

## **COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**

GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK, BELLFIELD FIRE UPDATE

**TUESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2024** 

# THIS WEEKEND: POMONAL LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN EXPO



POMONAL LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN EXPO

The Pomonal Landscape and Garden Expo will be held this weekend, delivering a program of speakers along with the attendence of other community partners.

Slated to appear are Dominique Sparks from WA's Balancing Rock Farm; artist, ecologist and scientific communicator Elia Pirtle (Landcare); Community Safety Engagement Officer and Captain with the CFA, Nicole McGrath; renown local grower and member of the Australian Plant Society, Phil Williams; and Landscape Planner (currently designing the WAMA garden) Jill Burness, formerly of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Also attending will be the Grampians Community Health team and the Ararat Library outreach bus, while Jacque Ridler will be conducting kids activities and face-painting.

DATE: Saturday 31 August, 2024

**TIME:** 11am - 3pm

**LOCATION:** Pomonal Hall

### **POMONAL RELIEF HUB**

**Opening Hours** 

MONDAY: 9am - 4pm WEDNESDAY: 9am - 4pm SATURDAY: 10.30am - 1pm



## POMONAL RECOVERY CENTRE HOURS UPDATE

Council Recovery Staff have resumed their regular hours at the Hall.

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

The Manager of Planning & Building, Rob Fillisch, has also resumed his regular hours:

Wednesday: 8:30am - 3pm

The Council recovery team are available via phone any time during business hours on 5355 0200.

# EAST GRAMPIANS BUSINESS AWARDS OPEN FOR ENTRIES

Ararat Rural City businesses are invited to submit their applications for the 2024 East Grampians Business Awards.

Now in its seventh year, the EGBAs celebrate local business talent and recognise the role businesses play in supporting the community and boosting the region's economy.

Entries are now open for seven award categories, including three new additions: Trades and Construction, Professional Services, and Young Person of the Year.

All businesses located or operating in Ararat Rural City are eligible to apply, and businesses are welcome to enter more than one category. Applications close on **Sunday 15 September 2024.** 

The winners will be announced at a prestigious gala held at Ararat Town Hall on Thursday 7 November 2024.

To apply or to find more about the award categories, entry guidelines and application process, please visit Council's website: https://www.ararat.vic.gov.au/awards2024







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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: 1pm - 4pm Saturdays: 1pm - 4pm

Scrap metal is now being taken at Pomonal Transfer Station, but is limited to a maximum of three cubic metres.

To dispose of larger amounts of scrap metal, please call Manhari Metals on (03) 5352 3866.

Cleanaway Stawell is no longer taking waste free of charge, and any waste arriving at the site must be via a commercial operator or truck.

These changes are in line with State Government guidance on Disaster Waste Disposal.



### POMONAL NATIVE FLOWER SHOW RELEASES SPEAKER TIMETABLE

The 40th Anniversary Pomonal Native Flower Show, to be held across the weekend of 21 and 22 September, has released its Speaker Timetable.

See below for details, and get more information on the Show by visiting https://apsvic.org.au/event/pomonalnative-flower-show-2024.



### **UPDATE FROM POMONAL DONATIONS GROUP**

The newly-formed Pomonal Bushfire Recovery Donations Group are still seeking Pomonal residents' suggestions on the distribution of funds collected for bushfire recovery, with a deadline date of 31 August 2024.

Residents can access the form online through the Facebook post on the Pomonal Community Connections page, or complete a hard copy form available from Pomonal Store.

Hard copy forms can be submitted by placing in the designated box at Pomonal Store, emailing to pomonalprogress@outlook.com, or posting to:

Pomonal Bushfire Recovery Donations Group, Grampians Store Pomonal, 3408 Ararat-Halls Gap Rd, Pomonal VIC 3381.

The group have also issued an update with FAQs which they have received from the community.

Please see the four-page Fact Sheet on the following page of this newsletter.



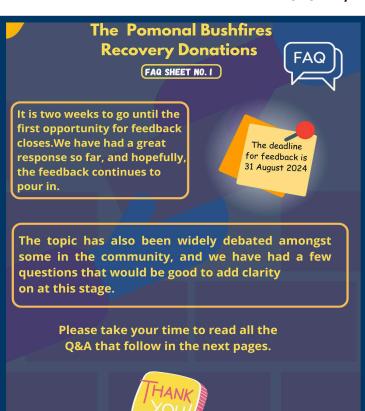




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About the tennis club resurface, was this using donation money?

No ARCC is funding this project, on their radar before the fires, and Pomonal Progress's own funds for the poles etc.

Have those who have lost property received any assistance?

Approximately \$50,000 (all accounted for on spreadsheets and distributed by an equity ratio in common use) in vouchers and donations specified for purchase of vouchers, distributed by the resilience group for the 24 homes impacted by the fires, including some to go to the people who lost

As part of the Resilience Group effort, the Hub has been offering other forms of support and assistance for many Pomonal people, including the people who lost homes/ houses, such as clothing, bedding, furniture, equipment required.

have contributed to property & roadside clean up, wellbeing services (Grampians Community Health)

Note: some people who lost homes/houses have received money from family/ friends/groups they belong to – this is outside the donation money pool.

Has the committee any outside scrutiny?

Yes, we have registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria, as per the fund-raising legislation. Glen Holland, as the Pomonal Progress treasurer, is our registered "principal contact" for CAV for this effort.

August, this is the first broad category questionnaire, there will be more.

**Donations Group** represent Pomonal?

Given that we cannot represent everyone's experience of what has happened, all 360 of us, we do have a mix of people from within and outside the community, including fire impacted people on the Donations Group. But we are committed to community consultation and are happy to answer questions & receive input, please write your thoughts all over the questionnaire.

Is there any other way of raising more funds for Pomonal?

Both PPA & the Resilience Group are continually raising awareness about Pomonal to keep donations coming in. We have set up a Pomonal Grant Writing Group, that will look at any opportunities for funding. It can also help those wanting to write a grant, we can write, proofread, offer advice etc. By trying for grant funding for some things, it will allow the donation pool to





