

Kangaroo Island Fire Recovery



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Photo by Greg Harvie

In this issue

Message from the Local Recovery Coordinator

Welcome to this edition of the Kangaroo Island Bushfire Recovery Newsletter.

With the departure of our communications staff member Slavi, the Recovery Newsletter will move to a fortnightly publication. We will endeavour to ensure it retains those areas that Slavi worked so hard to include, and to continue to provide timely updates, advice and alerts on matters related to recovery.

The Independent Review into South Australia's 2019-20 Bushfire Season, undertaken by former Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty, has been made public. The review made 68 Findings and 15 Recommendations. From a local perspective some of the key recommendations included:

- the incorporation of Farm Firefighting Units into the Australasian Inter Service Incident Management System (AIIMS) so that IMTs are aware of their presence on the fireground and their welfare and risks are understood
- better coordinate public information and warnings including evacuation plans and provide a single source of information about, the location and direction of fires, how and when to use Safer Places, Places of Last Resort, relief and recovery centres

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- better coordinate public information and warnings including evacuation plans and provide a single source of information about, the location and direction of fires, how and when to use Safer Places, Places of Last Resort, relief and recovery centres and directed evacuations.

To find out more, check out the full report: <https://bit.ly/2WgRuAO> and the State Government's response: <https://bit.ly/3gUoHtG>.

A number of volunteers have been on the Island undertaking rural support tasks and assisting Blazeaid in its work. The volunteers are former military officers linked to the South Australian branch of the Duntroon Society. Under the guidance of coordinator and former Army Aviation pilot Peter Neuhaus, approximately 15 volunteers and their families have travelled to the Island for one week stints to assist property and small business owners with tasks they just haven't had the chance to get to at this point.

On behalf of all those the Society volunteers have assisted I extend a sincere vote of thanks – every little bit helps.



Rob Manton
Local Recovery Coordinator
[0435 568 170](tel:0435568170)
rob.manton@sa.gov.au

How to get in touch

Now, more than ever, we are available to address any concerns you may have.

Make sure you reach out to use the assistance available and ask any questions or provide feedback:

- email the Local Recovery team at KIFireRecovery@sa.gov.au
- join the Facebook KI Fire Recovery group at <http://facebook.com/groups/KIFireRecovery/>
- call the Parndana Recovery Centre on [0438 861 215](tel:0438861215)
- Call Local Recovery Coordinator, Rob Manton on [0435 568 170](tel:0435568170)

[Email us now](#)

Join our Facebook group

We have a dedicated Facebook group for people impacted by the Kangaroo Island fires. This private group is for those directly impacted by the fires rather than the general public.

It is a place to ask questions, share information and resources, and connect with your local community during the recovery phase.

To join, visit facebook.com/groups/KIFireRecovery

Kangaroo Island Recovery Centre

Services available at the Recovery Centre this week

12 Jubilee Street, Parndana

Phone: [0438 861 215](tel:0438861215)

Opening hours and services the week commencing Monday 13 July:

- **SA Housing Authority Recovery Team and Officers:** Mon-Fri 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
- **Primary Industries & Resources SA Officer:** Mon-Fri 9.00 am - 12.00 noon
- **KI Medical Clinic GP:** Tuesdays 9.00 am – 2.00 pm. Book ahead on 8553 2037
- **KI Health Service Mental Health & Wellbeing team:**
Wednesdays 9.00 am – 12.00 noon or by appointment
- **Rural Business Support:** Tuesday and Wednesday 9.00 am – 4.00 pm
- **Salvation Army Financial Counsellor:**
Wednesday 12.00 noon - 5.00 pm or by appointment.

Come in for a warm cuppa and connect with the team.

Newsletter now fortnightly

The KI Fire Recovery newsletters will be published fortnightly from now on. Please send any fire recovery-related information that you think would be useful to share with the community to KIFireRecovery@sa.gov.au

Business

Rural Business Support

Rural Business Support (RBS) has a new program to help eligible small businesses that have been impacted directly, or indirectly, by the bushfires. RBS staff can work alongside business owners employing 19 or fewer staff to:

- clarify and prioritise the activities required to recover
- consider business development and/or redevelopment scenarios
- look at mid to long term goals and strategies to manage business risks
- develop and implement plans to return to normal operations

Their business team is local, experienced and ready to help. To set up an appointment please call [1800 836 211](tel:1800836211). For more information visit the Rural Business Support website at <http://www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au>

Business Entrepreneurs' Program

Business SA's new Strengthening Business services will provide bushfire impacted businesses with access to experienced business facilitators to aid in their recovery. Business SA will provide these services to businesses located in the Adelaide Hills, Yorke Peninsula and Kangaroo Island from 1 June 2020.

The Strengthening Business services form part of the Entrepreneurs' Program which assists businesses in:

- improving their growth capabilities and networks
- engaging with researchers
- fostering innovation
- encouraging commercialisation of novel products, processes or services.

Strengthening Business facilitators will be working closely with bushfire impacted businesses across each region. These facilitators will provide access to financial and professional services and help eligible businesses develop a clear roadmap for recovery. Their focus will be helping businesses remain viable in the short term, while assisting them in establishing stronger frameworks, systems and strategies to safeguard them in the long-term. They will work directly with businesses and the community at no cost, to help rebuild and strengthen businesses by providing tailored advice and support ranging from systems and operations to marketing and sales.

To be eligible a business must:

- be located in one of the bushfire affected LGAs in South Australia
- be a bushfire affected small business
- have a current Australian business number (ABN)
- be engaged in carrying on the small business at the time of the bushfire in the defined disaster area.

They will work directly with businesses by providing advice, support and connections to strengthen and become more resilient. This may include providing advice specific to sectors or areas of development including tourism, food production, export markets, diversification, digital upskilling, or the development of a community business roadmap to recovery.



Kangaroo Island Business Advisor:
Sue Arlidge
M: [0413 160 009](tel:0413160009)
E: sue.arlidge@business-sa.com



**SA Bushfire Appeal
closing soon**

 www.sa.gov.au/bushfireappeal

 **Government of South Australia**
Department of Human Services

31 Apply or donate by 31 July 2020

The graphic features a stylized map of South Australia in white and pink against a background of orange and pink geometric shapes. The text is prominently displayed in white on dark red and blue backgrounds.

It's OK ... to not be OK

Regional Access Counselling Support for Natural Disasters, Bushfire and Drought
Regional Access provides free and safe telephone and online counselling to people in regional South Australia who are worried, stressed or affected by bushfire, drought and natural disasters. The service is available to anyone aged 15 or over, 24 hours a

day, seven days a week.

Regional Access provides free and safe telephone and online counselling support to people in regional South Australia who are experiencing the effects of bushfire, drought and natural disaster.

If you need someone to chat with, we can help you talk it through. We can also help with practical strategies to tackle things like:

- stress and worry
- feeling hopeless
- isolation, disconnection and loneliness
- grief and loss
- relationship and family problems
- drug and alcohol abuse

Professional counsellors will listen, support and help you feel better, and connect you with available support in your community.

Call **1300 032 186** to speak to a counsellor for support. or visit the website at <https://saregionalaccess.org.au/natural-disasters> to chat online

Help is available to anyone aged 15 or over, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Have you or your family been affected by the recent bushfires?



'Feeling secure in the presence of a loving, dependable caregiver is like being offered a second skin that protects us during times of stress'

Cooper, G.; Hoffman, K.; Powell, B.



We are running a FREE special course that will have extra time to discuss the impact of recent bush fires on the wellbeing of families and children. It is essential for all of us to understand that children may still be affected by the distress and trauma of the recent bush fires and that we have a role to play to help children be able to process their experiences, feel understood, loved and protected.

Choose from either:

Parndana

When: 7pm - 9pm

Starting Mon 27 July

Where: Parndana Sports Club

Kingscote

When: 9:30am - 11:30am

Starting Tues 28 July

Where: Junction Community Centre, Kingscote

A creche may be available for the Tuesday Kingscote sessions

Please register (by 20 July)

Kate Murray

0428 825 906

Kate.Murray473@schools.sa.edu.au

An 8 week parenting program

This 8 week course translates attachment theory in an accessible way for families, using group discussion and DVD examples. Circle of Security Parenting provides a roadmap to assist adults build stronger relationships with their children. The program is particularly valuable when family members participate together.

Covering a range of topics including:

- How to interpret and understand your child's behaviour
- How to help your child organise their feelings
- How to help your child feel secure in their relationships
- How to help you discover the strengths in your child and in yourself
- How to navigate your way in your role as a parent when times are tough
- How to support your child in managing difficult behaviours, tantrums and meltdowns
- How to approach and assist your child and yourself with the above.



Star In My Backyard

Is there a shy 'Star in your Backyard' who has made your day or life just that little bit easier or brighter? Shaheen Bradford worked very hard to keep quiet her fundraising efforts to replace trampolines lost in the fire, but through the Star In My Backyard the secret is out!

Anyone from a remote/regional family will know the value of bikes and trampolines to the average country kid's day - without them life can be so very ordinary! Sabrina Davis (mum of two) entered Shaheen's amazing efforts into the program for recognition of a "Star in My Backyard" certificate, that is now on the door of Ingram's Home Hardware. Shaheen will say that it was done with a lot of help from her friends, but for thinking of the idea and then bringing it to be, there are smiles from children all over the Island who now have a place to bounce and jump - thank you Shaheen!

If you know of someone you would like to put on a 'Star In My Backyard' contact Joe Tippett, Recovery Officer - Red Cross, email jtippett@redcross.org.au



Royal Commission

Public submissions published

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements has published the next round of public submissions, which can viewed at <https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/submissions/read-public->

[submissions/published-submissions](#)

The Commission will continue to publish submissions progressively as they are processed.

People who wish to contribute to the Commission's work through the 2019-20 Bushfire History Project may submit videos or photographs taken during the bushfires or the ongoing recovery. Submissions can be made at <https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/submissions/2019-20-bushfire-history-project>

News Corp Bushfire Fund Grants

Round 2 is now open - closing date for applications 5.00 pm (AEST) 5 August 2020

News Corp has partnered with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal to enable the delivery of the News Corp Bushfire Fund grants.

This support is for local not-for-profit organisations and community groups that are delivering locally led projects and activities to assist people in their recovery as a result of the 2019/2020 bushfires.

Program objectives

Through the provision of grants, the aim of this program is to address a range of needs, including but not limited to:

- community infrastructure and equipment that strengthens volunteer community groups and their activities
- emergency equipment and facilities (excludes individual aid)
- mental health and wellbeing
- rebuilding communities - from infrastructure repairs or upgrades, to governance, capacity building or operational support.

Applications for funding are invited from local not-for-profit organisations and community groups that support communities in designated fire-affected regions.

Eligibility

- not-for-profit community-based organisations operating in rural areas of Australia in a Local Government Area (LGA) with a bushfire disaster declaration from September 2019 to January / February 2020
- organisations with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate
- organisations with and without Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) endorsement - more information about this can be found at <https://www.acnc.gov.au/tools/topic-guides/deductible-gift-recipient-dgr>
- an organisation is eligible to submit one application per grant round.

Projects funded should be undertaken within a period of 12 months from receipt of funds.

Funding rounds

The program has a budget of \$1 million and will provide grants of up to \$25,000 to support the recovery of communities in rural areas of Australia in an LGA with a bushfire disaster declaration from September 2019 to January / February 2020. It is anticipated there will be three funding rounds.

For more information visit https://www.frrr.org.au/NC_Bushfire_Grants

Financial counselling

Salvation Army financial counselling is a free, confidential and independent service now available from the Parndana Recovery Centre. A Financial Counsellor can look at your overall financial situation and provide you with options and is able to advocate and negotiate on your behalf.

Issues a Financial Counsellor can assist with include:

- Budgeting and money plans
- Understanding and prioritising debts and debt recovery processes
- Submitting applications for hardship support - a range of options can be discussed further with client
- Concessions, grants and related entitlements
- Access to dispute resolution services
- Referrals to complementary services
- Insolvency and bankruptcy options
- Financial rights and responsibilities

A Financial Counsellor doesn't give financial advice, planning or financial assistance.

Call **Greg** – Financial Counsellor (Salvation Army) on [0439 537 608](tel:0439537608) to make an appointment:

- Wednesdays at the Parndana Recovery Centre from 12 noon to 5.00pm
- Thursdays at Junction Community Centre, Kingscote 8.30am to 3.00pm
- Telephone Financial Counselling appointments also available for a range of days and times

Rural Business Support also provides rural financial counselling for farmers and primary producers, as well as small business counselling. Please phone [1800 836 211](tel:1800836211) or the Recovery Centre on [0438 861 215](tel:0438861215) to access this service.

Parks 'Reimagining' community engagement set to commence

The Kangaroo Island tourism industry contributes around \$126 million annually to the regional economy, and the rebuild works will create more than 400 jobs in the region, and will fast-track important works to iconic park sites.

Nature-based tourism is a critical part of South Australia's economy and Kangaroo Island is one of our crown jewels.

Works will begin immediately to rebuild much-loved park visitor experiences across the island. This includes the boardwalk to access Remarkable Rocks, as well as the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail, which travels across Flinders Chase National Park

and Kelly Hill Conservation Park. Rebuilding the infrastructure destroyed by the bushfires will provide a timely boost to the local economy and help Kangaroo Island's nature-based tourism industry bounce back.

A 'Reimagining Kangaroo Island Parks' engagement process is now underway and will involve the community and stakeholders in reimagining Kangaroo Island parks to support the recovery of the island's tourism economy, and balance this with environmental recovery and protection.

Flinders Chase National Park has this week reopened to commercial tour operators, with public access expected in the coming weeks.

The first \$17 million of works is now underway, with further funding for rebuild projects to follow the Reimagining Kangaroo Island Parks engagement process.

Reimagining Kangaroo Island Parks will also involve the development of a new western Kangaroo Island parks management plan to support best practice conservation management.

For more information about the State Government's extensive integrated engagement and planning approach to reimagine Kangaroo Island parks visit <https://reimagine-ki.parks.sa.gov.au/>

Fence posts until end of July



Secondhand fence posts are currently available through the Wine Council of SA and will probably finish at the end of July. A truck load of about 1200-1400 posts will cost the recipient about \$1500 in road freight (there are no other costs involved). The boat freight can be funded by PIRSA. All post have been checked and are quality controlled.

If you are fire affected and interested in the fence posts please contact Lisa Bennier, Business Manager M: [0419 039 508](tel:0419039508) E: admin@wgcsa.com.au

Dudley firefighting community event

The firefighting community of Dudley is invited to spend some time with local GP Dr Jeremy Wells and Jane Abdilla, Health & Wellbeing Consultant SA Fire & Emergency Services on Sunday 19 July at 12noon. The informal event is a chance to get together chat through how people are travelling and enjoy a hot snag! No RSVP required - just turn up.



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