

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

POMONAL & YARRAM GAP FIRE UPDATE

FRIDAY 30 MAY 2025

BUSINESS RECOVERY GRANTS NOW OPEN

The Business Bushfire Recovery Grant program is now open for small businesses, including eligible primary producers, that experienced a significant decline in their revenue due to the 2024-25 Western Victoria Bushfires. The program provides a one-off payment of up to \$5,000 to eligible small businesses.

Applications close on 13 November 2025 or earlier if funding allocation is exhausted sooner. For more info, and to apply, scan the QR code.



BOOST TO DROUGHT SUPPORT PACKAGE

As part of the State Government's Drought Support Package, eligible farmers can receive payments of up to \$5,000 as a co-contribution grant that will support activities including water infrastructure upgrades, stock containment areas, and grain and fodder storage. For more information on the Drought Support Package, visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons

SMALL BUSINESS BUS STOPPING IN ARARAT

Business Victoria's Small Business Bus will be stopping at Ararat Town Hall, along with Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) West Victoria's Rural Roadshow, on **Thursday 5 June, from 10am - 4pm** to assist farmers and small business owners.

Expert advisors will be on board to provide support and guidance on building strategies for long-term recovery. Confidential sessions run for up to 45 minutes and are free of charge. Scan the QR code to book.



FOLLOW-UP COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOPS

A third round of Community Emergency Planning Workshops for Wickliffe, Moyston and Streatham, facilitated by Council with support for Emergency Management Victoria, have been scheduled for next month.

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

For more information, please call Council on (03) 5355 0200.

WICKLIFFE RECREATION RESERVE

Monday, 2 June 2025, 6.30pm - 8.00pm

MOYSTON HALL

Thursday, 5 June 2025, 6.30pm - 8.00pm

STREATHAM MEMORIAL HALL

Monday, 16 June 2025, 6.30pm - 8.00pm

RFCS WEST VIC'S RURAL ROADSHOW TO VISIT

RFCS West Victoria's Rural Roadshow is also visiting Pomonal, Moyston and Willaura next week. Farmers and small business owners are invited to connect with RFCS's experienced counsellors, learn about their free financial and wellbeing support, and get help applying for the State Government's Business Bushfire Recovery Grant. See below for details.

POMONAL

Wednesday, 4 June 2025, 9.00am - 11.00am

MOYSTON

Wednesday, 4 June 2025, 11.30am - 1.30pm

WILLAURA

Wednesday, 4 June 2025, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

~~Survive~~/Thrive 2025

Growing Together

Survive/Thrive 2025 Grow Together

With the rising business costs, decreased rainfall, and increasing pressure on local industries many in the business and agricultural sectors are feeling isolated and uncertain.

Agriculture, Agribusiness and Business come together to:

- Network, Share & Learn
- Catch up. Bring a mate. Have a laugh. Have a Drink.

This is an opportunity to connect, share and access practical knowledge fostering community support and collaboration.

We aim to strengthen resilience, improve decision-making, and encourage sustainable practices.

Be a part of the momentum driving our region forward.

Let's Grow Together.

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

6pm to 9pm

Chalambar Golf and Bowls Club

Golflinks Road, Ararat

Proudly supported by: **ACE RADIO**



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ARARAT
BUSINESS
NETWORK

**To book go to [www.
trybooking.com/](http://www.trybooking.com/)
DCBVU or scan here**



Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park

Fire Recovery - Biodiversity Update

May 2025

Background

In December 2024, a bushfire started from dry lightning on Mount William Range in the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. Extreme weather and dry vegetation caused the fire to spread quickly, affecting both the park and adjacent private land. Less than a month later, additional fires ignited from lightning on the western side of the park, burning across Victoria Range, Victoria Point and the Victoria Valley.

In total, the Grampians fires burned 135,000 hectares—nearly 80% of the park. Biodiversity, cultural sites and visitor assets were severely impacted.

Biodiversity impacts

All six significant conservation areas within the park were affected, including important habitat for priority species like the critically endangered Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby (BTRW), Long-nosed Potoroo, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Heath Mouse, and Smoky Mouse.

The biodiversity recovery programs commenced during the fire and continues, to ensure the long-term recovery process for the landscape and wildlife species which are protected under State and Federal legislation.

Brush-Tailed Rock Wallabies

During the fires, strategies were put in place by Parks Victoria, Department Energy Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and the Horsham Incident Control Centre to help protect the critically endangered southern Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (BTRW) in an area of the Serra Range.

Remote cameras were used to monitor the animals, and an emergency feeding operation commenced to support their survival. This included food drops from helicopters and drones which moved bulk supplies of food to 17 monitored feeding stations across 5km of remote

and rocky escarpment. These feeding sites continue to be serviced weekly by ground crews.

Cameras have confirmed BTRW at all 17 ground-feeding stations, including the far east of the escarpment, a major increase in their local range since their reintroduction to the landscape in 2008.

Images from the cameras have also confirmed that they are actively feeding and drinking from the feeding stations, including images of 3 young healthy joeys.



Image: Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby

Enhanced monitoring

A new and enhanced monitoring program has been established by staff, to expand the monitoring area throughout the colony.

Additionally, scat collection for the colony survey has been ongoing, with over 100 samples collected so far. More than 500,000 camera trap images have been taken since late December, with 55 cameras at both locations. Habitat and vegetation on-going assessments are also being carried out at both colonies to allow for adaptive management of the ground feeding program.