



Ararat Rural City

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK, BELLFIELD FIRE UPDATE

TUESDAY, 21ST MAY 2024

UNTOLD STORIES OF GENEROSITY EMERGE

Interviewed for *The Stawell Times-News* last week, Pomonal Community Resilience Group volunteer John Matthews has swung the spotlight onto the generosity of a specific group of strangers in the days immediately following the Pomonal bushfires.

"This group of farmers heard about the fire's impact on Pomonal, and quickly realised that there may be a need for hay and fodder for livestock in the area," said Matthews, referring to quick-thinking and kind-natured souls from the Sea Lake and Berriwillock districts.

Through a series of conversations which quickly unfolded between Matthews, Col and Susie Macaffer, and farmers Mike McMurtrie and Jill Miller, a B-Double truck loaded with 58 large bales of oats, wheat, barley and vetch hay arrived in Pomonal in early March.

But the kindness of strangers didn't end there. A second truck - filled with 59 precious bales - soon arrived in Dadswell Bridge, after Pomonal volunteers realised they had more than they needed at that time.

Residents who had lost fences, pasture and feed to the fires were incredibly grateful for this unexpected gift, with Matthews leading the call of heartfelt thanks for the farmers' "strong sense of mateship" and willingness to help strangers who were, he attested, "just a mate they haven't met yet."

The article is available to view on *The Stawell Times-News* website under the headline "Truckloads of mateship for Pomonal farmers from strangers", and in the hard copy edition of last Friday's newspaper.



MANAGER OF PLANNING & BUILDING UPDATE

Ararat Rural City Council's Manager of Development and Regulation, Rob Fillisch, will be away until Wednesday 12 June 2024. After and including this date he will be attending Pomonal Hall every week:

Wednesdays: 8.30am – 4pm

Alternatively, please call Council's Customer Service line to receive assistance on 5355 0200.

POMONAL COMMUNITY RELIEF HUB HOURS UPDATE

Monday: 9am - 4pm
Tuesday: CLOSED
Wednesday: 9am - 4pm
Thursday: 1pm - 6pm
Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 10.30am - 1pm
Sunday: CLOSED



Pomonal Hub Donations

The Pomonal Hub would like to THANK YOU for all your donations.
We appreciate the kindness that comes from everywhere.

However:

We want to inform you that, at the moment, we are at capacity for specific items, But we still need some other items.

Before you drop items in, please call our Hub on 0403 183921 to make sure the items you have are what's needed.

Items in need, for example:

Men's workwear sizes 32 and 36, Work gloves,
Pillow protectors, toaster...please call the Hub.

POMONAL TRANSFER STATION

Pomonal Transfer Station has resumed its regular hours of operation, as of 13 May 2024.

Wednesday: 2pm - 5pm
Saturday: 1pm - 4pm

The Station can no longer receive building materials or scrap metal due to asbestos contamination. Waste must instead be taken directly to Cleanaway Stawell at 492 Pomonal Road, Stawell. The facility is open weekdays 7:30am - 3pm.

All waste accepted by Cleanaway also has no charge, as long as the owner or contractor has ID for Pomonal or has completed the declaration form included at the end of this newsletter.



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AGVIC TO HOLD FREE STOCK FEED WORKSHOP

AgVic will be holding a three-hour workshop on May 29, presented by Jess Revell. Jess is the Principal Nutritionist and Animal Production Consultant at Rumenate Livestock Services, and has extensive experience providing advice on animal nutrition, reducing metabolic disease, seasonal management and more.

Jess's course will focus on livestock feeding requirements and feeding after fire for pasture recovery. Lunch will be provided to all attendees.

To save your place, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/CRHHO> - and for more info, email Rachel Coombes at Agriculture Victoria: Rachel.coombes@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

DATE: 29 May 2024

TIME: 9.30am – 12.30pm

VENUE: Elmhurst Bush Nursing Centre (36 Green Street, Elmhurst)



YOGA ON HOLD

Attendees of the Yoga Sessions at Pomonal Community Hall are advised the series will be on hold until Saturday June 8.

LANDSCAPING FOR BUSHFIRE BOOKS AVAILABLE NOW

Available as both a free downloadable PDF and a printed booklet, *Landscaping for Bushfire: Garden Design and Plant Selection* is a CFA-published resource which provides information on garden design in high-risk bushfire areas.

Covering topics of tree placement, choosing suitable plants, and garden design's place within a holistic approach to bushfire preparation, it contains relevant information for brand new gardens or for modifying your existing garden.

Get your physical copy at Pomonal Hub or Pomonal CFA Communications Officer Andrew, or access it online at <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property/landscaping>.



HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE 2024 BUSINESS CONFIDENCE SURVEY

As part of ongoing efforts to monitor business conditions in the region, Council have launched the 2024 Business Confidence Survey.

The insights gained through this survey will assist stakeholders and businesses in the region to plan for the future, and Council encourages all local businesses to participate.

Local businesses should have already received an email with a link to complete the survey.

If you have any questions relating to the survey, or wish to nominate yourself to be interviewed, please contact Phillippa Cairns: pcairns@ararat.vic.gov.au.





DECLARATION OF WASTE

I _____ of
_____ in VICTORIA
(Residential Address)

do solemnly and sincerely declare the waste I carry is disaster waste from the emergency events commencing on the 13 February 2024:

That the contents of waste carried is from and or on behalf of _____
(approved LGA)

OR/I am a carrier for _____ (company name)
and am duly authorised to make this declaration on its behalf.

Vehicle
Registration _____

Declared

At _____
(Cleanaway Site Name)

_____ (day) , (month) _____ 2024

Signature _____

Site officer (Cleanaway) _____