



Ararat Rural City

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK, BELLFIELD FIRE UPDATE

TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2024

COMMUNITY INFO SESSIONS AT WILLAURA & MOYSTON

Local community members are invited to drop in to chat with Incident Controller Mark Gunning (Horsham Incident Control Centre) about the current Grampians National Park fire situation.

Local CFA staff will be available to provide the latest information on your personal fire plan.

Community members can also find out more about the different tools available to help keep up to date with current fire information.

See the bulletin below.

Community Information Sessions

Thursday 19 December 2024
Time: 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Willaura Supermarket
36 Main Street, Willaura

Thursday 19 December
Time: 4:30 pm - 6:00pm

Moyston General Store
1369 Ararat- Halls Gap Road, Moyston



HOW COUNCIL'S BUSHFIRE CONSULTANT INITIATIVE BENEFITS POMONAL RESIDENTS

After receiving some questions from the community, Council wish to provide more information on why and how the bushfire consultant initiative - for which Council was granted funds by the Victorian Government - was pursued.

When residents wish to rebuild on land which is covered by a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO; delineated by the Victorian Government), a planning permit is required to ensure bushfire risk is considered and bushfire protection measures are in place. As part of this process, residents must provide a report that includes a Bushfire Management Statement (BMS). This document is then sent to CFA for review and approval.

Given each resident wanting to rebuild requires a BMS, Council applied for funding to assist with the creation of these documents so that there was one less cost associated with rebuilding. By requesting quotes, this allowed the cost of the consultants to be reduced.

A request for quotes was publicly advertised, and the process of application required the consultants to detail their qualifications.

Of the final list of consultants assembled by Council, some have previously worked in the CFA in various roles. Others have completed specific courses on how to create Bushfire Management Statements including configuring the final Bushfire Attack Level.

The consultants will be assessing a resident's individual land, and how building and vegetation on that piece of land can be managed. The consultants do give consideration to the surrounding land as a risk, but note that an individual landowner does not have control of that land.

There are six highly qualified bushfire risk assessment consultants to choose from.

Visit the Fire Recovery section of Council's website for all the details: <https://www.ararat.vic.gov.au/fire-recovery-february-fires>

CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY HOURS FOR POMONAL RECOVERY CENTRE

Council's Pomonal Recovery Centre will be **CLOSED**

from:

**Thursday 19 December
until
Monday 30 December**

For assistance during this time, please contact Council's Customer Service team on 5355 0200.





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THE SIX C'S EMERGENCY PREP SESSIONS COMING TO POMONAL IN 2025

Five free Emergency Recovery information sessions were held across the community last month in Streatham, Moyston, Willaura, Wickliffe and Lake Bolac. Funded via Council's partnership with Emergency Recovery Victoria and hosted by Emergency Management specialists The Six C's, many session attendees are enthusiastic to return for workshops to develop Community Emergency Management Plans in the new year.

Facilitators Mat and Sue focused on relevant local knowledge to deliver tailored approaches to suit each community in its preparation for fires, floods and storms.

The Information Sessions were scheduled to give residents practical and specific information, improving community preparedness and resilience before, during and after disasters. Mat and Sue covered topics such as how to interpret official warnings and advice, identifying local disaster risks, and psychological preparedness.

The Six C's, Council and Pomonal Resilience Group are currently scheduling the delivery of Pomonal-specific workshops in March 2025, which will facilitate the creation of Community Emergency Management Plans.

MEMORIAL GARDEN STAIRS AT TUNNEL TRACK LOOP TO RECEIVE UPGRADE

The Pomonal Tunnel Track Loop Walk upgrade is nearing completion, with picnic tables and benches now being installed.

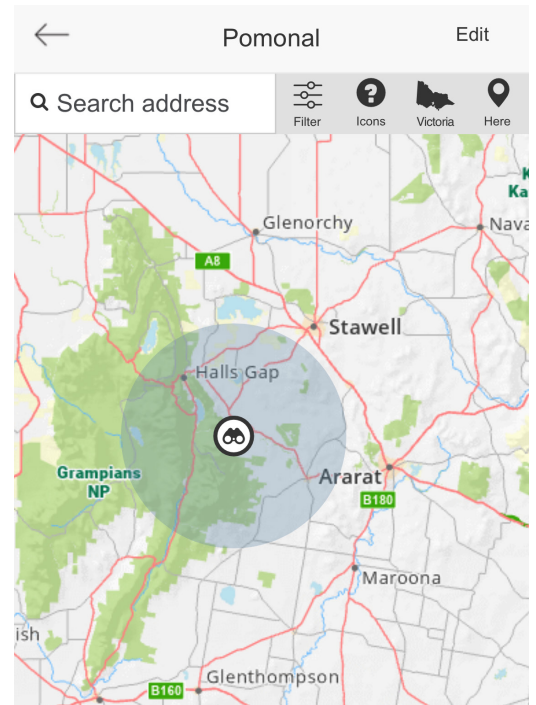
In addition to the upgrades to the Tunnel Track Loop, the stairs at the corner of Ararat-Halls Gap Road and Robins Road – which assist visitors to Jane's Memorial Garden – will undergo an upgrade, greatly improving their safety. The works are to be completed by local company Shea Earthmoving and are tentatively scheduled for early December subject to traffic permit processing from VicRoads (Department of Transport and Planning).

HAVE YOU SET UP YOUR WATCH ZONE?

Downloading the VicEmergency app and setting up your Watch Zone is one of the fastest ways to make sure you receive official emergency warnings, advice and updates this fire season.

The app allows you to designate a Watch Zone - or multiple Zones, such as one for home and one for work - and will send you alerts for any incidents or warnings within that area.

If you need help downloading the app or getting your Watch Zone set up, visit John Matthews at the Pomonal Recovery Centre and he'll gladly assist.



MANAGER OF PLANNING & BUILDING AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

From 1 January 2025, Council's Manager of Planning and Building, Rob Fillisch, will be available to Pomonal residents by appointment. Call Council's Customer Service team on 5355 0200 for assistance in making an appointment.

