Research Advisory Group: **Members**

The Beyond Disasters Research Advisory Group is a collective of researchers, practitioners and policy makers focusing on the human impacts of disasters in terms of recovery and resilience. It is a cross-sectoral forum to exchange ideas and advice, identify evidence needs for policy makers and practitioners, and contribute to development, conduct and dissemination of research being conducted by the academic members.

CHAIR

PROF LISA GIBBS

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Director, Child & Community Wellbeing Unit, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. Academic Lead, Community Resilience, Centre for Disaster Management and Public Safety. University of Melbourne.

Professor Lisa Gibbs is an international leader in disaster resilience research and translation of evidence into policy and practice tools. Her public health expertise relates to two main fields: 1) disaster recovery and community resilience, including leadership of the Beyond Bushfires study and 2) child health and wellbeing. These two fields intersect through her research on child resilience. She has a leadership role in the International Collaboration for Participatory Health Research reflecting her commitment to working in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure the relevance and practical applications of her research.

MEMBERS

PROF DANIEL ALDRICH

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Director, Security and Resilience Studies Program, and Professor, Political Science and Public Policy, Northeastern University.

An award winning author, Aldrich has published five books including Building Resilience and Black Wave, more than 65 peer-reviewed articles, and written op-eds for the New York Times, CNN, HuffPost, and many other media outlets. He has spent more than 5 years in India, Japan, and Africa carrying out fieldwork and his work has been funded by the Fulbright Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Abe Foundation, and the Japan Foundation, among other institutions and was the 2021 Klein Lecturer at Northeastern University.

DR DENISE BLAKE

Senior Lecturer, Te Kura Tātai Hauora — School of Health, Te Herenga Waka — Victoria University of Wellington

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Denise is a committed researcher who champions issues of justice as a staunch advocate for marginalised communities. Her research interests cover issues of identity, welfare, health and disaster management. Her research findings are disseminated via a range of modalities, including academic articles, science reports and opinion pieces. Over the past few years, Denise has taught both general psychology, health psychology and emergency management courses. She is a passionate educator who always endeavours to engage, stimulate and challenge her students. Denise currently works as a Senior Lecturer in Health Psychology, where she teaches across undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Denise also has over 25 years' experience working within and across mental health and community sectors and currently serves as the Chairperson for the Aotearoa New Zealand Sex Worker's Collective (NZPC) and is on the Board of dapaanz, the Addiction Practitioners Association Aotearoa New Zealand. Denise remain committed to serving community in any way she can.

DR KAREN BLOCK

Associate Director, Child and Community Health Unit, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health.

Academic Convenor, Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Migration, Statelessness and Refugee Studies, Melbourne Social Equity Institute.

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Dr Karen Block is Associate Director of the Child and Community Wellbeing Unit in the Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne. Her research includes a range of projects with disaster-affected, immigrant, and refugee populations with a focus on trauma recovery, social inclusion, health inequalities, and gender-based violence. Karen's methodological expertise is in qualitative and mixed-methods research, evaluating complex interventions and community-based participatory approaches.

DR KATE BRADY

National Recovery Adviser, Australian Red Cross.

Research Fellow, Child & Community Wellbeing Unit, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health.

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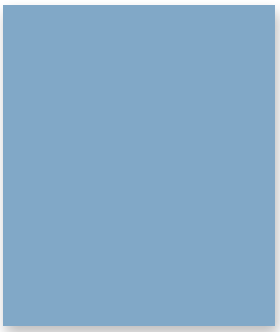
Dr Kate Brady has had a distinguished career over the past decade in disaster recovery operations, programming, training and resource development her role as National Recovery Adviser for Australian Red Cross. She has had significant influence on State and National emergency management policy and has an international profile in collective trauma, risk and resilience and in disaster recovery program evaluations.

In 2020, Kate joined the team at the University of Melbourne School of Population and Global Health as a Research Fellow. Her research focuses on what people find helpful and unhelpful after disasters.

VAUGHN BRANDENBURG

Program Manager Resilient Recovery, Emergency Management Victoria.



Vaughn is currently the Manager of Reviews and Inquiries at Emergency Management Victoria, and contributes to the continuous improvement of the sector by supporting the process of critical sector evaluation and reform. In various facets, Vaughn has been in emergency management for nearly a decade, and has particular interest and experience in post-disaster recovery. Throughout her career, her work has aimed to improve the way the sector works together, to better support communities before, during and after disasters.

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ANNA BROOKE

Senior Advisor – Recovery, National Emergency Management Agency Te Rākau Whakamarumaru

Anna has had a variety of roles within the Emergency Management world. She began in community hazard preparedness, working with Victoria SES and Melbourne City Councils to coordinate flood planning arrangements. Anna was a Team Leader with the Red Cross Canterbury Earthquakes Recovery Programme, where her team identified communities that they could support in their ongoing recovery journeys. She has spent the last few years working to develop national level planning and arrangements for recovery in Aotearoa. Anna been deployed to assist with local recoveries, helping to set up governance and operational arrangements between local and central government.

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PROF RICHARD BRYANT

Scientia Professor & NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow, School of Psychology, University of New South Wales.

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EMILY CAMPBELL

Research Officer, Joint Centre for Disaster Research, Massey University.

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Emily is a Research Officer at the Joint Centre for Disaster Research at Massey University in Aotearoa New Zealand. Her work explores the intersection between design, communication and behavioural science for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. This means developing culturally specific and human-centred means for improving comprehension to key information to ensure appropriate knowledge transfer and audience engagement. She has also recently completed her Masters in Urban Planning and Design.

YVETTE CLARKE

A/Director, Evaluation and Reporting, Bushfire Recovery Victoria.

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Yvette is an public sector evaluation, community engagement and strategic projects specialist with experience undertaking evaluation and research in place-based, community- and consumer-led contexts in the justice, community health and disaster recovery sectors. Yvette's experience is supported by tertiary degrees in evaluation, social research, public policy and communications, and professional development in community engagement and facilitation.

ANDREW COGHLAN

Head of Emergency Services, Australian Red Cross.

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Andrew brings over 20 years' experience in the emergency management sector. His current role is as Head of Emergency Services with Australian Red Cross, overseeing the national Emergency Services function, and ensuring Red Cross' ability to promote resilience and build community capacity, both in preparation for, and response to, disasters throughout Australia.

Andrew played a pivotal role in the establishment of both the Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience and Safer Communities, and the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience, and has also contributed to the development of the IFRC Global Resilience Strategy.

Prior to joining Red Cross, Andrew was the National Recovery Consultant with Emergency Management Australia, providing advice to both State and Federal governments following a range of emergencies, and playing a key role in coordinating recovery assistance to Australians impacted by events such as the Boxing Day 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

Andrew is Chair of the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum, is a Board member of Volunteering Victoria, a former Board member of Asia Australia Mental Health, and a former Vice-President of the International Research Committee on Disasters. He is an Honorary Fellow at the University of Melbourne, on the Editorial Committee of the Australian Journal of Emergency Management, and the Governance Committee of AIDR.

SUSAN DAVIE

Manager Community Connections, Victoria State Emergency Service.

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MICHAEL DONOGHUE

Disaster Recovery Manager, New Zealand Red Cross

Michael has worked in disaster Recovery and led teams serving people impacted by crisis and trauma since 2005. Michael is presently the national Disaster Recovery Manager at New Zealand Red Cross. Michael's work spans the Recovery from the Canterbury 2010/11 earthquakes, the November 2016 earthquake sequence and the Christchurch terror attacks, along with many other emergencies across New Zealand. Michael also leads the development and provision of the psychosocial support New Zealand Red Cross people provide to those impacted by disasters.

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JUSTINE DREW

Manager Regional Services, Rural Solutions SA, Department of Primary Industries and Regions.

Justine Drew is currently Manager, Regional Services in the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) based at Naracoorte, South Australia. Justine has a background in natural resource management, project development and delivery, disaster recovery and community engagement. Her passion for regional communities has driven her involvement in a range of emergency response and recovery activities including fire, flood, biosecurity outbreaks and drought. Justine has been a key contributor in developing the current agricultural recovery programs in PIRSA that are highly regarded at the State and National level. Justine has contributed to national initiatives such as presenting at the inaugural Australian Disaster Resilience Conference in 2018 and providing case studies for the ReCap project.

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DR COLIN GALLAGHER

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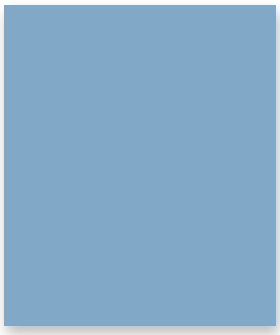

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CATHERINE GEARING

National Consultant Disaster Recovery, Social Recovery Reference Group

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As the National Consultant Disaster Recovery, Catherine supports the work of the Social Recovery Reference Group (SRRG), a subcommittee of the Australia and New Zealand Emergency Management Committee. The SRRG has a particular focus on the people, community and social setting of disaster recovery. Prior to this role she worked with the NSW Government in the Recovery and Resilience and Disaster Welfare Services teams, developing local recovery plans, community resilience networks and supporting disaster recovery operations. Before her work in NSW she was with the International Federation of Red Cross as a Disaster Management delegate in East Africa supporting operations in the Ethiopian drought, Burundi complex emergency and in Ugandan refugee camps. She also spent 5 years in the Philippines and was the Country Coordinator leading the Typhoon Haiyan recovery for Australian Red Cross. Before her deployment as delegate Catherine worked with the Australian Red Cross in the national Emergency Services team.

JOHN GILBERT

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MAREE GRENFELL

Co-manager City Resilience and Sustainable Futures, City of Melbourne.

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A strategic and creative change strategist, Maree brings a new mindset to old themes. She draws on an eclectic academic and professional background in urban design, ecology, sustainability and self-sufficiency, social psychology and disaster resilience to create and deliver transformational programs that shift mindsets and practice around inclusive communities and resilient environments.

Maree was Melbourne's Deputy Chief Resilience Officer for Resilient Melbourne (of the 100 Resilient Cities program), developing and implementing Melbourne's first resilience strategy and is now co-Manager of the City Resilience and Sustainable Futures team at the City of Melbourne. Her experience spans 15+ plus years, fostering collaboration and networks, developing teams, award winning policy frameworks and programs to drive cultural transformation for sustainability and climate change outcomes in the NGO and local government sectors – she also manages her own business where she mentors, supports and leads diverse projects. A natural connector of ideas and people, her work focuses primarily on complex multi-stakeholder initiatives and pioneering projects to build capability and collaborative capacity at a community, city and national level. She is driven by a vision of a community-centered future in which cities and human wellbeing are interdependent.

TIM HAMILTON

Senior Policy Officer | Policy and Programs, Emergency Management Branch, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

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Tim Hamilton is a Senior Policy Officer in the Emergency Management Branch at the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. His work involves leading and contributing to emergency management policy at a department and state government level, and supporting the department to deliver its relief and recovery coordination functions. Before arriving in emergency management Tim worked in several policy areas supporting Victorians' health and wellbeing, including mental health, child and family welfare, and community services quality and safeguards. He holds PhD in Sociology from La Trobe University and is an operational member of the Victorian State Emergency Service.

PROF LOUISE HARMS

Chair and Head, Department of Social Work, The University of Melbourne.
Deputy Head, School of Health Sciences , Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, The University of Melbourne.

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Professor Lou Harms is Chair and Head of the Department of Social Work, and Deputy Head of the School of Health Sciences, at the University of Melbourne. Her research interests are in the areas of trauma, health and disability, with a focus on resilience, posttraumatic growth and strengths-based approaches, at individual, family and community levels. Her methodological interests are primarily qualitative and mixed methods approaches.

DR COLIN HOAD

Manager, Emergency Management, Loddon Mallee Region, North Division, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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Dr Colin Hoad has previous experience in the British military, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, Academia, and the Victorian Public Service. With involvement in national and international disaster response, education is now a passion for Colin in how educational methods inform and support communities to manage impacts following emergency events. With a PhD in Experiential Education, how the complexities of emergencies play out, and what that means for the lived experience of communities are constant sources of engagement.

ALEX HOWARD

Director of Disaster and Public Health Emergencies, Phoenix Australia Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health.

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Alexandra has more than ten years' experience working in the field of posttraumatic mental health - as a clinical psychologist, educator and specialist in policy and service development. She has worked with disaster-impacted communities, emergency service and military personnel, and traumatic injury patients, as well the professionals who support them. Alexandra's particular interests lie in understanding and improving psychosocial outcomes for those impacted by disasters and public health emergencies, with a particular focus on marginalised populations. At Phoenix Australia, Alexandra has led a range of service development and training projects for a wide range of private, NGO and government stakeholders; her work focusses on translating evidence into practice, and disseminating best practice through policy and training frameworks that best suit the needs of each organisation. She has published in the field of posttraumatic mental health, and has presented her work at national and international conferences.

GREG IRETON

Enterprise Fellow – Disaster Recovery, Child & Community Wellbeing, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne.

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Greg has over 20 years' experience working with communities post-disaster in Australia following bushfires, floods, tornadoes and drought. He is the Enterprise Fellow, Disaster Recovery within the School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne.

KIRSTEN JENKINS

Manager | Health, Local Laws and Emergency management, Maroondah City Council.

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Kirsten had a significant role in Nillumbik Shire's response to the February 2009 bushfires that affected the municipality, both in recovery and public health areas. She has been to Haiti and Nepal following their earthquakes as a Community Health delegate with the Australian Red Cross. Since starting at Maroondah City Council in April 2016 she has been in the position of managing the Council's Emergency Management planning and recovery programs, more recently developing the Maroondah Covid Recovery Plan.

PROF DAVID JOHNSTON

Professor of Disaster Management and Director of the Joint Centre for Disaster Research, Massey University.

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David Johnston is the Professor of Disaster Management and Director of the Joint Centre for Disaster Research, in the School of Psychology at Massey University, Wellington, New Zealand. His research focuses on human responses to earthquake, tsunami, and weather warnings, crisis decision-making and the role of public education and participation in building community resilience and recovery.

DR CONNIE KELLETT

Connie Kellett (B.A (hons), BSW, PhD) is a social worker with 25 years practice experience, including in private practice, and a government executive with experience leading family violence, mental health and disaster response; as well as a researcher in disasters and family violence with the University of Melbourne. Connie's thesis research focused on anger following disasters and the intersection with service delivery.

ANNE LEADBEATER

Director, Leadbeater Group Pty Ltd.

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Anne is an independent national consultant specialising in disaster recovery and community resilience. Anne provides advice to government on recovery policy and has designed and delivered training for recovery practitioners in Australia and New Zealand. In 2018, she completed a review of the Community Recovery Handbook for the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience. Anne lives in Kinglake,Victoria and was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for her work in the aftermath of the 2009 'Black Saturday' bushfires.

DR CLAIRE LEPPOLD

Research Fellow, Child & Community Wellbeing Unit, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne.

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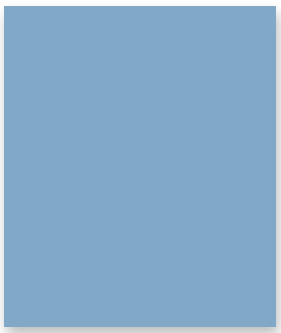
Claire Leppold is a Research Fellow in the Child and Community Wellbeing Unit within the Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global health, at the University of Melbourne. She previously worked for five years on recovery from the 3.11 disaster (earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster) in Fukushima, Japan, before moving to Australia. Her research focuses on the public health impacts of disasters and the social determinants of health, with a particular focus on what happens when people and communities are exposed to multiple disasters.

PROF COLIN MACDOUGALL

Principal Fellow (Honorary), Child & Community Wellbeing Unit, Centre for Health Equity, The Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne.



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ROBYN MOLYNEAUX

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Robyn Molyneaux is a Research Fellow with the Child and Community Wellbeing Unit at the University of Melbourne. Through her training and work as a psychologist she has a particular interest in mental health and contributing factors. Robyn has experience across a range of settings and projects, including the research of disaster related outcomes within bushfire affected populations as a part of the longitudinal Beyond Bushfires and 10 Years Beyond Bushfires projects, and in the mixed-methods evaluation of school-based interventions. She holds proficient quantitative research skills and has contributed to a number of reports, peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations.

SCOTIA MONKIVITCH

Executive Officer, Creative Recovery Network

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Scotia Monkivitch is the Executive Officer of the Creative Recovery Network. Creative Recovery Network is a national agency advocating for and supporting the role of culture and the arts in disaster management. The Creative Recovery Network's vision is for Australian communities to be self-determined in their preparedness, response and recovery from disasters, supported by community arts and cultural development practices. We believe culture and the arts are vital in this journey, opening doorways for a resilient and connected future.

DR MAUREEN MOONEY

Massey University
Red Cross Red Crescent Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support

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Doctor Maureen Mooney is a psychologist and researcher trained in New Zealand and France, with over 20 years' experience in humanitarian mental health and psychosocial programming and evaluation in contexts of conflict, epidemics, terrorism, and disasters. Her research and field work focuses on how individuals, families, and communities can cope effectively with adversity and how we can promote contexts where people thrive and adjust. Her current research and training, at the Joint Centre for Disaster Research at Massey University, focuses on mental wellbeing and psychosocial support in adverse situations including pandemics and climate change. This includes updating the psychosocial evidence base for application in the Aotearoa New Zealand COVID-19 context.

TAMMY MYLES

Executive Director, Community Recovery, Community Services, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy Queensland.

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communities.qld.gov.au

DR ELIZABETH NEWNHAM

Senior Research Fellow, School of Population Health, Curtin University.
Program Lead, Curtin enAble Institute.

FXB Fellow, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University.

Elizabeth Newnham is a Senior Research Fellow at Curtin University, a Program Lead in the Curtin enAble Institute, and an FXB Fellow at Harvard University. Her research interests include the mental health consequences of trauma and adversity, with a focus on communities affected by disasters, climate change, war, intergenerational trauma and colonization. Dr Newnham completed her Master of Clinical Psychology and PhD at The University of Western Australia, and undertook postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard University and the University of Oxford. She leads research projects in disaster mental health in Australia, China and Nepal, and is Director of the Asia Pacific Disaster Mental Health Network, supported by the World Health Organization.

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FYOWNA NORTON

A/Director Recovery and Regional Support, Emergency Management Victoria.

Fyowna Norton is an emergency management professional with over 20 years' experience in the public and private sector. Holding Bachelor degrees in Arts/Science, and Social Work, Fyowna has had a diverse career spanning child protection, mother baby mental health, economic development, workforce reform, and as Director of a successful private business in the fitness industry. Fyowna has co-authored journal papers, presented at national and international conferences, and is a national marketing award winner.
Currently Manager Recovery Operations at Emergency Management Victoria, Fyowna is responsible for delivering key projects, working with community and the sector to progress reform that delivers better relief and recovery outcomes for all Victorians.

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PROF MEAGHAN O'DONNELL

Head of Research, Phoenix Australia Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health. Professor, Department of Psychiatry, The University of Melbourne.

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Meaghan O'Donnell is the Head of Research at the Phoenix Australia, Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health, and Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne. She has published widely in the area of posttraumatic mental health. She is the Research Director of the Phoenix Australia Traumatic Research Clinic, which tests new and emerging treatments to promote recovery following trauma exposure. She is on a number of scientific advisory committees including the 2020 National Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey (Australian Bureau of Statistics) and Australian Veteran Health and Wellbeing Advisory Council (Department of Veterans' Affairs). She is Past President of the International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies and is a recipient of an Experienced Researcher Humboldt Fellowship. She is on the editorial board for the European Journal of Traumatic Stress Studies, and guest editor on a special COVID-19 edition of this journal.

PHOEBE QUINN

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Phoebe Quinn is a Research Fellow in Disaster Recovery at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health in the Child & Community Wellbeing Unit. She holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Melbourne. Phoebe's primary interests are in disaster recovery and resilience, community wellbeing and social equity. Her work involves close collaboration with government agencies, organisations and researchers to develop evidence-based guidance for policy and practice. This includes the development of the Recovery Capitals (ReCap) resources which support holistic, inclusive and strengths-based approaches to disaster recovery. She has a particular interest in diversity and social justice in disasters and recovery.

DANNY REY-CONDE

Senior Project Officer, Preparedness, Bushfire Recovery Victoria

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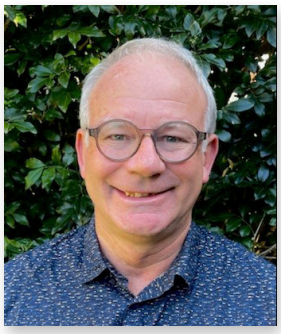
Danny has been working in the Recovery sector for five years across both Victoria and New Zealand. This has included on ground activities in a variety of Local and Regional recovery operations, as well as facilitating sector-wide Recovery Workshops across New Zealand to enhance recovery preparedness and operational capabilities. He has also supported the development and implementation of Victoria's first State-wide impact assessment program as well as leading the development of a State-wide Resilience Index project to collect and present baseline community information. He has spent 2 seasons as a frontline bushfire fighter across Victoria including both suppression and planned burnings operations.

JOHN RICHARDSON

National Resilience Adviser, Australian Red Cross



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John Richardson is the National Resilience Adviser for Australian Red Cross. He has 24 years of experience in preparedness, response and recovery in government and NGO settings, with individual, local, state, national and international levels. He led the development of Red Cross' unique preparedness program, Rediplan. He has also worked closely with disaster affected individuals and communities.

He is also an Honorary Fellow of the University of Melbourne on the health and wellbeing trajectories of the Black Saturday Bushfires. He is a member of the United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction's Global Risk Assessment Framework working groups.

John has a background in Geography and Nursing, with a strong interest in the human impacts of disaster, particularly death and bereavement.

DR STEVE RONOH

National Educational Performance Manager, New Zealand Red Cross, Rīpeka Whero Aotearoa

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Steve is the National Educational Performance Manager at New Zealand Red Cross' Education portfolio - which comprises First Aid and Psychosocial training. Steve is passionate about training that equips potentially vulnerable people with skills to enhance their capacities, save lives and create more resilient communities. He has over 25 years teaching, research and leadership experience that spans across three countries: Kenya, UK, and New Zealand.

Steve has worked with diverse communities, developed and taught programmes in health, wellbeing, and disaster risk reduction and emergency management in a number of tertiary institutions. Following the 2010/2011 Canterbury earthquakes that devasted the region, Steve actively worked and engaged vulnerable groups in Disaster Risk Reduction research while completing his PhD at the University of Auckland.

STEFANIE RUSSELL

A/Program Manager Community First, Bushfire Management, Country Fire Authority.

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Stefanie Russell is a community engagement specialist, with over 20 years' experience in the development, management and evaluation of community resilience initiatives within the emergency management sector. Stefanie is the Manager of the Community First program, a Victorian State government, multi-agency program of work, focussed on building partnerships and collaborative capacity to work with communities to build resilience for bushfire. Stefanie is the Chair of a successful State-wide Community Engagement Partnership Group that provides coordination for an integrated, sector-wide program of work in community-centred, place-based engagement, strengthening relationships and facilitating collaboration across the sector.

MALCOLM SANDERS

Acting Director of Partnerships, Regional Arts Victoria

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Malcolm is an arts manager with over 20 years' experience. He began work as a teacher in the western suburbs of Melbourne, as well as working as a director on a number of performances across Melbourne. In 1995 Malcolm obtained a Graduate Diploma of Arts and Entertainment Management from Deakin University and commenced work with Bharatam Dance Company as the General Manager. Since then he has been the Manager of Performing Arts programs for the Centre of Adult Education, General Manager of St Martins Youth Arts Centre, and General Manager of Courthouse ARTS in Geelong. Malcolm has worked for Regional Arts Victoria since 2013 as Creative Arts Facilitator for the Central Victorian region and since 2021 as the Senior Manager, Regional Partnerships. He also serves on the advisory committee for Deakin University's Arts and Cultural Management courses, on the Arts, Crafts and Cookery Committee of the Melbourne Royal Show, and on the board of the Lake Bolac Bush Nursing Centre.

BRONWEN SPARKES

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SHAWN STEVENSON

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DAVID SWEETING

Co-manager City Resilience and Sustainable Futures I Climate Change and City Resilience I City of Melbourne.

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David Sweeting is an is an urban development expert in areas of urban innovation, urban resilience, social entrepreneurship and participatory urban governance. He is Founder and Director of The Urban Platform Studio, an urban resilience, innovation and research consultancy which supports pathways for investment and assessment, design, and evaluation of social services, social infrastructure and service delivery platforms in cities across Asia-Pacific. He also co-manages the City Resilience and Sustainable Futures practice at the City of Melbourne. David is a former Senior Associate at NAB Foundation and Urban Technical Advisor and Innovation Lead for Save the Children Australia. He previously worked with World Vision International's Centre for Urban Programming, World Vision Australia, World Vision Pacific Development Group, RMIT Global Cities Program, Development Planning Unit, and Baan Mankong Housing Program. David holds qualifications in BEng, BA and MSc, and is an Institute Associate with the Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University.

BRIDGET TEHAN

Senior Policy Analyst – Emergency Management, Victorian Council of Social Service.

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Bridget Tehan has worked for more than 10 years in emergency management in both the government and not for profit sectors. Bridget currently works at the Victorian Council of Social Service to highlight the needs of people who may be vulnerable and disadvantaged in the context of emergencies and disasters. She also works to highlight the role of community and social service organisations in building resilience, as well as their roles before, during and after emergency events.

Bridget is also the co-founder and President of the Australasian Women in Emergencies Network.

SHARON TORSTONSON

Associate Director, Flourish Kia Puāwai

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Developed over 20 years of working in the non-profit sector as the Executive Officer/ Kaituiora of the Council of Social Services in Christchurch (COSS Christchurch, now Social Equity and Wellbeing Network), Sharon has an intimate understanding of the unique contribution that the sector makes to community wellbeing. After the Canterbury earthquakes she was deeply involved in supporting the sector in its own recovery and in its vital work contributing to community recovery. This experience led to Sharon developing extensive knowledge about how the non-profit sector can contribute to helping communities prepare for and respond to emergencies and social disruption.

Post-COSS, Sharon continues her involvement in the sector through a range of activities. She is secretary of the Waikuku Beach Volunteer Fire Brigade; an integral part of social enterprise Flourish Kia Puawai; and a member of the Representative User Group of the Deep South National Science Challenge, where she promotes community engagement on climate change issues through working with the non-profit sector.

PROF MEHMET ULUBASOGLU

Head, Department of Economics, Deakin University.
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