



Wingecarribee
SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Resilience



Background

- Following the devastation of the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires, the Australian Government's National Emergency Management Agency launched the **Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program** (BSBR)
- The Grant helps communities address priorities and activities for **recovery** and **resilience** after the 2019-20 bushfires
- Wingecarribee Shire Council successfully applied for funding and in August 2022 appointed a Community Resilience Officer (CRO) to work closely with bushfire impacted villages



Photo credit: Julie Vulcan



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CRO Role

- The Community Resilience Officer position is a two-year contract finishing in April 2024, working across bushfire impacted communities and community stakeholders to facilitate **initiatives, resources, and activities** based on identified needs for **recovery and resilience**
- A Budget of **\$389,000** was secured and **key initiatives** were agreed upon with stakeholders to best benefit local communities
- The Bushfire Response & Recovery Review was presented to Council in 2021 and included 44 recommendations. The CRO compiled a report clarifying which recommendations have been completed and those that are part of its ongoing business-as-usual practices
- The following is an update of what has been achieved to date and will be achieved by the Program's March 31 2024 deadline



Completed Projects 2023



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Paint the Town



- Delivered in partnership with Southern Tablelands Arts
- 12 public art murals were developed across the Shire with contribution by fire-affected community members through co-design workshops
- Brought together nationally acclaimed artists and local talent to create murals, which reflect the recovery journey since the 2019 Black Summer fires
- Launched with a free family 'Laneway Festival' in Mittagong featuring music acts and creative workshops
- The murals will now form part of an Arts Trail




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Climate Disasters Workshop

- Experts on climate change's health impacts and how to prepare for emergencies
- Designed for the general community, local service providers and health professionals the forum, presented by South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD)

**CLIMATE DISASTERS
AND YOUR HEALTH**



**THURSDAY
4TH MAY
2023**

10am- 2pm
Wingecarribee Shire Council- Theatrette
68 Elizabeth St
Moss Vale

KEY SPEAKERS

HELEN REDMOND
DRS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

LEANNE CRAZE
SWSLHD MENTAL HEALTH

JUDITH COLLINS
LOCAL AUTHOR

WORKSHOPS


WINZERO: TAKING ACTION-
PERSONAL STEPS TO COMBAT
CLIMATE CHANGE?


DISASTER PREPAREDNESS-
ELIZABETH ATKINS


ENERGISING SELF-CARE-
WILDFLOWER HOLISTIC
SERVICES

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL CHERYL 0434 181 959

REGISTER



 South Western Sydney
Local Health District

 Wingecarribee
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ORGANISED WITH SUPPORT FROM NATIONAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



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Emergency Management & Resilience Meetings



- Community members were invited to Emergency Management and Resilience meetings for the northern and southern villages in September
- The Wingecarribee Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) is working together with the State Emergency Service (SES), NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS), Local Land Services, and Council, to plan for our Shire's disaster preparedness and emergency management
- Representatives from the combat agencies provided a specialised presentation, as well as the NSW Reconstruction Authority and Australian Red Cross
- Council provided updates on the progress of the 2021 Bushfire Response and Recovery Review recommendations as well as its own readiness projects



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Community Resilience Small Grants Program



- Offers financial assistance to not-for-profit community organisations and associations based in the Wingecarribee LGA to deliver a range of resilience focused projects
- The Community Resilience Small Grants Program aims to support bushfire impacted communities:
 - With preparedness projects that are community led
 - Provides opportunity for community connection
 - Strengthens community resilience



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Upcoming Projects 2023/24



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Resilient Towns Initiative: Oct 23 – Feb 24



- Delivered in partnership with NSW Reconstruction Authority & University of NSW
- 2 communities identified across the Shire for the interactive Workshops – Wingello & Balmoral Village
- 'Big Map' model helps community identify local solutions and improve resilience over time
- The goal of the workshops is 'How can we make our community safer?'
- Community-centred and locally-led, each community comes away with a Disaster Preparedness Plan



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Oral History Project: Dec 23 – March 24



- Commissioning a historian to collect, record and preserve 'whole-of-life' experiences of those living in the northern villages
- An opportunity for people who were impacted by the Green Wattle Creek Fire of 2019 to discuss their experience



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Resilient Future Workshops: Jan 24



- Explore the needs for the community and agricultural sector to identify opportunities for collaboration and further investment
- Strengthen the capacity, capability and coordination of professional, social or community networks in agriculture-dependent communities to build drought resilience
- Facilitate professional, social and community connection to build understanding of risks posed by drought and climate change in our agriculture-dependent communities



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Earth Flix: Cinema for Change: 31 Jan



- Special screening event to commemorate the anniversary of the 2019 bushfires
- Part of a resilience, environment and sustainability-themed film series
- Jointly funded by the Australian Government through the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant and Council



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Be Connected: 29 Jan – 9 Feb



- Initiative aimed at increasing the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians using digital technology.
- Adopts a community-centered approach to assist people 50+ with little or no experience with digital technology to promote key factors related to resilience including social support, self-efficacy and a sense of meaning in life.
- Working in collaboration with Community Technology Centre (CTC) Robertson there will be workshops scheduled in 3 locations across the Shire.



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Building Resilient Leaders Workshop: 7 Feb



- Workshop run by Quest for Life Foundation designed for leaders in Community Health but also tailored for community members looking to effect change in their local community
- Aims to increase access to resilience-building for rural and regional communities
- Participants will:
 - Have a working knowledge of trauma and its effects on individuals and communities
 - Learn how to build wider community resilience, connection and support
 - Connect with other professionals and recovery experts to discuss recovery issues



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Inclusive Resilience: Feb 2024



QUEER FORMAL – FEB 2024

A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH TO COME TOGETHER, HEAL & CELEBRATE THEIR RESILIENCE



ADVENTURE THERAPY PROGRAM – FEB 2024

THERAPEUTIC SESSIONS FOR NEURODIVERGENT YOUTH TO HARNESS THEIR PERSONAL STRENGTHS IN OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



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Telco Community Information Roadshows: 26 Feb – 1 March



- Aims to inform people about what connectivity options are available to them to improve their community's capacity, capability and connectivity resilience
- Learn about 3G closure, cyber security and disaster preparation
- One-on-one discussions with telcos and/or support services so they can receive the most relevant information for their individual situations



Regional
Tech Hub

OPTUS



Strength Through Adversity: 2 March



- NSW Health, South Western Sydney Local Health District and Council will work together to deliver an event that engages people who have faced adversity to create a series of works and performances that addresses the loss and hope that came from the Black Summer bushfires
- The showcase will be at the Bendooley Precinct in Bowral and will bring the community together to talk about their experiences and shared trauma in order to support healing



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Thank you

