



Ararat Rural City

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK, BELLFIELD FIRE UPDATE

TUESDAY, 9 JULY 2024

ERV CEO TO VISIT POMONAL



Mariela Diaz, CEO of ERV

Mariela Diaz, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Emergency Recovery Victoria, will be visiting Pomonal on **Wednesday 10 July**.

Ms Diaz will be at Pomonal Hall to meet community members **between 5pm and 6:30pm**.

A light supper, and tea and coffee will be provided.

RMIT UNI CONDUCTING POMONAL BUSHFIRE INTERVIEWS

RMIT University is conducting a study on the 2024 bushfire in Pomonal, and are looking for residents to each take part in a one-hour interview.

The researchers' aim is to help improve the safety of residents living in and visiting bushfire-prone areas across Australia.

The project will be overseen by Dr Rosie Morrison, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow focusing on bushfire evacuation behaviour and other disaster responses.

Participants must be over 18, and can either register online at https://bit.ly/pomonal_fire or by sending an email directly to Dr Morrison, at rosie.morrison2@rmit.edu.au.

All participants will be provided with a \$30 gift card as a thank you for their time.



RMIT's Dr Rosie Morrison

POMONAL TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Pomonal Transfer Station has resumed normal operating hours, and fees and charges are still being waived for Pomonal residents until further notice.

Opening hours are:

Wednesdays: 2pm - 5pm

Saturdays: 1pm - 4pm

Cleanaway Stawell is no longer taking waste free of charge.

Waste must arrive at Cleanaway via a commercial operator or truck.

YOGA RETURNS TO THE HALL

Yoga Sessions with Danielle at Pomonal Hall have returned to Saturdays at 9am. All levels welcome!

NEW TRANSFER STATION FEES

In accordance with Council's newly adopted 2024-25 Budget, prices across the municipality's Transfer Stations have changed.

Please note that this year there are separate charges for residents and non-residents; drivers' IDs will be checked at the Transfer Station gate.

For details on new pricing, visit ararat.vic.gov.au/services/waste-and-recycling/transfer-station-fees-and-charges.

FREE BAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENTS

Ararat Rural City Council and the Victorian Government are partnering to offer Pomonal residents free individual Bushfire Attack Level assessments, to assist in making informed choices about their property. More information to come; register your interest at Pomonal Recovery Centre.



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NEW POMONAL DONATIONS GROUP FORMED

The Pomonal Bushfire Recovery Donations Group has been established as a subcommittee of the Pomonal Progress Association (Resilience), with a mission to ensure that the donation money amassed for Pomonal's bushfire recovery is "managed and spent with transparency, fairness, and adherence to ethical and legal standards, involving the whole Pomonal Community," the Group wrote via Facebook on 5 July 2024.

The Pomonal Progress Association (PPA) hosted the first meeting of the Donations Group in late June 2024.

"Our primary goal is to create an inclusive process that gathers input from the whole community on the best ways to use the donation money," continues the Group's post. "We will seek expert opinion where necessary and work with the Pomonal Grants Writing Group to assist when needed to secure extra funds. The Group will make decisions by consensus, using a PPA decision-making framework. All the donation money is now centralised in a new account under the umbrella of PPA, [and] new donations will add to the account.

"We have invited two independent people to join us who have been part of fundraising and volunteer work for Pomonal: Bob Saunders (Ararat) and Greg Little (Stawell), who are both experienced in recovery and are with us as community people. Bob has been elected as the chair.

"The other Donations Group members are all part of the community, belonging to (but not representing) many different groups in Pomonal. They understand they are representing the whole community... Together we have access to many groups and networks in Pomonal."

Members of the Donations Group include Jill Miller (PPA leadership), Dee Anne Kelly and Glen Holland, Col Macaffer (GoFundMe), Jocelyn King & Alison Bainbridge (Resilience Voucher Distribution), Barb Venn (Pomonal Hall and Oval Complex) and Sue Macaffer (Resilience Group).

Look out for more information on the new community aggregate via 'Pomonal Updates' posted to the Pomonal Community Connections Facebook group.

POMONAL COMMUNITY RELIEF HUB HOURS

Monday: 9am - 4pm
Tuesday: CLOSED
Wednesday: 9am - 4pm
Thursday: CLOSED
Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 10:30am - 1pm
Sunday: CLOSED



HOURS FOR MANAGER OF PLANNING & BUILDING

Ararat Rural City Council's Manager of Development and Regulation, Rob Fillisch, will be attending Pomonal Hall every week:

Wednesdays: 8.30am - 3pm

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

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM POWERCOR

Powercor Australia have been fielding enquiries from Pomonal residents who are under the impression electricity reconnection fees have increased post fire damage.

Powercor wish to make it known they are **waiving all fees** for bushfire-affected residents, and have been doing so since the beginning of recovery.

If you have any questions about reconnection, call Powercor's Customer Request line on 1800 771 434.

