

# Cann Valley Recovery Update

## Cann Be Ready Day

A collaborative event with Cann Valley communities and many agencies, the Cann Be Ready Day (originally postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions) has been rescheduled to 24 July.

Held at the Cann River Public Hall, we are looking forward to being on hand to help with the official opening the new kitchen, the Cann Be Ready Day will help bring community together so all can be ready for whatever the future may bring.

A fun day out for the family, there will be prizes and giveaways, including a free smoke alarm and kitchen fire blanket, and a special performance by the Cann Valley CFA Community Choir. Supported by Ambulance Victoria, SES, CFA, Cann Valley Bush Nursing Centre, Red Cross, Landcare, DELWP, and East Gippsland Shire Council, come down and check it out from 10.30 am to 2 pm, Saturday 24 July.

This was the next step for the CVDRG to become incorporated, which has now occurred. Stay tuned for CVDRG updates as the group and their work progresses.

## Digital connectivity

We have recently engaged a consultant to assist us with identifying gaps and priorities in digital connectivity for East Gippsland to inform advocacy and other activities.

The consultant's focus will be digital connectivity impacts and opportunities for:

- Business and tourism
- Safety and emergency management
- Rural and regional living and work

We hope that through this consultancy and the resulting report, we will have a more comprehensive understanding of the true lived experience of digital connectivity in East Gippsland, especially through the lens of both the 2019-20

## National Emergency Medal opportunity

The National Emergency Medal is an award available to persons who provided either significant or sustained service (or both) during a nationally significant emergency.

The bushfires of 2019/2020 were declared a nationally significant emergency for the purpose of the National Emergency Medal on 2 December 2020.

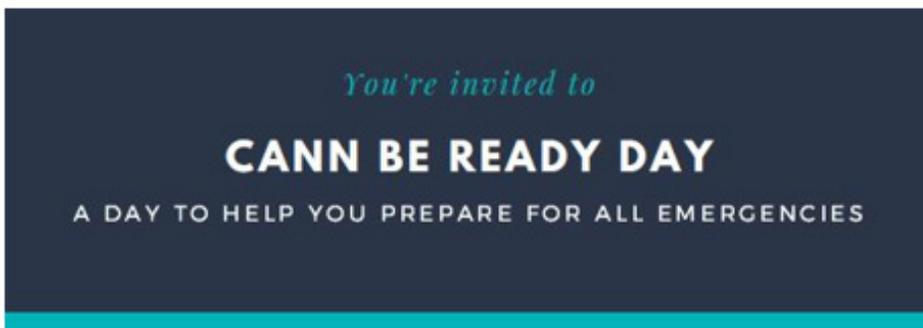
The Medal is managed by the Office of the Governor General and is open to members of the community, volunteers or agency staff that have provided sustained service being:

- Service in the protection of lives and property; or in the service of interests, that are not their own; in direct response to the emergency (including support that enables or facilitates the emergency response).
- In East Gippsland (or other fire impacted municipalities).
- Between 21 November 2019 and 20 February 2020.
- The minimum duration of service of 5 days.

To learn more about the Medal and its history, eligibility criteria, or to apply, please visit the Governor-General's website <https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awardsnational-emergency-medal/bushfires-2019-20>

## SES and CFA volunteers – public meeting soon

A public meeting will be held in Cann River in the coming weeks to discuss the urgent need for new CFA and SES members in the community. More details to follow.



## Representative group election

At a special meeting held on Tuesday 18 May, the Cann Valley District Representative Group (CVDRG) elected its office bearer positions for the next 12 months.

Congratulations to:

- Chair – Irene Birt
- Vice Chair – Jennet Young
- Treasurer – Sarah Bond
- Secretary – Kellie-Ann Inch

bushfires and COVID-19 pandemic. This will better inform Council's future project planning and advocacy for the region. For more information or to get involved, contact your local Place Manager. You can get to know your Place Manager and find contact details on our Community Recovery web page <https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/bushfire-community-recovery>

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JUNE 2021



## Volunteer morning tea

What a fantastic morning we had on Saturday 22 May with some of East Gippsland's great volunteers. Our East Gippsland Volunteer Recognition Morning Tea held simultaneously across five locations - Orbost, Omeo, Mallacoota, Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance - was a celebration of the contribution the hundreds of volunteers make to our region as part of National Volunteer Week.

More than 200 volunteers enjoyed catching up with other like-minded people from different interest groups and volunteer organisations.

We also heard from Sandra Patten (Gunai Senior Elder, Welcome to Country), Anne Macarthur AM (Red Cross life member) and Mayor Cr Mendy Urie.

Volunteers Kath Smith (Swifts Creek), Tarsha Dixon (Bairnsdale), James Bush (Young Citizen of the Year), **Jennet Young (Cann River - pictured)**, Evelyn Schmidt (Buchan), David Whittle (Mallacoota) and Dave Richardson (Lakes Entrance) also shared their stories via video. There was plenty of morning tea to go around and an honour roll of more than 400 volunteer groups, while everyone was presented with a small gift – native seedlings to plant – in a nod to helping the natural environment bounce back from the impact of drought and bushfire.

You can watch the event back at <https://bit.ly/3xegM2u>

Hear from Cann River's Jennet Young (pictured right) here <https://bit.ly/2TyMV65>



## New bush nursing project

On 9 June, Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas announced a new Bush Nursing Pilot Project, aimed at improving access to healthcare services to farmers in remote areas.

East Gippsland has been selected for the \$325,000 Department of Health pilot project, with bush nursing centres in Dargo, Ensay, Gelantipy District, Swifts Creek, Buchan, and Cann Valley being funded to deliver additional services such as primary health, clinical, emergency, community, referral and home-based health services.

Find out more about the program at [agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au).

## Rebuild Support Service

The Rebuild Support Service can support any landowner who lost a dwelling or sheds in the 2019/2020 fires, particularly in navigating the approvals that may be needed for rebuilding. In many cases, registering

with the RSS can also inform eligibility for financial rebuild support.

For more information about the RSS there are several options:

- Contact the team directly at [BRSS@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:BRSS@egipps.vic.gov.au)
- Make contact through your bushfire recovery support worker
- Through your local Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) Hub
- On our Bushfire Rebuilding web page <https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/bushfire-rebuilding>

The RSS can meet with residents one-on-one in BRV Hubs, or provide support by phone or video conference depending on your accessibility or preference.

## Did you know?

We have a new grant application portal called Grant Guru. Check it out at <https://eastgippsland.grantguru.com.au/>

**Annie Kentwell**  
Place Manager -  
Cann Valley District

(03) 5179 5078  
0418 542 099  
[anniek@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:anniek@egipps.vic.gov.au)

**Contact Council**  
5153 9500  
[feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au)