



Ararat Rural City

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK, BELLFIELD FIRE UPDATE

TUESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2024

THIS WEEKEND: POMONAL LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN EXPO



POMONAL LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN EXPO

The Pomonal Landscape and Garden Expo will be held this weekend, delivering a program of speakers along with the attendance of other community partners.

Slated to appear are Dominique Sparks from WA's Balancing Rock Farm; artist, ecologist and scientific communicator Elia Pirtle (Landcare); Community Safety Engagement Officer and Captain with the CFA, Nicole McGrath; renown local grower and member of the Australian Plant Society, Phil Williams; and Landscape Planner (currently designing the WAMA garden) Jill Burness, formerly of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Also attending will be the Grampians Community Health team and the Ararat Library outreach bus, while Jacque Ridler will be conducting kids activities and face-painting.

DATE: Saturday 31 August, 2024

TIME: 11am - 3pm

LOCATION: Pomonal Hall

POMONAL RELIEF HUB

Opening Hours

MONDAY: 9am - 4pm

WEDNESDAY: 9am - 4pm

SATURDAY: 10.30am - 1pm



POMONAL RECOVERY CENTRE HOURS UPDATE

Council Recovery Staff have resumed their regular hours at the Hall.

Monday: 9am - 4pm

Tuesday: 9am - 4pm

Wednesday: 9am - 4pm

Thursday: 9am - 6pm

Friday: CLOSED

Saturday: 9am - 1pm

Sunday: CLOSED

The Manager of Planning & Building, Rob Fillisch, has also resumed his regular hours:

Wednesday: 8:30am - 3pm

The Council recovery team are available via phone any time during business hours on 5355 0200.

EAST GRAMPIANS BUSINESS AWARDS OPEN FOR ENTRIES

Ararat Rural City businesses are invited to submit their applications for the 2024 East Grampians Business Awards.

Now in its seventh year, the EGBAs celebrate local business talent and recognise the role businesses play in supporting the community and boosting the region's economy.

Entries are now open for seven award categories, including three new additions: Trades and Construction, Professional Services, and Young Person of the Year.

All businesses located or operating in Ararat Rural City are eligible to apply, and businesses are welcome to enter more than one category. Applications close on **Sunday 15 September 2024**.

The winners will be announced at a prestigious gala held at Ararat Town Hall on Thursday 7 November 2024.

To apply or to find more about the award categories, entry guidelines and application process, please visit Council's website: <https://www.ararat.vic.gov.au/awards2024>





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POMONAL TRANSFER STATION

Pomonal Transfer Station has resumed normal operating hours, and fees and charges are still being waived for Pomonal residents until further notice.

Opening hours are:

Wednesdays: 1pm - 4pm

Saturdays: 1pm - 4pm

Scrap metal is now being taken at Pomonal Transfer Station, but is limited to a maximum of three cubic metres.

To dispose of larger amounts of scrap metal, please call Manhari Metals on (03) 5352 3866.

Cleanaway Stawell is no longer taking waste free of charge, and any waste arriving at the site must be via a commercial operator or truck.

These changes are in line with State Government guidance on Disaster Waste Disposal.

POMONAL NATIVE FLOWER SHOW RELEASES SPEAKER TIMETABLE

The 40th Anniversary Pomonal Native Flower Show, to be held across the weekend of **21 and 22 September**, has released its Speaker Timetable.

See below for details, and get more information on the Show by visiting <https://apsvic.org.au/event/pomonal-native-flower-show-2024>.

SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER	
10:30 am	NEIL MARRIOTT WAMA and plants endemic to the Grampians
12:00 pm	CLARENCE SLOCKEE How to grow bush foods in containers
2:00 pm	JULIE WEATHERHEAD Creating a Native Pantry: growing and cooking with Australian native foods
SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER	
10:30 am	NEIL MARRIOTT WAMA and plants endemic to the Grampians
12:00 pm	CLARENCE SLOCKEE My top 10 favourite edible native plants
2:00 pm	JULIE WEATHERHEAD Creating a Native Pantry: growing and cooking with Australian native foods

UPDATE FROM POMONAL DONATIONS GROUP

The newly-formed Pomonal Bushfire Recovery Donations Group are still seeking Pomonal residents' suggestions on the distribution of funds collected for bushfire recovery, with a deadline date of **31 August 2024**.

Residents can access the form online through the Facebook post on the Pomonal Community Connections page, or complete a hard copy form available from Pomonal Store.

Hard copy forms can be submitted by placing in the designated box at Pomonal Store, emailing to pomonalprogress@outlook.com, or posting to:

Pomonal Bushfire Recovery Donations Group,
Grampians Store Pomonal, 3408 Ararat-Halls Gap Rd,
Pomonal VIC 3381.

The group have also issued an update with FAQs which they have received from the community.

Please see the four-page Fact Sheet on the following page of this newsletter.

The Pomonal Relief Hub

Opens along with the **Pomonal Village Market**
Every last Sunday of the month from 9.00am to 1.00pm

Free items are available for Pomonal Residents

We warmly welcome donations from visitors. Your generous contributions will be used to purchase specific items needed for people affected by the bushfires.

For general enquiry call the Hub on M: 0403 183921








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The Pomonal Bushfires Recovery Donations

FAQ SHEET NO. 1



It is two weeks to go until the first opportunity for feedback closes. We have had a great response so far, and hopefully, the feedback continues to pour in.

The deadline for feedback is 31 August 2024

The topic has also been widely debated amongst some in the community, and we have had a few questions that would be good to add clarity on at this stage.

Please take your time to read all the Q&A that follow in the next pages.



FAQ SHEET NO. 1

How much is available?

There is approximately \$300,000 in the account, half of which was raised through the GoFundMe website and the other half received from organisations and individual.

Are the funds to be allocated to those who lost property alone?

The entire community was impacted by the fires, clearly some individuals much more than others.

Many of the donors have made it clear that they wish their funds to be allocated to projects that benefit the wider community and the GoFundMe page stated, "We are asking for donations to help our tight knit community get back on their feet".

Has any of the Donation money been spent yet?

No money has been spent & no decisions on the split or allocation of funding has been made. The committee has no preferences, nor personal interest and has the agreed to the underlying principles of community consultation, fairness, openness, ethical & lawful. Only after viewing the community's feedback will any decisions be made. So please fill in the questionnaire out on the 1st August, this is the first broad category questionnaire, there will be more.

About the tennis club resurface, was this using donation money?

No ARCC is funding this project, on their radar before the fires, and Pomonal Progress's own funds for the poles etc.

Have those who have lost property received any assistance?

Approximately \$50,000 (all accounted for on spreadsheets and distributed by an equity ratio in common use) in vouchers and donations specified for purchase of vouchers, distributed by the resilience group for the 24 homes impacted by the fires, including some to go to the people who lost houses.

As part of the Resilience Group effort, the Hub has been offering other forms of support and assistance for many Pomonal people, including the people who lost homes/ houses, such as clothing, bedding, furniture, equipment required.

Ararat Rural City (ARCC) & other government sources have contributed to property & roadside clean up, wellbeing services (Grampians Community Health) and more.

Note: some people who lost homes/houses have received money from family/ friends/groups they belong to – this is outside the donation money pool.

Has the committee any outside scrutiny?

Yes, we have registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria, as per the fund-raising legislation. Glen Holland, as the Pomonal Progress treasurer, is our registered "principal contact" for CAV for this effort.

Does the Donations Group represent Pomonal?

Given that we cannot represent everyone's experience of what has happened, all 360 of us, we do have a mix of people from within and outside the community, including fire impacted people on the Donations Group. But we are committed to community consultation and are happy to answer questions & receive input, please write your thoughts all over the questionnaire.

Is there any other way of raising more funds for Pomonal?

Both PPA & the Resilience Group are continually raising awareness about Pomonal to keep donations coming in. We have set up a Pomonal Grant Writing Group, that will look at any opportunities for funding. It can also help those wanting to write a grant, we can write, proofread, offer advice etc. By trying for grant funding for some things, it will allow the donation pool to stretch further.

