



Ararat Rural City

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

POMONAL & YARRAM GAP FIRE UPDATE

FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 2025

POMONAL CFA RECEIVES WANNON VOLUNTEER AWARD

At a community BBQ held at the Pomonal CFA shed last week, Pomonal Rural Fire Brigade CFA volunteers were awarded the 2024 Wannon Volunteer Award in recognition of their service to the community during recent bushfires.

The award was presented by Opposition Leader, Peter Dutton MP, whilst visiting fire affected communities in the Grampians region. Also amongst the attendees was Federal Member for Wannon, Dan Tehan MP, Federal Member for Mallee, Anne Webster MP, Ararat Rural City Council Mayor, Cr Jo Armstrong, and Deputy Mayor, Cr Bob Sanders.

Brigade Captain Steve Field accepted the award on behalf of the Pomonal Fire Brigade. He acknowledged the invaluable contributions of all brigade members and extended his appreciation to neighbouring brigades for their continued support.



ESSENTIAL WATER REPLACEMENT

Landholders whose water supply has been affected by CFA/FFM use are encouraged to fill out an Essential Water Replacement form and submit to DEECA's Emergency Recovery team. A copy of the form is attached to this newsletter, and details of how to submit are included in the document.

EMERGENCY RELIEF PAYMENTS AVAILABLE

Emergency relief payments are available for eligible community members whose homes were in an evacuation area, and they evacuated, or whose homes can't be lived in as they have been damaged by the bushfires in the Grampians National Park.

Emergency relief payments are designed to provide immediate financial help for eligible Victorians experiencing financial hardship due to the bushfires. An emergency relief payment can help you to pay for things you need most, including, food, clothing, medication and accommodation.

To apply, call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226 (press 9 for an interpreter). You will be transferred to a Relief Payment Officer who can assist you with your application. For more information on emergency relief payments or other relief services, you can call VicEmergency on 1800 226 226, or visit the VicEmergency website: www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief.

BLAZE AID BASE CAMP SETUP IN WILLAURA

Volunteer-based organisation BlazeAid has a basecamp setup at the Willaura Recreation Reserve (Delacombe Way, Willaura).

Their crews can assist rural property owners with clearing debris and rebuilding fences and other structures damaged or destroyed by recent bushfire events.

Community members whose fencing has been impacted by the bushfire events are encouraged to register their interest in BlazeAid assistance by calling Council's Community Recovery Helpline on (03) 5355 0980.

COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY RECOVERY HELPLINE

Council's Community Recovery Helpline is available on **(03) 5355 0980** for all your queries on disaster relief and recovery. The line operates from 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week.



STAY INFORMED: Visit ararat.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery and follow us on social media:





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RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) offers a free and independent service to farmers in south west Victoria experiencing the impacts of drought and bushfires.

The RFCS Victoria West has wellbeing counsellors who work hand in hand with financial counsellors to ensure the mental health and wellbeing of clients receive as much attention as their financial position.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty or mental stress associated with managing farm finances in tough times give them a call.

To speak to an RFCS Vic West counsellor today call 1300 735 578, or visit wswrcs.com.au.

NEED FOR FEED & FODDER ASSISTANCE

Need for Feed Australia are delivering hay to the Grampians fire area for fire affected landholders, as well as accepting donations of hay, non perishable household goods, dog food and other types of animal feed.

If you need fodder assistance for livestock and/or other animals, or you would like to make a donation, please contact Council's Community Recovery Helpline on (03) 5355 0980.

BEING AWARE OF DISASTER RECOVERY SCAMS

In the aftermath of any disaster, some individuals or organisations posing as charities, donation collections or assistance services may not be legitimate.

Always verify the legitimacy of any organisation seeking donations or offering assistance. You can do this by checking reputable sources such as the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) website or by contacting Council for advice.



2025 EMERGENCY PREP WORKSHOPS

Ararat Rural City Council with support from Emergency Recovery Victoria are hosting a series of Community Emergency Management Planning Workshops, hosted by The Six C's

The workshops are designed to develop tailored strategies to address unique local vulnerabilities, enhance local capacity and capabilities to manage emergencies, identify community strengths and assets, and strengthen a community's preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities for disasters. They also serve as a pathway to secure essential funding and resources.

The workshops will be held at:

- Moyston Recreation Reserve on Tue 4 Feb, 6pm - 9pm.
- Wickliffe Recreation Reserve on Mon 10 Feb, 6pm - 9pm.
- Willaura Memorial Hall on Wed 19 Feb, 6pm - 9pm.
- Streatham Memorial Hall on Thur 6 Mar, 6pm - 9pm.
- Lake Bolac Golf Club on Fri 14 Mar, 6pm - 9pm.

To find out more and to register, please call our Community Recovery Helpline on (03) 5355 0980, or register via the QR code below.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING WORKSHOPS

FREE DINNER

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Mat Deans + Sue Rondeau



Released: 24 December 2024

Trauma counselling, general counselling and mental health services available

The following services are available for anyone affected by the recent fires across the north and south-west of Victoria, or if you have other community concerns. Please contact the services listed if you are seeking mental health support or would like someone to talk to:

Local services: Great South Coast

headspace Warrnambool

Ph: 1300 276 749

Email: hswarrnambool@brophy.org.au

Link to online referral for young person or carer for young person under 16yrs [Self-Referral - Under 16 Years \(jotform.com\)](#)

Link to online referral for young person over 16yrs [Self-Referral - Over 16 Years \(jotform.com\)](#)

Link to online referral for health professional [Professional's Referral \(jotform.com\)](#)

Online chat support [Connect with a mental health clinician 1-on-1 | headspace](#)

headspace Portland

148-150 Percy Street, Portland

Ph: (03) 5522 1484

Email: HPortland@brophy.org.au

Opening hours: Tues-Thu 9am-5pm

Referrals: [Young Person under 16 Years](#)
[Young Person over 16 Years](#)
[Professional referral](#)

Please Note: Due to some Christmas closures you can speak to someone 1on1 via online chat, email or over the phone at eheadspace.org.au and 1800 650 890

Psychosocial Support Services (non-clinical mental health support)

Delivered by Wellways Australia

Ph: 03 4333 0251

Email: servicenavwestvic@wellways.org

Website: <https://www.wellways.org/our-services/well-connected/>

Step Thru Care Great South Coast

Website: [Step Thru Care - Great South Coast, Victoria | Mind Australia](#)

Self-referrals - Mind Australia: 1300 286 463

GP referrals – Mind Australia:

rcpgsc@mindaustralia.org.au

Email: mindconnect@mindaustralia.org.au

South West Healthcare Mental Health and Well-being Services: 1800 808 284

Website: [Mental Health | South West Healthcare](#)

Wellways Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs – Great South Coast region

Warrnambool: 505 Raglan Parade, Warrnambool

Staff are also available to provide support at the **Portland** and **Hamilton** sites.

- Outreach services are also offered.
- Monday - Friday 9-3pm
- Ph: 1300 375 330

Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative: Ph 5564 3344

Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation: Ph 5227 0084

Dhauwurd-Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Service: Ph 1300 202 664

Kirrae Health Service Inc: Ph (03) 55 671270

Local Services: Wimmera Grampians

Grampians Area Mental Health Service, Access and Triage Team: Ph 1300 247 647

[Mental Health Services - Ballarat Health Service](#)

Horsham Mental Health and Well being Hub

185 Baille Street Ph: 1300 375 330

Offering outreach and in person support and open Mon – Fri 9am – 3pm. Free and available to Victorians of all ages.

headspace Horsham

77 Hamilton Street, Horsham Ph: (03) 5381 1543

Email: info.headspacehorsham@vt.uniting.org

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 9am-6pm, Fri 9am-5pm

Referrals:

<https://headspace.org.au/assets/Uploads/Centres/Horsham/Enquiry-form-Nov2024.docx>

Please note: Due to some Christmas closures you can speak to someone 1on1 via online chat, email or over the phone at eheadspace.org.au or 1800 650 890

Uniting Wimmera Grampians Mental Health Service (Step Thru Care) Ph: 5362 4000

Released: 24 December 2024

Trauma counselling, general counselling and mental health services available

The following services are available for anyone affected by the recent fires across the north and south-west of Victoria, or if you have other community concerns. Please contact the services listed if you are seeking mental health support or would like someone to talk to:

Local Services: Wimmera Grampians *continued*

Grampians Community Health Intake and Mental Health Hub

Ph: 5358 7400 (*Please Note: due to some staff being evacuated, non-clinical mental health—psychosocial support services are available*)

Budja Budja Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre

Ph: 5356 4751 (Halls Gap) or 5352 6700 (Ararat)

Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative (Horsham) Ph: 5381 6301

Region and statewide services

Suicide Call Back Service Ph: 1300 659 467

Lifeline Ph: 13 11 14

13YARN (First Nations Support) Phone: 13 92 76

Beyond Blue Ph: 1300 224 636

Head to Health National Ph: 1800 595 212

Rural Financial Counselling Ph: 1300 735 578

Partners In Wellbeing helpline (statewide)

Free telephone mental health support available to all Victorians 16 years and above.
Ph: 1300 375 330 for telephone support (9am-8pm, Monday to Friday; 9am-5pm, Saturday)

Local Services: Ballarat Goldfields

Head to Health Ballarat, Step Thru Care, Psychosocial support services delivered through Ballarat Community Health:

Ph: 03 5338 4500 (BCH customer service)

Email: mentalhealthintake@bchc.org.au

Ballarat Mental Health and Well being Hub

105 Dana Street Ph: 1300 375 330

Offering outreach and in person support and open Mon – Fri 9am – 3pm. Free and available to Victorians of all ages.

headspace Ballarat (for people aged 12 to 25 years) 28 Camp St Ballarat

Ph: 5304 4777

info@headspaceballarat.org.au

Please Note: Due to some Christmas closures you can speak to someone 1on1 via online chat, email or over the phone at eheadspace.org.au and 1800 650 890

The Orange Door Ballarat

Ph: 1800 219 819

Uniting Ballarat Mental Health Service

Ph: 5332 1286

Not all local services may be open during the Christmas and New Year public holidays.

If you need urgent mental health support during this time,

contact Grampians Health on

Ph: 1300 247 647 or

South West Healthcare Mental Health and Wellbeing Services on Ph: 1800 808 284



Essential Water replacement request / authorisation form

LANDHOLDER TO COMPLETE					
Name	Click here to enter text.				
Address	Click here to enter text.				
Phone Number	Click here to enter text.				
Email	Click here to enter text.				
Fire Name (if known)	Click here to enter text.				
Municipality	Choose an item.				
Details of Water Required				Date	Click here to enter a date.
Location of water source	Dam or Tank	Quantity of water required	Units of water (litres or gallons)	Date/s water taken for firefighting	
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item.	Click here to enter text.	Choose an item.	Click here to enter a date.	
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item.	Click here to enter text.	Choose an item.	Click here to enter a date.	
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item.	Click here to enter text.	Choose an item.	Click here to enter a date.	
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item.	Click here to enter text.	Choose an item.	Click here to enter a date.	

Submit this form to emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au

NOTE: It is a fraudulent activity to submit a false essential water replacement claim

DEECA/CFA USE ONLY				
Criteria		Confirmed by/Role/Agency		Date
Water used for firefighting?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Click here to enter text.		Click here to enter a date.
Water essential?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
Units of water confirmed?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
MUNICIPALITY USE ONLY				
Date request submitted	Click here to enter text.			
Name of water supplier	Click here to enter text.			
Name of water carter	Click here to enter text.			
Date of delivery	Click here to enter text.			
Landholder advised? Y / N	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
Volume of water delivered	Click here to enter text.			
Water delivery confirmed	Name	Signature	Date	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Click here to enter text.		Click here to enter a date.	

Send water carter invoice to emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au