out for each other.

Look Over the Farm Gate

Look Over the Farm Gate applications are now open. The program offers grants of up to \$5000 to local organisations to run community events that support mental health and wellbeing.

Since mid-2025, almost 200 Look Over the Farm Gate events have brought communities together, engaging around 28,000 people across the state.

Look Over the Farm Gate is managed by the National Centre for Farmer Health on behalf of the Victorian Government to support drought-impacted communities across the state.

For further drought support visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186



Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Grants

Grants of up to \$75,000 are available to eligible primary producers, to help cover the costs of clean-up and reinstating their enterprises. Funding can be used for essential recovery activities such as disposing of stock, rebuilding or replacing damaged on-farm infrastructure and restoring operations.

Primary Producers Bushfire Recovery Concessional Loans

Loans of up to \$250,000 are available for producers who have suffered significant damage to assets, while loans of up to \$100,000 will support those experiencing a major loss of income. This assistance will further help

cover essential costs such as repairing or replacing damaged equipment, rebuilding infrastructure, purchasing livestock and meeting working capital expenses like wages, rent and fodder.

Grants are now open. For information on eligibility and how to apply visit ruralfinance.com.au

Farm Advisory Service

Take stock with a one-on-one consultation. Farmers across the state can access free sessions with a technical specialist through the Farm Advisory Service.

More than 1000 farmers across the state have already accessed the opportunity to sit down with an advisor, to take stock, plan and act to manage the season.

Specialist consultants include agronomists, veterinarians, animal nutritionists, business advisors and farm planners, with expertise across dairy, beef, sheep and wool, horticulture and cropping.

Find more information about drought support:

www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186



Financial Counselling and Wellbeing Support

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) can help with grant applications, alongside their free and independent financial information, decision-making support and referral services to farmers.

Wellbeing Counsellors offer free, confidential support and are available to visit bushfire-affected producers and their families at their property or over the phone.

Call the RFCS on 1300 771 741.

Mental health support

Your emotional wellbeing is as important as your physical health and financial circumstances. Major emergencies can have a significant impact on your life and the lives of those around you.

You might feel overwhelmed, exhausted, or unsure where to start. These are all normal responses.

If you find yourself experiencing strong emotions, talking about your worries and feelings as well as remaining connected to others can make them more manageable. It is important to identify what actions can be taken to address the source of your concerns.

Seeking help is a sign of strength and often the first step in recovery.

If you or someone close to you is feeling overwhelmed:

For immediate support, contact:

- Lifeline 131 114
- Beyond Blue 1300 224 636
- Mens Line 1300 789 978
- Kids Help Line 1800 55 1800
- National Centre Farmers Health 03 5551 853



Upcoming Community events

Art of renewal:

RAGE Recycled Art Exhibition in Euroa

This Easter, Euroa will host the inaugural RAGE Recycled Art Exhibition from 2-8 April, bringing together more than 30 artists from across Victoria.

The exhibition will feature around 60 artworks created almost entirely from recycled and reclaimed materials – from salvaged metal and textiles to everyday objects given a new life through art.

Several of the participating artists were impacted by the January fires, making the exhibition a powerful reflection of renewal and resilience. At a time when many people in our community are focused on recovery, RAGE offers a reminder that creativity, connection and new beginnings can grow from difficult moments.

The event is also expected to attract visitors from across the state over the Easter period, bringing welcome activity to Euroa and supporting local cafés, shops and accommodation providers as the region continues its recovery.

The Exhibition was an initiative of the Rotary Club of Euroa and supported by Victorian Government Tiny Towns Fund in conjunction with Strathbogie Shire Council.

Residents and visitors are warmly invited to explore the exhibition across several locations in Euroa during Easter week.

RAGE Recycled Art Exhibition

When: 2-8 April 2026

Where: Euroa, North East Victoria

Venues

1. St Paul's Hall – 1A Clifton Street
2. Vacant Block – Cnr Binney Street and Alex McMasters Lane
3. Sheilas Art Gallery – 52 Binney Street
4. Old Klofts Garage Site – Top of Binney Street on Railway Street
5. Euroa Arboretum – 76 Main Road

Venues open from 10am – 4pm daily

Entry is free

Community Information Sessions

Residents are also invited to join our Community Information Sessions to meet directly with planners, building surveyors and emergency services representatives:

- **Wednesday 22 April, 5-6pm – Ruffly Hall**
Duty planner, building surveyor, CFA liaison
- **Wednesday 29 April, 5-6pm – Creightons Creek Hall**
Duty planner, building surveyor, CFA liaison

These sessions are a great opportunity to ask questions, share concerns, and learn about support available for fire-affected properties.

Subscribe to this newsletter

If you'd like to receive this newsletter directly in your inbox, please follow the link provided and enter your email details.

<https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/services/emergency-preparedness/2026-bushfires/2026-bushfires-stay-informed/>

Your information will only be used for this purpose.

If you have suggestions for future editions, we'd love to hear from you.



Contact the Customer Service team on 1800 065 993

Email info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Website: www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Emergency Recovery Hotline: 1800 560 750



Register your request for assistance with Disaster Relief Australia

Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) is in the area to assist your community with recovery tasks

Working in partnership with Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) in coordination with Regional and Local Government Areas, DRA volunteers will be in the area for several weeks to come.

We can help with the following tasks:

- Processing of bushfire affected green waste including, but not limited to:
 - Clearing, removal, pruning or trimming of bushfire affected timber
 - Processing timber for firewood
 - Clearing and collection of scattered green waste
- Clearing/removal of bushfire affected fence lines
- Collection and removal of non-hazardous waste and/or debris from the impacted site

Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and if you require assistance with your fire impacted property, to contact DRA for further information.

About Disaster Relief Australia

Established in 2016, Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) is a veteran-led not-for-profit that unites the skills and experience of veterans and other dedicated volunteers to help communities prepare for and recover from disaster.

If you require assistance with fire recovery, please register using the QR code or details below.



P 1300 372 287

E operation.vic@disasterreliefaus.org

W bit.ly/DRAhelp

@DisasterReliefAUS
disasterreliefaus.org



RAGE

Regional
Art
Group
Euroa

Recycled Art Exhibition

Euroa, Victoria

2–8 April 2026

REINVIGORATE. RECYCLE. REIMAGINE.

A celebration of the war on waste tapping into the creativity, innovation, and talent thriving in our local communities.

\$3000 Prize Award

www.rageeuroa.com.au



Rotary Club of Euroa

Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL