



Ararat Rural City

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK, BELLFIELD FIRE UPDATE

TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2024

CFA PUBLISHES VIDEO WITH POMONAL FIREFIGHTERS AHEAD OF BUSHFIRE SEASON

Following last week's prediction from the Australian Fire and Emergency Service Council (AFAC) that the upcoming bushfire season is likely to begin early in Victoria's far west (including the Wimmera, Grampians National Park and the Mallee), the CFA have released a video about Pomonal volunteer firefighters' experiences during the February 2024 fires.

The video features Captain Steve Field (pictured right) and Deputy Group Officer and Pomonal Lt, Matt Venn, reflecting on their memories of February 13.



Venn stressed the importance of having a plan in the event of Catastrophic fire danger.

"If you think you can stay and save your house, you're just gambling," he says. "Even if you've got sprinklers, even if you've got good hoses, and fire pumps, and everything that you think you [need] to stay, you are still going to be rolling the dice."

In conjunction AFAC's announcement, Country Fire Authority Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said: "CFA crews across the state are prepared to protect their communities once again.

"Our brigades are continuously working very closely with their communities and our interagency partners to prepare for the high-risk weather season."

To watch, visit youtube.com/@cfavic/videos.

POMONAL RELIEF HUB

Opening Hours

MONDAY: 9am - 4pm

WEDNESDAY: 9am - 4pm

SATURDAY: 10.30am - 1pm



POMONAL RECOVERY CENTRE HOURS UPDATE

The Council Recovery Centre at Pomonal Hall will be **closed on Thursday 26 September 2024** and will **reopen on Tuesday 1 October 2024**. From this date, the Recovery team will resume their usual hours:

Monday: 9am - 4pm
Tuesday: 9am - 4pm
Wednesday: 9am - 4pm
Thursday: 9am - 6pm
Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 9am - 1pm
Sunday: CLOSED

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

SIGN UP TO THE OFFICIAL ARCC E-NEWSLETTER!

Sign up to Council's official e-newsletter and receive updates about our community, including infrastructure updates, upcoming events, and the latest Council news stories. Visit engage.ararat.vic.gov.au to sign up.

EMERGENCY SPORTING EQUIPMENT GRANT OPEN

Sport and Recreation Victoria has announced its Emergency Sporting Equipment pool of funding, which grants eligible clubs up to \$1,000 each. It's designed to help grassroots organisations replace or repair essential sport or first aid equipment that has been lost or destroyed because of unpreventable incidents, including bushfire and flood.

Affected organisations are encourage to apply at <https://sport.vic.gov.au/funding/emergency-sporting-equipment-grant-program>.

Applications close on 31 May 2025, or when the funding is exhausted.





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DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR EAST GRAMPIANS BUSINESS AWARDS

The submission date for local business wishing to apply for the 2024 East Grampians Business Awards has been extended by one week, to **Sunday 22 September 2024**.

Entries are 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.

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>

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.

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 GEARS UP FOR 40TH CELEBRATIONS

With a special feature display of edible Australian natives, some very special guests, expert advice, and an array of market stalls, refreshments, and plant and book sales, the Pomonal Native Flower Show is the region's biggest gardening event of the year.

The Show, an annual celebration organised by the Australian Plant Society Grampians Group (APS GG), is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2024.

A speaker timetable has already been released, and sees Bundjalung Nation (NSW north coast) educator, musician, dancer and presenter on ABC's *Gardening Australia*

Clarence Slockee (pictured left) giving the keynote address on how to grow bush foods in a simple container system, as well as revealing his top 10 edible native plants. Attendees will also see conservationist and horticulturalist Neil Marriott speaking on WAMA and plants endemic to the Grampians



area, and Julie Weatherhead of Peppermint Ridge Farm and the Australian Plant Society giving an explainer on methods of cooking Australian native foods.

Pomonal Market will hold a two-day trade on the oval, running concurrently with the Show. Market Convenor Alison Bainbridge says the group are extended invitations to stallholders whose wares focus on 'bush foods' or anything related to Australian plants, one of which will be well-known local Phil Vaughan's native nursery and Karingal native nursery.

DATE: Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 Sep, 2024

TIME: 9am - 4pm daily

LOCATION: Pomonal Hall, 3360 Ararat-Halls Gap Rd, Pomonal Vic 3381

