

Snowy District Community Newsletter - # 1

Department of Environment Land Water and
Planning - Forest Fire Management Victoria

Who are we and what do we do -

DELWP - The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning brings together Victoria's climate change, energy, environment, water, forests, planning and emergency management functions into a single department to maximise connections between the environment, community, industry, and economy.

FFMVic - Forest Fire Management Victoria consists of specialist staff from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria (PV), Melbourne Water and VicForests.

FFMVic work with the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), and other emergency services and communities across Victoria to deliver the best local approaches to public land management. We are proud to be recognised as a world leader in bushfire risk management. Our aim is to protect people, property, and the environment. We do this by managing bushfires and bushfire risk in Victoria's parks, forests, and other public land, and by minimising the impact of fire on our communities, environment, and everything we value most. This management includes risk-based bushfire management and planning – fire prevention preparedness – fuel management programs (including planned burning) – emergency response and recovery. We also preserve and upgrade our parks and state forests to provide more accessible opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and nature.

The Snowy District has three work centres with bases in Bendoc, Cann River and Orbost. The works programs are spread across the work centres covering over a million hectares of land. Across these work centres 50 to 60 full time staff fill positions with a further 30 Project Fire Fighters (PFF's) employed on a seasonal basis.

Welcome to our first Community Newsletter, sharing with you works activities and achievements from across the Snowy District footprint.

Bushfire & Storm Recovery works are continuing across ALL district work centre areas.

Bendoc Work Centre

- Continuing works with the road network program, upgrades on facilities and recreation sites.
- Recent Wilson Hut upgrades include new roof, chimney, tables, and toilet.
- Hazardous tree works and general clean-up of vegetation around the Wilson Hut site has been undertaken with igniting heaps from these works. We are looking forward to working on further upgrades including additional BBQs, which will add to the overall camping experience. The site has seen increased visitor numbers.
- The Delegate Airstrip has been levelled providing a safer working platform for firefighting aircraft that protect the local communities. The airstrip is used by all agencies in both NSW and Victoria for fire suppression.
- Local crews have played an important role in assisting other districts and regions across the State with the planned burning program.
- Thank you to the great work our seasonal Project Fire Fighters and staff do in assisting and supporting works programs and forest fire management activities.

Snowy District Community Newsletter - # 1

Picture Below - Alice Auckbur (Bendoc Work Centre) igniting heaps from hazardous tree works near Wilsons Hut. (Hut in background)



Cann River Work Centre

- Hazardous tree works completed at Sand Patch Track, Rocky Ridge Link and Boggy Creek Tk. Works still ongoing in area's around Cann River and Genoa.
- Old Coast Rd - Stump removal and hazardous tree removal – total of 24kms. Operational Delivery Early June 2022.
- Tractor/Slasher works commencing soon on Old Coast Road (eastern end)
- Choof Choof walking track and campground expansion, including new fishing platforms.
- Repairs to Drummer Rainforest Walk.
- Resurfacing works for Reedbed Road and repairs to Buldah Trail Road are scheduled.
- Completed Non-Burn Fuel Treatment works in Mallacoota at the Western Front and Bastion Point Road (opposite CFA shed)
- Repair and patch up works are continuing at Casuarina Walk, (from Betka Rd to Genoa Rd), addressing washouts and drainage issues.

- Funding has been allocated for contract packages to address hazardous tree removal and scrubbing works east of Cann River. General track clearing and maintenance outside of these works will continue to be done by local crews.
- Stony Peak Rd Strategic Fuel Break – 16.8 km's of hazardous tree removal completed (30th May 2022), by the Strategic Fuel Break team.

Strategic Fuel Break – Stony Peak Road

Before



Strategic Fuel Break – Stony Peak Road

After



Snowy District Community Newsletter - # 1

Orbost Work Centre

- Replacement of viewing platforms at Little Cabbage Tree Falls and Youngs Reservoir including replacement and repair of Youngs Creek walking track, steps, bridges, and toilet.
- 20 km's of resurfacing works on Yalmy Rd are complete. 20 km's on Coast Range Rd are ongoing, and repairs to Gravel Road are scheduled.
- Resurfacing works on Storers Track and Rocky River Road with Bonang Road to Brodribb River Crossing scheduled.
- Bridges are in the process of being replaced at Morrisons Tk, Kermond Rd, Paradise Ridge, Quartz Reef Rd, and Iron Chimney Tk.
- Bridge abutment repairs have been implemented on Coast Road, Little River Bridge and Rocky River Road.
- Land slip repairs on Errinundra and Sardine Creek Road with engineer design works to be contracted in Spring.
- Emergency stabilisation works undertaken on Greens Road slip with further engineering designs being sourced for landslip repairs on Jack, Greens, Errinundra, Yalmy and Serpentine Creek Roads.
- Engineering design being sourced for crossing repairs at Wehner Track on Wibenduck Creek.
- Works contracted to repair South Boundary Road on Fat Cow Creek.
- Slips have been repaired on Towzer Creek Track and Puggaree Road.
- Erosion control and pipe installation have been undertaken on Monument Track, Sandy Point Track and Partellis Xing.
- Repairs to Gravel Road and Buldah Trail are scheduled to start now.
- Non-Burn Fuel Treatment works have been completed at Bemm River North and Marlo State Forest. Residual timber was made available to the community as firewood.
- Walking tracks are currently being extended adding a further 1.3 km's of track at the Marlo State Forest along a section of Healeys Road to Mots Beach Avenue (and Ricardo Drive) including the eastern end along Mots Beach Avenue, William Hunter Drive, Curlip Drive and a section along the powerline easement. There is also a small section of track to link up the powerline easement track to the Snowy River Coastal Walk. Works will be completed by June 30.
- The South Boundary Walking Track along Bonang Road and South Boundary Road (Orbost North, Old Rifle Range area) has been completed. Signage has been installed with interpretation signage to be added soon.

Bemm River North – Non-Burn Fuel Treatment



Snowy District Planned Burns

- Planned burns were completed with overall objectives met within the Orbost and Bendoc Work Centre area.
 - Orbost - South Boundary Road.
 - Newmerella - Robinsons Road.

Snowy District Community Newsletter - # 1

- Cabbage Tree – Palms Track.
- Bendoc – Wilsons Hut.

Forest Management News

- Invasive species and weed control programs have been implemented through the DELWP - Moogji Service Agreement, with coordinated works funded via the Good Neighbour Program and Bushfire Biodiversity (BBRR) across the Snowy District. Focus is on: Retreating Blackberry, Orange Firethorn, Boxthorn and Privet infestations on the Deddick River at Tubbut, as well as Serrated Tussock, English Broom and St John's Wort at Dellicknora and Bonang.
- Delivery of on ground Rabbit control works in and around Bonang, Deddick, Tubbut and Orbost.
- Retreatment of Periwinkle around Woods Point Campground and Symplocos Protection sites.
- Treating *Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion* (WESI) in and around Goongerah, including but not limited to the treatment and recording of Inkweed, Japanese Honeysuckle, Digitalis, in conjunction with associated Blackberry and Thistle.
- Treatment of Cape Ivy and Blackberry at the confluence of the Genoa River and Maramingo Creek (and other areas of associated rainforest).
- Treatment of Himalayan Honeysuckle on Errinundra Road to prevent the spread of the weed species into the Errinundra River catchment and the Errinundra plateau.
- Retreatment of Watsonia and African Scurf Pea infestations at Bemm River, Marlo, Cabbage Tree and Cann River.
- DELWP are partnering with Moogji to construct a new fence at a regenerating rainforest site near Woods Point to protect emerging rainforest species including the Symplocos Thwaitesii (Buff Hazelwood) and maintain existing fences and cages that were previously built by Moogji as protection measures for the species.

DELWP and Moogji are also looking at propagation techniques for reintroduction to the protection sites, including different methods using cuttings and seeds.

- **Joint Fuel Management Plan (JFMP)** - The Snowy District Fuel Management Team has been busy planning the 2022-2023 JFMP cycle. The Joint Fuel Management Program is a state-wide program that manages fuel on public and private land. The program integrates a risk-focused bushfire management approach. Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) and Country Fire Authority (CFA) commit to working as one. The JFMP is updated each year with the latest information, and built on the latest long term [Bushfire Management Strategies](https://www.safertogether.vic.gov.au/strategic-bushfire-management-planning) <https://www.safertogether.vic.gov.au/strategic-bushfire-management-planning>. Each region has provided maps and plans that explain how long-term strategic planning is guiding the development of the program. Each map and plan show projected residual risk reduction and ecological outcomes over the next three years. For details of fire operations activities in each DELWP or CFA district, including burn locations, use our [interactive map](https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/bushfire-fuel-and-risk-management/joint-fuel-management-program) <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/bushfire-fuel-and-risk-management/joint-fuel-management-program>. All Joint Fuel Management Program maps cover 2021/22-2023/24. The program is designed to be flexible, allowing the timing of proposed activities over the three-year period to change in response to weather and other conditions. Fuel management activities include planned burns and mechanical works such as slashing, mowing and clearing works, creating, and maintaining fuel breaks. We welcome your comments all year round and we encourage you to have input into all parts of the strategic and operational planning process. Please contact your local [DELWP office](#), [Parks Victoria](#) or [CFA](#).

Snowy District Community Newsletter - # 1

Victoria's Great Outdoors Program

- Long and Sandy Point Campgrounds are now **open** after redevelopment. Works include improved access to sites with grading and re-sheeting of tracks, levelling earthworks of campsites, installation of tables, firepits and new toilets. Please note – 4WD access only.
- Woods Point Campground is currently **closed** due to redevelopment, with a reopening scheduled in August 2022.

Works will include improved access on Woods Point Track with grading and re-sheeting of track, campground expansion and levelling earthworks, new tables, firepits and 2 new toilets.
- Timber worker Huts lost in the 2019/2020 fires have been replicated with hut rebuilds at Arte and Rich River. Tables and BBQs are still to be installed.

Other News

- Food Handler Training – 10 crew from DELWP, 2 from Parks Victoria and 10 members from Moogji, recently completed their Food Handler and Food Safety Supervisor Training. The opportunity to participate and enhance skills will be beneficial for the participants in many applications including Emergency events where ground support crews are needed to support personnel.
- School Based Traineeship – 2 students from Orbest Secondary College (Year 11) are currently studying a Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management and have joined our DELWP team once a week (for the remainder of this year) in a field-based work experience capacity. The students are a great asset to our team.
- Domestic Firewood collection dates:
Seasons are – Autumn - 1st March to 30th June and Spring – 1st September to 30th

November. Contact your local DELWP office or website for collection areas.

- THANKYOU to all the Contractors and local business providers and individuals for your outstanding work and support with recovery efforts across the Snowy District.
- THANKYOU to the great work our seasonal Project Fire Fighters and staff do in assisting and supporting works programs and forest fire management activities.
- PROJECT FIRE FIGHTER recruitment will commence in July. If you are interested to work with Forest Fire Management Victoria (DELWP or Parks Victoria) on 'summer crew', then we encourage you to keep an eye out on campaign advertisements via local and social media channels in the coming months. There are different categories of PFF employment – Firefighters, including positions designated for Australian Aboriginal people, Fire Support Officers and Rappel crew.

Wilsons Hut



Snowy District Community Newsletter - # 1

Snowy District DELWP Office Locations:

www.delwp.vic.gov.au

Bendoc – 9 – 11 Nichol Street, Bendoc Victoria 3888

Phone 02 6459 0500 – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9.00 am to 3.00 pm

Please call to book an appointment before visiting as the Office is temporarily closed to the public. No services available.

Information provided includes– Domestic firewood collection, Maps/Information, Seasonal track closures, State Forest activities and camping, Deer hunting maps, Wildlife queries, Forest Fire Management queries and Information, Burning queries and information, Parks information.

Cann River – 92 Princes Highway Cann River Victoria 3890

Phone 03 5158 2100

Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm

Please call ahead to book an appointment as this office is temporarily closed to the public.

Services include – Registration of interest to hunt pest animals on Crown Land.

Information provided include– Domestic firewood collection, Maps/Information, Seasonal track closures, State Forest Activities and camping, Deer hunting maps, Wildlife queries, Forest Fire Management queries and Information.

Orbost – 171 – 173 Nicholson Street, Orbost Victoria 3888

Phone 03 5161 1222

Monday to Friday – Counter Service Available 9 am to 4.00 pm

Services include – Registration of interest to hunt pest animals on Crown Land

Information provided include– Domestic firewood collection, Maps/Information, Seasonal track closures, State Forest activities and camping, Wildlife queries, Forest Fire Management queries and information, Information relating to wildlife licence.

Snowy Land and Fire District Work Centre Boundaries

