



Bushfire Recovery Program

The program started in 2020 following the devastating bushfires across our beautiful East Gippsland. We provide an outreach service to assist with recovery and restoration in our remote communities. During 2020 Therese Kearney managed the key role of counsellor and began to make connections in the outlying communities, especially linking in with Orbost and beyond. Our counsellors are always available for conversation, comfort and assistance for individuals and families in the East Gippsland Shire.

In December 2020 Madelaine Schumann joined the team as Community Development Officer and we received a four wheel drive vehicle complete with espresso coffee machine, generator and mobile WiFi access and with CB Radio on board we are able to reach out to the really remote locations, helping them to rediscover their joy and provide a friendly and supportive ear over a coffee. One of our big gifts to these communities is through colour and creativity workshops and in April 2021 we gained a new counsellor in Aaron Armenopoulos who brings many talents including being able to make a great coffee (bonus) and cook a nice curry for the communities – a great way to reconnect with each other.

We have been well received in the communities especially with hot coffee on board and we have been as far as Tubbut (4hours from Bairnsdale) and all the communities along the Bonang Highway as well as Orbost and Bemm River.

We love meeting these wonderful communities to enable people to reconnect with each other and more deeply within themselves around the art table playing with colour.

Over the next few months we have a new schedule of communities to outreach to at Buchan, Gelantipy, Cann River and Combianbar and Club Terrace and Bemm River and Bruthen. We are really looking forward to serving these beautiful communities over the next few months.

Madelaine and Aaron can be contacted on: 0409135624 or 0400783342

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In the photo above you will see the coffee machine which 'helps break the ice.'



And this is a piece of artwork painted by a participant in the program.