



Ararat Rural City

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

POMONAL & YARRAM GAP FIRE UPDATE

FRIDAY 4 APRIL 2025

REGISTER FOR THE BUSINESS RECOVERY ADVISORY SERVICE

Business Victoria has now opened registration for small businesses and primary producers to apply for the Business Recovery Advisory Service.

The service is part of the State Government's \$24 million essential support package to Western Victoria businesses and primary producers affected by the December 2024 bushfires.

Your Business Recovery Adviser will act as a concierge service, helping you to navigate eligible supports and to provide guidance to build strategies to enable longer-term recovery.

For more information or to register for the service, visit: <https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/business-recovery-advisory-service-2024-25-western-victoria-bushfires>

To find out more about the rest of the support package, visit the link in the blue box below.

Register your interest in the State Government's small business and primary producer support package at: business.vic.gov.au/2024-25-western-victoria-bushfire-supports

LOCAL FARMERS FEATURED ON WIN NEWS, CHANNEL 10

CFA Westmere Group Officer and local farmer Pat Millear appeared on WIN News last week (26 March), to speak about the replacement of the Fire Services Property Levy with the new Emergency Services Volunteer Fund.

"We're the backbone of country Victoria, and we're doing a hell of a good job - like all the brigades and all groups are across Victoria - and it's just no reward for the effort we've put in," Millear told reporters. "To get this tax put on us for volunteer work is an absolute impost, and we're certainly not going to take it lying down."

Ararat Rural City Council Mayor Jo Armstrong also appeared in the segment, adding that the money collected doesn't go into Council's Budget, but is passed into the state treasury without any oversight on, or accountability for, how it will be spent.

Watch the story online at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BfZMuVSCD/>

The story was followed just a few days later with a feature on Channel 10's *The Project*, which discussed the history of emergency services levies in Australia and focused on local farmer Rob Armstrong (also a Councillor for Ararat Rural City Council).

You can watch *The Project* story online at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/156ManHgMY/>



First Aid & CPR

Monday 12th May 2025

Time: 10:30am at the Halls Gap Centenary Hall

CPR - 10:30am to 12:30pm

First Aid - 10:30am to 4:30pm

Cost: CPR HLTAID009 \$75

First Aid HLTAID011 \$160

Book now to ensure your place

Email: info@hallsgapnh.org.au

Phone 0460 778 021



Above: Willaura farmer Pat Millear on WIN News

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





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CFA CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

This week, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) celebrates 80 years of outstanding service.

Established by State Parliament in 1945, CFA now boasts 1,200 brigades run by over 5,000 operational volunteers (those who perform firefighting and emergency response work) with a further 2,400 supporting volunteers (those who perform crucial roles in fundraising, community awareness events, administration and IT, equipment maintenance and more).

Visit the below link to read a dynamic article on how a cohesive regional bushfire cohort was formed entirely by volunteers, and became the CFA: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/80th-anniversary/our-story>

CFA - 80 years of protecting life and property



LAST TWO DAYS TO REGISTER AS VENDOR FOR MOYSTON EASTER MARKET

Time is running out to register your stall at the Moyston Easter Market!

Vendor applications close tomorrow, 5 April 2025. For more information, email moystoneastermarket@gmail.com.



Moyston Landcare
presents
THE FOREST
Moyston Hall
Sunday April 13 5 - 6.30pm

*light refreshments
followed by a viewing of the documentary
tea and coffee provided*

The story of a brilliant ecologist with a plan to save the world by restoring the planet's forests. His original work was hijacked by corporations and politicians. Now he's using science to fight back.



UPCOMING EMERGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOPS

The follow-up Community Emergency Planning Workshops coordinated by Council with support for Emergency Management Victoria and facilitated by The Six C's, have been scheduled for the coming weeks.

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

STREATHAM WORKSHOP

DATE: Tuesday 15 April 2025

TIME: 6.00pm - 9.00pm

LOCATION: Streatham Memorial Hall



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