



# **Walwa Bush Fire Recovery**

## **Walwa/Guys Forest/Mt Alfred/Burrowye/Pine Mountain**

### **NEWSLETTER #2: August 2020**

**The Walwa Community Recovery Committee (CRC)** has now been formally established (8/7/2020) and is recognised by Bushfire Recovery Victoria and Towong Shire as the advocate and liaison for our community. We have defined the structure of the organisation, our Terms of Reference, and our goals. Our inaugural committee is comprised of Janice Newnham (Chair), Donna Greenhill (Vice Chair), Heidi Conway, Hayden Drummond, Sandi Grieve, David Hanna, Steve Lynch, Helen Marshall, Simon McKenzie, Karlee McKenzie McHarg, Marshall Tuck and Chris Wood. There are some community members who have been following progress but have been unavailable for meetings to date, notably Tor Haugen, Trevor Toholka and Sara Jenkins. Towong Shire Recovery Officers: Nola Tudball and Kaye Nankervis (Walwa Local Area Recovery Officer), Bushfire Recovery Victoria Regional Recovery Director, Alicia Keogh, and Consultants Tony Thompson and Pete Williams have been assisting the group.

The Committee welcomes community input/ feedback and participation from all community members but until Covid restrictions are lifted, attendance at meetings is strictly by invitation.

We have established a Facebook page (Walwa Community Recovery Committee) and an email address ([WalwaRecovery@gmail.com](mailto:WalwaRecovery@gmail.com)) and encourage communication from our community via these channels. We will upload documents, grant opportunities and other items of interest to the Facebook page.

We are very mindful of the difficult situation with which our community is presented... disaster recovery amid a pandemic is challenging. The bushfire disaster has touched everyone, the degree of impact on- and level of support required by the individual varies, but we intend to provide resources and support to all our community members with integrity and compassion. Our goal is to grasp the opportunities provided to our community in the form of grants and recovery support initiatives to build the capacity and resilience of our community and turn an awesomely awful situation into a positive outcome.

Janice Newnham, as Chair, is also a committee member of the Upper Murray CRC and actively participates in discussions with Towong Shire, Bush Fire Recovery Victoria, and other stakeholders to ensure Walwa is well represented and receives the support it deserves from these organisations.

Our meetings to date have identified some community projects with priority for action. Some of these projects have been on the community wish list for years, some have been highlighted by the disaster. Most of the projects will be led by the community organisation which is responsible for the project, but we hope that with Walwa CRC's advocacy and support the project will move off the drawing board and into reality.

The following table represents the Walwa and District community organisations currently active and they are matched to projects which they have nominated. Please take time to review the list and if you can see an omission or an opportunity for you to assist, then please do not hesitate to contact the organisation or Walwa CRC. (please update contacts for the organisations, too!) Walwa has always been blessed with a fantastic spirit of volunteerism; this is an opportunity for us to shine!

We have invited the Walwa Hall Committee and Walwa CFA to attend our next meeting scheduled for 19/8/2020 so that the Walwa Recovery Committee can provide support and advocacy to scope, cost and organise projects to be grant ready.

We hope that you are coping in this current difficult situation. Please do not hesitate to contact our committee if you are struggling to find necessary support. We encourage all to support one another, even if it is just a cuppa and a chat! Be kind!

In the words of John Lennon: ***It will be alright in the end. If it is not alright, it is not the end!***

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<b>WALWA COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS &amp; PROPOSED PROJECTS AUG 2020</b>		
<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>
Walwa CFA	David Hanna - Captain 0428 371 343	Construct new fire shed at Walwa Recreation Reserve to accommodate 3 vehicles, provide adequate storage for equipment and resources and allow access to the Walwa Recovery Centre as Meeting rooms/facilities to support activities. Purchase of new 4WD Quick attack vehicle. Purchase of generator to overcome power outage issues Installation of Satellite WiFi for community support in the event of Communications failure
Burrowye CFA	Neil Mitchell - Captain	Support Walwa to achieve the above – of benefit to both brigades (eg shared training opportunities on the reserve and staging post for an emergency)
Walwa Memorial Hall Committee	David Hanna – Chair 0428 371 343	Upgrade toilets and install showers to support the community in case of evacuation. Upgrade kitchen to commercial kitchen standard and include New oven and 2-door glass front fridge. New chairs and tables to seat 100 Fire protective window screens Heating/cooling Children’s play equipment Extend the back verandah for additional outdoor under cover area Increase storage capacity for equipment. Investigate independence from grid – alternative power source
Walwa Cemetery Trust	Hayden Drummond 02 6037 6258	Install a public toilet at cemetery (Compostable or other enviro friendly version) Install a shelter structure at cemetery Collaborate with other community groups re a history project and interpretive signage
Walwa – Jingellic Lions Club	President – Keith Breadon	Project to assist the Walwa Cemetery Trust Committee as above and possibly include the installation of a storage shed for equipment at the cemetery.
Border Walwa Football Netball Club (current managers of the Walwa Recovery Centre)	President – Richard Hulm 0438 660 452	Install a 30KVA generator (possibly mobile for community use) to support the facility and North East Water sewage works in case of power outage Provide additional showers (to support emergency workers if facility used as staging post in the event of another bush fire disaster. Support CFA in project to move Fire Shed to Walwa Recreation Reserve
Walwa Community Support Group	Walwa Community Op Shop Kerrie Thompson  Bridge The River Arts Barb Pritchard	No projects at this stage  Community art event and exhibition
Walwa Caravan Park Committee	Heidi Conway	Walwa and surrounds community support event (Show ‘n Shine, Music and Kid’s entertainment, possibly outdoor cinema) planned. The committee is also seeking funding for a playground.

		Seeking support for traffic safety upgrade on the access road to the park
Walwa Bush Nursing Centre Board	CEO Sandi Grieve 02 60371 220	Numerous projects to improve resilience of facility in face of power outage and to support community in the event of a disaster.
Walwa Medical Trust	Patrea Cook	Construction of accommodation for doctor (and family) (may double as temporary accommodation for relief teacher for Walwa Primary School)
Riverview Units		No projects nominated at this stage
Walwa Golf Club	Trevor Bagley – President 02 6036 8114	Project to upgrade irrigation of fairways Project to improve drainage on some fairways to improve access, safety and aesthetics
Walwa Fishing Club		Upgrade facilities at Walwa Beach to include a fish cleaning station and repairs to boat ramp. Fish restocking
Radio Upper Murray		No projects identified to date
Tangled Threads		Looking into fabric and wool supply support for projects and activities
Book Chooks		No projects identified to date
CERT		Supporting the creation of a Men's (or persons') Shed at Walwa Recreation Reserve (Old scout hall)
Walwa Primary School Council		Netball court resurfacing project Sustainable edible food garden Solar energy review and upgrade Collaborate with other community groups re a history project and interpretive signage They have submitted grants for a defibrillator (including paediatric pads) and investigating installing a bird hide (with some donated funds from Avenel Primary School) to encourage junior Twitchers. The school needs better signage for safety and promotion (TSC will review)
Towong Shire		Upgrade the Playground next to post office Collaboration with Parks Vic/DWELP to upgrade walking tracks in Burrowa Pine Mountain NP. Installation of a walking track from Walwa to Jingellic and Walwa Main St to the Caravan Park. Installation of bridge from Golf course to the Jingellic Reserve (Needs consultation with community and stakeholders (eg: Walwa Golf Club for shared space arrangements and the land owner: DWELP and Goulburn Murray Waters/ NSW state government)
SES		Installation of emergency pod containing necessary equipment to assist in case of disaster (primarily flood)
Walwa Community Recovery Committee	Chair Janice Newnham 0427 371 434	Create and resource a Disaster Plan for Walwa and District and integrate with the Municipal Emergency Plan Collaborate with other organisation (eg Jingellic Hub Committee) to create and support community events to encourage social cohesion and alleviate stress post Covid restrictions.

		Support activities and organisations which extend assistance to community members at an individual level (eg: BlazeAid and Gateway Mental Health)
Guys Forest Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	Janice Newnham – 0427 371 434	Protect the historically significant Sequoia trees Reinstate the picnic setting which was destroyed by fire Repair the tennis court fences Monitor the site and ensure that after the firewood coup has been expended, the site be rehabilitated Consider some interpretive signage to acknowledge history of the site.
Jingellic Hub Inc (Mangers of the Jingellic Showgrounds)	Janice Newnham – Treasurer 0427 371 434	A number of grants have been acquired to support community events. Events are on hold until Covid restrictions are lifted but watch this space! Showgrounds Stimulus package from NSW Crownlands has enabled us to create a safe and aesthetic apron around the building, improve weather resistance of driveway and improve drainage to eradicate storm water pooling issues. BlazeAid camp was hosted from Feb to April and there was an attempt to reinitiate a camp in early August but Covid restrictions made access for volunteers impossible so it was mothballed. BlazeAid has promised to return and encamp at Walwa later in the year. Current project we are seeking funds for is “Flamin Hell” a sculpture commissioned from Andrew Whitehead to celebrate the efforts of the CFA and RFS in the defence of Walwa and Jingellic. This is to be incorporated in an overall project to create a new entrance for the showgrounds and we have amassed close to \$5500 in donations towards the project and we have an application to Towong Shire (\$5K), Border Trust and Regional Arts Fund to support the project
Have we missed any organisations / projects???		