

POMONAL COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2020-2025

COMMUNITY PROFILE: Pomonal is a vibrant, diverse and ever changing community. We celebrate our mixture of long term residents and new arrivals from throughout Australia and overseas. Welcoming these new residents has led to Pomonal being a place of greater diversity appreciating all the benefits this can offer.

Pomonal is situated on the eastern edge of the Grampians National Park and offers a wide range of natural features, tourist attractions, sporting, recreational and cultural activities. We also have a broad range of volunteer groups and organisations.

SOME THINGS TO SEE, DO & GET INVOLVED IN

- Visit Lake Fyans – for bird-watching, boating, fishing, camping, restaurant, swimming, walking and bike riding
- Enjoy Pomonal’s natural assets on one of the many walking tracks.
- Visit the historic tunnel on Tunnel road – and walk to Lake Bellfield via the Bridle Trail
- Visit Millers Creek Picnic area – seasonal creek and spring wildflowers
- Visit Pomonal Village Market on the last Sunday of the month
- See artists working in their studios
- Enjoy local produce
- Visit the Annual Pomonal Primary School Art Show Festival
- Visit the Pomonal Native Flower Show and associated Open Gardens
- Take in the uninterrupted views of the magnificent dark night sky and view the stars.
- Spend time talking to local residents about Pomonal and its local Flora and Fauna
- Enjoy our local restaurants, cafes and our accommodation options.

COMMUNITY GOALS

- A. To involve young people in future plans for Pomonal
- B. To retain the Pomonal Primary School
- C. To empower older residents to stay in the community
- D. To build community resilience
- E. To retain our cultural & environmental heritage
- F. To always be an inclusive welcoming community
- G. To effectively disseminate information within the community
- H. To continually maintain and improve our infrastructure
- I. To further develop the tourism potential in our area
- J. To foster effective two-way communications with Ararat Rural City Council
- K. To look to the future and create a sustainable community.
- L. To support local environmental groups to **improve** our local environment (agriculture and natural) by building community capability and co-ordinated strategies and action.

Objective <i>(specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timeframe)</i>	Priority/ Achieved	Audience <i>who is it for?</i>	Who will take responsibility	Key Actions: What needs to be done, resources required <i>i.e, construction plans, grant applications, workshop facilitation, community consultation</i>	How will it be funded?	How will it be measured? <i>i.e.</i> <i>feedback, attendance</i>
Infrastructure and development						
1. Pomonal Streetscape Plan: <i>Work alongside ARCC to develop a streetscape plan to improve, develop and maintain the Pomonal town area. This will ensure the town is safer, cleaner and welcoming for residents and tourists/visitors.</i> Community goals: E,F, I & J	2022	Current, new and prospective residents, as well as tourists/visitors	PPA, ARCC in conjunction with EGTA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work alongside key stakeholders to identify scope of works as per existing Vic Roads plan, inclusive of: Janes Garden, tourism/notice boards, town entrance signs - ('Welcome to Pomonal' and town entrance bollards) , relocate GWM card water point from the centre of Pomonal to outside town boundary. ▪ Assess opportunities for further development work that would benefit and strengthen the community. ▪ Prepare and implement the proposed plan 	PPA to work alongside ARCC to seek funding opportunities	Feedback, surveys
2. Hall and Recreation Reserve Masterplan <i>By supporting the Hall and Recreation Committee to commence the process for the development of a masterplan, the community will benefit from needed community infrastructure and asset upgrades to ensure effective use of funds into the future as well as form a blueprint detailing clear goals for fundraising.</i> Community goals: D, F, G, H & K	2022 (master plan document)	Current, new and prospective residents, as well as tourists/visitors	Hall Committee, Tennis Club and community groups with assistance from ARCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiate meetings with key stakeholders to prepare a list of necessary maintenance and upgrades that will form a master plan. Proposed scope of works: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nature based play space or skate park ○ Multipurpose gathering space with cover and BBQ/Pizza Oven facilities (extended decking and seating) ○ Improved tennis court surface ○ Improved hall fencing ○ Visible toilet signs (wayfinding) 	ARCC, grants and committee/ group responsible for the asset	Feedback for the masterplan doc will identify whether the community's needs are met.
3. Community infrastructure and asset upgrades <i>To ensure Pomonal remains a safe, clean and more welcoming township, ARCC to provide a program to ensure maintenance requirements for community assets are regularly addressed.</i> Community Goals :F, H, I & J	2021	Current, new and prospective residents, as well as tourists/visitors	PPA and community groups with assistance from ARCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiate meetings with key stakeholders to prepare a list of necessary maintenance: Proposed scope of works: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved biking and walking infrastructure ○ Improved connectivity to Halls Gap (walk/bike track) 	Fundraising were applicable, available grants and ARCC	Usage, feedback.

<p>4. Millers Creek Picnic Facilities: <i>By creating an opportunity for residents and tourists to access and enjoy the Millers Creek area, there is a potential for increase in tourism to the district.</i></p> <p>Community goals: A,E,H,I & L</p>	2022	Current, new and prospective residents, as well as tourists/visitors	PPA, ARCC, Parks Victoria, Jallukar Land Care, Men's Shed & Local Community Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work alongside key stakeholders to develop and implement a plan to develop Millers Creek Picnic Area, including parking and BBQ facilities ▪ Investigate the possibility of ARCC maintaining/cleaning the proposed facilities ▪ Implement new signage at Millers Creek 	PPA to seek funding opportunities with assistance from Parks and ARCC	Usage, feedback.
<p>5. Housing for new residents: <i>By assessing the opportunities for land subdivision, the Pomonal community will benefit with an increase in residential properties appealing to prospective residents; targeting young families ensuring an increase in the retention of students at the Pomonal primary school.</i></p> <p>Community goals: A,B,H & K</p>	2026	Current, new and prospective residents.	PPA, ARCC with input from the Pomonal Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work alongside key stakeholders to determine scope of works for reticulated sewage ▪ Work alongside key stakeholders to identify the opportunities for an increase in housing options for young families ▪ Initiate meetings with the community to gain insights and feedback for the proposed concept (mindful of ensuring Pomonal remains a 'village' and not a form of 'suburbia'). ▪ Investigate the feasibility of a reticulated sewage system ▪ Investigate the feasibility of a renewable microgrid system 	ARCC, grants.	
<p>Objective <i>(specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timeframe)</i></p>	Priority/Achieved by	Audience <i>who is it for?</i>	Who will take responsibility	Key Actions: What needs to be done, resources required <i>i.e. construction plans, grant applications, workshop facilitation, community consultation</i>	How will it be funded?	How will it be measured? i.e. feedback, attendance
Community development						
<p>1. Develop and strengthen Pomonal's digital presence: <i>Developing a digital communication strategy will provide Pomonal community methods to connect with one another in an inclusive and proactive manner.</i></p> <p>Community goals: A,D,F & G</p>	2021	Younger demographic, current and prospective residents.	PPA with support from ARCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a communication strategy plan to broaden PPA's use of electronic & social media ▪ Further develop the use of Pomonal's existing Facebook page: Pomonal Community Connections 	PPA in conjunction with local community groups	Feedback, increase in resident retention.

<p>2. Activate Pomonal Hall and Recreation Reserve: <i>By developing an activation plan (which will work in conjunction with the master plan concept proposed in infrastructure and development) the community can identify ways to utilise the facilities boosting opportunities for community connectedness.</i></p> <p>Community goals: A,E,H, K & L</p>	2023	Current and prospective residents as well as tourists/ visitors.	Hall & Recreation Committee and local community groups with support from ARCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working alongside key stakeholders, identify alternative ways the Hall and Rec Reserve can be utilised to benefit the community and achieve the specified community goals – ensure the space is user friendly from a family perspective, undercover space, BBQ. Events: movie night, annual ball. 	Pomonal Hall and Recreation Reserve Committee ARCC Grants	Attendance, feedback, survey.
<p>3. Emergency Action Plan: <i>By updating to an emergency action plan, the community will be better informed and prepared for all types of disasters thus increasing community resilience.</i></p> <p>Community goals: C, D, G & L</p>	2021	Pomonal community and residents	PPA in conjunction with the CFA and ARCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage stakeholders: PPA, CFA, Community, Resilience committee and ARCC to change the existing fire safety plan to an emergency action plan ▪ Source up to date information ▪ Identify ways the plan can be circulated throughout the community ▪ Include plan in the new residents ‘Welcome to Pomonal’ pack ▪ Resilience plan 	PPA ARCC Grants	Feedback, engagement (if circulating the information digitally)
<p>4. Communication with ARCC and municipality communities: <i>By enabling a collaborative working relationship with ARCC and other communities, the Pomonal community will see an increase in opportunities for residents and visitors.</i></p> <p>Community goals: J & G</p>	2021	Short term: Pomonal residents and ARCC staff. Long term: residents in other communities, prospective residents and visitors.	PPA with support from ARCC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obtain an up-to-date contact list for ARCC staff ▪ Request ARCC to provide effective council representation at PPA Meetings and support PPA in communication across all departments ▪ Connect with other communities throughout the municipality, identify ways communities can assist one another by identifying opportunities for collaboration ▪ Direct community members to the ARCC website where they can review the council plan and budget and encourage them to make submissions as necessary ▪ Ask ARCC to enable submissions BEFORE the draft council plan and budget are developed as well as encourage them to review both documents once they have been drafted 		Regular attendance and assistance by ARCC representative at PPA Meetings

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Economic development and tourism						
1. Pomonal / Halls Gap Link <i>To support establishing a (shared path) between Pomonal and Halls Gap would provide economic benefit to the community through an increase in tourism and foot traffic.</i> <i>Community goals: H & I</i>	2026	Primarily tourists/ visitors as well as current prospective residents of all ages	Local community members, ARCC, NGSC, Parks Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work alongside NGS as they seek funding to develop a plan for the link (grant application has been made) ▪ Dependant on the outcome of the grant, continue to support and where possible work alongside key stakeholders: NGS, Parks Victoria and ARCC. <i>(this path could utilise the existing emergency track from Tunnel Track to Halls Gap)</i> 	ARCC and available grants i.e. Community Road Safe Grant (Speed Safe)	Usage, increase in economic spend
2. Local produce co-operative: By investigating and supporting a local produce co-operative, the Pomonal community will experience a number of benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appeal to new residents and retain current residents ○ Grow Pomonal’s vibrant and diverse culture ○ Support and encourage producers to reside in Pomonal <i>Community goals: C, H & I</i>	2022	Local producers, current and prospective residents as well as tourists/ visitors	PPA and involved growers and sellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiate a feasibility study on the viability and sustainability of a community co-operative ▪ Consider opportunities to connect with ‘Eat Drink West’ community (Based in Ballarat – do we have something more local?) ▪ Call for EOI from local producers to gain an insight into parties interested and what ideas they have for the concept ▪ Initiate a ‘Community Barrow’ 	Involve growers and sellers, EGTA, PPA & ARCC to research grants available: <i>i.e. Stronger Regional Communities (RDV)</i>	Feedback, survey, attendance (if there is a market)
3. Grampians Peaks Trail: <i>By exploring the possibility of joining the Grampians Peaks Trail (via Pomonal Tunnel Track) as one of the trail heads, Pomonal will see a considerable increase in visitors and tourists which will strengthen the community economically.</i> <i>Community goals: I, K & L</i>	2020 (aligning with the opportunity to provide feedback to draft plan)	Hikers, tourists/ visitors, prospective and current residents	PPA, local community groups, Parks Victoria, EGTA, GT and ARCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work alongside key stakeholders to assess the possibility of joining the trail as a trail head ▪ Initiate community consultation meetings to gauge interest and support from the community 	ARCC, EGTA, grants	Pomonal Tunnel Track usage, increase in economic spend

<p>4. Pomonal Tourism Network <i>Support local tourism networks within Pomonal, encourage small businesses to connect and collaborate, strengthening Pomonal's tourism footprint.</i></p>	2023	Local businesses, (producers, accommodation providers, hospitality services)	EGTA, GT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create channels for businesses to connect and strategize campaigns and collaborations 	ARCC, available grants	Feedback, survey.
<p>Objective <i>(specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timeframe)</i></p>	Priority/Achieved	Audience <i>who is it for?</i>	Who will take responsibility	<p>Key Actions: What needs to be done, resources required <i>i.e., construction plans, grant applications, workshop facilitation, community consultation</i></p>	How will it be funded?	How will it be measured? i.e. <i>feedback, attendance</i>
Environment						
<p>1. Pomonal Shared Paths system: <i>Extending and promoting the track system will see an increase in usage by residents and visitors, providing an insight to the cultural and environmental heritage as well as encourage healthy living and exercise options for all ages.</i></p> <p>Community goals: E,H, I & L</p>	2026 (varied priorities detailed 1-5 next to key actions)	Current and prospective residents of all ages as well as tourists/visitors.	PPA in conjunction with local community groups, businesses, EGTA and ARCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with key stakeholders to assess the scope of works inclusive of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provision of ongoing maintenance to the existing track from the Pomonal Hall to Bomjinna Ct. & an extension of the track from Bomjinna Ct. to Tunnel Road (1). ○ Install track to Pomonal Estate (2) ○ Install track from the Pomonal Hall to Waterhole Road (1). ○ Reopen the walking track along Robins Rd to the Tunnel Rd carpark and provide new signage (1). ○ Install track from Tunnel Road to Lake Fyans (1) . ○ Install a track from Tunnel Rd to Lake Fyans ○ Creating a Pomonal History trail, promoting Pomonal's rich history (4). ▪ Develop a consistent 'wayfinding' system that provides users with relevant distance, cultural and historical information as well as direct visitors and residents to facilities (public toilets) ▪ Install bike racks throughout town to encourage residents and visitors to use their bikes knowing they are secure. 	ARCC and available grants	Usage, survey feedback

<p>2. Sustainability and Recycling: <i>By continuing the educate and promote the many benefits of sustainability and recycling to the community, there will be a decrease in environment contamination.</i></p> <p>Community goals: G & K</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Current and prospective residents as well as tourists/ visitors.</p>	<p>ARCC, in conjunction with PPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify and provide additional recycling options for Pomonal ▪ Address the issue of local bins being used for domestic rubbish: in a bid to ensure this is addressed, assess the possibility of council enforcing mandatory rubbish collection fees for residents with access to roadside rubbish collection. Provide a monthly 'tip voucher' to those who cannot access the service ▪ Consider alternative ways to educate and promote the community to practise better recycling and sustainability habits (i.e. seek relevant workshops to engage and educate the community) 	<p>PPA to seek funding opportunities for workshops, ARCC to fund additional recycling options</p>	<p>Feedback, noticeable behavioural changes</p>
<p>3. Responsible Pet Ownership By working alongside the ARCC's Community Safety Officers and environmental groups to educate residents and community members on responsible pet ownership, Pomonal can ensure the natural environment remains protected and residents are safe.</p> <p>Community Goals: J & L</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Current and prospective residents</p>	<p>ARCC in conjunction with environmental groups: Landcare and PPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include information provided by Agriculture Victoria in the new residents 'Welcome to Pomonal' pack ▪ Seek ways to educate residents on responsible pet ownership i.e. Responsible Cat and Dog Ownership Courses provided by Ag Vic and also ensure residents are familiar with the 'Legal requirements for cat owners' 	<p>If necessary, grants are available for organisations promoting responsible pet ownership education via Ag Vic.</p>	<p>Successful grant/s, community feedback, surveys.</p>

NETWORK'S AND RESOURCES

ORGANISATION	CONTACT	PHONE/EMAIL
Australian Plant Society Grampians Group	Secretary	grampians@apsvic.org.au
Jallukar Landcare Groups	President	jillmichael@internode.on.net
Mixed Bunch Artists Group	Coordinator	a.t.may@bigpond.com
Pomonal Rural Fire Brigade	Secretary	pomonalrfbsecretary@gmail.com
Pomonal Community Church	Minister	Rev. S.Pease 5358 1161
Pomonal Cricket Club	President	A. McKay (0408 355 990)
Pomonal/Eastern Grampians Tourism Association	Secretary	easterngrampians@gmail.com
Pomonal Hall and Recreation Committee of Management	Secretary	pomonalhallcommittee@gmail.com
Pomonal/Halls Gap Playgroup	Coordinators	J. Mackley c/o Pomonal Primary School
Pomonal Primary School	Principal	B. Wethers 5356 6292 Belinda.Wethers@education.vic.gov.au
Pomonal Progress Association	Secretary	pomonalprogress@outlook.com
Pomonal Tennis Club	President	S. Clark (0417 506 704)
Pomonal Men's Shed	Secretary	pomonalmensshed@gmail.com
Pomonal Village Market	Alison Bainbridge	pomonalvillagemarket@gmail.com