

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

October 2017 Edition:

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FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



petyan

season of wildflowers - late spring
(late august to mid november)

Wildlife and Wildflowers

In spring [season of wildflowers or petyan], the bush bursts into life. Nature's rock gardens amaze. The days are warmer, although the weather can still be tempestuous.

WRAP UP...

Hi All, isn't this Spring just spectacular so far? The wildflowers are all out and looking stunning and if you've been out to a waterfall lately they are all in full flow. If you haven't been out and about Get out now for a visit before it starts to dry out!

Again thanks to everyone that contributed this month. After a few technical glitches we got it out!

Here's a gentle note from some concerned locals:

While most of us love our pooches, concerns have been raised at the growing number of dogs roaming loose in our town. When securely confined, your dog will be safe from traffic injuries or fights with other dogs. It will also be prevented from wandering and becoming lost or chasing wildlife! So please check your fences, tie your dog up, buy a small temporary yard or ask someone to look after your dog if you are not home :)

STATS BY CHAS...

September 2017 -Rainfall by Chas: 118.0mm for September bringing the progressive total for the year to 838.5mm. This compares to the same period last year of 232.5mm with a progressive total of 997.0mm.

As of the 27th of September Lake Bellfield is holding 73,240ML or 93% full compared to the same period last year of 61,890ML or 79% full.

The total system is holding 368,090ML or 65.59% full compared to the same period last year of 307,050ML or 54.71% full.

Mount William recorded 111.4mm for September 2017, compared for the same period last year of 328.2mm. The maximum temperature of 12 C. was recorded on the 23rd of September and the minimum of -2.4 C. was recorded on the 5th of September.

The highest wind speed was recorded on the 18th of September of 117.06 km/h.

From the History Room

How things have changed...Tobacco growing in Halls Gap

at Morningside Guest House (now the Comfort Inn Country Plaza). Left to right:

Shiela, Laura (mother), Ron and Lorna (Topsy) Warren.



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HALLS GAP

Don't forget we have a refurbished community-website. Do take a look at it. It has information on groups in Halls Gap, links for shire and emergency information etc., local news items, and most importantly a **calendar of events**. Music, markets, special events

If you have an event in mind, you can see if anything else is planned then, and upload your information. It takes just a day or two for the administrators to post it.

And you facebook fans, don't forget to put your news up on the website and FTG. Not all locals are part of the facebook community!

Jill has not been a Halls Gap resident for many years now, but it is appropriate that we as a community acknowledge her huge achievement as she moves on from this role.

hallsgapcommunity.org.au



The Grampians Swimming Club would like to thank the Bendigo Bank (Dunkeld) for their generous support, through the provision of funds to purchase swim training equipment.

If you would like further information on how the Bendigo Bank can help you, your business or club contact the Dunkeld Branch Manager, Anna Watson. The Grampians Swimming Club is currently training at the Ararat Fitness Centre, and will return to the Halls Gap pool in mid-November when the pool re-opens.

New members are always welcome. For further information please visit the club website - <https://grampiansswimmingclub.wordpress.com/about/>

HALLS GAP RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

It was great to welcome several new faces at the September General Meeting of the HGRRA. A broad range of items were raised included the replaced steps at the end of Tandara Rd, the Bendigo Bank, the increasing number of deer within the town and Park and the Do Not Feed Animals signage. The e-bikes in general were discussed, including the noise of horns, speed and safety, insurance/protection in the event of an accident and the suitability of the business's proposed relocation to a Main St shop.

Justine Kingan, representing NGS explained that some of the concerns were not considered to fall within the Shire's jurisdiction. It was agreed that NGS can have a role in assuring safety and Councillor Jason Hoseman said he was happy to talk to our local police to gain their insights on the legality and safety concerns. All residents and ratepayers are welcome to come along to the next meeting on December 6.

HALLS GAP COMMUNITY MARKET (@ HUB)

This month we had 39 stalls at the HUB/HALL raising \$269 for Community Projects.



On behalf of everyone involved in the Halls Gap Community Market we would like to say thank you to the Halls Gap Community for its support of our Market & we would also like to thank the Halls Gap Bakery for the help with our Market Kitchen.

We will be back with our October Market 15th October 9:30am – 2pm with breakfast available from 8:30am.

HALLS GAP CFA



The Halls Gap brigade has just undergone its annual 'Section 29' review which involves regional officers checking the brigade's readiness for the coming season. Vehicle and equipment maintenance, training of firefighters, previous turnouts and operational safety are all checked to ensure the best possible response in the event of an emergency. Several new members have just completed minimum skills training so will join crews in future responses.

The brigade remains committed to monthly training with a look at breathing apparatus in September, a simulated incident program with the Stawell Group at Joel Joel in October and 'burnover drill' in November – a vital requirement for all firefighters ahead of the coming fire season.

A summary of the brigade's activities and directions has been published as in the 2016-17 Report available on Halls Gap Community website and Facebook page.

Judy Hilbig
Halls Gap Fire Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

FRIENDS OF GRAMPIANS GARIWERD



Friends of Grampians Gariwerd activities coming up: Visitors are always welcome, but **PLEASE make sure you contact the person named before coming to an activity as there may have been unavoidable last minute changes.**

October 14 Mt Difficult circuit drive and walk.

10 am. Meet at Boroka Lookout, then convoy (some sharing of vehicles?) along the gravel road looking at wildflowers and other points of interest. Stop at the path to Wartook lookout (550m each way) which is being upgraded as part of the Grampians Peaks Trail for lunch, then either continue on past Lake Wartook and on to Mt Victory Rd or turn back to Boroka. Contact person Rodney. 0427 836 366

November 11 Learn about native grasses.

Probably at a property near Lake Lonsdale, but precise site will depend on site inspections in October. Alan Bedggood is our expert and Wendy is the contact for this activity. 10 am start, bring your own lunch and wear appropriate clothes for the weather. Further details will be emailed to you after you register. Contact person Wendy 0429932065

HALLS GAP BOTANIC GARDENS

We have been hard at work weeding this week and enjoying watching visitors enjoying the garden, especially the children. We'd love to see some of your photos.

There's a spot for visitor posts. More people helping in the garden would be great so if you have some spare time do get in touch.

PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE

<http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/grampians-national-park>



Healthy Parks
Healthy People

It was a busy September and lead in to October this year with the AFL Grand Final Long weekend leading into the School Holidays. Park Visitation was high with most campgrounds booked out over the long weekend and a steady flow continuing throughout the rest of the holidays.

Unfortunately with extra visitation there has recently been an increase in rubbish dumping, particularly at Mackenzie Falls and in Campgrounds. Of particular note are the water bottles and tissues along walking tracks, large rubbish bags left behind after campers depart along with seemingly "disposable" camping equipment including chairs, tents, hot coal stoves and sleeping bags. Parks Victoria has a "Carry it in Carry it out" policy whereby all park visitors are responsible for their own waste, and we ask everyone to "Leave no trace of their visit". Bins are not provided in our protected areas as they can lead to animal scavenging, create mess and cause disease.

FIRE AND FLOOD RECOVERY

Recent road repair packages were completed at Asses Ears and Wallaby rocks so these areas have now reopened. Unfortunately we have a major road slump on the Moora Sidecut of Glenelg River Rd so it is closed to all traffic until repairs can be undertaken. The best access to Victoria Valley is via Rose Creek Rd.

We also have a closure on Mt Difficult rd due to a spring breaking through the road surface creating a large hole. Road closure signage is in place throughout the park and we request all park visitors avoid going around gates. Closures are in place to protect vehicles and road surfaces from irreparable damage. You can access our weekly road reports and other park updates from our website.

Old and new.... Works recently completed on Mt Sturgeon as part of GPT track upgrades. Stone steps have replaced old sandy tracks. This is a much more sustainable surface and should ensure a higher standard for GPT Walkers.

Did you hear about the recent sightings of Brush Tailed Phascogales in the Grampians National Park and reserves? These elusive marsupials have decreased in numbers due to land clearing and predation by Cats, Dogs and Foxes. It is fantastic to see new populations of these fascinating creatures in our local area. If you missed the story here's the link



GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

Works continue via contractors to complete upgrades to existing walking track. While we often only get to see the final result did you know in some remote steep areas, on average it can take one person one day to build three stone steps for the GPT?? Stonemasonry is a tough gig!

In other GPT news, Planning is almost complete for the works packages due to roll out in the coming weeks. Expect an update soon on start dates.





GRAMPIANS WILDFLOWER SHOW

Saturday October 7th 9.30am-5pm and Sunday October 8th 9.30am -4pm is on again .

A comprehensive labelled display of flowers that are indigenous to the Grampians, as well as wildflower based art and craft displays by local artists and a children's corne will be located at the Halls Gap Hub buidling. Devonshire teas are also available.

The Grampians Wildflower Walkabout gives visitors a chance to see plants in the 'wild' with guided walks through the Halls Gap Botanical Garden and walks to wildflower and orchid hotspots. **You Can also Join us for a night walk on Saturday night 8pm. Numbers limited. Register with Margo Sietsma.**

Last year over 82 wildflower species were exhibited with many that are endemic that occur here in the Grampians and no where else in the world. This is a great introduction to the uniqueness of our flora that are truly indigenous and not cultivars for gardens.

Organisers receive Comments such as "This is what we want to see and hear about when we come to the Grampians. ", and "This so accessible I don't have to walk for miles and days to see these species." There have also been visitors thrilled to learn so much.



An enthusiastic (but small) group of locals work hard to present this iconic event as part of the Halls Gap calendar again this year. We have group members with extensive botanical knowledge, so plant identification , collection and labelling is managed. A substantial amount of money is raised for our community as well providing such enjoyment for locals and visitors



HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

The grades 4-6 students headed to Ararat to participate in the Parliament of Victoria's community engagement program. They learnt how a law is made in Victoria and then they had an opportunity to role play a debate on a bill. The room was set up as the Lower House including props for the class to use and the role play is scripted with students playing roles of Speaker, Premier and various members of Parliament. Then everyone got to have their own day in the debate if they wanted. The activity was educational AND fun!

After some fun golf clinics with Tony from Golf Victoria, we had 8 students chosen to head to Chalambar in Ararat for the school's golf tournament. Although we didn't have any winners, Tobie, Jaala, Isobel, Tom, Nic, Jack, Bernie and Johnno had a terrific day. It was their first experience of a golf tournament. Also, thank you to Neill at the Halls Gap Golf Club for enabling the weekly clinics.



Thank you to everyone who could come along to our community morning tea. Our students loved showing around and chatting to family members and got to know some people they had never met before. If you didn't get the chance to pop in and look at the sea theme that has taken over the school you are still very welcome to drop by and say G'day.



The whole school got to go over to the hall and spend some time with the wonderful artists at Grampians Brushes. We were really happy to be involved and got to use some water colours and create our own art work at the workshops. We thank them very much for their time and the invitation.

The last day of term was a very busy day. Four of our students headed in to Stawell and surrounding water ways to help Project Platypus and PlatySPOT ecologist, Josh. Tonie, Jaala, Bernie and Aleisha were being true scientists and learning how to take water samples which will be tested for platypus DNA. It's a very important program with the intention of building up dwindling platypus numbers in the area. We're very excited to be involved and will keep everyone updated on the progress.

Also, on the last day of term our wonderful JSC organised their annual Footy Colours Day. It was interesting to note that, among the student's outfits, there wasn't really one particularly dominant team. Everyone really got into the spirit of the day and there was even hot dogs and a whole school footy match. Lots of fun!



Thank you so much to the Halls Gap Community Association for their kind donation of gardening gloves to our school. They fit perfectly and will be very well used!



We've had auditions for our annual musical. Not to give away too much but we are keeping with our sea theme for this year's concert. We hope the Halls Gap community can keep the 14th of December free and come along.



**HALLS GAP
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

HALLS GAP'S MELBOURNE CUP MARKET



Sunday 5th November

To be held at:
Halls Gap Primary

The outdoor market is held within the grounds of Halls Gap Primary School with the backdrop of beautiful mountains. It features hand grown and crafted goods from some very talented stallholders from far and wide. Candles, jewellery, clothing, ceramics, stoneware, carving, baked goods, smallgoods, chocolates, sweets, food from plants, plants...the list is extensive.

You will also be enticed by the smell of the BBQ being cooked by our volunteer school parents. \$2 sausages in bread and the best egg and bacon roll \$5 can buy means you can feed the family breakfast and lunch on a budget.

All proceeds go towards the Halls Gap Primary School.



Grampians Music Festival update

GMF 2018 – Friday 2 February to Sunday 4 February

Volunteer for GMF!

The Grampians Music Festival Committee is currently calling for volunteers to put their hands up for our 2018 festival. As part of the volunteer deal you'll

need to work two four-hour shifts over the GMF weekend (2-4 Feb 2018) in exchange for a three-day ticket, a t-shirt, stubby holder and loads of love and affection from the committee!

If you'd like to put your hand up to volunteer, visit www.grampiansmusicfestival.com, go to the "Stuff to know" page then click on the "get involved" link. There you'll find an info pack document as well as a form to fill in.

The GMF Committee is also calling for clubs, groups and individuals to help us in the week before and week after the festival to help us set up and pack down. If you'd like to help with that side of things, you can fill in the form on the page above too.

Anyone got any big plants in pots we can borrow or rent for the weekend?

We're trying to "pretty up" the festival arena and would like to add some tall and/or big plants in pots around the grounds to add shade and colour. If you can help us, let us know by sending an email to info@grampiansmusicfestival.com.

Want to be a mate of GMF?

One of our sponsorship packages is called "Mates of GMF" and is designed specifically for local businesses and individuals who want to help us out either financially or via a contra deal. No donation is too small so let us know if you'd like to help by emailing your details and what you have in mind to info@grampiansmusicfestival.com.

Chat to us

Feel free to chat to any of the committee members at any time via Facebook message, email, in person or over the phone. The Committee is: Carly Flecknoe (Director), Yasmina Khayat, Will Hudson, Leah Heinrich, David Nicholson, Richard Flecknoe, Yeti Harris, Jason Hosemans, Justine Linley, Juliette Lalli and Dee-Ann Kelly.

And don't forget to follow us on Facebook – facebook.com/grampiansmusicfestival – and Instagram [@grampiansmusicfestival](https://www.instagram.com/grampiansmusicfestival) to keep up to date.



Grampians National Park Walking Track Support Group

Update on our activities

Who we are

The Grampians Walking Track Support Group was formed by our convenor, David Witham, in 2003 to attract and coordinate volunteer interest in maintaining and improving walking tracks within the Grampians National Park.

We operate under the broad umbrella of the Community Association of Halls Gap which also undertakes other activities such as the Wildflower Show and Halls Gap Botanic Garden and provides support for Run the Gap, Halls Gap Landcare Group and the Jazz Festival.

What do we do?

In partnership with Parks Victoria, we carry out vital maintenance on popular walking tracks, such as trimming vegetation, cleaning water runoffs and clearing fallen timber.

Most of our works are carried out through the efforts of walking clubs:

- Grampians Bushwalking Club – Heatherlie and Beehive Falls Walking Tracks
- Warrnambool Bushwalking Club – Mount Abrupt and Chimney Pots Walking Tracks
- Melbourne Bushwalkers – various tracks
- Victorian Mountain Tramping Club - tracks

Over the last two years these clubs have contributed 61 person days to our program.

Recently the Wimmera Bushwalking Club has joined our program and will undertake works on the Mount Zero and Mackenzie River Walking Tracks over the next few months.

It is a simple model and works extremely well. If you are keen to join please get in touch with David Witham.



SANDLANT BUSES

Graeme Sandlant

Phone: 03 53582848; 03 53569342

STAWELL – HALLS GAP (GRAMPIANS LINK) ROUTE SERVICES
Incorporating

HALLS GAP VALLEY ROUTE SERVICE

Route Description:

Services operate every day except Christmas day.

Stawell to Halls Gap

Bus departs from Main Street Stawell bus stop and runs via Stawell Railway Station, then via Grampians Road to bus stops at Halls Gap Gardens Caravan Park, Halls Gap Hotel, Tims Place, Halls Gap Information Centre, Norval Camp, Cnr Tandarra Road, to Brambuk – The National Park & Cultural Centre bus stop.

Halls Gap zone (Halls Gap Valley Route Service)

This service operates along Grampians Road between Halls Gap Gardens Caravan Park bus stop (corner Grampians Road and Pomonal-Ararat Road) and Brambuk bus stop.

Halls Gap to Stawell

Bus travels in reverse from Brambuk bus stop to Stawell Main Street bus stop.

Wheelchair access:

The Victorian public transport network is progressively becoming accessible for people with special needs. Contact Sandlant Buses for further information.

SAN20170827

Graeme Sandlant – SANDLANT BUSES

HALLS GAP VALLEY ROUTE SERVICE - TIMETABLE

Bus Stop	Mon to Fri	Saturday + Sunday
Stawell City, Main Street	Dep: 12:40pm	11:20am
Stawell Rail Station	Dep: 12:50	11:30
Halls Gap Gardens Caravan Park		12:55pm
Halls Gap Hotel		1:30pm
Tims Place	Dep: 1:18	11:58
Halls Gap Info Centre	Arr: 1:19	12:59
	Dep: 1:25	1:00
Norval Camp		1:37
Tandarra Road		
Brambuk Centre	Arr: 1:30	12:10
		1:45
Brambuk Centre	Dep: 2:05	12:40
Tandarra Road		1:15
Norval Camp		2:20
Halls Gap Info Centre	Arr: 2:10	12:48
	Dep: 2:20	1:22
Tims Place	Dep: 2:21	1:25
Halls Gap Hotel		1:26
Halls Gap Gardens Caravan Park	2:23	1:28
Stawell Rail Station	2:55	2:38
Stawell City, Main Street	3:00	3:10
		3:12

Fares (Halls Gap zone)

Concession:	Single \$1.20	Day return \$2.40
Adult:	Single \$2.10	Day return \$4.20

Fares (Stawell – Halls Gap)

Concession:	Single \$3.90	Day return \$7.80
Adult:	Single \$7.80	Day return \$15.60

Where to buy tickets:

Halls Gap Valley and Grampians Link route services tickets can be purchased from driver: proof of concession entitlement must be produced on request. Connecting V/Line services at Stawell Rail Station (V/Line tickets available at Halls Gap Information Centre and V/Line Agency in Seaby Street Stawell).

BOOMERANG BAGS



Boomerang Bags is a community driven initiative tackling plastic pollution at the grassroots level.

Dedicated volunteers, schools and community groups get together to make re-useable bags using recycled materials as a means to provide a sustainable alternative to plastic bags.

WE WOULD LOVE YOUR HELP!

Volunteers needed to help with cutting materials, pinning, ironing, stamping and sewing. All ages welcome and no experience required.

When:

Where:

To find out more or to get involved contact

boomerangbags.org



Are you looking for a FREE, fun and social way to fundraise, bring your members together and meet the locals? Well, come along to the

Garage Sale Trail

The Northern Grampians Shire Council is making this happen in your local area on **Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 October 2017**. It's the biggest reuse and community event in the country, last year there were 15,000+ garage sales and stalls nationally and over 320,000 shoppers and sellers.

Garage Sale Trail is a national, council-powered program that is about sustainability, community and fun. By organizing communities around Australia to hold garage sales on one big day, Garage Sale Trail aims to provide a platform for fundraising, promote waste education, enable community connections, inspire creativity and stimulate local economies.

It's a great way for community groups, schools and charities to fundraise, you can make an average \$490 - \$2000 on the day, while making the world a better place and having fun doing it. Anyone can get involved and it's **FREE** to register. Put your sale on the Garage Sale Trail at www.garagesaletrail.com.au

It's a great way to raise funds for your community group – you can invest 100% of the profits from your garage sale back in to your programs

By participating in Garage Sale Trail you get a sale page on garagesaletrail.com.au, media coverage of the event and free materials to promote your sale locally. You can also find tips and guides on having a successful fundraising event on the Garage Sale Trail website to share with your community group to help you get the most out of your day.

For enquiries or to share your thoughts about garage sale ideas, please contact Amanda Kilpatrick at the Northern Grampians Shire Council on 5358 8700.



HOLDENS OF AGE
CAR CLUB INC. 21

NEW CATEGORIES ADDED
GRAND CHAMPION & BEST LADIES ENTRANT

SHOW & SHINE

2017

ALL MAKES AND MODELS OF CARS AND BIKES WELCOME
ALL CATEGORIES VOTED BY THE PUBLIC

SUNDAY 22nd OCTOBER
HALLS GAP RECREATION RESERVE - GATES OPEN 9:30AM

\$15 PER VEHICLE ENTRY AND PUBLIC GOLD COIN ENTRY
GATE TAKINGS TO BE DONATED TO CHARITY
FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE PHONE DARYL BARBER ON 0417 533 813



GREAT BANDS
GREAT VENUES

—

**The best re-
uniting of Jazz
friends
anywhere**

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**Where all jazz
lovers know each
other**

—

**For old Jazzers &
young Groovers
..... and everyone
in between**

—

**Classic Trad, Swing,
American Song Book,
Groove, Funk & Fusion
& bits of Blues**

INFO

0428 227 261

festval@hallsgapjazzblues.com

www.hallsgapjazzblues.com

www.facebook.com/hallsgapjazzblues



27, 28, 29 OCT 2017

HALLS GAP JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL

Grampians in Swinging Springtime
Wonderful Weather, Marvelous Music, Mountain Majesty,
Superb Setting, Delightful Dining, Wondrous Wines

Great Grampians Jazz
...je ne sais quoi....



HISTORIC HALLS GAP



PÍERK& BRO+HER&

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 3
FROM 3PM - HALLS GAP HOTEL**

**SUPPORTED BY THE KITE MACHINE
AND GENA ROSE BRUCE**

**TICKETS \$38+BF - KIDS UNDER 15 FREE
AVAILABLE AT HALLSGAPHOTEL.OZTIX.COM.AU OR DIRECT FROM THE HOTEL**

Halls Gap Hotel



FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

Lee-Anne, Margo, Jenny and
Tammy

Please email your articles and
photos to us by the 25th of each
month to:

leeannel@budjabudjacoop.org.au

Upload your community events
details to the Community
Association webpage:

www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au

Like our Halls Gap Community
Association Facebook Page

Like our Halls Gap Community
Watch and Events Facebook Page

Did you hear about the
guy whose whole left
side was cut off?

He's all right now.



Glorious Grampians

LGBTIQ+A

Event, Seniors Week - Saturday, October 21

10 am - Meet & Greet @ Halls Gap Hub

10.30 am - Visit Halls Gap Botanical Gardens and Venus Baths

12 noon - 1.30 pm - Luncheon @ Halls Gap Hotel

1.30 - 4 pm - Free band

RSVP by Friday, 13 October by calling Gemma on 5358 7400 or at gemma.b@grampianscommunityhealth.org.au

Regular Events

- Chas Mangle Justice of the Peace is available for witnessing documents in the History Room at the Centennial Hall most days except Tuesdays from 1pm - 5 pm. Ph. 0439 837 052
- Social Coffee catch-ups at Harvest Cafe 11am Tuesdays.
- Grampians Film Society
- Various sport/fitness groups.. Check the community website for details



The Halls Gap History Room in the Centennial Hall is open most days except Tuesday from 1PM - 5PM. Locals and visitors are most welcome and there is no entry fee.