

## August 2022 Edition

### ▶ MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Hello and welcome to the newsletter for August 2022.

Our Storm Recovery team are working hard to convene three workshops over September and October focussed on regeneration. Damon Gameau, a film producer, is the guest speaker for the first talk, which will be held at the Quarry Street Reserve in Trentham. I encourage you all to check it out and try to get along. Workshop themes are Regeneration, Resilience and Sustainability.

We are very pleased with the uptake on our chainsaw classes and happily report that many of our shire residents were quick to respond and partake. Many of them are newcomers and keen to learn the essential skills required to safely and effectively operate a chainsaw, which we know is such a vital and useful piece of equipment, particularly in emergencies.

There has been a small changeover of staffing within the team and we regretfully say goodbye to Amanda Western, who has reached the end of her contract. Amanda came on board at the outset, immediately after the June 2021 storm and successfully steered the team through the difficult first year of recovery.

We welcome our new Storm Recovery Environmental Works Officer. Lauren Linke has a depth of experience that will benefit our ongoing commitment to the beautiful Hepburn Shire environment.

As we head towards spring, I hope that everybody is able to enjoy some warmer weather and outdoor activity.

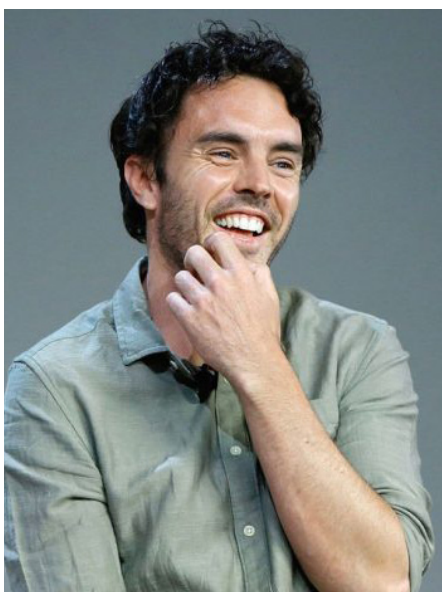
Please contact the Storm Recovery Team on 03 4373 7373 if you have any questions or suggestions on how they may help you.



Cr Tim Drylie

### ▶ DAMON GAMEAU AT TRENTHAM

The first of three upcoming workshops being run at Trentham will feature guest speaker, Damon Gameau. Damon is the producer of *That Sugar Film*, which was followed by *2040*. His most recent work is a 17-minute documentary called



*Regenerating Australia*. Set on New Year's Eve of December 2029, a news anchor is ending the nightly bulletin with a look back at the decade 'that could be.' A decade that saw Australia transition to a fairer, cleaner, more community focused economy. The film is a construction of news reports and press conferences featuring real news anchors and journalists, politicians, business leaders and citizens.

A mix of media personalities and industry experts deliver stories about a high-speed rail network connecting regional areas and cities; the environmental and social effects of large-scale wind, solar, battery and hydrogen projects; and the impacts of landscapes coming to life when regenerative agriculture and reforestation programs combine with Indigenous knowledge and fire ecology.

Damon will talk about possibilities and positive steps to a sustainable future.

Saturday 17 September  
Free event at Quarry Street Reserve, Trentham  
Event start 11.30am. Guest speaker 12.00 pm

## ▶ CHAINSAW CLASSES

Chainsaw classes have commenced across the shire with all courses fully subscribed. These courses were offered as part of the storm recovery efforts to help build skills within the community.

Day 1 was theory and chainsaw maintenance, while Days 2 and 3 were out on property for practical application. We look forward to the coming sessions and feedback from participants.

We have a total of 13 courses, which will be completed by mid-November. Due to such large interest in the courses, we applied for extra funding and provided extra places. There is a total of 78 people undertaking this training.

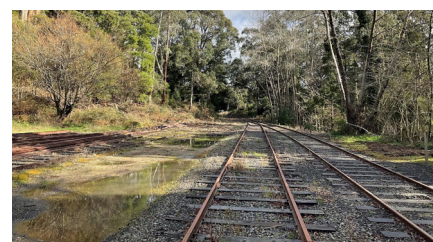


## ▶ SPA COUNTRY RAILWAY

Bushfire Recovery Victoria, on behalf of Council, is approaching the finish of the cleanup of Spa Country Railway.

The storm-thrown timber is almost all cleared from the track and will be handed back to Spa Country Rail once works are completed. An opening date for the track is yet to be announced.

The track runs between Bullarto and Daylesford.



## ▶ STORM BOOK

Our team is putting together a coffee table book as a record of the storm event of June 2021.

We welcome any contributions from people who would like to share their stories and/or photos. If you are not a writer, don't worry, we can work collaboratively.

Everybody's experience is different, important and forms part of a collective experience. We are seeking first hand accounts, large and small of the storm and/or its aftermath. All contributions will be considered.

Please contact our Communications team on:

[kmxted@hepburn.vic.gov.au](mailto:kmxted@hepburn.vic.gov.au)





## ▶ STAFF PROFILE

### Lauren Linke

Lauren is our Storm Recovery Environmental Works Officer. Her role involves ensuring that environmental impacts and emerging risks to the environment due to the June 2021 storms are identified, managed and reduced by implementing mitigation activities that are considered in strategic planning processes.



The role ranges from advocacy, community awareness and educational events through providing expert technical advice to community, landholders and council's works teams.

Lauren has an extensive background in environmental management. She is passionate about conservation, environmental management and making a difference in protecting and enhancing the environment and biodiversity, focused on delivering the highest level of project outcome. These have been demonstrated across the environmental organisations she has worked for.

## ▶ R U OK? No qualifications needed

R U OK day is on 8<sup>th</sup> September. This initiative reaches millions of Australians annually, however if you find the idea of asking someone if they are ok a bit confronting, you are not alone. Forty percent of Australians think this question is better asked by an expert. Unfortunately, identifying that someone needs support can happen in an instant, leaving you to ask the question... expert or not. This year, the theme 'R U OK? No Qualifications Needed' addresses the challenge of asking. The website has the resources you need. There are conversation guides, tips for making sure you are in the right headspace to ask the question, and for extra support if needed. There are also some great resources for building an R U OK? culture within your organisation.

**Need some help?** Partners In Wellbeing Program, a state-wide helpline 1300 375 330 (Mon to Fri 9am – 10pm and weekends 9am – 5pm). When you call the helpline, you will be linked to a wellbeing coach. The service is free, confidential and available to all Victorians over 16yo. Small business owners can access dedicated well-being, financial counselling and business advisor support. Your local Mental Health Consultant is Isobel Kemp: 0417 073 043 or [isobel.kemp@each.com.au](mailto:isobel.kemp@each.com.au)

[partnersinwellbeing.org.au](http://partnersinwellbeing.org.au)

## ▶ ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOPS

The Storm Recovery Team is running a series of workshops focussed on regeneration, resilience and sustainability. The themes are:

### **Saturday, 17 September**    **Regeneration: Your Habitat - What Can You Do?**

- Free event start 11.30am
- Guest speaker 12.00pm

#### **Guest Speaker, Damon Gameau.**

Damon is a sought-after speaker and presented at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit in New York.

Free event at Quarry Street Reserve, Trentham

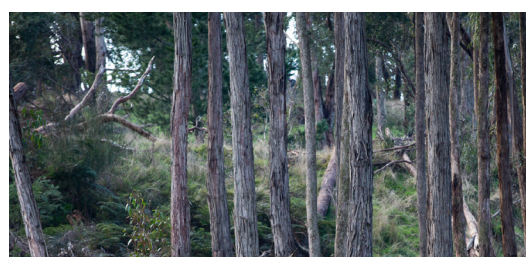
Further details to come  
<https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/storm-recovery>

### **Saturday, 8 October**    **Resilience: Your Environment + Wild Weather**

Are You Prepared?

### **Saturday, 29 October**    **Sustainability: Our Sustainable Hepburn**

What are we doing?



## ► BUSINESS RECOVERY EVENT

Business owners from the main street of Trentham met at Chaplin's recently to swap thoughts on their current challenges. At the invitation of the Council's Storm Recovery Team, they were joined by Jobs Victoria and Partners in Well-being. Both are separate agencies of Business Victoria, who provided invaluable insight into opportunities currently available to small businesses.

This strong, connected group of business owners and community members were quick to see the benefits presented and to start discussions on how to collaborate.

Some valuable insights raised at the gathering were the need for an Information Centre and a Business Directory website listing local services. There was also discussion about pooling resources to reinstate the much-loved Twilight Festival. Trentham town and district has much to offer for both visitors and residents. Enthusiastic and creative business owners are keen to see their community thrive.

The Hepburn Shire Council Storm Recovery team, partnering with the Community Bank Trentham & Districts, are researching options for collaborative commerce-focused projects. These will create potential for greater trade visibility and business networking.

We encourage any Trentham district business owners who are interested in holding another gathering, or engaging with the team, to please get in touch:

Narelle Conroy

Storm Recovery Officer

0419 865-680

[nconroy@hepburn.vic.gov.au](mailto:nconroy@hepburn.vic.gov.au)

[partnersinwellbeing.org.au/](http://partnersinwellbeing.org.au/) Kevin O'Loughlin

[Jobs Victoria Career Counselling Service](#)

**Top:** *Business community, Council officers and agencies met at Chaplins to discuss opportunities for growth and some resolutions.*

**Middle:** *Kevin O'Loughlin from Jobs Victoria Career Counselling Service shares opportunities and some local success stories with the group*

**Bottom:** *Isobel Kemp, Mental Health Clinician/ Consultant, Central Highlands Rural Health.*





## ► CRESWICK RECOVERY COMMITTEE

People impacted by the January 2022 storm and flood in and around Creswick were invited to join a Community Recovery Committee. Members will use local knowledge and expertise for the long-term recovery process and advise on the recovery progress and any additional needs. The group will also guide Council's \$20,000 investment in a Community Recovery Fund. Nominations closed in mid-August and will be announced in September. Thank you to everyone who applied.

## ► WEATHER AND WORRY

We understand that with the recent rain and ground saturation this may be an anxious period for residents in and around Creswick. We want to reassure the community that we are watching creek levels have a team on standby. We are also staying in contact with the SES and other agencies and will work together where needed. Stay up-to-date with weather warnings by downloading the VicEmergency app and setting up a watchlist to receive instant notifications direct to your phone.

## ► COLOURING-IN COMPETITION

Children living in and around Creswick are invited to enter a colouring-in competition as part of the Creswick Storm Recovery work. There are some great Simgle prizes available for each age group.

Pick up a copy and drop off your completed entry to:

Storm Recovery Office  
67 Albert Street  
Creswick  
or the Creswick Hub.

Entries close Monday 12 September.

## ► EMERGENCY BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Emergencies and disasters can be extremely stressful for both adults and children.

To help young children understand disasters Council is donating a set of *Birdie* books to each of our local libraries and two copies to every school and preschool in the Hepburn Shire.

The picture books were developed by Queensland Health to talk children through what happens in a disaster, how they might feel, and what the process is for recovery.

Keep an eye out for them on a bookshelf near you!



## ▶ NATIONAL WATTLE DAY

1st September is National Wattle Day and this year it falls on a Thursday. Bring in Spring by celebrating Wattle Day. The wattle is a resilient native Australian species and is tolerant against drought, wind and bushfire and represents the spirit and strength of the Australian people. The Golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) was officially gazetted as Australia's national floral emblem in 1988. The vibrant shades of yellow and green, a unifying and iconic symbol of our country, is also a welcome sign of the beginning of spring.

With over 1,000 wattle species, of which more than a dozen are indigenous to the Hepburn Shire, many more are commonly grown in gardens. Most of the indigenous species are found in the forested hills and reserves, along creeks and the native forests of the municipality, with some species occurring along country roadsides. Hepburn Shire is also home to the dwarf silver-wattle (*Acacia nanodealbata*) which is rare in Victoria and Hepburn Shire with few known populations. The species is endemic to Victoria.



### Regeneration

Wattle seeds have a hard case and can remain viable in soil for decades, and they often need a fire to stimulate germination. Wattles are known as 'pioneer plants' and regrowth after a fire is often very dense but over time, plants naturally 'thin-out' to lower densities.

### Insects Guide

There is a guide to the Insects of Central Victoria and copies are now available from the Trentham Library.

Many species of insects, such as the Leaf beetle and including some butterflies such as the Imperial Hairstreak, Two-spotted Line-blue and the Tailed Emperor breed and feed on species of wattles and its seeds. The insects attracted to the wattle flowers are also an important food source for most bird species including Black cockatoos and honeyeaters. This makes acacias a significant focus for biodiversity.

### Wattle Days

For more than a century Australians in different States and the territories celebrated their own wattle day on different days in July, August, and September whenever the wattles were blooming at their best locally. The first celebration of wattle day took place, however, on 1 September in 1910 in NSW, Victoria, and South Australia.

You can celebrate National Wattle Day by wearing a sprig of wattle on your shirt, take a quick walk in the park and enjoy the bursts of yellow, take a minute to learn what you can do for the environment or light up your house, garden in wattle colours — green and yellow.

Happy National Wattle Day!