



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS
C O U N C I L

Our local government area is home to an estimated population of 84,525 (ABS) and covers a distance of 3686 km squared

2019/2020 fire season: How it began in our region

- Community impacts
- Red Day
- Properties impacted both in Lake Cathie and Lake Innes with evacuations of residents
- Rural communities impacted in the surrounding valleys where communities such as Debenham, Bellangry, Pappinbarra, Forbes River, Birdwood and Yarras received significant damage



2019/2020 fire season impacts for PMHC Council

- Dwellings lost and destroyed
- Community buildings, bridges lost
- Air quality and health impacts
- Incidental Evacuation places
- Community Spirit



Resilience
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So what has happened since the fires in our Recovery Journey?

- Recovery meetings
- Immediate road and bridge repairs were identified and works undertaken to ensure rural communities were connected
- Council rates relief (and still ongoing)
- Resilience Scholarships with Charles Sturt University
- Connection with all the interagencies- gathering of information & funding still available to share with communities



Our Continuing Recovery Journey?

- Bushfire Information sessions
- Council Infrastructure programs
- Partnership with Wauchope RFS
- Community Connection & Council Community Action Teams



Beechwood Bushfire Recovery Session 2

It's been a challenging few months for our community; facing drought, bushfires, floods, and now the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, we are still working hard to provide services during this time. As such, **Rural Recovery Support Service - NSW Department of Primary Industries in conjunction with Council** will be holding a bushfire recovery information session in your neighbourhood.

During this session, we will outline the range of important services and support that you can still access.

There is a variety of assistance available including: financial grants, trauma and recovery support and mental health services.

TUESDAY 25 AUGUST
1:30 - 3:30pm

SCHOOL OF ARTS HALL
BEECHWOOD

Department of Primary Industries PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS COUNCIL



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How we are working towards being more prepared and resilient community

- **Listening** to what the needs are of our individual communities
- Emergency preparedness Sessions
- Art Therapy Programs for Youth & Family Fun Days in partnership with Hastings Neighbourhood Centre
- Men's mental health programs & DPs Rural Women's Programs
- Council Gratitude Murals

GET READY /
Lake Cathie

Lake Cathie Community Emergency Readiness

Practical advice and support on how you can take simple steps to prepare for an emergency and keep you and your community safe.

WHAT'S OUR PLAN?

SUPPORT
your local community by identifying your "super power".

GET READY
by identifying what goes into an emergency preparedness kit.

PLAN
for your household and community and prepare your property and home.

Wednesday 14 October, 2020
5:00pm - 7:30pm
Lake Cathie Bowling Club

Please **register** your attendance by contacting Kate Macfarlane on **0408 209 869** or emailing kate.macfarlane@pmhc.nsw.gov.au

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Lifeline Living Well. Caring Well. Giving Well.

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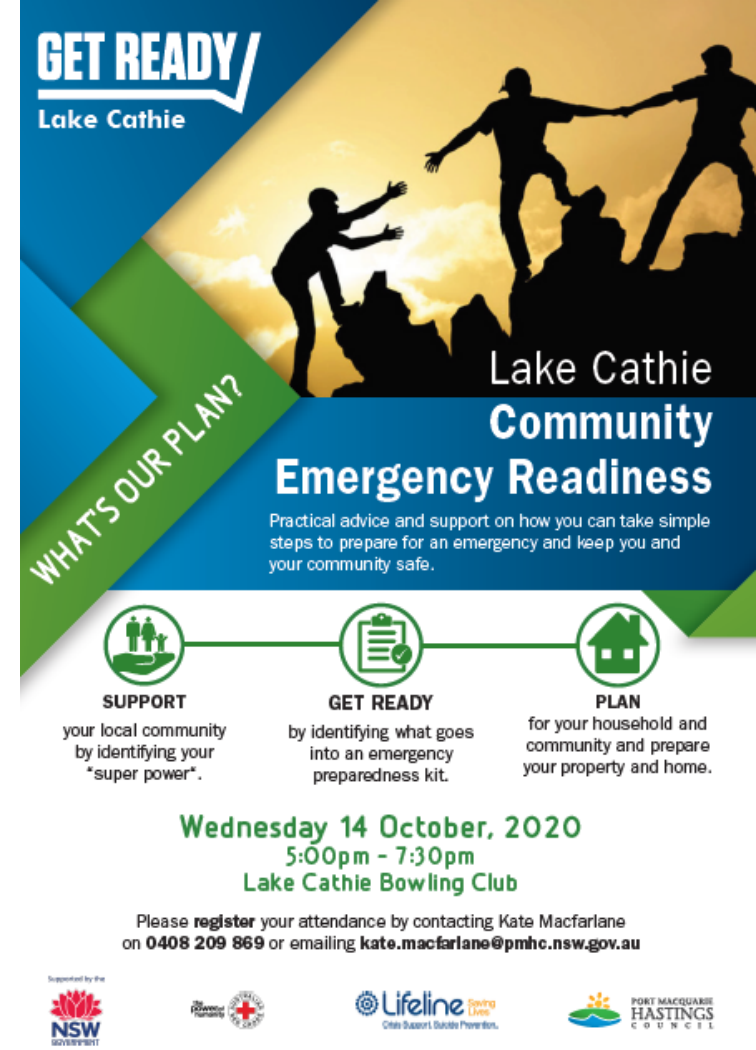
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What's next in creating a more resilient community

- Working with our community to understand what they need to be resilient and connected
- Development of a calendar of events and activities for our affect communities
- Resilience and recovery network ongoing collaboration
- Partnerships with interagencies
- Delivery of activities, programs and events



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Lifeline Living Life
Crisis Support. Guide. Prevention.

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Thank you for listening

