

UKVCA October 2015 meeting report

By ALEX CRAIG

GUEST speaker at this month's Upper Kiewa Valley Community Association committee meeting was Jan Mock, Alpine Shire's Community Grants & Community Resilience Co-ordinator.

Ms Mock said that Alpine Shire community grants are aimed at progressing the community, keeping groups operational and community connectedness, and can be applied for to pay for a group's equipment, facilities or events.

She encouraged applicants to 'tell a story', explaining the need for the funding and including as much detail as possible and supporting letters where possible.

Decisions are made by a panel consisting of as wide a representation of age, gender and background as possible, and including council, Alpine Shire staff, Youth Council and community representatives.

Ms Mock does not involve herself in these decisions, but has suggested that UKVCA might like to put forward a representative for this committee, as they had need of representatives who could do 'big picture' thinking.

Applications for 2015 / 16 grants close at the end of October, and forms are available online.

Ms Mock also spoke about the Alpine Shire Resilience Committee, which commenced in 2007, aiming to create functioning communities which can recover after events such as fires, floods and heatwaves.

Ms Mock said that the committee encouraged households and communities to perform a risk assessment and plan to deal with these risks.

"Written fire plans, ensuring that all family members are familiar with the plan and know their role in it, are very helpful as people tend not to think clearly in an emergency" she said

The kit "Preparing for an Emergency" is full of valuable information to assist in this process and is available from VICs, Libraries and Alpine Shire.

A new initiative is the training of Spontaneous Emergency Volunteers by Volunteering Victoria and called in to supervise other volunteers during emergencies.

Information about this committee's activities is published in the Alpine Observer, and in posters around town.

Cr Ron Janas, who also attended the meeting, praised Ms Mock's efforts with this project which he said has been acknowledged at State level.

After Ms Mock's contribution, the meeting discussed priorities and ways of pushing forward the work of cleaning up the old SEC reserve.

A sub-committee was formed consisting of 2 UKVCA representatives, Mark Ghiradello (environmental worker), Alan McDonald, (Landcare), Lachlan Campbell (NECMA) and Therese Davis (DEWLP) to make decisions about the most efficient way forward.

Members of the committee have been in touch with Nick Cook of Mt Beauty Foodworks, and it is hoped that the supermarket checkout area may be used as an area for disseminating community news.

Jim Crebbin raised a concern about the liability of volunteer workers on Alpine Shire tracks and trails.

Other volunteer groups in the community, such as Meals on Wheels, are registered as volunteers with the Shire and therefore covered by public liability.

Mr Crebbin will meet with Shire representatives with a view to establishing a Tracks & Trails volunteer register.

At the recent Alpine Shire Council meeting two residents raised the topic of dust on Fredas Lane.

They were told that dust suppression is a costly short term fix and sealing the road is out of the question.

However, the Shire will look into reducing the speed limit.

A decision on what to do with the playground in Mt. Beauty has been deferred, and in a close vote of 4-3 the councillors voted to recommend that the NBN tower in Tawonga should go ahead.