



Ararat Rural City

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK, BELLFIELD FIRE UPDATE

TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2024

### APPROVED RISK ASSESSMENT CONSULTANTS CONFIRMED

Council have assembled a list of consultants to serve as an easily-accessed resource for Pomonal residents seeking fire risk assessment to assist in rebuilding homes.

The process is designed to flow as follows.

Residents are to contact a consultant/s from the list, and once they have decided which consultant's offered timeframe for reporting suits them, are to notify Council's Recovery Officer, John Matthews, advising of their preferred consultant.

The Recovery Officer will arrange a purchase order and email the consultant, confirming their appointment. The resident will be copied into this email. (If resident does not have email, Recovery Officer will contact resident directly.)

After this email is sent, the resident must contact the consultant to arrange a time for site inspection. The consultant will attend the property, complete their report and provide it to the resident. The consultant will also provide a copy of the report to Council, along with an invoice, which Council can then approve and remit.

A full list of the six participating consultants along with all contact details is available on Council's website:

<https://www.ararat.vic.gov.au/fire-recovery-february-fires>



### JOIN THE OFFICIAL ARCC E-NEWSLETTER

Sign up to Council's official e-newsletter to receive important info about our community, including infrastructure updates, upcoming events, and the latest Council news stories.

Head to [engageararat.vic.gov.au](https://www.engageararat.vic.gov.au) to sign up.

### 'FIRE READY' PACKS AVAILABLE NOW

As part of their Community Safety & Engagement program, the Pomonal CFA Brigade has a number of 'Fire Ready' packages available at the Pomonal Community Hall.

The packages contain: *Your Guide to Survival* and *Your Guide to Property Preparation* booklets, *Leaving Early - Bushfire Survival Planning Template*, and a Property Assessment Form for you to read and use.

Further information and guidance on these matters can be obtained by calling the Brigade Community & Safety Engagement Officer, Andrew Cross, on 0409 432 155; or the Brigade Captain, Steve Field, on 0419 689 422.

A big reminder from the Brigade: Any large fire heaps that have been burnt, retaining heat and embers, are now to be fully extinguished. The Ararat municipality's Fire Danger Period (FDP) began on Monday 18 Nov, and fire restrictions will be in place until the cessation of the FDP on Thursday 1 May 2025.



### MANAGER OF PLANNING & BUILDING HOURS

Council's Manager of Planning and Building, Rob Fillisch, is working new hours at Pomonal Recovery

Centre:

**Wednesdays**

**8.30am – 12 noon**

Remember, you can also call Council's Customer Service team on 5355 0200 for assistance.





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### DRA TO VISIT POMONAL

Over the next couple of weeks, the Pomonal community may receive another visit by Disaster Relief Australia (DRA), (the folk in blue who are assisting some properties which need a little more assistance with fire affected vegetation and removal of scrap fencing wire). It's anticipated the workers will be based out of Pomonal Hall.

The DRA has approximately one week's worth of work lined up, and as volunteers, their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Council's Pomonal Recovery Centre will be closed on:

**Wednesday 20 November 2024**

and will re-open on:

**Thursday 21 November 2024**

For assistance from our Recovery staff, please call Customer Service on 5355 0200.

### 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.

### EMERGENCY PREP INFO SESSIONS UNDERWAY

With support from Emergency Recovery Victoria, Ararat Rural City Council is hosting five information sessions across November to improve community preparedness and resilience before, during and after disasters. The sessions will be facilitated by Mat Deans and Sue Rondeau (right), Directors of award-winning emergency management specialist organisation The Six C's.

The aim of the sessions is to create robust and effective Community Emergency Management Plans which meet the unique needs of each community; as such, **a separate information session is planned for Pomonal in early 2025**, however Pomonal residents are encouraged to attend any of the November 2024 sessions in neighbouring townships.

Please find details of the remaining 2024 sessions below, and scan the QR code to register (for catering purposes).



#### STREATHAM

Thurs 21 Nov @ Streatham Memorial Hall, 6pm - 9pm

#### MOYSTON

Fri 22 Nov @ Moyston Recreation Reserve, 6pm - 9pm

#### WICKLIFFE

Mon 25 Nov @ Wickliffe Recreation Reserve, 6pm - 9pm

#### LAKE BOLAC

Wed 27 Nov @ Lake Bolac Golf Club, 6pm - 9pm

### POMONAL RECOVERY CENTRE HOURS

Mon - Wed: 9am - 4pm

Thurs: 9am - 6pm

Friday + Sunday: CLOSED

Saturday: 9am - 1pm

During Recovery Centre Hours the Recovery Officer John Matthews is available on 0447 854 589.

