

FLOOD NEWS FLASH

3rd August 2023

Artwork by Natalie Davey



State Recovery Coordinator Update

More than six months on from the floods, it's important to reflect on the progress we've seen so far in the recovery process - guided by the leadership of the Fitzroy Valley Flood Recovery Working Group and underpinned by the strength and resilience of communities, the recovery of the Fitzroy Valley is gaining momentum.

Significant progress continues to be made with the clean-up and minor refurbishment works in affected communities. The next phase of the temporary accommodation program is also progressing well, with the commencement of repairs on community access roads, and the installation of family-friendly dongas and raising of existing Humanihuts scheduled to get underway.

The recovery team remains focused on the needs of individuals directly impacted by the flood, many of whom are still displaced from their homes and need ongoing support. We are committed to getting everyone back home and supporting them through the process.

Installation of a new 40-person workers camp in Fitzroy Crossing is now complete, with final fit-out and cleaning underway. It is anticipated that it will be fully operational from mid-August.

Construction of the new bridge continues to make good progress despite the rare dry season rain which resulted in the temporary closure of the low-level crossings and restricted access between the east and west Kimberley. The project also continues to engage new local employees, with the workforce now comprising more than 100 local employees from the Fitzroy Valley working across machine operations, site maintenance, administration and more.

The Shire's Flood Hub continues to play an important role in supporting flood-affected communities with over 650 people visiting the hub since it opened. From providing help with temporary accommodation, financial assistance applications, and social and emotional well-being support, the hub is a place where people can seek information and speak to staff about their recovery needs or access support services.

Last month also saw the announcement of seven joint Commonwealth-State funded support packages, including the recovery grant programs for primary producers, small and medium business owners, and private homeowners. For information on this assistance and more, you can visit the Flood Hub in Fitzroy Crossing or go to emergency.wa.gov.au/recovery

Ahead of the upcoming wet season, I want to reassure the Fitzroy Valley community that preseason planning is well underway by the Shire and state government agencies, through engagement with PBCs, communities and local organisations.

RECENT EVENTS

SDWK AND NINDILINGARRI OPEN MIC EVENT

On July 27th, 2023, the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley and Nindilingarri Cultural Health Service collaborated to host the inaugural Fitzroy Crossing Open Mic Event at the Visitor Centre. The event was met with great enthusiasm from the local community and provided a platform for numerous talented local musicians to showcase their skills and abilities on stage and share their passion for music with the Fitzroy community. Overall, the event was a resounding success, fostering a sense of artistic expression and camaraderie amongst everyone who attended. The event not only highlighted the diverse talent present in the area but also brought the community together for an enjoyable and memorable experience.



NAIDOC EVENT

A special NAIDOC celebration took place on Friday, 28 July, at Juniper Guwardi Ngadu, where residents, families, and friends gathered to commemorate the spirit of this year's theme, "For Our Elders." The event was filled with joy and excitement as Jarrod from Nindilingarri got everyone up on their feet with karaoke, singing, and dancing. Families participated in tie dye activities, while Ben treated everyone to his famous lemongrass tea.

The event was beautifully organized by Belinda and her team from Juniper, who adorned the outdoor area with foraged bush plants and flowers, creating stunning table centerpieces. Issy and the kitchen team added to the festivities by crafting an incredible celebration cake, which Belinda creatively decorated to match the NAIDOC theme. The day was filled with music, dance, art, and storytelling, providing an opportunity for the community to connect with their elders. The gathering offered a perfect blend of cooking by the campfire and enjoying delicious food, making it a memorable and meaningful celebration for all who attended.





Free Business Support Services Available

The Bridge Team are inviting Fitzroy Valley people who are interested in starting or growing their own business to meet with business expert Kris Young from Many Rivers.

Kris will be in Fitzroy Crossing on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 August to meet with people and discuss how he can assist in their business venture.

Kris will be available for 30-minute appointments at the Old Café on:

- Monday 7 August - 11am to 5pm
- Tuesday 8 August - 8am to 1pm

Appointments can be made by calling 0428 805 766, dropping into the Old Café to make a booking or going to the Old Café on Monday/Tuesday and wait until he is free.

Many Rivers is a free support service providing business coaching and financial support to help people open their own business.

Free Bridge Talks

Starting this Thursday 3 August, the Bridge Team is holding 30-minute bridge construction talks on the riverbank.

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 4.30pm, a representative from the team will meet interested locals and tourists on the east side of the river, out the front of the Lodge.

Come along and find out how the bridge is being built. See you there!



**STARTS
AUG 3**

NEW FITZROY RIVER BRIDGE

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
REBUILDING OF THE ICONIC
FITZROY RIVER BRIDGE**

**JOIN US EVERY TUESDAY, THURSDAY
AND SUNDAY ON THE RIVERBANK
FOR A FREE 30 MINUTE TALK.**

**MEET OUTSIDE THE LODGE
RECEPTION AT 4PM.**

Fitzroy Bridge Alliance
In partnership with Main Roads WA



Contact Information

Department of Communities Disaster Response Hotline

1800 032 965

Mental Health Help - Fitzroy Crossing

9166 1700

Mental Health Help - Derby

9193 3605

After Hours - Mental Health Support

1800 552 002

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Crisis Support (24/7)

13YARN (13 92 76)

Road Updates

- For information on road updates you can view the latest road report on the Shire of Derby West Kimberley website here: <https://www.sdwk.wa.gov.au/>
- For the latest travel advice on state roads, visit the Main Roads Travel Map at <https://travelmap.mainroads.wa.gov.au/Home/Map> or call 138 138
- For more information on Main Roads' Kimberley Flood Response, visit <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/travel-information/driving-in-wa/kimberley-flood-response/>

Kimberley Floods Recovery Information

For Kimberley Floods Recovery Information please visit www.emergency.wa.gov.au/recovery

Flood Hubs

Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre

4 Flynn Drive
8am-12 noon
Monday - Thursday
(08) 9191 0904

Broome Flood Help

Call 0476 897 424
If you're in Broome and
need help

Derby Housing Office

16-22 Loch Street
10am-2pm
Monday - Friday

Do you have a story to share or updates from your area? We want to hear from you! Contact us by phone (08) 9191 0999 or email media@sdwk.wa.gov.au

