

MILLGROVE HAPPENINGS



August 2025 - Volume 1 /

Issue 8

3799 NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2025 FOR MILLGROVE

A new newsletter representing postcode 3799 will be launched soon.

August 2025 has seen the Millgrove Residents Action Group (MRAG) increase Millgrove's resilience and preparedness capacity through the official ribbon cutting ceremony at the Millwarra Community building, held on the 27th August, to celebrate the installation of a 45kW solar array and 132 kWh battery.

AusNet funded the \$277K project to help boost the resilience capability response to any future outages and potential disaster events. The Community building together with the Soccer pavilion is proposed to form an essential role in creating a community resilience and recovery hub (CRRH). The hub would be activated in the event of a significant disaster or prolonged electrical outage to provide centralised communications & information, power charging facilities, food & water, showers and general help.

Also funded through AusNet, a Resilience training workshop was provided to around 15 residents by the Resilience Canopy team to introduce and bring attendees up to date. In addition, training also funded through AusNet in the new energy transition economy was postponed until mid-September due to Glen Morris's commitments from SolarQuip.



**MRAG – Taking Bric
a Brac Fund raising
Stall to the next
Level**

**Want to HELP MRAG
raise funds for the
community?**

**Have unused and
unwanted good quality
Bric a Brac?**

**Why not donate it to MRAG
for them to sell at the
Millgrove Market, we can
pick up (contact details
below) or you can drop it off
to the Millgrove Dairy
cheese shop!**

MRAG ran two August Millgrove Markets, they operate on the 3rd Saturday and the 5th Sunday of each month. Although the weather was cold and slightly wet, the new all-weather marquee format coped really well and good attendance was achieved. The new improved market continues to grow on strong foundations and is a great community asset.

The Millgrove Community Garden will be another welcomed community asset, as further progress is made. MRAG obtained a licence for the site from the Department of Planning and Transport last year, and is in the process of obtaining a Council planning and building permit to proceed with the next stages, namely to construct the garden beds & fencing on the site.

Switching on resilience at Millgrove

28/08/2025



Photo of the MRAG team and AusNet team in front of the Millwarra Centre battery by Oliver Winn

By Oliver Winn

A ribbon cutting ceremony acknowledging new energy infrastructure has marked a new era of community resilience in Millgrove.

Hosted by Millgrove Residents Action Group (MRAG), the event took place at the Millwarra Community Building on 27 August and saw all parties come together to celebrate the newly installed solar battery and panels on the hub.

MRAG member Sam Rye said the community of Millgrove was deeply grateful for AusNet's Energy Resilience Community Fund (ERCF) which chose the town as the first pilot site for its resilient communities plan.

"This community fund support has enabled us to install a solar array on the roof here, which is about 45 kilowatts," Mr Rye said.

"We were also able to install a 132 kilowatt-hour battery on the Millwarra Community Hall, which is part of the Millwarra Primary School as well as part of the River Valley Church.

"Now, those together can act as an island so that in the event of outages, we're able to continue to provide power."

AusNet funded just over \$277,000 to MRAG for a solar PV, battery storage and an inverter for community infrastructure at the Millwarra Primary School and Millwarra Community Hall.

The solar panels will charge the battery, which can store enough power for the hub to run for a couple of days. The battery's capacity will then be refreshed by incoming solar power.

With the primary school, church, community building and soccer pitch all situated within a short distance from each other, the installation of energy resilient infrastructure has turned the site into a recovery hub.

It will provide electricity during outages; two commercial kitchens can be used to provide meals while the soccer club has showers and change room facilities.

The Millgrove Recreation Reserve soccer pitch is also a place of last resort, which is situated right next to the Millwarra Community Building.

MRAG is one of 13 recipients from the ERCF across Victoria, totaling close to \$2.4 million, to support community energy resilience projects.

AusNet executive general manager of compliance, risk and corporate affairs Amanda Robertson said while an increase of severe weather events had tested towns across the state, it also revealed the resilience of Millgrove.

"The reality is that these events can cause much more heartbreaking outcomes, so it's wonderful to play just a small part in being able to support communities through these sort of challenging events," Ms Robertson said.

"Millgrove, like many towns across our network, faces real risks from severe weather. But what we see here today is not just a response to those risks, it's proactive, it's an inspiring model of what resilience looks like.

Millwarra Primary School principal Melanie Hancock said the ERCF was a game changer for the school.

"At the moment we can use this [infrastructure] if our power goes out, so our school can still run. Not many schools can do that," Ms Hancock said.

"I genuinely see the benefits of it right now."

Yarra Ranges Council mayor Cr Jim Child said the new infrastructure enabled the community of Millgrove to be dependent on themselves.

"When we get hit by disasters, we're not always going to have members of the fire brigade at your door. You're going to have to be resilient in your own capacity and that's what we're building the strength in, Cr Child said.

He also praised MRAG's initiative in establishing the crucial infrastructure.

"I think that they set the bar for what can be done in the community, I just admire the group."

Resilience Training Workshop – 3 Aug 25

Our training facilitators Tia and Maree returned to Millgrove recently to facilitate a community resilience workshop. Part of the day was spent gathered around a fire on the banks of the Birrarung, where 18 community members came together to deepen connections, share stories, and reflect on their resilience journey. It was a privilege to sit alongside such passionate people as they explored the vision of their newly published Community Plan, and how to bring it to life.

Congrats to the [Millgrove Residents Action Group](#) for ticking off another of its Resilience Plan projects – in this instance, successfully receiving an [AusNet](#) grant to install vital solar infrastructure for their Community Resilience and Recovery Hub and primary school.

To foster resilience and contribute to a renewable energy transition, the group requested our services for a one-off workshop to help equip residents with foundational knowledge, create shared language, approaches, connection and trust across the community, and develop a team of volunteers to support the community-led Resilience and Recovery Hub.

Having journeyed through the Canopy program, it was inspiring to see how far Millgrove has come, and even more inspiring to see the community building on its momentum with such meaningful action.

Keen to follow in Millgrove's footsteps? Find out more about how The Resilience Canopy can support your community on their resilience journey: <https://www.resiliencecanopy.com.au/the-program>



Photos above, Workshop participants.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED: UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES – FREE PLACES AVAILABLE

- Community Garden Planning Meetings (Contact MRAG for dates, meet alternate Tuesdays at 5pm)
- Energy training workshop: Saturday 20 September 2025
- It's not too late to register for river crew training

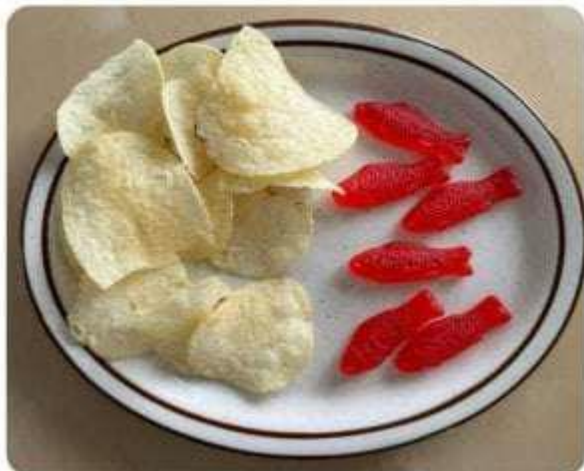
HELP MRAG raise funds for the community?

Unused and unwanted good quality Bric a Brac NEEDED?

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**The biggest joke on mankind is
that computers have begun asking
humans to prove they aren't a
robot**

**TODAY I MADE FISH AND CHIPS,
FOLLOW ME FOR MORE RECIPES:**



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