

MURRINDINDI DISASTER FUND

GRANT PROGRAM 2026

Grant Opens **July 20th 2026**.

Grant Closes **August 20th 2026**

1. Program Overview

In response to the Longwood Bushfire in January 2026, Foundation Murrindindi launched the **Murrindindi Disaster Fund**. Funds are now available for disbursement to community groups impacted by the 2026 Longwood Bushfires.

The Murrindindi Disaster Fund Grant Program recognises that recovery is community-led and that local people are best placed to identify the needs, opportunities and priorities within their communities. Grants will support projects that strengthen community connections, support wellbeing, rebuild local capacity and ensures those impacted in Murrindindi Shire emerge as stronger, more connected communities.

We welcome applications from community organisation to deliver projects in the following fire impacted locations: (as listed on Murrindindi Shire Website <https://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Community/Safety-and-Emergencies/January-2026-Fire-Longwood/Murrindindi-Shire-Impact/Impact-by-the-numbers>)

Acheron, Alexandra, Cathkin, Caveat, Devils River, Dropmore, Fawcett, Ghin Ghin, Gobur, Highlands, Kanumbra, Koriella, Limestone, Maintaingoon, Molesworth, Murrindindi, Ruffy, Terip Terip, Thornton, Whanregarwen & Yarck

Grants of up to **\$2,500** are available to assist eligible not-for-profit community organisations that are based in Murrindindi Shire.

2. Program Objectives

Projects funded through this program should contribute to one or more of the following objectives:

- **Strengthen Community Wellbeing** - Support activities that promote social connection, mental wellbeing, inclusion and community participation following the impacts of the Longwood Bushfires.
- **Support Community-Led Recovery**- Enable local communities, volunteer groups and organisations to identify and deliver recovery initiatives that respond to local needs and priorities.
- **Build Community Capacity and Resilience**- Develop skills, leadership, networks and resources that strengthen the ability of communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from future disasters.
- **Restore Community Assets and Activities** - Assist with the restoration, enhancement or re-establishment of community facilities, programs, events and activities disrupted by the bushfires.
- **Support Environmental Recovery**- Encourage initiatives that contribute to environmental restoration.
- **Foster Inclusion and Participation** - Ensure recovery activities are accessible and beneficial to diverse members of the community, including young people, older residents, volunteers, farmers, Aboriginal communities and other groups impacted by the fires.

3. Grant Projects & Activities

Grant funds can be used for activities such as (but not limited to):

Community Wellbeing and Connection

- Community gatherings, festivals or recovery events
- Volunteer appreciation and recognition activities
- Youth engagement programs
- Mental health and wellbeing workshops
- Community arts, storytelling or creative recovery projects
- Programs that reconnect isolated community members

Community Capacity Building

- Leadership development for community volunteers
- Training in emergency preparedness and community resilience
- Volunteer recruitment and mentoring programs
- Community planning and visioning workshops

Community Infrastructure and Equipment

- Small improvements to community facilities damaged or heavily utilised during recovery
- Equipment that supports community gatherings and activities
- Shared resources that strengthen community preparedness and response capacity

Environmental Recovery

- Community-led revegetation projects
- Habitat restoration activities
- Environmental education programs linked to bushfire recovery
- Projects connecting environmental restoration with community healing

Youth-Focused Recovery

- Youth leadership and resilience programs
- Activities supporting young people affected by the bushfires
- Recreation, arts or social connection programs for young people
- Projects engaging young people in community recovery and preparedness

4. Program Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for funding through the Murrindindi Disaster Fund Grant Program, applications **must** meet the following criteria:

- Applicant organisations must be a not-for-profit organisation or community group with a current ABN.
- Applicant organisations must be located within the Shire of Murrindindi with the project providing benefits to communities in the Shire of Murrindindi.
- The project must benefit one or more fire impacted locations as listed on Murrindindi Shire website <https://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Community/Safety-and-Emergencies/January-2026-Fire-Longwood/Murrindindi-Shire-Impact/Impact-by-the-numbers>
- Projects must be for charitable purposes (refer to definition below)
- Projects must be completed by 30 June 2027

Funding **will not** be considered for:

- Activities with a political focus
- Commercial or profit-making activities or individual businesses
- Fundraising activities, competitions, prizes or award events
- Activities that have already commenced or occurred
- Salaries and wages
- Activities that are for the purpose of sport (see further information below).

Charitable Purposes

In accordance with its Constitution, Foundation Murrindindi must only provide funds for a charitable purpose.

This includes:

- Advancing health
- Advancing education
- Advancing social or public welfare
- Advancing culture
- Promoting reconciliation, mutual respect and tolerance between groups of individuals that are in Australia
- Promoting or protecting human rights
- Advancing the security or safety of Australia or the Australian public
- Preventing or relieving the suffering of animals
- Advancing the natural environment
- Promoting or opposing a change to any matter established by law, policy or practice in the Commonwealth, a state, a territory or another country, and
- Other similar purposes 'beneficial to the general public' (a general category). (*reference The Charities Act 2013 (Cth)*)

Note: The encouragement or advancement of sport, recreation and social activities are not considered charitable activities under Australian law. Applications from sporting organisations need to clearly demonstrate charitable outcomes and benefit to the wider community that are above and beyond the normal sporting activities of the club.

5. Assessment Process

After the application period has closed and we have received your application:

- You will receive an email confirming receipt of your application through SmartyGrants online portal.
- Your application will be assessed against the eligibility and assessment criteria.
- Funding recommendations will be advised by Foundation Murrindindi Governance & Grants & Sub Committee.
- Foundation Murrindindi Board will make the final decision on the outcome of all eligible applications.
- All applicants will receive a notification via email with the result of their application by the end of September 2026.
- Information about grant decisions will not be given over the phone.
- The list of successful applicants will be published on the Foundation Murrindindi's website and social media platforms approximately a month after all applicants have been notified of the outcome of their application.

6. Assessment Criteria

Grant applications are assessed against the following assessment criteria:

- Alignment to the purpose and objectives of Murrindindi Disaster Fund Grant Program
- Demonstrated community benefit, recovery impact and resilience outcomes.
- Community participation
- Budget reflects appropriate scope and scale of intended activity and is value for money.
- Inclusion and accessibility

For more information contact Robyn Hill, Executive Officer

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For more information about the grant and how to apply, please visit our website

<https://foundationmurrindindi.org.au/>

*Foundation Murrindindi's vision is for thriving, vibrant and connected communities
within the Shire of Murrindindi.*