Issue: November 2021

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association & Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

Articles for February FTG need to be received by the 25th November 2021. See page 16 for details

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WRAP UP...

It was lovely to see people enjoying themselves in the sunshine. It feels that summer is on its way and there will be more opportunities to meet friends and family over the coming holiday period.



This edition has information on community events so get out there and enjoy what our region offers.

STATS BY CHAS...

October 2021

92.5 mm for October bringing the progressive total for 2021 to 1017.0 mm.

This compares to the same period last year of 122.5 mm for October with a progressive total of 904.0 mm for 2020.

As of the 27th of October 2021 Lake Bellfield is holding 59,930ML or 76% full compared to the same period last year of 55,010ML or 70% full.

The total system is holding 244,190ML or 43.58%full. This compares to the same period last year of 227,790ML or 40.65% full.

Mount William received 155.8 mm for October 2021. The highest temperature of 19.4 C was recorded on the 27th of October and the lowest of -1.4C was recorded on the 11th October 2021. The highest wind speed of 143 km/h was recorded on the 29th October 2021.



WILDFLOWERS

We have had a display of some of our Grampians Gariwerd flowers plus leaflets describing a selection of easy drives and short easy walks in the VIC and at Brambuk on sale for just \$2 each, with proceeds going towards the Botanic Garden. The leaflets have nearly all been updated for November. The display at

the VIC has now finished but the leaflets are still available at Brambuk.

So if you are providing accommodation to tourists, do make sure you let them know about the guides. We also have small leaflets about our Grampians Gariwerd Botanic Garden at the VIC which you are welcome to take to display in your accommodation places.

Wildlife with Neil Macumber - Echidnas.

There are Four Species worldwide. All four species occur on the Island of New Guinea and also from Salawati Island just off the coast of West Papua in the far West. Only one – the Short-beaked Echidna occurs in Australia. They are in the group of mammals called Monotremes – (which means one hole – this is for getting rid of waste products, mating and in the Female laying eggs) and include the Platypus. Long-beaked Echidnas feed mainly from forest litter on earthworms and larger solitary insects and larvae.

Eastern Long-beaked Echidna (Zaglossus bartoni) – occurs in Papua New Guinea at elevations of 2,000mtrs to 3,000mtrs. Weight 5kgs and 10kgs, females larger, size 60cms to 1mtr in length and can live for 30 years.

Western Long-beaked Echidna (Zaglossus bruijnii) – occurs in West Papua. Largest Echidnas. Weight almost 16.5kgs. Habitat: - montane forests and alpine meadows, between 1,300mtrs and 4,000mtrs. Critically Endangered.

Sir David's Long-beaked Echidna (Zaglossus attenboroughi) – (named after Sir David Attenborough) limited range in the Cyclops Ranges just West of Jayapura in West Papua. Nocturnal and solitary. Size same as Shortbeaked Echidna, males are larger.

The Short-beaked Echidna (Tachyglossus aculeatus)

We usually just call them Echidnas but the correct name is Short-beaked Echidna to distinguish them from the Long-beaked Echidna that only occurs on the island of New Guinea and Salawati Island.

Size: - Head and body from 30cm to 45cm. Weight 2kg to 7kg. It is readily recognised by its covering of long spines. Fur is present between the spines and, in the Tasmanian form, may be so long as to obscure the spines. Echidnas are surprisingly good swimmers. The body fur is usually very dark brown but can be a lighter brown in some individuals. It is distributed over most of Australia including Tasmania, from alpine regions to deserts and has no particular habitat requirements other than a supply of ants and termites on which it feeds.

Nests of these insects are breached with the broad claws of its powerful forepaws, and ants, eggs and larvae adhering to the copious sticky saliva which coats the tongue are drawn into the mouth and crushed between a horny pad at the back of the tongue and a similar structure on the palate as echidnas don't have teeth. A considerable amount of soil and pulverised ant nest is ingested, and this forms the greater part of their cylindrical droppings.

They are solitary animals and occupy overlapping home ranges which lack fixed nest sites. They seek shelter in hollow logs, under thick bushes and piles of debris and, occasionally, in rabbit or wombat burrows. The female constructs a short burrow, less than a metre long, when incubating young. (which are known as 'puggles') Some females remain in the burrow until the egg is hatched; others have been observed moving around with an egg in the pouch. Females have been observed foraging with pouch-young, most seem to remain in the nursery burrow with their young until its spines start to develop and it can no longer be comfortably be accommodated in the pouch. The nursery burrow is sealed when the mother leaves to forage, often for several

days at a time.



Cont..... Wildlife with Neil Macumber - Echidnas.

In arid regions, Short-beaked Echidnas avoid extremes in temperature by sheltering in caves or crevices, with foraging restricted to the cool of the night. In more temperate climates the pattern of activity is dependant on the air temperature; usually foraging around dusk and dawn but in winter may be active in he middle of the day. They hibernate in many parts of their range particularly in snowy regions.

Males have a spur on the ankle of their hind legs similar to the male Platypus but lack a functional venom gland. Mating occurs in July and August, during which time a female may be persued by a 'train' of as many as 10 eager males. Around two weeks after copulation, a single soft-shelled egg is laid directly into a rudimentary pouch on the abdomen of the female. The egg hatches after about 10 days and the young

sucks milk from numerous pores of the pair of mammary glands. After an unknown period, the young is left behind in the burrow while the female goes foraging. At about three months, spines begin to erupt on the young echidna's back but suckling appears to continue for several months. Juveniles, weighing about one kilogram, tend to be first seen wandering from about September to November. The spines seem to provide an excellent defence. When suddenly disturbed on open ground, an echidna curls into a ball of radiating



Pomonal Power Information and Q&A is postponed due to unforseen circumstances.

We apologise for any inconvenience and gratitude for your understanding.

Tentative dates November 25 (Thur) or November 30 (Tues).

Please RSVP as soon the new date is locked in.

We encourage you all to attend this interesting and valuable conversation for our community and nearby communities.

BREAZE will be streaming the event live on Facebook - 'like' their page and 'follow' for great sustainable information.

HALLS GAP CFA

The Halls Gap Fire Brigade is preparing for the up-coming summer with specialist safety drills



and equipment maintenance. An important drill undertaken by every volunteer every season is to practise how a crew can seek protection in the cab of fire truck in the event of being trapped in a fire. This involves decision making and communication protocols, unrolling and sealing reflective insulating curtains, managing external sprays to protect the truck and its occupants, and appropriate radio messaging. We hope this is never required, but every firefighter needs to know the procedures.

Tanker 1, our priority vehicle for grass and scrub fires, will undergo a major maintenance service at the CFA motor workshop in Horsham. While it is away, a substitute tanker is garaged at Halls Gap so we can maintain the usual emergency response capacity. The station has recently had a routine check of electrical services, and trees and branches that could prevent access to the station are being removed to ensure vehicles and firefighters can come and go safely and efficiently.

Regular training is back on the calendar and has involved another opportunity to work with a prop in Stawell. A full scale model car was used to simulate a vehicle fire so volunteers could learn and practise firefighting responses.

Second Lieutenant Justin Cozens and Third Lieutenant Hayden Kozchitzke continue to share First Lieutenant duties in conjunction with their current leadership roles, and will also step up to Acting Captain when required. We will formally appoint a new First Lieutenant when we are able to conduct a brigade meeting.

It has been good to see recent activity with landholders clearing, removing and burning combustible material in order to reduce the fire risk. Within the Halls Gap township you need a permit from Northern Grampians Shire, to burn at any time of year. In rural

zones a permit is required only during the fire restriction period, which has not yet been declared for this season.

Whether you need a permit or not, every burn must be registered by telephoning 1800 668 511, or online at https://firepermits.vic.gov.au/.



We are pleased to have welcomed a couple of new volunteers recently. We are always recruiting potential firefighters as well as other supporters for logistics, maintenance and communications.

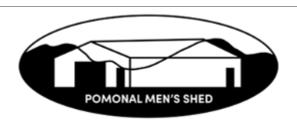
Please call Peter if interested - 0437 524 716.



FOGG event Saturday 13th November 2021.

Reptile walk and talk with David Steane. Meeting at Silverband Falls Carpark 10am.

Please register on line at www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/ or call Alison Bainbridge on 0417 883 445 to book your space. This is a covid safe event.



Activities Update – 31st October 2021

October has once again been a busy month for Pomonal Men's Shed as we continue work making the shed functional. This process is going really well with a high level of comradery being enjoyed by all as we do this "Shoulder to Shoulder".

Our meeting room is looking fantastic and very close to completion, this has taken longer than expected because our members are taking great care to do everything as well as they can, making the experience all the better for those involved.

Once the meeting room is functional, we will be inviting guest speakers to run information sessions and courses for us in a range of areas to meet the needs of our members. We have already registered to do a mental health 1st aid course within the new year.

We are still sorting out the placement of machinery in the workshop area and have been making sure everything is safe and test and tagged.

We have some projects within the community on the board to commence once the workshop is operational and will also start to make different items that will be available for sale.

Our garden is looking fantastic and we are pleased to say it is comprised 100% of native plants.

We are looking forward to commencing our sausage sizzles at the monthly Pomonal market where we will have the hand made items for sale

Once again, we have welcomed some new members and are feeling excited about the future direction of the shed.

We are currently meeting every Monday and Thursday from 9-30am and by lunchtime enjoy the all-important cuppa and biscuit as we solve all the problems of the world.

Russ Kellett Secretary

Pomonal Men's Shed 3360 Ararat Hall Gap Road, Pomonal. Victoria 3381



HALLS GAP POLICE

G'day Halls Gap Community,

The visitors are certainly rolling in and metropolitan Melbourne is due to be reunited with regional

Victoria at 6PM on Friday October 29, depending on the release of this publication, they may already be with us. As always Acting Sergeant Kellie HARRIS and Leading Senior Constable Sarah McLEOD are here to assist you in these ever changing times. Please call us for assistance, (000) if you do encounter any aggressive behaviour from the public in regards to adhering to the CHO directions. As a community your diligence during these times has been a huge factor in keeping our community

You might see a couple of new faces over the next fortnight, Acting Sergeant Shane PETTINGILL and First Constable Tom RODGERS from Stawell Police will be assisting us in Halls Gap during this time.

The Northern Grampians Eyewatch page on Facebook recently posted information in regards to the legalities of E-Scooters and E-Skateboards. Both of these are classified as motor vehicles and therefor are subject to the same rules and regulations as the vehicle you drive (registration/ licensing/road rules). Neither can be registered so their use is currently restricted to private property only. There are currently trials being conducted by Vic Roads in 3 municipalities (2 metro and 1 regional), we will keep you updated with the outcome.

Please refer to the original post on the Eyewatch page or Vic Roads website for more information. The E-bikes which are abundant in our town do not fall into the same category.

Please stay safe, be kind.

Halls Gap Police







We welcomed back Play Group on Wednesday's from 9.30am. It has been wonderful to meet the new little ones and hear their laughter, tears and squeals.

Another successful First Aid/CPR course ran in October. We only have one course left for 2021 that is Monday 6th December 2021. We have enough to run this course so if you need to update your First Aid or CPR give us a call at the Neighbourhood House on 5356 4751 option 3 to book your place.

Program for November:

Monday 7pm Meditation

Tuesday 1.30pm Gentle Exercise

Wednesday 9.30am Playgroup

Thursday 10am Tai Chi

Thursday 1pm Meet and Make

Friday 1pm Finska

Computers are available opening times from 9am to 3.15pm





The Grampians Film Society evenings are held from January to November in either Halls Gap, Pomonal or Stawell.

The doors open at 7pm and screenings commence at 7.30pm. Drinks and nibbles are served prior to the film and a light supper is served afterwards.

Membership is only \$45 annually or \$25 half-year. For more information contact Alison Bainbridge 0417 883 445

Come along and enjoy viewing, being entertained and discussing the merits of films we screen.

We endeavour to cater for a variety of tastes as well as have a fun social night.





Wednesday 24 November 2021

Centenary Hall, 117 Grampians Road, Halls Gap

Frank Oz UK version of Death at A Funeral 2007. Chaos ensues when a man tries to expose a dark secret regarding a recently deceased patriarch of a dysfunctional British family.





BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC

20-22 Grampians road, Halls Gap 3381

PH: 03 5356 4751 WEBSITE: www.budjabudjacoop.org.au

November	December
Dr Sophia Samuel	Dr Susan Watson
1st-5th	1st – 3rd
Dr Clare Roczniok	Dr Clare Rocznoik
8th - 19th	6th – 17th
Dr Susan Watson	DR TBC
22nd - 30th	20th - 24th
Dr Lori Cameron	
24th - 25th	

Christmas and New Year's closure dates.

Budja Budja Medical clinic will be closed form:

Monday 27th of December and

re-opening on Tuesday 4th January.

(Please ensure you have enough scripts and medication for the Christmas period)

COUDINER DISCO



SAT 27 NOV

7PM START WITH A

IOPM FINISH

AT THE STAWELL

TOWN HALL CARPARK

FREE EVENT WITH

DRINKS AND SNACKS

COME DRESSED

UP OR DRESSED

DOWN, JUST

DON'T FORGET

YOUR MASK!

This is a COVIDSAFE

EVENT

ALL ATTENDEES MUST BE

DOUBLE VAXXED

@GRAMPIANSYOUTHEVENTS

ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE

INFORMATION

Drug and Alcohol free event















The minister for the environment, Lily D'Ambrosio is making a visit to the garden this Friday (12/11). At this stage the reason for her visit is unknown to us, but we are excited about showing our garden off to her and the various media people who will

be there, and we are hopeful for good news. Since we learnt that she was coming we have been putting extra work into clearing up the weeds which unfortunately just love the weather we've been having. If you read this in time do join us on Thursday morning.

Our new shed is in place, with office furniture kindly donated by the Irvine family. So we now have an office as well as a tool shed which is much more convenient.

If we are not in lockdown we continue to have working bees on the second and fourth Fridays each month. Start at 9.30 ish, come when you wish, leave

when you have had enough. Anyone welcome. In addition, some of us will be there on any sunny days so you can give me a call if you feel like coming down to help. 0429 201 139. The help is much appreciated. We have a couple of weddings coming up in summer 2022 and we want the garden to look good for them.

Upgrading the watering system, and the new signage on indigenous use of plants have not yet started, but should not be too far off.

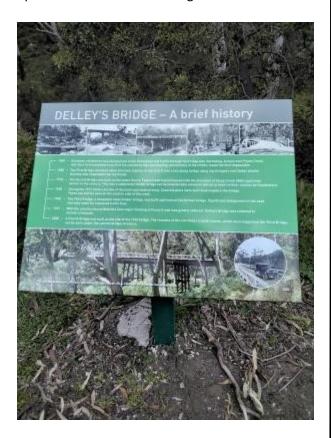
We have quite a bit in flower at the moment so do come down and have a look. And check out our facebook page.

Margo S.



HG & Grampians Historical Society

The members of the HG & Grampians Historical Society are delighted to have replaced the information sign near Delley's bridge. The sign outlines the history of each bridge that has been built at the northern entrance to Halls Gap. The former sign had been illegible for some years due to graffiti and sun damage but it is hoped that this plaque will withstand both the elements and the vandals! Our thanks and appreciation are extended to John Pearson who volunteered his time and expertise to attach the new sign for us.



The Society are very pleased to have four new Guides to welcome visitors to the History Room: Kerrie & Gary, Tom and John are all very interested in the history of our area and are doing a great job!



HALLS GAP RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of the resident and ratepayer group will be held on Wednesday December 1 in the Supper Room of the Hall. Our local council member, Cr Trevor Gready attends and it is hoped that the Mayor will also be able to come along. The meeting begins at 7.30 and all residents and/or ratepayers are welcome to attend.



Together we CAN
A message from Pomonal,
a dinky-toy sized
community with a voice
that will be heard

Check out the video here: https://vimeo.com/639486486

In the lead up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, the community of Pomonal, with less than 500 hundred residents, has undertaken an initiative to let our community and local politicians, know that our voices will be heard on the critical issue of climate change. It is time Australia at every political level become a global leader on this issue rather than 'the sour faced kid in the corner who only does anything when the bigger kids threaten to not let them play any more.' This country is better than that.

By taking this initiative we also want to help inspire other small communities to appreciate that their voices too can and will be heard.

As such, we are asking people who view the film to support the Pomonal Community's initiative by (1) liking the film. Our goal is to collate all likes and views to show that a small community can have its voice heard far and wide

- (2) comment on the film we will compile comments to forward through to local media and politicians
- (3) we are encouraging people hare or embed the film to help us reach a broader audience
- (4) from media outlets, print, radio and visual, all wider community support would be very much appreciated.

Our contacts are:

Anthea Nicholls who initiated the project and responsible for local distribution

Ph: 0429170450

email: antheanicholls@bigpond.com

Timothy Syrota, film maker and photographer and responsible for broader media and popular distribution

Ph: 0490364418

email: imothysyrota@gmail.com





Stawell Yacht Club will be holding a "Learn to Sail & Race" Program in November 2021:

- Sail training sessions will be held each Sunday afternoon during November
- The program will be tailored to suit the ability of the participants
- The goal is to teach novices the basics of sailing and racing, participants with some sailing experience will be coached in the next level of boat control and racing
- The club will have a selection of single and double handed dinghies available for use
- The program will involve learning to sail in a fun and supportive environment whilst racing other beginners on a small course

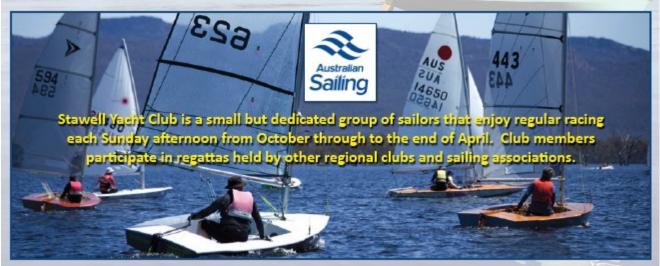
Where do we sail? Lake Fyans

Cost of the Program? Adults \$80

Children \$40

If at the end of the course you would like to join the club you can use this payment as a deduction to the membership fee.

To register your interest please download the application form at www.stawellyachtclub.org.au



HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

Life at school has been very quiet over the last few months due to lockdowns and learning from home. It was with great happiness therefore that we

welcomed children in all year levels back to school last Friday. They have loved getting back into routine, seeing friends and learning together with plenty of hands -on activities.







With restrictions easing we are looking forward to the return of regular school activities throughout Term 4 such as Assemblies, Transition programs and excursions.

The Prep Transition program will commence next Wednesday, 3rd November for a 3 hour introduction to school life. Any family who has a Kinder aged child or you know of a family who does and may be interested in them attending Halls Gap Primary are encouraged to give us a call to arrange a tour.

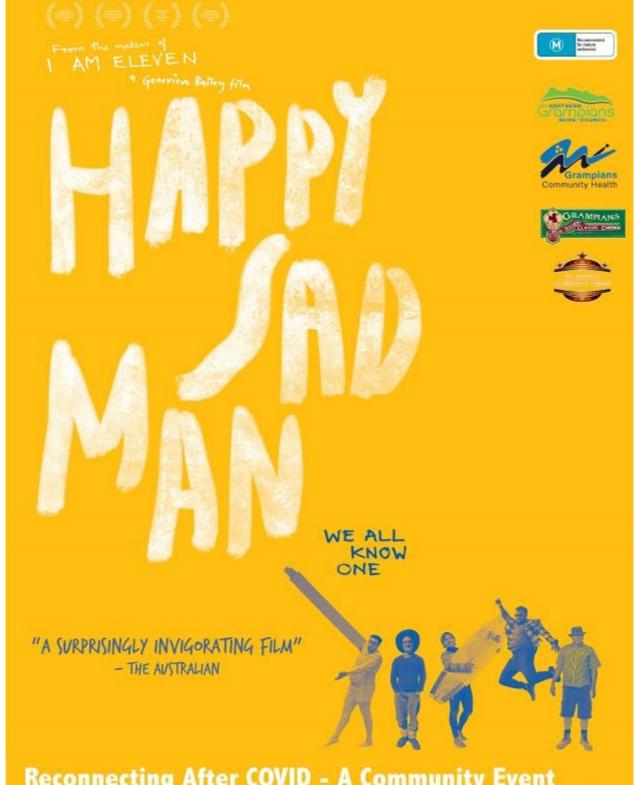
Please contact the school either on 5356 4235 or email halls.gap.ps@education.vic.gov.au.





From Students and Staff, Halls Gap Primary School, we hope your are enjoying the sunshine and socialising as much as we are!



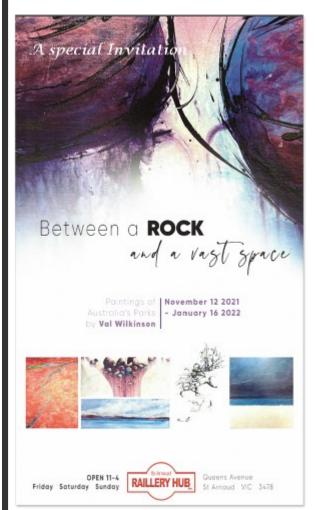


Reconnecting After COVID - A Community Event Film Screening, Meet the Filmmaker Q&A, and Free Food

Stawell Entertainment Centre, Town Hall November 13th, 6-9pm St Arnaud McDonald Hall & Perry Room November 14th, 11:30-2:30pm

ENTRY BY \$5 DONATION

BOOK TICKETS NOW at happysadman.org or call Ada on 5358 7400



A JOURNEY OF TEN YEARS AND 124,531 KILOMETRES ARRIVES AT THE ST ARNAUD RAILLERY HUB GALLERY

Australia has thousands of parks and Dunolly artist, Val Wilkinson, has explored, photographed and painted over 600 of them. In her radically modified 60-Series Landcruiser Val 'tickedoff' the parks on a state-by-state basis during what she describes as 'the best decade of my life'. "Many of the most iconic parks are very remote. Access tracks can be badly corrugated, impassible when wet, and a long way from roadside assist even if there was a phone signal which often there was not!" However, Val says the hardest to reach parks invariably provided her the most inspiring subject matter to paint and photograph. With literally thousands of images and hundreds of paintings to choose from, she narrowed down her selection for this exhibition to the subject matter that invariably awed and inspired her: huge rocks and vast spaces. The largest work in the exhibition, a diptych entitled "Moonrise over Karlu Karlu", is based upon a watercolour completed Val's last night camped at the Devil's Marble's Conservation Reserve. Also on show are four en plein air sketches produced earlier that same sunny, but chilly July day in 2016. Kathryn MacKenzie OAM, CEO of Echuca Moama Tourism describes Val's work as 'evocative', adding, "Val captures the essence of nature." There is considerable stylistic variety in this show because, as Val puts it: "each park was unique, and my mood was invariably set by the journey to it. Brake failure, destructive gales and flash floods were Gallery Contact: Jo Postlethwaite 0429 978 228 Artist Contact: Val Wilkinson 0417 391 544 definite downers but ginormous boulders and expansive landscapes always lifted my spirits". Fortunately, Val found some of each in every state and territory and in this exhibition provides a glimpse of what awaits us when travel can resume. The Raillery Hub Gallery, located in the historic railway station in Queen's Avenue, St Arnaud, is open Friday to Sunday 11.00am - 4.00pm. Entry is free



This forum is for anyone who is currently pregnant, breastfeeding or is considering conceiving, including partners, families and healthcare professionals providing support in this area. If you have questions then this is your opportunity to participate in an open conversation about pregnancy, breastfeeding, fertility, and the COVID-19 vaccine. Our guest speaker is Professor Caroline Homer, Co-Program Director, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health, Burnet

Institute. Book online at https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/pregnancy-fertility-and-covid-vaccination-everything-you-need-to-know-tickets-206913342377

Event Details:

Date: Tuesday 30 November

Time: 12 noon – 1pm

Where: Online - link will be provided with booking

Cost: Free

HALLS GAP MARKET



The Halls Gap Market was established in 1997 and is proudly brought to you by the Halls Gap Primary School. Located at the base of the Wonderland Range (Grampians) in the magical Halls Gap Primary School

grounds, this truly unique market is a must.

The Halls Gap Market is an outdoor market and boasts a range of high quality stalls offering arts, crafts, fresh produce, plants, fine food, coffee and more. School parents serve hot and cold refreshments along with a barbecue featuring delicious egg and bacon rolls. All proceeds go to the Halls Gap Primary School. Check the website for information on becoming a stall holder: -http://www.hgps.vic.edu.au/craft.html

Market Dates for 2022:

Labour Day Weekend- Sunday 13th March Easter Sunday - 17th April Queen's Birthday Weekend - Sunday 12th June Melbourne Cup Weekend - Sunday 30th October

Are You Stuck in the Bush?

Call Glenn on 0419 802 846

Or 0424 619 355...Leave a message if no answer.

Take a photo of this flyer.



On-Board Recovery Equipment

Winches – Front and Rear Snatch Straps Winch Extension Straps Snatch Blocks Shovel Air Compressor UHF Radio Ch 20 Fridge Hi-Lift Jack
Tree Trunk Protectors
Bow Shackles
Soft Shackles
Rated Recovery Points
Chainsaw
GPS Assistance
Local Knowledge





There are more ways to contact police with the new Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting platform.





Halls Gap is a Cat Free Zone

fou can report non-urgent crimes and events anytime, anywhere











FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

Lee-Anne, Margo, Abbie and Alison

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

neighbourhood.house@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 and/or Halls Gap Community
Watch and Events Facebook Pages.



To keep up to date with what is happening in Pomonal like **Pomonal Community Connections**Facebook page and/or **Pomonal info &**resources sharing Facebook Pages

Fill The Gap newsletter acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the first Australians.

We acknowledges the diversity of Indigenous Australia.

We respectfully recognise Elders past, present and emerging.

This newsletter was produced on Djab Wurrung country.









Regular Events

- * Chas Mangle Justice of the Peace is available for witnessing documents in the Halls Gap Newsagency from 8am 10am daily except Tuesday Ph. 0439 837 052
- * **Peter Hilbig** is also a Justice of the Peace and can undertake JP responsibilities by appointment. Email peter@hilbig.id.au or telephone 0437 524 716.
- * History Room is open 2pm-4.30pm on MOST days. CLOSED Tuesday
- * Budja Budja Neighbourhood House check the program at the house and online
- * Various sport/fitness groups. Check the community website for details