

# Flood Recovery in Murrindindi Shire

Edition #5

## In this edition

Water releases from Lake Eildon have decreased from 12,000 megalitres to less than 2,000 megalitres per day since the last newsletter. This has brought some temporary relief for our communities as the water begins to recede. We all remain vigilant as the dam sits at 96 % full.

Council's Flood Recovery team has been hosting flood recovery pop-up hubs in townships across the Shire. It has been valuable hearing experiences from people on the ground and to provide support where possible.

If you know anyone who would benefit from the information in this newsletter, please share it with them and encourage them to sign up at this link: [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoverynewsletter](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoverynewsletter)

## Topics

- Upcoming events
- Outreach Support Visits
- Support Spotlight: National Centre for Farmer Health
- Available support
- Local updates
  - Acheron
  - Yea

## Online Flood Hub

Council has a dedicated Flood Hub on our website, where we share updates about the Victorian Floods along with links to important information and resources to help you and your loved ones.

Visit the Flood Hub at:

[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022)

## Upcoming events

### Flood Recovery Pop-up Hubs

In July, Council began running a series of flood recovery pop-up hubs. To date we have hosted sessions in Thornton, Alexandra, Molesworth, Yea, Buxton and Flowerdale.

### Yea Cattle Sales Pop-ups

The Flood Recovery team has been attending the Yea Cattle Sales each month to offer information and support to farmers. We will be at the next sales on:

- Friday 1 September, 10.30 am – 3.00 pm
- Friday 6 October, 10.30 am – 3.00 pm

For more information about resources available for your ongoing recovery, visit the Flood Hub on Council's website.



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## Council and Agriculture Victoria host flood recovery workshop

More than 40 people came to the Molesworth Public Hall on Thursday 27 July to learn about current animal health issues and how farmers can deal with stressful situations.

Murrindindi Shire Council and Agriculture Victoria hosted the 'Caring for Our Stock, Caring for Ourselves' workshop to highlight the importance of animal and farmer health.

Principal Vet Dr Anna Manning from Delatite Veterinary Services explained current health issues in animals across the region and how to respond, particularly liver fluke, worms, and lice.



With 40 years of experience specialising in trauma recovery, psychologist Dr Rob Gordon spoke to attendees about the effects that stress can have on the body, and some of the signs to keep an eye out for.

We have a series of videos from Dr Rob Gordon on the wellbeing support resources page of our Flood Hub.



## Outreach Support Visits - Yea, Thornton, Molesworth and Whanregarwen Road

Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry (VCCCEM) will be conducting outreach support visit door knocks on behalf of Council in flood affected areas of Yea, Thornton, Molesworth and Whanregarwen Road. We want to check in and see how you are going with your recovery, and to see what further support you may need.

These door knocks are scheduled for Friday 1 and Saturday 2 September. Be sure to keep an ear out for the door.

## Flood Recovery Hotline

As you navigate your way through recovering from the floods, it is important to remember that you aren't alone, and there is support available for you.

You can call the Flood Recovery Hotline on [1800 560 760](tel:1800560760). Operators can help you with clean-up services, finding a place to stay, financial support and mental health and wellbeing support.

The hotline is open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday, and closed on weekends and public holidays. Press 9 for an interpreter.

## Access to free disposal of waste

The Victorian Government program for the free disposal of flood affected waste ended on 30 June 2023. Council understands that flood impacted property owners may not have been able to access this service, due to a range of circumstances.

Because of this, you can still submit written requests to Council for free disposal of flood-affected waste, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the State.

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## Support Spotlight: National Centre for Farmer Health

The National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) offers initiatives for primary producers impacted by the floods to support farmer mental health and wellbeing.

### Farmer Online Assist Program

The Farmer Online Assist program provides flood affected farmers with up to three free sessions with a psychologist. Whether it's stress, unusual reactions, or that pesky low mood, talking it out with one of these skilled, empathetic psychologists can make a world of difference.

### Community event grants

NCFH is still accepting grant applications for community events. Grants of \$500 to \$1500 are available for local agriculture industry groups and not-for-profit organisations who wish to boost farmers' mental health and wellbeing through community events or programs. If you would like to chat about your idea and how to apply, contact Sally Cunningham, Flood Support Officer, on 5551 8533 or [sally.cunningham@wdhs.net](mailto:sally.cunningham@wdhs.net)

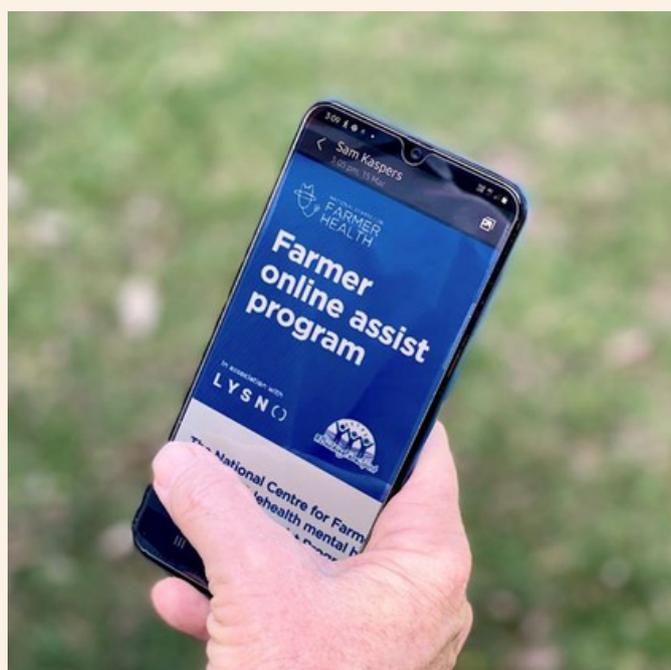
### 'Flood recovery – Vic Farmers' perspective' - Video

NCFH has released a video looking at farmers' perspective of the floods and recovery. It is 18 minutes long and is based on interviews with more than 50 farmers, health professionals and industry advisors across Victoria. Just search the title on FarmerHealth's YouTube channel.

### Campfire Podcast

NCFH produces a podcast covering a range of topics all about looking after yourself and your farm. We recommend the episode called 'Thinking through the flood recovery journey'.

For more information, visit the NCFH website at [farmerhealth.org.au](http://farmerhealth.org.au)



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## Available Support

### Health and wellbeing support

#### Mitchell Shire Flood Recovery Hub

Mitchell Shire Council now has a new Recovery Hub located at 4 Guild Street, Seymour, which is open on weekdays from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm. A rotating roster of service organisations is available for individuals and businesses impacted by the floods. The Goulburn Flood Recovery Service (GFRS) is available onsite every day to everyone impacted by the floods.

Residents from across Murrindindi Shire are welcome to attend to find out what supports are available to them and to talk with services that operate in the Shire.

For more information visit the Mitchell Shire website:  
[mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/services/october-floods-2022/flood-recovery-hub](http://mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/services/october-floods-2022/flood-recovery-hub)

Murrindindi Shire Council is hosting a series of pop-up flood recovery hubs in townships across the Shire. Visit the Flood Hub community meetings and events page for more information.

## Recovery Hub.



- A range of recovery support available
- Monday - Friday
- 9.30 - 4.30pm

[mitchellshire.vic.gov.au](http://mitchellshire.vic.gov.au)



### Family violence support

Cases of family violence may increase after an emergency. Several organisations are working within Murrindindi Shire to provide information and support for family violence and child protection issues.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 000. For anyone requiring non-emergency support for family violence or child protection issues, The Orange Door is a first point of contact on 1800 560 760. For information on other services please visit our Flood Hub.

### Goulburn Flood Recovery Service

If you have been affected by the October 2022 Floods, you are eligible to receive support from a Flood Recovery Support Worker, through the Goulburn Flood Recovery Service.

Find out more at our Flood Hub, or contact the Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760.

### Mental health and wellbeing support

Disasters can have a devastating impact on people. You don't have to go through it alone.

If you or a loved one needs extra support, speak with your local doctor, a mental health professional, counsellor or psychologist. It can also be helpful to start a conversation with someone who is independent but still understanding.

Visit the Flood Hub for a list of services to support you and your family.

### Agriculture support

#### Digital newsletter for farmers

Farmers and service providers are encouraged to subscribe to Agriculture Victoria's Flood Recovery digital newsletter to access the latest events and information via the Agriculture Victoria website: [agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au)

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## Financial and practical support

### Financial support

Whether you're a resident, business owner, or farmer, financial support is available to you. See our Flood Hub for more information.

### Rural Financial Counselling Service

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) is available to assist primary producers to understand and apply for flood and storm support. Primary Producers can contact their local RFCS on 1300 771 741.

More information is available at Rural Finance by calling 1800 260 425 or visiting the website at [ruralfinance.com.au](http://ruralfinance.com.au)

### Emergency Recovery Victoria's structural assessments

Homeowners, small business owners and not-for-profit property owners can register for an all-hazard structural assessment if eligible properties with structures have been damaged or destroyed by floods. Register at: [vic.gov.au/register-structural-assessment-october-2022-floods](http://vic.gov.au/register-structural-assessment-october-2022-floods)

## Business support

### Murrindindi Business e-Newsletter

If you operate a business in Murrindindi Shire and have not done so yet, you can register for the Murrindindi Business e-Newsletter on our website: [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Your-Business](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Your-Business)

### Partners in Wellbeing Helpline

Sole traders, business owners and their employees can continue to call the Partners in Wellbeing Helpline on [1300 375 330](tel:1300375330) for free and confidential advice, available seven days a week.

Trained financial counsellors, business advisers and wellbeing coaches are available to provide confidential one-on-one support. The Partners in Wellbeing program will also include embedded community mental health and wellbeing services.

## Business Relief Service

The Business Relief Service offers free, confidential, one-on-one support to flood-affected business owners from a local business relief advisor via telephone and face-to-face. Visit the Business Victoria website for details: [business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs](http://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs)



A dark blue rectangular graphic with a white telephone handset icon at the top. Below the icon, the text reads: **Business Relief Services**. Underneath, it says: **Speak with a Business Relief Adviser call Business Victoria Hotline 13 22 15**.

## Business Groups Flood Recovery Grants

Grants of \$20,000 and \$50,000 are available for eligible business groups. Funds can be used by chambers of commerce, trader groups, industry associations and more to deliver locally led projects to support flood-affected small businesses recover and thrive. Find out more on the Business Victoria website: [business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs](http://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs)



A photograph of a shopping street with signs for 'CHEMIST', 'DISCOUNT CHEMIST', 'Target', and 'NEWSPOW'. A blue triangular graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image. The text inside the triangle reads: **Flood recovery grants open for business groups**. At the bottom right of the triangle is the **VICTORIA** logo.

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## Local updates

### Acheron

Now that the river level has dropped, contractors can safely undertake the planned bank stabilisation works, which involves placement of rock (rip rap) along the eroded bank.

Works began on Monday 14 August. Our aim is to have this work completed by the start of September.

As mentioned in a previous update, Council has engaged specialist bridge engineers to undertake hydraulic modelling, which will provide us with a definitive answer on the lateral stability of the Breakaway Bridge piers. Sonar testing of the riverbed adjacent to the bridge is required for this modelling to be completed. Information gathered from this work will help us determine the future of the bridge.

Council has also appointed JCA land surveyors to reestablish property boundaries along Breakaway Road in preparation for future works at the bridge. Surveyors should be in the area, sometime in the next few weeks.

These works have been funded under the Disaster Recovery Fund Arrangement (DRFA), which is an agreement between the State and Commonwealth governments to support disaster relief and recovery activities.



### Yea

The Yea Wetlands was reopened on 29 July. The Yea Wetlands, a significant tourist destination for Yea and an important asset for our local community, was significantly impacted by the October 2022 flood event.

While most of the wetlands have been reopened, a section of damaged boardwalk remains closed. Over the coming weeks, works will continue in the wetlands to resurface the pathways and rebuild the damaged boardwalk.

Thank you to the Yea Wetlands volunteers for their hard work during the recovery process.

Murrindindi Shire Council would like to acknowledge the financial contribution of the Victorian State Government in completing this important work.



## What do you want to see in future editions?

Are you finding this newsletter helpful? Is there anything we are missing in these updates? Are there other ways you would like to receive recovery updates from us? Let us know by emailing [communications@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:communications@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

We also encourage you to share your story with us. We would like to know how you are coping in recovering from the floods and if you have any ideas that might be helpful for other people in our communities.