

CELEBRATION OF THE RECOVERY JOURNEY

Recovery stories after the 2019/2020 Black Summer Bushfires in the Upper Murray





Contents

The Wrath Of The Elders, Maurie Foun	2-3
Introduction	5
Villers-Bretonneux Commander Corryong Food Share	6
Corryong CRC Corryong College	6-7
Rebuild	8-9
Lucyvale/Berringama CRC and Community	10-11
ERV funded projects WITH Towong Shire Council	12
ERV funded Grant projects WITHIN Towong Shire Council	12-13
Thowgla Valley CRC Fire Preparedness	14
Thowgla Tree Guards	15
Emergency Recovery Victoria Grants/Funding	16-17
Towong Walking Track	18
Fire Preparedness	19
Hall Refurbishment	19
30 June 2020	20-21
Mount Mittamatite, Maurie Foun	22
Fish and Creek Restoration: Victorian Fisheries Authority	23
Border Trust Funding	24-27
Community Halls	28-31
Walwa Community/CRC	32-33
163 Bushfire Recovery Grants from Towong Shire Council	34-35
Cudgewa School Park Revitalization	36
Biggara Valley Community/Biggara CRC	37
Tintaldra's Avenue of Honour	38
Lions Club of Corryong	39
NRRA - National Recovery and Resilience Agency	40-41
Upper Murray CRC Community Calendar Priorities	42-43
Indi Sky, Maurie Foun	44

THE WRATH OF THE ELDERS


Maurie Foun. January, 2020

I'd woken to a morning choked with acrid smoke, visibility less than 100 metres, a calamity bespoke; the signs had been apparent from my haven on the hill, where I'd watched the landscape festering, from an obvious man—made ill.

New Years Eve, entertaining my guests, I made a suggestion re. the dance which is part of our local culture here, although I knew there was a chance that those plans may need sudden amendment, as a pall of smoke appeared over the crest of my mountain opposite, it was if I had been speared.

For dry lightning had ignited a holocaust, our observations quickly confirmed, we stood and watched its threatening form, seven of us now concerned by the rapid spread of its progress, flames apparent in the gloom, Corryong its intended victim, from where it would unleash its doom

We witnessed its rapid transition, fanned by an Easterly curse, an orange coloured horizon, but conditions developed far worse as I feared for my friends in the township, for the Folkie's at Nariel Camp, my present companions anxious, its months since this place has been damp.



When the Rainbow Serpent created this land it had contentment in its mind, all of the ancestors live by its rules, *except the invaders*, who had in their minds a wanton approach to the Eden they'd found, their ideals to strictly enforce, whose notions ignored the ancient rules, their actions completely off—course.

200 years of their dominance, is now realising the cost, as Natures forces fiercely conspire, ignoring whatever is lost, as it wreaks its savage unmerciful claim, The Red Serpent directing its fury, devouring the wrong's imposed to its form, *It will answer to no White-mans jury.*

Their greed and arrogance has shown no bounds, their rape of its people unchecked, corruption driven, with no mind for their aim, immune to whatever they wrecked. It's re-writing the stories for its children still grieving, fully aware of the wrongs they've endured, when its fury finally burns itself out, one hopes their sadness is cured.

If its lessons continue to remain ignored it will show its anger again, that vengeance will only be suppressed when *it* decides its time to make rain to quell the torment held in its soul, its lore must be re-learnt, rest assured, if they remain ignored, *nothing will survive what gets burnt.*



The 2019-2020 summer bushfire period was an unprecedented extreme event for Australia, seeing over 17 million hectares burned across NSW, Victoria, Queensland, ACT, Western Australia and South Australia, with the loss of 33 lives and 3,094 homes. In Victoria alone, 1.5 million hectares of land was burnt, with approximately 218,015 hectares within the Towong Shire. The Upper Murray 26 bushfire started in New South Wales on 29 December 2019 near Walwa. The bushfire developed quickly and could not be contained at first attack. Under deteriorating fire weather conditions, it expanded rapidly. The fire spotted into Victoria on 30 December 2019 and continued to accelerate. The fire was eventually contained on 25 January 2020. Emergency warnings were issued for Burrowye, Cudgewa, Cudgewa North, Guys Forest, Mount Alfred, Pine Mountain, Tintaldra, and Walwa. An evacuation order was issued from 6.00am on Friday 3 January 2020 for the area. A State of Disaster was declared by the Victorian Government on 3 January 2020. The impacts of climate change will amplify the bushfire seasons in years to come. The well established relationship between the Towong Shire, particularly the Upper Murray Region, and the neighbouring NSW communities in the Snowy Valleys Council area, are a strong foundation to

build on and further embed resilience and preparedness for any future bushfires or challenges faced by the Towong Shire community into the future.

The Upper Murray 26 bushfire impacted approximately 226,000 hectares with 218,055 hectares within Victoria. Within the Towong Shire boundary, 59,849 hectares of agricultural land was burnt including 49,808 hectares of grazing land and 8,500 hectares mixed farming.

The fires also impacted significantly on the township areas causing losses to homes and businesses along main streets and community facilities and schools. There were critical fencing and farm infrastructure losses, such as fodder reserves, machinery, and hay sheds. One of the most significant and devastating impacts was the recorded loss of over 6,300 head of stock within Towong alone. 32.7 per cent of Towong Shire was burnt, forming 96.6 per cent of the

Upper Murray 26 bushfire where 44 per cent of what was burnt was State Forest, 30 per cent private land, 24 per cent National Parks and 3 per cent Crown land. Communications facilities requiring repair and/or rebuilding include the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) radio infrastructure and Air Services and Country Fire Authority (CFA) radio infrastructure on Mt Mittamatite.



**Project Name: Villers-Bretonneux
Commander Corryong Food Share**

Date project began: 2020. **Date project finished:** Ongoing. **Why this project:** New Home for Corryong FoodShare Services. Since the 2019/20 Summer Bushfires then Covid and High Cost of Living. Old Scout hall very inadequate, the new building more fit for purpose. We service the whole of Towong Shire and also go into NSW. We must have "Food Security" for families and pensioners struggling to put food on the table. Our clients have increased by 350% (now have 140 on books and increasing every week) (pre fires 35 on books). **Total cost:** To date we estimate \$150,000. **Outcomes:** We had the Official Opening on the 23/11/2023 with the French Ambassador, Helen Haines, Mayor Andrew Whitehead and many of our Donors including Border Trust and Albury Rotary.



Corryong CRC Corryong College

**Project Name: Class of 2022
Year 12 graduation**

Funding received from: Corryong CRC (Bushfire Recovery Vic) / Corryong College Parents Club. **Total cost:** Corryong CRC \$3,000 / Corryong College Parents Club \$500. **Outcomes:** Cost of hall hire and reduced ticket price for all attendees and decorations.

**Project Name: "Annie" school
production 2023**

Funding received from: St Vincent de Paul and Corryong CRC. **Total cost:** SVDP \$10,000, Corryong CRC \$2,200. **Outcomes:** Costumes, props, lighting and sound hire, booklets, advertising. CCRC- 5 days hall hire, These funds allowed us to offer FREE entry for everyone.

**Project Name: Stefanie Alexander Kitchen
Garden (SAGK)**

Funding received from: Rotary/ Border Trust (Towong Community Bushfire Relief Fund). **Total cost:** \$5,000 Border Trust Towong Community Disaster Bushfire Relief Fund. **Outcomes:** Fire pit, seating, arbours, replaced garden beds, labour to install all items. Border Trust funds: our students made the concreting tools and used them to complete concreting projects around our school.

We also purchased an electric cement mixer, hoses, wheelbarrows, shovels, laser level and bags of concrete. Our SAKG looks amazing.

Project Name: New chairs for ECA

Funding received from: Towong Shire Bushfire Recovery Grants. **Total cost:** \$4,900. **Outcomes:** 50 new chairs for our community centre. Grant was for Corryong College Parents Club (Auspice by Corryong Op-Shop).

Project Name: 2 new outdoor table tennis tables

Funding received from: Border Trust (Towong Community Bushfire Relief Fund). **Total cost:** \$10,000. **Outcomes:** Corryong College Parents Club (Auspice by Corryong Op-Shop).

Project Name: School social

Funding Body: Caravan Group. **Total cost:** \$5,000. **Outcomes:** 2022 School Social, Free entry.

Project Name: Year 11 Melbourne trip

Funding Body: Corryong Health Community Inclusion Group.
Total cost: \$5,000.



Rebuild

The 2019/2020 summer saw the Upper Murray face one of its biggest natural disasters. Starting near Walwa on the New South Wales border on 26 December 2019 and burning into mid-January, almost 600 properties were impacted with 38 primary residences destroyed, thousands of kilometres of fencing destroyed and more than 6,000 livestock killed or missing. The bushfires ultimately destroyed more than 225,000 hectares of land. The impact on our beautiful, natural environment has been immense. Individuals, businesses, and communities across the municipality and particularly in the Upper Murray region, have experienced devastating losses and need to rebuild their lives and communities.

The Upper Murray 26 bushfire impacted approximately 226,000 hectares within Victoria. Within the Towong Shire boundary, 59,849 hectares of agricultural land was burnt including 49,808 hectares of grazing land and 8,500 hectares mixed farming. The fires also impacted significantly on the township areas causing losses to homes and businesses along main streets and community facilities and schools. There were critical fencing and farm infrastructure losses, such as fodder

reserves, machinery, and hay sheds. One of the most significant and devastating impacts was the recorded loss of over 6300 head of stock within Towong alone. 32.7 per cent of Towong Shire was burnt, forming 96.6 per cent of the Upper Murray 26 bushfire where 44 per cent of what was burnt was State Forest, 30 per cent private land, 24 per cent National Parks and 3 per cent Crown land. Communications facilities requiring repair and/or rebuilding include the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) radio infrastructure and Air Services and Country Fire Authority (CFA) radio infrastructure on Mt Mittamatite.

Secondary Impact Assessments (SIAs) were conducted by Council Relief and Recovery staff from 4 February to 25 March 2020, initially in partnership with the CFA, RedCross and ADF personnel. Some follow up and auditing continued into April 2020. These assessments occur after Initial Impact Assessments (IIA) have been conducted by emergency services staff. The Emergency Management Manual of Victoria (EMMV) designates the roles and responsibilities of individuals who undertake SIAs following a disaster event. Local Government is responsible for completing these as well as coordinating the SIA data being

collected on private and municipal property under the supervision of the Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM). This requires close collaboration with relevant Commonwealth and State Government departments. Secondary Impact Assessment (SIA) is the process for determining the impact of an emergency on the built, natural, social, and economic environments of the affected community. This assessment can commence whilst the response phase is still occurring. However, fieldwork should only be conducted when it is safe enough for personnel to enter the affected area. A detailed assessment of the damage to the affected area is essential so that the municipal recovery team can:

- Determine what needs to occur to ensure safety to life and property
- Identify what relief and recovery requirements are needed
- Provide advice to relevant Government departments, agencies, and the community
- Effectively commence their recovery operation.

Strategies for recovery are developed from the Secondary Impact Assessment report and then implemented by the range of available agencies within the local government boundary and/or region. A total of 573 IIAs were completed.

A total of 692 SIAs were completed. Personal impacts In addition to the 38 primary residences destroyed, the wider Towong Shire community has been impacted either directly or indirectly. The impacts and challenges faced have been supported by the provision of a range of services and agencies providing assistance in the following areas:

- Personal support and debriefing
- Counselling • Family violence, crisis support and counselling
- Department of Health and Human Services financial assistance grants
- Centrelink Grants
- Salvation Army grants and vouchers for petrol, meals, hardware, clothes, and household goods
- Victorian Bushfire Appeal grants and assistance
- Case management
- Support for animal care
- Assistance with clean up
- Legal advice
- Insurance support and advice
- Financial management advice and assistance
- Rebuilding support
- Emergency accommodation provision
- Temporary accommodation provision
- Food donations
- Potable water assistance
- Landslips.

Local Area Recovery Officers (LAROs) have had a key role in supporting individuals with their personal recovery, ensuring that they are linked to the services that are best placed to assist them and facilitating “warm referrals” where appropriate. LAROs have also supported individuals to access the grants and other funding and resources available to meet their needs. This work has been conducted in partnership with BRV and relevant State Government department staff. While defined as “case management” in the Council’s Crisisworks database to enable tracking of individual properties, it is not “case management” related to personal health and wellbeing. This work has been undertaken by specialist agencies, such as Gateway Health and Windermere, with support from DHHS through Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV). Since February 2020, 700 cases were established and included both property owners and those renting. As of August 2020, 445 cases remain open, 227 require no further action at present. Further inspections are required at 11 properties. These inspections are currently underway. 16 cases were marked resolved with no damage recorded and no further action. The human impacts on the community is a far more difficult assessment to make and quantify as many issues and

traumas are not immediately apparent and will manifest over time. However, from January to May 2020 there were 223 referrals to the Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service, predominantly managed by Gateway Health. As at 21 August 2020, there were 226 Towong Shire households continuing to receive active case management assistance provided through the statewide scheme. After the onset of the bushfires, the State Government appointed and funded Windemere, a mental health support provider, to provide psychosocial support to the Upper Murray region, via a 1800 number, for an initial six-week period. During this period, there were 304 intakes, 180 referrals to Gateway Health, 16 to Corryong Health and a further 3 to the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA). While this was taking place, the Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub was established by Council.

The ongoing economic losses perpetuated by the fires will be felt for decades in some cases as well as the social and psychological well-being of residents and the community in general. Coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent border closures the magnitude of the situation cannot be underestimated. The declaration of a State of Disaster and the closure of the

National and State parks and forests had an immediate impact on the economy across the entirety of the Towong Shire with the reduction in visitation. Initial data suggests that losses as high as \$5 million in the March 2020 quarter and a visitation loss of an estimated 30,000 visitors to the Shire. This equates to 50 per cent of the total visitor expenditure during this quarter. Ongoing analysis of the following quarter showed an increase in the percentage of loss by a further 25 per cent with job losses/ disruptions of 50 EFT. HVP Plantations has several long-term plantation timber assets located across North East Victoria which includes a significant holding within the Towong Shire. HVP lost 3,019 hectares in total with 2,000 hectares of harvestable age, in addition to trees, significant damage occurred to the private road infrastructure. Ongoing challenges faced by HVP are the subsequent losses of soil.

Agricultural impacts

In comparison to other fire-affected parts of the state, Towong Shire had significant losses in the agricultural sector. The level of loss and the flow on impacts to the local economy are severe. For many, the economic recovery will take many years as farmers determine their short, medium, and long-term options. Agricultural losses in Towong Shire included:

- 59,849 hectares of agricultural land burnt, including 49,808 hectares of grazing land and 8,500 hectares of mixed farming land
- Agriculture Victoria identified 376 fire affected property owners/managers
- The agricultural impacts in the Upper Murray included field crops, hay and silage, and a significant area of grazing pasture
- Agricultural infrastructure lost included numerous shearing, dairy, machinery and hay sheds, irrigation pumps, stock yards and outbuildings
- Stock losses at last count had reached 6,382 head
- Bees
- Landslips and debris flows on pasture.





Lucyvale/Berringama CRC and Community

Item: Quick fill units x 2

Why: Support landholders and residents in each valley to fight fires and transport water quickly and easily. **Achieved through:** CFA & FRRR.

Item: Water tanks at Lucyvale hall and Berringama

Why: Improve water security for disaster response with emphasis on gravity-fed access (no need for pumps or power). **Achieved through:** CFA, FRRR, St Vinnies \$19,460.

Item: Wire in donated generator to support power system at hall

Why: Improve power security at hall in event of power outage. **Achieved through:** Lucyvale Tennis Club.

Item: UHF base unit/antennae

Why: During disasters UHF radio is often the only communications means available, support hall as community refuge. **Achieved through:** FRRR.

Item: UHF base systems for interested community members

Why: Communication between community members is vital in a crisis, would ensure more people kept informed and connected. **Achieved through:** CNC & CFA \$3,000 donated.

Item: Defibrillator at hall (Berringama has one in the fire truck)

Why: Improve safety of general public; improve ability to respond to emergencies. **Achieved through:** Towong Shire Bushfire Recovery Grant.

Item: Sprinkler system for roof

Why: Improve defensibility of hall against fire or ember attack; provides safer environment for those seeking refuge. **Achieved through:** St Vinnies.

Item: Solar power system for Lucyvale hall

Why: Ensure independent, reliable power source in event of disaster making hall a community refuge or safehouse. **Achieved through:** Solar rec \$12,000.

Item: Split system air-conditioning for Lucyvale hall

Why: Improve enjoyment of hall for community and improve building's role as common area during disaster response. **Achieved through:** FRRR.

Item: Upgrade toilets to include disability toilet

Why: Presently no disabled facilities, long term benefits for hall users, encourages community connections through improved facility access. **Achieved through:** Part of Black Summer grant.

Item: Training in first aid, fire preparedness and basic fire training

Why: Improve emergency response skills, empower and boost confidence and reduce risk. **Achieved through:** Towong Shire \$4,384.25.

Item: Local fuel supply

Why: Depot-style set up on farm/s to ensure community has back-up during disasters; fuel critical to survival and emergency response. **Achieved through:** Depot-style set up on farm/s to ensure community has back-up during disasters; fuel critical to survival and emergency response.

Item: Ride-on mower for Lucyvale hall

Why: Encourage regular mowing for fire prevention, relieving locals from having to use own mower. **Achieved through:** Donated.

Item: Kitchen/toilet renovation

Why: Extend hall to include new kitchen space and bring toilets inside - improve usability and attractiveness of the venue. **Achieved through:** Black Summer.

Item: Slip on or trailer-mounted weed-spray unit

Why: for community use to encourage better stewardship of the environment; reduce pest weeds and improve fire preparedness. **Achieved through:** Border trust.

Item: Telecommunications

Why: Berrigama-Lucyvale will be contributing through our representative Alex Stravakos. **Achieved through:** Upper Murray CRC.

Item: Pizza Oven

Why: To facilitate community connections. **Achieved through:** Purchased second hand through funds raised.

Item: Tennis court resurface

Achieved through: \$10,000 LER.

Item: Outside lighting to make space safe

Achieved through: Added solar and electrical outdoor lighting through supported funds from Towong Shire.

Items: Quick Fill, UHF base, Tank, Air conditioner

Achieved through: FRRR (Bushfire recovery \$23,255).

Items: Quick Fill, Tank, Lighting

Achieved through: CFA Grant \$5,000 VESEP.

Item: Sporting equipment to support community using community space, and increased social interaction.

Achieved through: Sporting Club grants program \$1,000.

Item: Gas stove (Feb 2021)

Achieved through: Towong Shire \$5,000.

Item: New water pump for hall (Jan 2021)

Achieved through: Border Trust \$800.

Black Summer \$326,848

Just at building permit stage.



ERV funded projects WITH Towong Shire Council

Grant Program	Organisation	Auspice Account Name	Project Name	Project Start Date	Project End Date	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date	Approved Grant Amount	Current Amount Contracted
Council Assistance Fund	Towong Shire Council		Council Assistance Fund	12/3/2020	28/2/2021	12/3/2020	28/2/2021	\$3,200,000.00	\$3,200,000.00
Bushfire Council Support	Towong Shire Council		Local Government Bushfire Recovery Funding	1/1/2020	30/6/2024	1/1/2020	28/11/2021	\$2,200,000.00	\$5,540,000.00
Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support	Towong Shire Council		Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package AGRN 882	22/1/2020	30/9/2022	30/3/2020	30/9/2022	\$1,275,000.00	\$1,275,000.00
Local Government Authorities and Community Service Organisations	Towong Shire Council		Playles Hill - place development for Hope and Resilience	14/6/2021	31/12/2023	14/06/2021	30/1/2023	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
Resilience and Recovery Grants 2022	Towong Shire Council		Recovery and Resilience - Towong Shire Council	19/12/2022	30/6/2025	19/12/2022	31/8/2025	\$3,672,500.00	\$3,672,500.00
Community Recovery Committee Support Package for Local Government Authorities (CRC-LGA funding)	Towong Shire Council		CRC Support Package (CRC-LGA funding) - Towong Shire Council					\$735,000.00	\$514,500.00
Rebuilding Support Services	Towong Shire Council		Rebuild Support Services (Towong)	1/1/2021	31/12/2022	20/2/2021	30/4/2023	\$819,000.00	\$819,000.00
Community Recovery Officer	Towong Shire Council		Community Recovery Officer (Towong Shire Council)					\$256,000.00	\$0.00
Local Community Projects (Round 2)	Tallangatta Memorial Hall	Towong Shire Council	Upgrade of Tallangatta Memorial Hall facilities	1/6/2021	30/6/2022	12/11/2021	30/12/2022	\$250,921.00	\$250,921.00
Community Recovery Hub	Towong Shire Council							\$197,600.00	\$327,600.00

ERV funded Grant projects WITHIN Towong Shire Council

Grant Program	Auspice Account Name	Project Name	Current Amount Contracted
Community Facilities		Fabulous Fairways - Mowing Equipment	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities		Corryong Op Shop renovation rescue	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities		Cudgewa Hall Renovation and Resilience Project	\$48,637.00
Community Facilities		Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall Emergency Preparation	\$7,980.56
Community Facilities		Mem hall Streetscape Project	\$22,727.27
Community Facilities	Towong Turf Club	Heritage Fence Replacement	\$32,000.00
Community Facilities	Tallangatta Construction Maintenance Pty	The Rustic Bus - Holidays for vulnerable local families	\$34,500.00
Community Facilities		Walwa Studio Relocation	\$29,346.00

Grant Program	Auspice Account Name	Project Name	Current Amount Contracted
Community Facilities		Corryong Historic Machinery Club / Men's Shed Micro-Grid	\$49,975.00
Community Facilities		Tallangatta Sports Centre Improvements	\$49,307.00
Community Facilities		Tintaldra Recreation Amenities Project	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities		Cudgewa Recreation Reserve facility upgrades	\$49,900.00
Community Facilities		High Country Rail Trail Boggy Ck Safety Upgrade Project	\$45,600.00
Community Facilities		Eskdale Recreation Reserve: Netball and Female Amenities Upgrade	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities		Towong Hall Deck Project	\$49,370.00
Community Facilities	Biggara Recreation Reserve Committee	Biggara Valley Fire Ready & Communications Project	\$41,970.00
Community Facilities		Biggara Hall: Renovation Rescue	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities		Rebuilding the Jarvis Creek Hall and Community	\$46,200.00
Community Facilities		Man From Snowy River Museum All Abilities Access Project	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities	Upper Murray Innovation Foundation Inc	Thowgla Valley Fire Preparedness Project	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities		KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities		Anglican Church Hall repair.	\$6,363.64
Community Facilities		Enhancing the Corryong Youth Hall to better support the community in emergencies	\$37,450.00
Local Community Projects (Round 1)		Game, Set, Match: Corryong Tennis Hub	\$387,384.00
Local Community Projects (Round 1)		WALWA SERVICES MEMORIAL HALL REVITALISATION PROJECT	\$523,828.00
Local Community Projects (Round 1)		Cudgewa Tennis Facility Restoration	\$185,000.00
Local Community Projects (Round 1)		'Our Place' - Towong Soldiers Memorial Hall Renewal	\$544,645.00
Local Community Projects (Round 1)		The Tintaldra Avenue of Honour	\$118,000.00
Local Community Projects (Round 1)		Upper Murray Place Based Power Plan: Energy Nodes Project	\$0.00
Local Community Projects (Round 2)		Restoration of fire affected gully systems in the Upper Murray	\$247,800.00
Local Community Projects (Round 2)		Growing Acres and Acres	\$500,000.00
Local Community Projects (Round 2)		Greening Corryong Bowls	\$244,600.00
Local Community Projects (Round 2)		Mitta Valley Mountain Bike Park	\$1,500,000.00
Local Community Projects (Round 2)	Upper Murray Innovation Foundation Inc	Cudgewa School Park Revitalization	\$170,000.00
Local Community Projects (Round 2)		Corryong and District Memorial Public Hall refurbishment	\$404,351.00
Local Community Projects (Round 3)		The Tintaldra Recreation Reserve Revitalization Project	\$304,420.00
Local Community Projects (Round 3)		Corryong Golf Course Upgrade	\$327,004.00
Local Community Projects (Round 3)		Upper Murray Region Community Catering Hub	\$0.00
Local Government Authorities and Community Service Organisations	Landcare Victoria Inc.	Building soil carbon for healthy, productive, resilient pastures	\$500,000.00
Nature-led Community Recovery	Upper Murray Innovation Foundation Inc	Nariel Gap Wildflower Wander	\$5,000.00
Nature-led Community Recovery		Sharing stories of the Upper Murray's 4 trestle bridge historic reserves	\$5,000.00

\$18,267,879.47

Thowgla Valley CRC Fire Preparedness

Date project began: 20/12/2022

Date project finished: 11/07/2023

Why: As Thowgla do not have a CFA, this was a need within the community. The CRC were able to get a number of grants to ensure the community had access to emergency fire equipment, this included 2 Quickfill trailers, 600ltr slip on fire fighting units, 50 emergency UHF radios, 1x Container to store equipment.

Funding total: \$111,079.

Funding bodies: NAB Foundation - \$10,000, BRV - \$50,000, Towong Shire Council - \$5,000, FRRR (NewsCorp) - \$23,097, FRRR - \$22,982.



Also this year Thowgla CRC inc. have:

- Got a grant for tree guards
- Supported Corryong circastics and art sessions with a performing art grant
- History grant- history panels on the Thowgla hall, map board emergency point sign
- Supported Corryong line dancing classes
- Corryong show and netball rep team
- Created emergency map and uhf channel with radio checked
- Had major creeks and bridges named with signs erected
- Training days and equipment checks held annually

Thowgla Tree Guards

Date project finished: October 2023

Why: To reinstate trees and tree guards lost in the fires.

Achieved through: Landcare Grant \$14,970.



Emergency Recovery Victoria Grants/Funding

Grant Program	Organisation	Project Name	Current Amount Contracted
Bushfire Council Support	Towong Shire Council	Local Government Bushfire Recovery Funding	\$5,540,000.00
Community Facilities	Walwa Golf Club Inc.	Fabulous Fairways - Mowing Equipment	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities	Corryong Opportunity Shop Inc.	Corryong Op Shop renovation rescue	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities	Cudgewa Hall Incorporated	Cudgewa Hall Renovation and Resilience Project	\$48,637.00
Community Facilities	Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall C.O.M.	Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall Emergency Preparation	\$7,980.56
Community Facilities	Corryong & District Memorial Public Hall Incorporated	Memhall Streetscape Project	\$22,727.27
Community Facilities	Towong Recreation Reserve COM	Heritage Fence Replacement	\$32,000.00
Community Facilities	The Rustic Bus	The Rustic Bus - Holidays for vulnerable local families	\$34,500.00
Community Facilities	Upper Murray Community Radio Inc	Walwa Studio Relocation	\$29,346.00
Community Facilities	Corryong Historic Machinery Club Inc	Corryong Historic Machinery Club / Men's Shed Micro-Grid	\$49,975.00
Community Facilities	Rowen Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	Tallangatta Sports Centre Improvements	\$49,307.00
Community Facilities	Tintaldra Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	Tintaldra Recreation Amenities Project	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities	Cudgewa Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	Cudgewa Recreation Reserve facility upgrades	\$49,900.00
Community Facilities	Tallangatta Rail Trail Advisory Group Incorporated	High Country Rail Trail Boggy Ck Safety Upgrade Project	\$45,600.00
Community Facilities	Eskdale Recreation Reserve	Eskdale Recreation Reserve: Netball and Female Amenities Upgrade	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities	Towong Hall Reserve Committee of Management	Towong Hall Deck Project	\$49,370.00
Community Facilities	Biggara Valley Community Recovery Committee	Biggara Valley Fire Ready & Communications Project	\$41,970.00
Community Facilities	Biggara Recreation Reserve Committee	Biggara Hall: Renovation Rescue	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities	Jarvis Creek Landcare Group	Rebuilding the Jarvis Creek Hall and Community	\$46,200.00
Community Facilities	Upper Murray Historical Society (trading as The Man From Snowy River Museum)	Man From Snowy River Museum All Abilities Access Project	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities	Thowgla Community Recovery Committee	Thowgla Valley Fire Preparedness Project	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities	Corryong & District Memorial Public Hall Incorporated	KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON	\$50,000.00
Community Facilities	Anglican Parish of Corryong	Anglican Church Hall repair.	\$6,363.64
Community Facilities	Corryong and District Youth Club Hall Committee	Enhancing the Corryong Youth Hall to better support the community in emergencies	\$37,450.00
Community Recovery Committee Support Package for Local Government Authorities (CRC-LGA)	Towong Shire Council	CRC Support Package (LGAs) - Towong Shire Council	-
Community Recovery Hub (Floods)	Towong Shire Council	Community Recovery Hub (Towong Shire Council)	\$327,600.00

Grant Program	Organisation	Project Name	Current Amount Contracted
Community Recovery Officer (Floods)	Towong Shire Council	Community Recovery Officer (Towong Shire Council)	\$256,000.00
Council Assistance Fund	Towong Shire Council	Council Assistance Fund	\$3,200,000.00
Local Community Projects (Round 1)	Corryong Tennis Club Inc	Game, Set, Match: Corryong Tennis Hub	\$387,384.00
Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support	Towong Shire Council	Exceptional Assistance Immediate Support Package AGRN 882	\$1,275,000.00
Local Community Projects (Round 1)	Walwa Services Memorial Hall	WALWA SERVICES MEMORIAL HALL REVITALISATION PROJECT	\$523,828.00
Local Community Projects (Round 1)	Cudgewa Tennis Club Incorporated	Cudgewa Tennis Facility Restoration	\$185,000.00
Local Community Projects (Round 1)	Towong Hall Reserve Committee of Management	'Our Place' - Towong Soldiers Memorial Hall Renewal	\$544,645.00
Local Community Projects (Round 1)	Tintaldra Hall Committee Inc	The Tintaldra Avenue of Honour	\$118,000.00
Local Community Projects (Round 1)	Upper Murray Inc.	Upper Murray Place Based Power Plan: Energy Nodes Project	-
Local Community Projects (Round 2)	Upper Murray Landcare Network	Restoration of fire affected gully systems in the Upper Murray	\$247,800.00
Local Community Projects (Round 2)	Acres and Acres Co-op PTY LTD	Growing Acres and Acres	\$500,000.00
Local Community Projects (Round 2)	CORRYONG BOWLS CLUB INC	Greening Corryong Bowls	\$244,600.00
Local Community Projects (Round 2)	MITTA VALLEY INC	Mitta Valley Mountain Bike Park	\$1,500,000.00
Local Community Projects (Round 2)	Cudgewa School Park Committee of Management	Cudgewa School Park Revitalization	\$170,000.00
Local Community Projects (Round 2)	Tallangatta Memorial Hall	Upgrade of Tallangatta Memorial Hall facilities	\$250,921.00
Local Community Projects (Round 2)	Corryong & District Memorial Public Hall Incorporated	Corryong and District Memorial Public Hall refurbishment	\$404,351.00
Local Community Projects (Round 3)	Tintaldra Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	The Tintaldra Recreation Reserve Revitalization Project	\$304,420.00
Local Community Projects (Round 3)	Corryong Sporting Complex Incorporated	Corryong Golf Course Upgrade	\$327,004.00
Local Community Projects (Round 3)	Lucyvale Tennis Club Inc.	Upper Murray Region Community Catering Hub	-
Local Government Authorities and Community Service Organisations	Upper Murray Landcare Network	Building soil carbon for healthy, productive, resilient pastures	\$500,000.00
Local Government Authorities and Community Service Organisations	Towong Shire Council	Playles Hill - place development for Hope and Resilience	\$500,000.00
Nature-led Community Recovery	Nariel Gap Wildflower Wander	Nariel Gap Wildflower Wander	\$5,000.00
Nature-led Community Recovery	Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd	Sharing stories of the Upper Murray's 4 trestle bridge historic reserves	\$5,000.00
Local Government Authorities and Community Service Organisations	Towong Shire Council	Tallangatta Business Group	-
Rebuilding Support Services	Towong Shire Council	Rebuild Support Services (Towong)	\$819,000.00
Resilience and Recovery Grants 2022	Towong Shire Council	Recovery and Resilience - Towong Shire Council	\$3,672,500.00

\$22,759,379.47



Towong Walking Track

Began December 2020 with river cleanup by Towong Community assisted by Shan Pathmanathan from Soil Conservation Services and Snowy Hydro. Walking track assisted by TSC. Brolgas sculpture assisted by TSC. Book exchange completed by Greg and Sharyn Nankervis - CNC grant \$251.60. Lagoon restoration and revegetation - \$9,000.





Fire Preparedness

Quickfill and trailer purchased in 2020 assisted by TSC - \$3,623.92. Generator donated by Rotary in 2020. Defib donated by Masterpiece Caravanning Group. Annual emergency plan assisted by CFA. UHF Radios in 2022 assisted by TSC - \$5,000. ERP - CFA.

Hall Refurbishment

Date project began: 2021.

Date project finished: ongoing.

CRC formed a steering committee.

Works completed by JCD Builders and local trades.

30 June 2020

Nearly 4,000 students impacted by the 2019/20 bushfires have been given a helping hand with replacements for the essential school items they lost during the summer's bushfires. The support has come from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) and its donor partners, which include News Corp, Australia Post, Fire Fight Australia concert, Portland House Foundation, UNICEF Australia and Origin Energy Foundation.

FRRR ran a special round of its Back to School program, which provides \$50 gift vouchers to students in rural communities and is normally run annually to support the start of the school year. To ensure support discretely reaches people truly in need, FRRR partners with community groups and Community Foundations who distribute vouchers, without parents having to apply for them.

Back to School vouchers can be redeemed for necessities, such as school uniforms, shoes, school bags and stationery, ensuring students have what they need to continue to engage with their education.

Through this special round of Back to School, FRRR awarded 3,956 vouchers totalling \$197,800 to nine community groups in bushfire affected regions of Victoria and NSW. There was \$965,000 available to communities through this program, but it appears COVID-19 affected demand for the vouchers, perhaps because schools weren't operating normally.

Natalie Egleton, CEO of FRRR, says for these students and their families, getting back to school is an important part of the recovery journey.

"For students in bushfire affected areas, it's been a very disrupted start to the 2020 school year, with COVID-19 meaning many have been learning from home since early March. It's only now, as they are heading back to face-to-face schooling, that many are realising just what items they are missing and need to replace so that they are ready to learn and fully engage in their education.

"Fifty dollars may not seem much, but for these families it can mean that they can buy the books, shoes, uniform items, even equipment that will allow them to participate fully in extracurricular activities, such as steel-capped boots for work experience or sleeping bags, so they

can join in school camps. It's just one small way FRRR can help to alleviate the pressure still faced by these students and their families," said Ms. Egleton.

The community of Corryong in north-eastern Victoria is nestled at the foot of the surrounding mountain ranges, and has a population of around 1,200. The Corryong Neighbourhood Centre (CNC) is very active in the community, and their mission is to make a difference for people in their community by providing a vibrant hub of lifelong learning that brings people together, connects them with services, programs, employment and activities and points them in the right direction.

The CNC operates two successful social enterprises, which not only increase the opportunities for work-based training in the community and support the ongoing operating costs of the CNC, but also meet an identified gap in current services and supplies available in Corryong.

One is a community bakery, which had an 11% increase in sales in its first year and a 28% increase in its second, contributing over \$83,000 to CNC operations in its first two years of trading. The second social enterprise venture is a community garage, which uses the same model as the bakery and aims to be financially viable

and self-sustaining within a reasonable timeframe. Both ventures are managed by an experienced industry professional with training skills and a community focus with business and administrative support from the CNC team.

Corryong Neighbourhood House Inc, VIC - Giving Youth a Voice - \$25,000

Increase youth representation in community recovery and development, through employment of youth workers to support youth leadership in the Upper Murray.

Corryong College & Corryong Neighbourhood House Inc, Corryong, VIC - Enabling digital storytelling in the Upper Murray - \$16,671 (Bushfire Recovery)

Support college students to recover from a natural disaster through creative storytelling and technical skill development.

To ensure that the funds generated from the social enterprises are sustainably and effectively utilised within the Upper Murray, the Upper Murray Innovation Foundation (UMIF) was established as a Community Foundation operated by the CNC in June 2016. UMIF partnered with FRRR in 2017 to create a Fundraising Account to channel these funds through,

meaning that any contributions made to the account receive a tax deduction within Australia. UMIF's purpose is to support the activities of the CNC and the wider Upper Murray Community through learning, activities and initiatives that improve life in the region and, particularly since the devastating Black Summer bushfires, build resilience and growth at the community level.

Since opening the account with FRRR, UMIF has raised \$333,462 for bushfire recovery and \$245,000 for their community garage social enterprise. Distributions are made to support community groups such as the footy clubs at Bullioh, Federal, Cudgewa and Corryong, which were adversely affected by the Black Summer bushfires. Corryong College received funding for a support dog; Cudgewa Hall for tree works; the Corryong CRC for the development of a community calendar; Biggara Recreation Reserve for community hall upgrades; and a Freemasons project to assist with the clearing of damaged fencing, erosion and damage to waterways resulting from the bushfires and subsequent landslides in difficult access areas.

Sara Jenkins from UMIF said that the funded activities have provided stand alone benefits, start up funds

or contributed to larger projects for a wide range of groups. Some of the distributions have also enabled groups and organisations to work together to develop strategies and solutions to address wider community issues (e.g. the community calendar project).

When asked what some key learnings were for the Community Foundation, Sara mentioned the ongoing importance of developing and using comprehensive procedures and documentation and maintaining regular contact with recipients and partners.

"Keeping up-to-date with the status of projects, the people on the ground, and being involved in any problem solving or amendments required reduces confusion, duplication and helps the process run smoothly, despite ongoing delays," she said.

UMIF continues to foster several project partnerships, working closely with Freemasons Victoria, Towong Shire, CRCs and various unincorporated community groups. They are also providing auspice and supporting a number of bushfire recovery grants and projects for unincorporated community groups that will support the community to continue the recovery process.



MOUNT MITTAMATITE

Maurie Foun. May, 2020

The view from out my window isn't what it had formerly been,
before raging bushfires last summer destroyed its magnificent scene;
as I look across my valley it's so hard to accept what I see,
on the ridge-tops standing fore-lornly, the remnants of every tree.

While nature tries its hardest to disguise the pain we feel,
reflections from its rock-forms can't hide what we're seeing is real;
I can only wonder if its tortured form will change,
will its complete ecology be altered as it tries to re-arrange?

Just where will its new growth spring from,
will its ramparts crumble and fall,
will tribulets from its altered streams be able to answer the call as they carve and gouge new
gullies, cascading from its slopes, one can only wonder, observers clinging to their hopes.

Will time be enough to heal the scar from the devastation it felt,
tragedy from its sorry demise, almost causing its rocks to melt;
I hope its future won't ever subside as it strives to recover again, I fear I'm wrong,
but I live in dread of a heavy deluge of rain.

It's lower slopes are now vivid again, but its gloomy mood is pervading,
no longer the brilliant kaleidoscope it almost seemed proud of parading;
the future will decide in its time just how or not it will mend, evolving from its ancient shape...
a story devoid of an end.

Photo: Jasmine Bennetts

**Fish and Creek Restoration:
Victorian Fisheries Authority**

In the summer of 2019-20 Victoria experienced the worst bushfire season on record with more than 1.2 million hectares burnt through East Gippsland and alpine regions of the North East.

Subsequent rains are washing large loads of ash, sediment and debris into rivers and this runoff impacts water quality. High sediment loads degrade fish habitat and clog fish gills.

Decomposing organic material can reduce dissolved oxygen levels in waterways and some fish kills have been reported downstream of bushfire affected areas.

VFA continues to work with partner Natural Resource Management (NRM) agencies and recreational fishers to monitor bushfire related impacts on fish.

Key information is fed into State and Federal 'whole of government' bushfire recovery planning processes. We will also assess the feasibility of salvaging fish likely to be impacted or conduct other targeted fisheries management actions that could assist populations recover if required.

By working closely with local fishing clubs and businesses we will encourage fishers to return to bushfire affected areas once they recover. The recent golden tag competition is one such initiative to encourage recreational fishers to return to East Gippsland and North East Victoria.

From the 1/2/2020 - 18/7/2024 the Corryong Creek has received a total of 99,700:

- Murray Cod 75,200 - stocked from Parish Lane Bridge down to Wire Lane,
- Trout Cod 6,000 - stocked below Parish Lane Bridge,
- Brown Trout 18,500 - stocked Narriel Folk festival grounds upstream.

From the 1/2/2020 - 18/7/2024 the Cudgewa Creek has received:

- Murray Cod 25,200 - Note these were last stocked in Feb 2022 to give the Macquarie Perch the best chance of survival.
- Macquarie Perch 30,800 - this is the first time Macquarie Perch have been in the Cudgewa Creek for almost 70 years. There is so much being done with Community to protect these fish and bring them back after being almost fished to extinction.





Border Trust Funding

Who received the funding	Round	Name of project	Short description	Total to TS
Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program	One	Disaster Recovery and Climate Change Adaptation Community Leadership Program	<p>Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Inc. (AVCL) will partner with Upper Murray Inc. (UMI) and Upper Murray CRC (UMCRC) to build community leadership capacity through a tailored program focused on developing community development leadership skills based on the principles of adaptive capacity. The outcome of the program is to enable current and future leaders to support the communities within the region in responding to disasters and other forces of change.</p> <p>This will help the community be adaptable and able to collaborate further afield. It will also enable the development of protocols, programs and projects that will enhance and strengthen the social, economic and environmental credentials of the communities and the region.</p> <p>Our Grants Coordinator Michael Salter met with Dominic Sandilands to talk about the need for the program and what the first stage involves – See the full interview here- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-o08hPyY90</p>	\$50,000.00
Community Business Connect	One	Regional Connectivity for Recovery and Resilience		\$50,000.00
Corryong Football and Netball Club	One	Netball Court Lighting		\$23,930.00
Corryong Neighbourhood House Inc	One	Rising to the Future		\$50,000.00
Corryong Neighbourhood House Inc	One	Room to Recover	<p>The Corryong Neighbourhood Centre is intending to renovate its popular Upper Murray Youth Space to increase capacity and make the space more useable and enjoyable. This will be done by reconfiguring the space and providing external storage to protect CNC and community assets which are currently stored in the Youth Space and adding an outdoor deck/BBQ area. We anticipate that this renovation will be done in 4 stages . Each stage will provide significant improvements and benefits and is not dependent on the next stage to be successful.</p> <p>Stage 1 of the project, which will be completely covered by this application, will be to remove the dividing wall between the kitchen and main area, install additional skylights into the main lounge area, reconfigure the kitchen space with additional cabinetry and facilities and provide an external storage container.</p> <p>Our Grants Coordinator Michael Salter met with Adele Miles from the Corryong Neighbourhood Centre to discuss the project – See the full interview here-https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzJAU4F-6f8</p>	\$50,000.00

Who received the funding	Round	Name of project	Short description	Total to TS
Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd	One	Cudgewa Mural Trail	<p>The Cudgewa Mural Trail will be located along the 2.3km currently unformed rail trail from Cudgewa township to Wabba Creek, with up to 10 murals designed and installed. The themes for stories along this mural trail are to be identified by interested Upper Murray locals who become part of the Mural Trail Working Group (MRWG).</p> <p>The mural trail is about giving the local community a voice through artwork and words, and reconnecting community to place, thereby creating a renewed sense of belonging.</p> <p>Our Grants Coordinator Michael Salter met with Matt Spurgeon our local representative to give us an overview of the project and how it will benefit the region – See the full interview here-https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gzx-FWHHGDM</p>	\$42,950.00
Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd	One	Towong Recovery Ranger Team	<p>This project commenced in June 2022 with two Recovery Rangers driving to the Upper Murray to assist landholders with environmental works every week since then. The works are coordinated by the Upper Murray Landcare Network with the team collecting plants and other materials at Shelley en route to bushfire impacted sites. When available, a few volunteers from Albury Wodonga have also participated, carpooling from a pre-arranged meeting place in Albury each Wednesday.</p> <p>The rain and wet conditions have certainly made planning challenging. The Recovery Team and landholders have adapted their plans, with materials being driven onto site in tractors or golfers where it is too wet to drive, and the team has been walking in. Where wet weather is forecast on Wednesdays, the team have swapped days to accommodate the constant demand for this environmental services assistance. Landholders always meet the Recovery Ranger team and have a good yarn. Sometimes the landholder's family will also join the Recovery Team to plant out gullies, river frontages and shelter belts.</p> <p>Work on the High-Country Rail Trail has been paused due to the seemingly endless wet conditions. The Recovery Team helped with site preparation for a community planting day on the bike Colac Colac to Corryong bike trail.</p> <p>The Corryong Courier has printed a number of stories about this project. An article on the Parklands Albury Wodonga website can be found at: https://www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au/big-give-for-upper-murray/</p>	\$50,000.00
Connecting Communities Australia	Two	Towong Community BBQ shelter and individuals support		\$50,000.00
Lucyvale Tennis Club	Two	Corryong College firepit		\$4,000.00
Corryong Opportunity Shop Inc	Two	Corryong College Table Tennis table, shelter and seating	<p>This project is the vision of the Student Leadership Group(SLG) at Corryong College whereby they will transform an old concrete slab area into an "Outdoor Table Tennis Arena".</p> <p>This arena will consist of two outdoor table tennis tables, seating and shade sails covering. This provides a year round area for the students to play a sport which is inclusive of all abilities and ages.</p> <p>The aim is to encourage outdoor play, social interactions and physical activity while having some fun. This will also encourage communication and connection in circumstances where that is much needed.</p> <p>Our Grants Coordinator Michael Salter met with Dominic Sandilands to talk about the need for the program and what the first stage involves – See the full interview here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNtdHx7p0Xc</p>	\$35,000.00

... continued next page

Who received the funding	Round	Name of project	Short description	Total to TS
Corryong Rotary Club	Two	Corryong Wetlands Project	<p>Over 50% of wetlands across the country have disappeared since 1900.</p> <p>Stage 1 A of the Corryong Wetlands project will consist of 2 ponds fed by springs as well as re-establishing the Cemetery Creek meander. 100 plantings, 200 metres of flat walking paths, 2 bridges and a boardwalk along a carpark, the wetlands lie on the Corryong Circuit Trail and we expect the majority of our visitors to arrive on foot.</p> <p>This will make it a destination for walkers and cyclists, and because the project has additional stages it will encourage volunteer participation which will provide community involvement, improved mental health and wellbeing opportunities, an outdoor interest for many, companionship, and a sense of achievement.</p> <p>The site will also act as a living laboratory for school field trips.</p> <p>Our Grants Coordinator Michael Salter met with Dominic Sandilands to talk about the need for the program and what the first stage involves – See the full interview here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZ4_u8_xJ2o</p>	\$95,580.00
Corryong Rotary Club	Two	Corryong Boxing Group		\$44,832.00
Corryong Sporting Complex Inc	Two	Revitalisation		\$100,000.00
Walwa Services Memorial Hall	Two	Furniture upgrade		\$18,405.00
Corryong and District Memorial Hall	Three	Project Protection	Update June 2023 – Kitchenette Project. The Memorial Hall's old Crying Room, presently a storage room, will be converted into a basic kitchenette with refrigeration capable of storage for amounts of food and drink to accommodate displaced residents in the event of future adverse events. This small facility will also be assessable to the major large floor space during activities in the hall proper. At the moment no such facility is available. The inclusion of such will increase hall usage, viability, and sustainability.	\$41,248.00
Corryong Food Share Services	Three	Ensuring Food Security for Vulnerable Community Members.	Update June 2023 – Food Share. This project will provide twelve months of operating costs to cover insurance, electricity and water bills, funding to purchase groceries, meat, fruit and vegetable stocks; and fuel vouchers for volunteers to continue to deliver food hampers to vulnerable community members in line with CFSS COVID-19 non-contact protocols. Twelve months of operating costs will ensure that CFSS is able to continue to deliver emergency food relief to vulnerable members of the Upper Murray community for the 2023 calendar year. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjUibz3EbE8	\$50,000.00
Life Central Services	Three	Rural and Remote Suicide Safety Online Training Initiative		\$40,000.00
Upper Murray Historical Society Inc.	Three	Museum Accessibility		\$50,000.00
Upper Murray Innovation Foundation	Three	Attree Park Softfall		\$40,965.00
Corryong Opportunity Shop Inc.	Three	Corryong Opportunity Shop Revamp and Facelift.	Update June 2023 Corryong Op Shop premises are over 50 years old. No one can remember any upgrades, renovations or improvements being made in that time. The shop interior suffered with smoke and ash damage during the fires, and water damage from some flooding after heavy rains. The shop is tired, and displays are increasingly difficult to manage as shelving is no longer fit for purpose. Work areas are limited, and need to be improved to assist volunteers to make the most of their volunteer hours in the shop. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cj-ggxKl-U	\$50,000.00
Anglican Parish of Tallangatta	Four	Parish Hall Community Resource Upgrade		\$52,515.00
Blueearth Foundation	Four	Roaring Resilience		\$7,500.00
Corryong Tennis Club	Four	Secure Pathway	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mn6LORnwwPQ	\$17,600.00
Dartmouth Community Progress Association	Four	Community Garden and Fire Safety Project	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dpr99iYPVAI&t=74s	\$50,000.00

Who received the funding	Round	Name of project	Short description	Total to TS
Drop In and Take Off	Four	Community Mental Wellbeing Skateboard Programs	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBRaDlxPJn0	\$50,000.00
Eskdale Public Hall Committee	Four	Community Hall Energy Plan		\$37,990.00
Community Enterprise Foundation	Four	Beyond the Fire Documentary – Resilience	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrctx1xWWUM	\$75,000.00
Girl Guides Vic	Four	Tallangatta Girl Guides Centenary Celebrations		\$14,275.00
Upper Murray Innovation	Four	Corryong Spirit		\$15,000.00
Youth Albury Wodonga	Four	Towong Emerging Leaders Program		\$50,000.00
Cheeky Mac Productions	Four	Beyond the Fire Resilience Presentation		\$3,520.00
Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare	Five	Providing essential food relief for Corryong and surrounding communities		\$50,000.00
Border Trust Community Foundation for the Albury Wodonga Region	Five	Vital Signs Project		\$26,000.00
Corryong Food Share Services	Five	Ambassadors of Jesus Inc : Logistic Capability & Volunteer Amenities Upgrade	See Video Story- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0BfXUwY_FA	\$50,000.00
Corryong and District Memorial Public Hall Inc	Five	Opening Technology Eyes to the World		\$23,000.00
Corryong Opportunity Shop Incorporated	Five	Opportunity Shop Revamp and Facelift – Stage 2		\$23,790.00
Northeast Emergency Action Group Incorporated	Five	Northeast Emergency Expo-Corryong		\$9,000.00
Upper Murray Innovation Foundation	Five	Playles Hill Corryong – Labyrinth		\$26,000.00
Upper Murray Innovation Foundation	Five	Cudgewa School Park Revitalization		\$15,000.00

\$1,533,100.00





BEFORE
AFTER

Thowgla Hall

During the 2019-2020 bush fires the Thowgla Valley sustained a severe hit. Being a valley of resilient and hard working locals, the Hall Committee are renovating the hall to make it a functional community hub. Somewhere we can get a hot shower, cook a meal, and socialise if disaster should ever strike again, but also be a well used asset in our community for years to come.

Internal Face Lift: Making a Difference in the appearance of the hall will ensure longevity and frequent use. The hall renovations have only been possible with grants from Biz Rebuild and FRRR.



Water: We have added an extra water tank, to supply our new hot showers and hold emergency water when needed.

Kitchen Upgrade: Building a larger kitchen, to make this space useable, clean and perfect for catering events. The Kitchen upgrade is thanks to funds from Border Trust and Biz Rebuild. Our beautiful new floors were achieved with a grant from St Vinnies.

Off Grid Capabilities: The hall will also be equipped with communication methods and solar power, making it a refuge centre for future generations and have the ability to generate its own income, reducing its carbon footprint. We have been successful in receiving a grant from DELWP for this.



Cudgewa Hall

The town in north-east Victoria is home to around 300 people. The new hall was opened in May 2022 by former governor-general Sir Peter Cosgrove with JCCV president Daniel Aghion and CEO Judy Fetter.

BizRebuild, an initiative of the Business Council of Australia that assists communities affected by local disasters, was responsible for reconstructing the hall.

Cosgrove shared his appreciation for the Jewish community after the devastation of the fires. "When these fires first struck the east coast of Australia ... communities [were] devastated. Not only homes and families find themselves in terrible trouble, but businesses go to their knees, with their premises destroyed," he said.

"At Cudgewa ... that's where the Jewish Community Council of Victoria stood tall. This is not business we are talking about giving to BizRebuild, it was, if you like, a semi-institutional philanthropist. People bonding together, assembling their means through the experts they asked to work for them, to apply the funds in a ... deep sense of philanthropy.



Towong Hall

\$544,645 to refurbish the Towong Soldiers Memorial Hall and provide better access
Bushfire Recovery Grant – BRV Local Economic Recovery grant.



Walwa Hall

Has currently been delayed due to a number of contributing factors. \$473,838 to upgrade the Walwa Services Memorial Hall and enable it to function as a refuge during emergencies this was a Bushfire Recovery Victoria Local Economic Recovery Grant.



Lucyvale Hall

NRRA Black Summer Grant \$326,848 yet to be started.



Biggara Hall

Biz Rebuild funding for hall Community consultation by the Committee following the 2019/20 bushfires identified a Hall upgrade was needed. Funding support has generously been provided by BizRebuild (Building Council of Australia) and their Equity Trust partners.

The project suffered a setback at the final hurdle with the new deck roof slumping and remedial works being required. Joel Davies is currently onsite completing the necessary works.

This renovation included a new kitchen and deck extension, new windows throughout, lighting, floors polished, painting, electrical upgrade, and disabled ramp access to name a few.



Tintaldra Hall

LER Grant – \$118,000 – for Avenue of Honour and Tintaldra Hall toilet refurbishments. Stonnington City Council - \$50,000 to landscape the Tintaldra hall surrounds.



Corryong Memorial Hall

All grant applications based on increased community resilience, increased community wellness and reforming both facilities to provide a better, safe, equipped, welcoming space in the event of further emergencies. The Memorial hall is an iconic building, the major community meeting place for all ages and abilities. This funding has restored an ailing, sad, 50s building into a place of beauty and welcome for community and visitors. The inclusion of murals and information panels along with Café Corryong Brew we believe is inviting to Tourists and contributes to the financial health recovery of the Upper Murray. Committee of Memorial Hall is appreciative of all funding and proud to be afforded the ability to provide for this community.

RSL HALL		
Black Summer Grant	\$239,847.70	Kitchen, acoustics, bathrooms
Towong Shire	\$5,000	Around the kitchen table (kitchen crockery)
\$24,4847.70		

MEMORIAL HALL		
Local Economic Recovery Grant	\$444,786.1	Stage, bathrooms, greenroom, foyer, new entrance, Janitor's room, storage room
Border Trust (Towong Shire)	\$47,603.33	Kitchenette
Community Enterprise Foundation	\$182,373	Carpark
Community Facilities Fund	\$25,000	Front balcony & beautification
Community Facilities Fund	\$55,000	Solar & generator
Towong Shire X 2	\$10,000	1st responder mural & shelving
Murray Pnh	\$10,000	Mural 50% Men & their mounts
DVA Saluting their service	\$11,000	Mural 50% Men & their mounts
Creative Arts	\$26,400	Sound & Lighting
FRRR Strengthening Rural communities	\$25,000	'front steps to recovery'
St Vinnies	\$20,000	Generator / kitchen
Snowy Hydro	\$10,000	Floor refurbishment (part)
Border Trust (Towong Shire)	\$20,000	Floor refurbishment (part)
CCRC & UMCRC	\$31,000	Event sponsorship
\$918,162.43		



All Halls

Indigo Power has teamed up with Upper Murray Incorporated to deliver energy generation and storage systems to secure power supply at critical sites across the Upper Murray.

The bushfire recovery project is in response to a sustained power outage following the bushfires in 2019-20, where power outages lasted for up to three weeks, directly impacting critical service providers and affecting the region economically and socially.

The catastrophic fires highlighted how quickly normal activities are interrupted due to power outages, including communications, lighting, cooling, access to water, catering, banking and medical treatment services.

Upper Murray Incorporated has identified critical sites, including fire stations and health services, that require secure energy supply during a power outage. By installing energy nodes consisting of a solar power system and, where appropriate, batteries and generators, the project seeks to build the resilience capacity of each local community.

The project will also see the installation of three community-scale solar and battery systems to secure power supply at sites requiring large amounts of energy, including larger health and evacuation centres.

To improve grid reliability in the Upper Murray the project will also replace standard electric hot water units. When they turn on in the evening, these hot water units strain the electricity distribution network. Replacing standard hot water services with heat pump technologies that are up to 80% more efficient will help remove this pressure on the grid and contribute to the stability of supply.

The project will be delivered over the next two years, with funding support from Bushfire Recovery Victoria and Regional Development Victoria.

The Upper Murray Energy Resilience and Reliability Project delivers:

1. Energy Nodes: A combination of solar, battery and generator systems will be installed at up to 27 critical sites across the Upper Murray. The energy systems will range in size from 5kW - 15kW solar PV; 6kWh to 30kWh battery and/ or 5kVA to 30kVA back-up generators including changeover switch.

2. Community-Scale Batteries:

Community-scale solar and battery systems will be installed at two hospitals and one evacuation centre. These energy systems may range between 60kW – 70kW solar PV and/ or 208kWh up to 274kWh battery systems; and back-up generator as required.

The Project is the first step in a plan to improve electricity reliability and resilience across the whole of the Upper Murray region through the deployment of local energy generation and storage, and micro-grid technologies.

The energy systems shall include the installation of the Mondo UBI hardware for future opportunities within Virtual Power Plant (VPP's) and Microgrid development (not included in this project). The project includes the design, supply and installation of solar power systems in combination with battery storage and back-up diesel generators.

This Project was funded by the Victorian State Government Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions through a Local Economic Recovery Program grant.



Walwa Community/CRC

Project Name	Date began	Date completed	Why this project?	Project cost	Outcomes
Jingellic Hub Inc - funding from two sources inc. St Vincent de Paul for 3 mowers - a large Kubota Ride on for the Jingellic Hub oval, and two smaller ones, one for Walwa Cemetery and one for the Walwa Recreation reserve.			To enable volunteer organisations to afford a new easy to maintain and utilise, safe mower to maintain green spaces for increased fire resilience and amenity of three locations.	\$43,000	Mowers are fantastic but since the new storage area is still under construction, the mower has not been delivered to the Walwa Rec reserve.
Jingellic Hub Inc - funding from Regional Arts NSW/ Border Trust / TSC and various other donations to create Memorial sculpture - Flamin' Hell	1/06/2021	1/03/2023	Community wanted a permanent celebration of the service of volunteer firefighters from the district community during the Black Summer Fires.	\$55,000	The sculpture more than met expectations as a fabulous feature entrance/ tourist attraction and celebration of volunteer effort.
TSC - Satellite internet available on the Walwa Recovery Centre	1/12/2020	1/12/2020	To provide accessible communications for the community in the event of a mobile tower and telephone line disruption. The generator will enable comms in the absence of power too.		The internet connection is functional and enhances the comms capacity at the Walwa Recovery Centre.
TSC - Walwa to Murray Walking track and lighting	1/01/2021		Increase safety for visitors and residents walking or cycling to caravan park and Walwa Beach.		Hit the mark but construction was a bit delayed.
TSC: Walwa - Jingellic Walking Track	1/01/2021		Encourage exercise and engagement with the environment and scenery of the Walwa. Tourism boost, well being boost and increased safety of participants.		Hit the mark but construction was a bit delayed and there are some drainage issues - being corrected. The signage and trail furniture is yet to be installed.
Walwa Bush Nursing Centre - DELWP Solar panels and batteries	1/12/2020		Sustainability, increased resilience in face of power outages and potential connectivity to microgrid project for our health service.		
Walwa Caravan Park - Drainage Works and shade /moozie net around playground. TSC Community Recovery Grant \$5k	1/03/2021				
Walwa Cemetery Trust - DHS grant re construction of toilet /storage shed on cemetery	1/03/2021	1/06/2022	Installation of a toilet for comfort, convenience and amenity of visitors to the cemetery. The storage shed means we can store and secure the new mower subject of a St Vincent de Paul Society grant c/o Jingellic Hub .	\$35,000	Delivered on time and budget and well received by cemetery visitors!
Walwa Community Shed - upgrade of electrical works and minor works TSC Recovery Grant \$5k					
Walwa Fishing Club - Fish Cleaning Station on banks of river near Walwa Boat ramp - DELWP	1/09/2020	1/12/2020			
Walwa Golf Club - drainage works on second fairway	1/08/2020	1/11/2020	Improve course amenity, reduce volunteer work required.	\$7,870	Significantly improved drainage.
Walwa Golf Club LER grant re tractor	1/10/2022	1/10/2022	Previous mower worn out. Taking a lot of volunteer hours to maintain.	\$50,000	Purchased a new tractor to tow the new mower.
Walwa Memorial Hall - furniture					

Project Name	Date began	Date completed	Why this project?	Project cost	Outcomes
Walwa Memorial Hall - New stove funded by Rotary Club of Corryong in conjunction with Wodonga					
Walwa Memorial Hall - Solar panels / generator water tank	1/06/2021				
Walwa Memorial Hall- BizRebuild assistance for Project management and plans for Walwa Hall					
Walwa Memorial Hall refurbishment - LER Grant funding for \$474,838	1/01/2021				Install showers for both male and female. Upgrade female toilets completely, as well as undertake some work on the male toilets. Extend verandah shelter at rear of hall. Retain the hall as a memorial. Upgrade the hall so it can be used as a refuge centre. Make it more user friendly.
Walwa Primary School - Bird hide and readers TSC Recovery Grant	1/12/2020				
Walwa Primary School Tennis Court upgrade					
Walwa Recovery Committee - DisPlan -Disaster Planning and mapping _Red Cross	1/03/2021	1/12/2022	To provide accessible information to visitors and residents to prepare for- and increase resilience during a disaster.	\$1,500 and heaps of time	We hoped to address issues revealed during the 2019/20 fires such as location of services/ access points / escape routes etc. Distribution failed, many residents have still not received a copy.
Walwa Recovery Committee - Fellas Night and BBQ	1/11/2021				
Walwa Recovery Committee - WRCentre -Shade blinds Northern and Western windows: \$5K TSC Community Recovery grant. Balance of funding also applied to contribute to the mower purchased by Jingellic Hub on behalf of the WRC.	1/03/2021	1/08/2021	Shade blinds to reduce sunlight and heat in the Walwa Recovery Centre to improve A/C efficiency and amenity of participants in facility (reduce glare, reduced heat)	\$3,800	Effective blinds and neat installation. Balance of funding was permitted to be transferred to Jingellic Hub to contribute to the mower.
Walwa Recovery Committee -Ladies Night at Walwa Hotel WRC funding	1/11/2021				





There were 163 Bushfire Recovery Grants from Towong Shire Council to the total of \$756,115.71

Berringa Furies Calendar Committee	\$5,000.00	Jingellic Hub Inc.	\$5,000.00	Berringama CFA	\$1,568.95
Bethanga Recreation Reserve	\$5,000.00	Jingellic Walwa Fishing Club Inc.	\$4,800.00	Berringama Lucyvale CRC	\$4,382.45
Biggara Recreation Reserve Committee Inc.	\$5,000.00	Koetong Tennis Courts and Recreation Res	\$5,000.00	Bethanga Golf Club	\$5,000.00
BMX Track Community Interest Group	\$5,000.00	Mitta Golf Club	\$5,000.00	Corryong & District Memorial Public Hall Inc.	\$5,000.00
Boomerang Bag Ladies	\$5,000.00	Mitta Valley Newspaper - Bush and Bulldust	\$5,000.00	Corryong & District Youth Club	\$5,000.00
Bridge the River Arts	\$3,100.00	Murray 2 Mitta Blackberry Action Group	\$5,000.00	Corryong & Upper Murray Agricultural Society	\$5,000.00
Bullioh Football Netball Club Inc.	\$5,000.00	Nariel Community Group	\$3,253.30	Corryong Bowls Club	\$5,000.00
Corryong Basketball	\$4,000.00	Rowen Park Recreation Reserve	\$5,000.00	Corryong Browsers Book Shop	\$5,000.00
Corryong College Parents Club	\$5,000.00	Talgarno Tennis Club	\$5,000.00	Corryong Croquet Club	\$5,000.00
Corryong Craft Shop Assoc.	\$5,000.00	Tallangatta Agricultural and Pastoral Society	\$1,906.60	Corryong Debutante Ball	\$5,000.00
Corryong Historic Machinery Club	\$5,000.00	Tallangatta Bowling Club	\$5,000.00	Corryong Fire Brigades Group	\$4,500.00
Corryong Opportunity Shop	\$5,000.00	Tallangatta Cricket Club Inc.	\$5,000.00	Corryong Foodshare	\$5,000.00
Corryong Scouts	\$5,000.00	Tallangatta Football Netball Club	\$4,100.00	Corryong Football Netball Club	\$5,000.00
Corryong Swim Club	\$5,000.00	Tallangatta Golf Club	\$5,000.00	Corryong Indoor Bowling Assoc.	\$5,000.00
Cudgewa CFA	\$4,000.00	Tallangatta Secondary College	\$5,000.00	Corryong Lions Club	\$5,000.00
Cudgewa Football Netball Club	\$4,995.65	Tallangatta Swimming Club	\$5,000.00	Corryong Rec Reserve	\$5,000.00
Cudgewa Recreation Reserve Inc.	\$5,000.00	The Man from Snowy River Tourist Association	\$5,000.00	Corryong RSL	\$5,000.00
Cudgewa Tennis Club	\$4,969.00	Towong Community Recovery Committee	\$5,000.00	Cudgewa School Park, Committee of Mgmt.	\$5,000.00
Dartmouth Community Progress Association Inc.	\$5,000.00	Towong Turf Club	\$4,900.00	Dartmouth Alpine Anglers Club	\$5,000.00
Eskdale Primary School - Eskdale Pool	\$5,000.00	Walwa Bush Nursing Inc. (Primary School)	\$2,450.00	Eskdale Caravan Park	\$2,800.00
Eskdale Progress Association	\$5,000.00	Walwa Golf Club	\$5,000.00	Eskdale Primary School Parents Club	\$5,000.00
Friends of Bellbridge Early Years Centre Inc.	\$5,000.00	Walwa Jingellic Lions Club	\$3,000.00	Eskdale Public Hall Inc.	\$5,000.00
Gryana CFA	\$5,000.00	Walwa Primary School	\$5,000.00	Eskdale Recreation Reserve	\$5,000.00
Gryana Pioneer Museum	\$5,000.00	Youth Albury Wodonga - Mandala Project	\$5,000.00	Federal Football Netball Club	\$5,000.00
Gryana Public Park Committee	\$5,000.00	Ambassadors of Jesus Inc.	\$5,000.00	Fullhouse Entertainment	\$5,000.00
Gryana Tennis Club	\$5,000.00	Ambulance Community Officers Corryong	\$5,000.00	Koetong Community Noticeboard	\$5,000.00
Ice Breakers Swim Group Tallangatta	\$4,500.00	Arts Upper Murray Drama Group	\$5,000.00	Lions Club of Corryong	\$5,000.00



Magorra Park Multi-Purpose Committee	\$4,850.00	Walwa CRC - Sun block shades	\$5,000.00	Dartmouth Women's Fishing Classic	\$5,000.00
Mighty Mitta Muster	\$5,000.00	Walwa Services Memorial Hall	\$4,868.00	Eskdale Progress Association	\$5,000.00
Mitta Mitta Swimming Pool Reserve Committee	\$5,000.00	Walwa Tourist Park Inc., Committee of Mgmt	\$5,000.00	First Responders Ambulance Tallangatta	\$5,000.00
Mitta Valley Art & Photography Show	\$4,000.00	Acres & Acres Co-operative.	\$5,000.00	Georges Creek Tennis Club	\$4,180.00
Mitta Valley Multipurpose Children's Centre	\$5,000.00	Alpine Valleys Dairy Inc.	\$5,000.00	Kurrajong CWA	\$5,000.00
Nariel Valley CRC	\$4,800.00	Corryong Angling Club	\$5,000.00	Lucyvale Tennis Club Inc.	\$3,000.00
Noise for the Boys	\$5,000.00	Corryong Icebreakers	\$5,000.00	Mitta Mitta Mechanics Institute	\$5,000.00
Peninsula Seasonal Markets	\$5,000.00	Corryong Neighbourhood Centre	\$5,000.00	Rotary Club of Tallangatta	\$5,000.00
River Art School	\$5,000.00	Corryong Tennis Club	\$3,500.00	Rowen Park Recreation Reserve	\$4,840.00
Springdale Recreation Reserve	\$5,000.00	Granya Cemetery Trust	\$5,000.00	Talgarno Cemetery Trust	\$1,200.00
Talgarno Cemetery Trust	\$1,700.00	Mitta Valley Bowling Club	\$5,000.00	Talgarno Rural Fire Brigade	\$5,000.00
Talgarno Rural Fire Brigade	\$4,500.00	Mitta Valley Heritage Society	\$5,000.00	Tallangatta Cricket Club	\$4,100.00
Tallangatta Classics Inc.	\$5,000.00	Tallandoon Tennis Club/Reserve	\$5,000.00	Tallangatta Icebreakers	\$5,000.00
Tallangatta Community Garden	\$3,500.00	Tallangatta Agricultural and Pastoral Society	\$5,000.00	Tallangatta Rail Trail Advisory Group Inc	\$3,900.00
Tallangatta East Community Water Project	\$4,300.00	Tallangatta Girl Guides	\$5,000.00	The Man from Snowy River Tourist Association	\$5,000.00
Tallangatta Football Netball Club	\$4,300.00	Tallangatta Valley Public Hall	\$3,500.00	Tintaldra Public Hall Committee of Management	\$3,571.23
Tallangatta Lake Community Action Group	\$-	Thowgla Recreation Reserve Committee of Mgmt	\$5,000.00	Towong Hall Reserve Committee of Management	\$5,000.00
Tallangatta Memorial Hall	\$1,345.53	Thowgla Valley Fire Brigade	\$5,000.00	Upper Murray Dance Committee Inc	\$5,000.00
Tallangatta Rail Trail Advisory Group Inc.	\$4,500.00	Upper Murray Football Netball League	\$5,000.00	Upper Murray Horseman's Association	\$5,000.00
Tallangatta Tennis Club	\$5,000.00	Wyeboon Recreation Reserve Committee of Mgmt	\$5,000.00	Upper Murray Incorporated	\$5,000.00
Tallangatta Valley Golf Club	\$4,500.00	Anglican Parish of Corryong	\$5,000.00	Upper Murray Tennis Association	\$3,150.00
Nariel Valley CRC	\$5,000.00	Biggara Recreation Reserve Committee Inc	\$5,000.00	Walwa Golf Club Inc	\$5,000.00
Thowgla Valley Fire CRC	\$5,000.00	Corryong & District Memorial Public Hall Inc	\$5,000.00	Walwa Services Memorial Hall COM	\$4,490.00
Tumba Camera Club (Lions Club Corryong)	\$5,000.00	Corryong College Parents Club	\$4,895.00	Upper Murray Farmers Market	\$5,000.00
Upper Murray Arts Society	\$5,000.00	Corryong Craft Shop	\$5,000.00	Peninsula Seasonal Markets	\$5,000.00
Upper Murray Community Radio Inc.	\$5,000.00	Corryong Sporting Complex	\$5,000.00	Corryong Traders Group	\$5,000.00
Upper Murray Dance Committee Inc.	\$3,600.00	Cudgewa Cemetery Trust	\$5,000.00		
Walwa Community Shop	\$2,800.00	Cudgewa Tennis Club	\$5,000.00		



Cudgewa School Park Revitalization

I am very proud to have been involved in the revitalisation of the Cudgewa School Park. It's rebuild has been a silver lining to the devastating Black Summer Fires, and my involvement has personally helped me in my recovery journey. The generosity of our fellow Aussies is overwhelming. The community spirit which encouraged our small committee to dream big, source funding streams, getting involved in the planning process, giving us positive feedback on what was wanted, and our greater community who are now enjoying and promoting the park.

It has achieved our idea of being a destination park, with it's main focus on helping develop bike skills and road safety for children in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Apart from the final fence to be erected soon by CFA around their water tank and a couple of plaques on order, the project is basically finished.

Discussions began at community level early in 2020, but it took about a year before we were capable to fully engage in the project, with grant writing, requesting letters of support and



arranging a family fun day in February 2021 for community feedback.

We received BRV grant in Nov 2021 of \$170,000, Moose Toys philanthropic grant \$75,000, Border Trust \$15,000, Towong Shire Community Recovery Grant \$5,000 and CFA \$2,000 - total cost \$267,000.

I was asked to join the Cudgewa Community Recovery Committee in September 2021 to help streamline communications between all the interested parties of various recovery projects. I'm also on the Cudgewa Hall Committee.



Biggara Valley Community / Biggara CRC

The Biggara Valley is made up almost entirely of primary producers with residents incorporating Upper Towong, Bunroy, Biggara in Victoria and Indi in NSW. At the time of the 2019/20 bushfires the community age demographic was made up of 91 males and 62 females with 43 aged over 70; 69 aged between 18-69 and 41 aged 17 and under. The community incorporated 35 individual landowners of which 26 were directly impacted by the fire event – 20 in Victoria and 6 in NSW.

The Biggara community was one of the last valleys to be impacted by the fire front. Advice at a community meeting was that external fire-fighting resources were overwhelmed and that little to no help would be available to Biggara – we were on our own and it was each man

for himself. The community fought the fires using its own limited resources and initiatives, defending their homes and as much of their livestock and capital assets as they could despite the overwhelming odds. The community went without power for over three weeks and communications. The entire community was isolated from each other and this took its toll – physically, financially and mentally.

Recovery efforts began with a community gathering organised by the Biggara Recreation Reserve Committee Inc in February 2020. This provided the opportunity for community to come together and reconnect, debrief and provide feedback on what fire recovery priorities they wanted the Committee to focus on going forward. As a result of priorities identified that night the

Committee has worked diligently to realise them on behalf of the Biggara community.

The 8 projects included:

- Biggara Hall Upgrade with deck extension
- Solar Installation including panels, battery and generator
- UHF Radio Communications Network
- Biggara Recreation Reserve Master Plan (ongoing) – incorporating upgrade to tennis courts and lighting, basketball backboard, netball ring, all-weather access, disabled parking, improvements to drainage, stand-alone toilet/shower block, pathways and playground.
- Community Garden (ongoing)
- Community Events
- Mobile Water Tanker
- NBN Installation

The Biggara Recreation Reserve now has a comprehensive upgrade that the community can utilise for its enjoyment and that of the surrounding region. A place where they can come together to socialise, learn, play, meet and recover.

These projects couldn't have been realised without the support of BizRebuild / Equity Trustees, Emergency Recovery Victoria, St Vincent de Paul Society, Dysons, Border Trust, FRRR, Towong Shire Council, Corryong Baptist Church, Upper Murray Innovation Fund, Bushfire Recovery Victoria, National Emergency Management Agency, NBN and the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts. On behalf of the Biggara Valley Community we sincerely thank you all.





Tintaldra's Avenue of Honour

Why: Tintaldra's Avenue of Honour has been a project of the Community Recovery Committee (CRC) with the help of 3 grants. About 15 years ago, Deodar Cedar trees planted to honour WWII soldiers were found to be diseased and removed. During the 2019-2020 bushfires, Ponderosa Pines planted during WWI were cut down after being damaged by fire.

Total cost of project: Border Trust - \$10,700 for the Avenue of Honour Veterans Branch. Restoring Community War Memorials Grant - \$26,000 for Avenue of Honour. LER Grant - \$118,000 for Avenue of Honour and Tintaldra Hall toilet refurbishments.

Tintaldra Recreation Reserve Committee of Management for re-establishment and refurbishment of the Recreation Reserve and assets - LER grant \$304,420, Local Sporting Infrastructure fund \$45,000, BRV Community Facilities fund \$50,000.

Outcomes: The Tintaldra CRC developed the idea to reestablish a tree-lined avenue consisting of two rows of 10 October Glory Maples, set apart by a walking path, as a figurative representation of the character of our soldiers and volunteer firefighters. The result is a reflective space to inform locals and visitors as to the contribution and significance of Tintaldra and the surrounding district to the defence of Australia. The Avenue includes a monument, a lone pine tree, interpretative storyboards, teak benches and a stone wall with rosemary planted in front of it.





Lions Club of Corryong

Project: Catering Van

Date began: 26.07.21. **Date finished:** 26.07.23. **Why:** To provide the wider community with support for any future disaster or emergency situations. The catering van will be available for all emergencies. **Funding received from:** Community Enterprise Foundation. **Total cost:** \$87,719. **Outcome:** Catering van has been in use since March 2023 and is a wonderful positive for our club.

Project: Upgrade Equipment

Date began: 18.06.20. **Date finished:** 18.06.22. **Why:** To upgrade facilities in case of any further emergencies. To be in a better position to cope with the extra overflow that emergencies bring. **Funding received from:** CommBank Bushfire Recovery Grants. **Total cost:** \$50,000. **Outcome:** Ride on mower was purchased to keep sites clean and tidy. Marquees purchased for protection from the weather if needed. Kitchenware purchased which allows for a larger number of people to be served.

Project: Generator

Date began: June 2021. **Date finished:** February 2022. **Why:** A Generator to be able to run our catering van when power is not available. **Funding received from:** Towong Shire. **Total cost:** \$5,000. **Outcome:** Purchased a small generator which has been used to run our catering van on numerous occasions.



NRRRA - National Recovery and Resilience Agency now NEMA - National Emergency Management Agency the Grant/Funding body

Who received the grant	What for	Shires that benefitted	LGA impacted	Total cost
The Mandala Project Pty Ltd	North East Victoria YOUTH L.E.A.D	ACT unincorporated, Alpine, Wangaratta, Indigo, Wodonga, Towong, Mansfield	Multiple LGA	\$173,100
Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program	Disaster Recovery & Climate Change Adaptation leadership program	Alpine, Alpine Resorts (including the Falls Creek Mount Hotham Mount Buller and Mount Stirling alpine resort areas only), Mansfield, Wangaratta, Wodonga, Towong, Indigo	Multiple LGA	\$217,775
North East Victoria Tourism Board Inc	Gravel Cycling Tourism Activation	Alpine, Mansfield, Indigo, Wangaratta, Alpine Resorts (including the Falls Creek Mount Hotham Mount Buller and Mount Stirling alpine resort areas only), Towong	Multiple LGA	\$1,460,260
Junction Support Services Ltd	The Regenerate Program	Towong, Wodonga, Wangaratta, Alpine, Indigo	Multiple LGA	\$375,668
Agbiz Assist Limited	Rural Connectivity for Recovery and Resilience	Alpine, Towong	Multiple LGA	\$2,293,980
The Alternative Technology Association Inc	Green Rebuild Toolkit	ACT unincorporated, Clarence Valley, Blue Mountains, Coffs Harbour, Wagga Wagga, Eurobodalla, Oberon, Cessnock, Mid Coast, Upper Hunter, Central Coast, Inverell, Kyogle, Bellingen, Muswellbrook, Uralla, Tenterfield, Tamworth, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Narrabri, Wingecarribee, Lismore, Lithgow, Penrith, Kempsey, Mid Western, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Bega Valley, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Greater Hume, Glen Innes, Walcha, Lake Macquarie, Sutherland Shire, Singleton, Snowy Monaro, Shoalhaven, Nambucca, Ku-ring-gai, Goulburn-Mulwaree, Upper Lachlan, Armidale, Ballina, Byron, Richmond Valley, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Dungog, Tweed, Snowy Valleys, Wollondilly, Southern Grampians, Pyrenees, Strathbogrie, Glenelg, Ararat, Golden Plains, Northern Grampians, Moyne, Campaspe, East Gippsland, Wellington, Mansfield, Greater Bendigo, Indigo, Wodonga, Alpine, Wangaratta, Ballarat, Towong, Alpine Resorts (including the Falls Creek Mount Hotham Mount Buller and Mount Stirling alpine resort areas only), Brisbane, South Burnett, Somerset, Southern Downs, Whitsunday, Ipswich City, Townsville, Redland, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, North Burnett, Cook, Mareeba Shire, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Gympie, Gladstone, Lockyer Valley, Livingstone, Noosa Shire, Scenic Rim, Fraser Coast, Toowoomba, Break O'Day, Central Highlands, Flinders, Southern Midlands, Glamorgan/Spring Bay, Murray Bridge, Mid Murray, Playford, Southern Mallee, Kingston, Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, The Coorong, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula	Multiple LGA	\$161,399
Rural Health Connect Pty Ltd	Online psychology and financial counselling in bushfire affected regions	Queanbeyan-Palerang, Tenterfield, Clarence Valley, Snowy Monaro, Eurobodalla, Lithgow, Glen Innes, Armidale, Wollondilly, Richmond Valley, Bega Valley, Nambucca, Hawkesbury, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Shoalhaven, Mid Coast, Snowy Valleys, Blue Mountains, Kempsey, Indigo, Mansfield, Wangaratta, Alpine, Wellington, East Gippsland, Wodonga, Towong, Southern Downs, Lockyer Valley, Somerset, Livingstone, Scenic Rim, Kangaroo Island	Multiple LGA	\$389,250
Hothouse Theatre Limited	HotHouse Theatre - Production & Regional Towns Tour of UNPRECEDENTED	ACT unincorporated, Wagga Wagga, Eurobodalla, Bega Valley, Alpine, Wodonga, Towong, East Gippsland	Multiple LGA	\$406,776
Upper Murray Family Care Inc	Bushfire Recovery Outreach - Legal Issues (BROLI)	Wodonga, Alpine, Towong, Indigo, Wangaratta	Multiple LGA	\$745,590
Youth Affairs Council Of Victoria Inc	Future Proof: Young People, Disaster Recovery and (Re)building Communities	Mansfield, Wellington, Towong, Indigo, Wodonga, Alpine, Wangaratta, East Gippsland	Multiple LGA	\$9,933,315
Shire of Towong	Walwa Recreation Reserve Resilience Enhancements Project	Towong	VIC	\$571,021
Mitta Mitta Muster Sports Association Inc	Mitta Mitta Camp Draft Facility	Towong	VIC	\$125,000

Who received the grant	What for	Shires that benefitted	LGA impacted	Total cost
The Man From Snowy River Bush Festival Inc	MFSRBF and Community Ablutions Infrastructure Refurb	Towong	VIC	\$710,000
Corryong & District Memorial Public Hall Incorporated	Humdinger Community Spirit	Towong	VIC	\$239,963
Corryong and District Community Youthclub Inc	Emergency Secure Storage Shed	Towong	VIC	\$48,870
Tallangatta Bowling Club Inc	Conversion of a Bowling green to a artificial lawn bowling green system	Towong	VIC	\$157,850
Upper Murray Innovation Foundation	Upper Murray Youth - Room to Recover	Towong	VIC	\$211,679
Shire of Towong	Cudgewa Avenue of Honour Rejuvenation and Walking Track Upgrades	Towong	VIC	\$500,000
Corryong Recreation Reserve Inc	Corryong Evacuation Centre: Disaster Protection Project	Towong	VIC	\$573,650
Lucyvale Tennis Club Incorporated	Renovations to the Lucyvale Hall	Towong	VIC	\$326,848
Shire of Towong	Corryong Skate Park Upgrade	Towong	VIC	\$882,000
Ag Warehouse Pty Ltd	Corryong 24 hour fuel security - AG Warehouse	Towong	VIC	\$417,454
Australian Childhood Foundation	ChildSPACE	Towong	VIC	\$821,982
Dartmouth Community Progress Association	Upgrading Amenity at Dartmouth Hall to prepare for future emergencies	Towong	VIC	\$80,433
Bethanga Landcare Group Inc	Berringa Peninsula Community Network 3 Halls Project	Towong	VIC	\$564,842
Parklands Albury Wodonga Limited	Tallangatta Creek footbridge	Towong	VIC	\$560,281

\$22,948,986





Upper Murray CRC Community Calendar Priorities

1. Health and wellbeing for individuals and communities - Priority 1

Health and Wellbeing Background: The health and wellbeing impact of the bushfires, with the added complexity of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has meant that community recovery has been particularly difficult for the Upper Murray. For our community, many have had strong emotional or physical reactions following the fires which, we have been informed, is quite normal. For most, these reactions have subsided over a few days or weeks. For some, the symptoms have continued longer and have been more severe, further complicated by the corona virus pandemic.

Given the breadth of the health and wellbeing needs and the resources that are already being provided across the community, the Committee has chosen to focus its efforts on 2 areas:

- The health and wellbeing of children and youth. Children/ youth and disaster recovery is an area that has been identified as a gap that if not supported now, could have prolonged implications for our community
- Supporting Aboriginal Culture and Healing. There are multiple Aboriginal Traditional Owners of the lands across the Upper Murray, however none are formally recognised by Government as at June 2021. Bushfire Recovery Victoria is currently undertaking to engage these groups to assist them to identify their recovery priorities

On the back of both disasters, as a community we have seen all of our children and youth directly and indirectly impacted by disaster. Some children and youth have been directly impacted by the fires having suffered major disruption, losses, or lived through frightening experiences. All of our children and youth have also been affected indirectly, through uncertainty or hearing about or knowing someone who has suffered great loss. While families recover and rebuild children and youth are often thrown into additional turmoil during key periods of development and need.

2. Mobile phone black spots

The bushfires highlighted the issue that if you cannot communicate during a

disaster, you are seriously challenged and potentially in great danger. Societies expectation and dependence on communication is only increasing. Much of the emergency information that we are told to listen to during disasters relies on good communications infrastructure. The information being sent out by agencies during disasters is only effective if the communications infrastructure is in place. Unfortunately, the Upper Murray struggles to gain telecommunications parity with populations in similar regions around Victoria let alone the vast difference in capacity and capability with urban areas. For many there is simply no reliable communication option available. The Upper Murray has extremely poor levels of communication (fixed phone, mobile, radio and data) coverage which



greatly disadvantages our ability to respond to natural disasters, do business, learn, shop, bank and communicate in the modern world. The nature of telecommunications technologies and markets has meant that like many rural and remote Australians the populations in the Upper Murray have never truly been able to catch up. The dynamic nature of telecommunications technologies and markets, however, may present opportunities to address this situation at this critical time.

3. Electricity and power security (microgrid)

As a result of the 2019-20 bushfires power outages lasted for up to three weeks. In many areas these outages also led to a loss of communications.

Power brownouts and blackouts are also a regular problem in the Upper Murray causing significant losses to businesses in the region and hindering economic growth. The Upper Murray Community has established a project to establish a micro grid across the region, which the Upper Murray Community Recovery Committee is actively supporting. Figure 3, below, provides an overview of how a micro grid works. It has been reproduced from the implementation plan for the Upper Murray Place Based Power Plan: Energy Resilience and Reliability Project

4. Agricultural diversity

Agriculture forms the economic backbone of the Upper Murray and was determined as a priority focus of the community's Upper Murray 2030

Vision Plan. A big opportunity for the Upper Murray is to further diversify and value add to the existing agricultural footprint of the region. Beef and dairy accounts for approximately 78% of all agricultural production value in the region. Reinstatement of an abattoir with the capacity to supply locally. Mobile or micro abattoirs might also support value adding to the region's produce, as could cheese factories. Broad acre crops and horticulture represent under 10% of agricultural production value in the region and there may be further opportunity for expansion of high-value crops and development and support for niche small farming innovations that further support local supply and agricultural tourism in the region.

5. Adventure tourism

With a geographic footprint primed to ride the adventure tourism wave, the Upper Murray offers the perfect backdrop for adventure activities like mountain-biking, cycling, climbing, abseiling, skydiving, kayaking, bushwalking, hang-gliding, horse riding, fishing, hunting and more. The pristine natural environment, rugged mountains, pure waterways and the wilderness are some of the key ingredients that potentially could make the Upper Murray one of Australia's premier Adventure Tourism destinations.

INDI SKY

Maurie Foun. November, 2020

Through all that's been heaped upon us during the trials of this past year,
we folks of the Upper Murray can now proudly stand and cheer;
while every single one of us has shouldered the heavy cost,
our hearts and souls are united, like family, some of whom have lost...

Everything that they'd worked for in this region we all love,
who suffered the fiery destruction inflicted from above,
whose strength and courage bear witness to their commitment to their land,
who've learnt to swallow their stoic pride, accepting charity placed at hand.

For I reflect on all that's happened, (I'm certain I'm not alone,
I've been offering prayers of gratitude, we've all been forced to atone
as Nature in its mystery offers us green reprieve,
as memory wracks our subconscious minds, for decades, we'll still grieve.

But I'm confident for our future as I'm certain my friends are too, for this Springs
regeneration has astounded, with the growth that's sprung anew;
so evident is our spirit here, it glows in every eye,
a fresh chapter is clearly emerging... just cast your eyes upon the sky.



This book was developed to celebrate the community's momentous efforts for all of the amazing recovery efforts post 2019/2020 Bushfires