

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

POMONAL & YARRAM GAP FIRE UPDATE

FRIDAY 14 MARCH 2025

STATE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES SMALL BUSINESS + PRIMARY PRODUCER SUPPORT

In an assistance package designed to support immediate and long-term recovery from the Grampians - Yarram Gap Road bushfire event, the State Government has announced that Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) will deliver more than \$24 million in essential support to Western Victoria businesses affected by the December 2024 bushfires.

The measures will include a dedicated Business Bushfire Recovery Grant program (a \$5,000 payment to eligible businesses and primary producers), a Business Recovery Advisory service providing free business support for impacted businesses, and tourism marketing and promotional activities to boost visitor numbers to the region.

More information including program guidelines and how to apply will be available on the Business Victoria website soon.

Businesses can sign up now to register their interest and receive updates at: business.vic.gov.au/2024-25-western-victoria-bushfire-supports

Ararat Rural City Council Mayor, Cr Jo Armstrong, commented on the package: "We very much welcome this announcement from the State Government, which acknowledges the colossal impact the most recent fires have had on our business community as a whole but particularly on our primary producers, whose indispensable operations do not fall under the 'tourism' category."

Register your interest in small business or primary producer support at:
business.vic.gov.au/2024-25-western-victoria-bushfire-supports

STABILISATION WORKS NOW IN PROGRESS

With the Grampians bushfires now contained, stabilisation efforts, including removing grader lines, are now underway.

We encourage community members to contact Council on (03) 5355 0200 with any questions or concerns.

CFA ISSUES BURN-OFF REMINDER

The CFA are urging residents in the region to remember burn-off rules during the Fire Danger Period (FDP), which extends until 1 May 2025.

As the FDP is still in force, burn-offs conducted without a permit are strictly prohibited, and those who burn off without a permit may be prosecuted.

For information on permits and burning off safely, visit: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/burnoff





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WILLAURA + MOYSTON PREPARE FOR THE TOWN CRIERS VISIT

Acclaimed comedy podcasters Damian Callinan and Kirsten Diprose will visit Willaura and Moyston to record a live episode of their show *The Town Criers*, at a free event which will include a fundraising raffle for BlazeAid.

The Town Criers focuses on the unique stories of rural Australian towns, giving a fresh perspective on our smaller communities.

DATE: Tuesday 18 March 2025

TIME: 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start

LOCATION: Willaura Hall

RSVP: Willaura Bakery or Moyston Store; BYO drinks + snacks.



EMERGENCY RELIEF PAYMENT APPLICATIONS NOW CLOSED

Community members are advised that the window for submitting an Emergency Relief Payment application is now closed.

For more information on the State Government's newly-announced support package, please see page one of this newsletter.

FOLLOW-UP COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOPS

The follow-up Community Emergency Planning Workshops for Wickliffe and Moyston, coordinated by Council with support for Emergency Management Victoria and facilitated by The Six C's, have been scheduled for this month.

The workshops are designed to develop tailored strategies to address unique local vulnerabilities in our townships' emergency preparedness, response and recovery capabilities.

Scan the QR code to register, or for more information, call Council's Customer Service team on (03) 5355 0200.



DISASTER RECOVERY SCAM AWARENESS



Always verify the legitimacy of any organisation seeking donations or offering assistance during disaster recovery. For assistance, contact Council's Customer Service team on **(03) 5355 0200**.

WICKLIFFE WORKSHOP

DATE: Monday 24 March 2025

TIME: 6.00pm - 9.00pm

LOCATION: Wickliffe Recreation Reserve

MOYSTON WORKSHOP

DATE: Thursday 27 March 2025

TIME: 6.00pm - 9.00pm

STAY INFORMED: Visit [ararat.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery](https://www.ararat.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery) and follow us on social media:

