

September-October 2022 Edition

► MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I'd like to thank those of our team, the community and various sporting groups who turned out to support the community at Creswick and Clunes before and during the heavy rains in October. Together with emergency services personnel they filled, distributed and laid thousands of sandbags to protect properties and areas from further inundation. There were also some power outages in the Trentham area that we are aware could trigger feelings of insecurity. We will continue to monitor the weather updates and adjust our activities accordingly. In the same vein I urge you to monitor the Bureau of Meteorology and the Vic Emergency app for emergency notifications, weather information and warnings.



We are very pleased with the success of our environmental event, Regeneration and Your Habitat. I thank the staff for delivering this session in difficult weather. We've had some great feedback. Damon Gameau was a popular and inspiring presenter. He spoke directly to the community about the importance of moving from sustainability to regeneration. We look forward to the Sustainable Hepburn Expo on 29 October and the Wild Weather and Your Environment event on 12 November. I encourage you to attend some of these informative events where expert speakers will discuss sustainability, preparedness and different ways to build our resilience as a community.

It's pleasing to see the return of the Trentham Twilight Festival and I wish all the participants the best for the evening. It's great to see the town's community pulling together some pre-Christmas festivities. It is also exciting to see the Business Directory initiative and I encourage anybody with a business in or around Trentham to register with the website. This will be especially useful for those who operate away from the obvious bustle of the main street.

Cr Tim Drylie

► SUCCESSFUL ENVIRONMENTAL EVENT

More than 80 people attended the free Environmental event held in Trentham on Saturday 17 September. Due to inclement weather; consistent rain that lasted all day, the outdoor event was moved to the Uniting Church. We thank the committee for accommodating us and enabling the event to go ahead and the community groups that helped on the day.

Jeremy Neal from Bullarto Native Plants was gifting free plants and provided a fabulous display of edible plants. We had some Indigenous Tasters, which were food flavoured with native bush tukka, pepper berry and acacia seeds. Some of the children collected butterfly plants and there was an extensive and informative display on weed management.

Of great interest was the canopy rope, which was created by the Trentham Youth Group. The rope is 10 metres long and will be sliced to make canopies in the Wombat forest. These biodegradable links will provide a way for arboreal mammals to move about the tree tops until the forest regenerates and the natural canopies grow back to a state that can be used by these animals.

The next event in this three-part series will be the Sustainable Hepburn Expo Day on Saturday 29 October. Held at Trentham Railway Station, from 10am- 3pm it will feature exhibitors as well as presentations by:

- Mara Rapini from Village Dreaming talking about sustainable home, energy efficiency, passive solar and how to increase biodiversity on your property.
- Repair Cafe will talk about tuning your bike.
- Hepburn Energy : Adapting to climate change. ZNet adaptation project.
- Enviro Shop: Electrify everything!

Representative from local Landcare groups will exhibit and more attendees are yet to be confirmed.

The following workshop will be Wild Weather Resilience Preparedness to be held on Saturday 12 November. It begins at 10.30am for the general public with presentations by a local arborist on types of wood and ways to store and stack it. Also bush clean- what to clear and what to leave, presented by Lauren Linke, Hepburn Shire Council's Environment officer. The CFA will present on our environment and how to make it safer for summer.

TRENTHAM TWILIGHT NIGHT

Hepburn Shire Storm Recovery Team are partnering with The Community Bank Trentham & Districts to revive the much-loved Trentham Twilight Festival after its COVID-19 hiatus.

This will be a great opportunity to gather and celebrate with family and friends and support our local businesses.

Tis the season to register to participate in this merry event!

<https://forms.office.com/r/sN9EgjQZcp>

Please register at the link above, or using the QR code.



Hepburn
SHIRE COUNCIL



Tis the season to register to participate in this merry event!

Community Bank
Trentham & Districts
Bendigo Bank

EXPLORE TRENTHAM

Trentham & Districts Business Directory:

Community Bank Trentham & Districts are facilitating a local business directory with promotional and financial partners Hepburn Shire Council- Storm Recovery. A collaborative commerce-focused project creating potential for greater trade visibility and business networking in our region. Please register your interest to participate by completing the expression of interest form. This is your first step towards supporting the initiative and for us to measure the viability of creating an online directory.

Registrations close 30th November 2022.

If you have any questions this is a great opportunity to reach out.

Registration can be done online at:

<https://forms.office.com/r/Ha6mmgezg7>

For enquiries please contact
Narelle Conroy 0419 865-680
or
nconroy@hepburn.vic.gov.au

Community Bank
Trentham & Districts
Bendigo Bank

Hepburn
SHIRE COUNCIL

Are you in
business
in the
Trentham
district?



**TRENTHAM BUSINESS
DIRECTORY WEBSITE**

▶ CHAINSAW CLASSES

The series of chainsaw classes that have been run by the Creswick Storm Recovery Team have been very successful.

The timber training continues and is being well-received.

While the courses are all in full swing, unfortunately we have no plans for further chainsaw training at this stage.

The current courses will be completed by the end of November and we look forward to seeing participants come together for a networking event on 12 November.



▶ R U OK? No qualifications needed

R U OK day was on 8th 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
partnersinwellbeing.org.au

▶ ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOPS

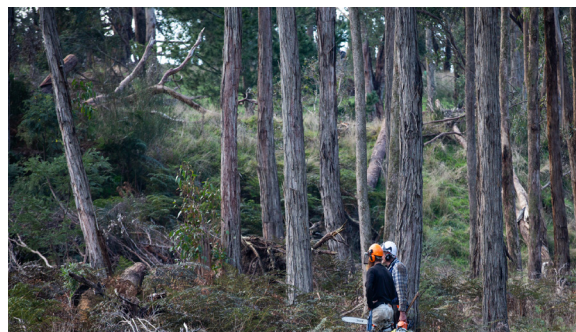
The Storm Recovery Team is running a series of workshops focussed on regeneration, resilience and sustainability.

The themes are:

**Saturday, 29 October Our Sustainable Hepburn:
Trentham Railways Station**
10am - 3.00pm
Workshops, marquees and plenty of kids activities.

**Saturday, 12 November Your Environment + Wild Weather
Trentham CFA, Market Street**
[Are You Prepared?](#)

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



▶ TECH TROUBLES

Please be advised that our firewall has been blocking some of your email addresses.

Apologies to those that have missed our newsletters.

We are endeavouring to fix the problem.

▶ PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION RESULTS

Thank you to everybody who entered our photography competition around Trentham. We congratulate the winners, who were awarded with their prizes at an event held at the Trentham Neighbourhood House on 6 October.

Prize winners are:

Overall Winner:	Charl Parris
Winner Open:	Anthony Sawrey
Runner Up Open:	Robbie Connell
Winner Youth:	Ada Walsh
Runner Up Youth:	Bug Melville
Highly Commended:	Bug Melville

Thanks to Cr Hood for presenting the prizes, and the judges Mike Rutherford, Ana Hoekstra and Sandy Scheltema for their time and effort in choosing the winners.



LEFT: Winter Solstice by Charl Parris
 TOP: Winners receive their prizes and certificates
 MIDDLE: Prizes await presentation
 BOTTOM: Cr Hood announces the winners



Winning Photo: There's something magical, freeing and mysterious about a bonfire. After the big storm, we didn't know if was safe to venture close enough and be one with nature. The trees dimly lit by the fire of the night, it was bitterly cold but the warmth of the fire brought us all in closer, huddled together as we reflected. The young, the old, all of us older but were we any the wiser? In this space I felt connected, free spirited, like I was part of a dream. I reflected and knew tomorrow the days would get longer. I laughed and was thankful for my boys, my friends and being here together, near the warmth of the fire, under the stars on the edge of the forest in the depth of night. (Charl Parris)

► CRESWICK RECOVERY COMMITTEE

The Community Recovery Committee has commenced working through community sentiment with a meet and greet session planned for 3 December between 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Creswick IGA. This is a chance to come and meet the Community Recovery Committee members and provide your feedback and ideas on the events of January and October 2022. What do you think worked, and what do you think can be improved?

The committee has already examined the communications and resources available and made several recommendations on actions that Council and the community can take to prepare and to build resilience. This includes seeking training in psychological first aid support for residents, and priorities for infrastructure works.

There will be more details on the event published on the notice boards, Facebook and the usual communications channels before the event.

► 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 and Clunes. We want to reassure the community that we are watching creek levels and have a team on standby. We are also in contact with the SES and other agencies and work together where needed.

During the recent flooding events, a Recovery Centre was opened for the evening of Thursday 13 October for residents who required assistance. Council arranged emergency accommodation for affected residents on Thursday night and Victoria Police cleared them to return to their homes the following day. The Salvation Army, Red Cross, members of Victoria Police, Rapid Relief and DFFH were all in attendance at the Relief Centre as well as relief centre staff.

We also thank our works crews who worked tirelessly in closing roads, repairing roads where possible, sandbagging and arranging for water pumps in key locations. We also thank the Hepburn Shire community for their proactive response. **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.**

► 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!



► FREE ONLINE SMALL BUSINESS COURSE

Operating a small business, you need to be mindful of a lot of things. Care for customers, attention to detail, the profit margin, plus all the little 1%'ers that will make the difference. Despite our best efforts to stay calm, it's common to get caught up in stress and operate from a 'reactive' place rather than the 'wise' mind. We've all done it.

You may have heard of research into mindfulness at work, perhaps through an association with elite sporting performance. If you haven't, it helped the Tigers break a 37-year premiership drought! Australia's Black Dog Institute have researched and developed **Mindarma**, a mindfulness and mental resilience program, to help make these skills available to more of us. Mindarma is a self-paced learning program which can be completed in 2-3 hours (10 x 15-20 minutes sessions) and has been shown to build resilience and help people to better handle stress. It has been adopted by Ambulance workers and Firefighters along with a host of other Australian organisations.

There is normally a licence fee of \$99 per registration, however the program is **currently free for small business owners and their staff**.

For more information and to register: <https://mindarma.com>

▶ ROPE CANOPY BRIDGES

This small project proposes to involve the local community in efforts to reconnect storm damaged canopy where trees have fallen or broken, this has created substantial gaps in the tree canopy that represents a barrier for movement in the forest of arboreal mammals, in particular ones that do not often go to the ground to move between trees.

This project proposes a pilot study to install wildlife rope bridges in areas with extensive storm damage has occurred, in order to restore habitat connectivity, particularly in the upper canopy.

Community groups and members of the community are invited to help create sections of simple flat rope bridge, and DELWP will be arranging for arborists to install the bridges in key strategic locations.

Wildlife rope bridges have been successfully utilised by a wide variety of arboreal species worldwide. However, the majority of studies have focussed on crossings over roads, and much less is known of the utility of wildlife rope bridges in other instances of canopy fragmentation and reconnecting habitat, such as across extensive storm damaged habitat.

Rope of a natural fibre to be distributed to community groups/members who are interested in whether it aligns with LGA programs. The ecologists who have designed this project have recommended a simple technique for creating the bridges, which will allow for the joining together of 10m lengths for installation. I am available for demonstration on how to create the rope canopy bridges.

The project aims to enable community to be empowered to help repair their forest, allowing species to move about until the canopy recovers.

Additionally, DELWP has a partnership with Federation University to undertake monitoring of other habitat installations DELWP has commissioned throughout the Wombat State Forest so the installation of these bridges would also be able to be incorporated into the design of those projects allowing us to understand their effectiveness in storm recovery.

Lauren Linke, Hepburn Shire Council's Environmental Works Officer will be the contact for this project and if you would like to get involved you can contact her on 0407 059 210 or by email Linke@hepburn.vic.gov.au



Species expected to benefit from the installation of wildlife rope bridges include:

- Common Brushtail Possum
- Eastern Ringtail Possum
- Krefft's Glider
- Feather-tailed Gliders
- Brush-tailed Phascogale
- Southern Greater Glider
- Koala