

Issue: December 2020

# FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association  
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

Articles for January FTG need to be received by the 18th of Dec 2020. See page 17 for details

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## FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



### ballambar

season of butterflies - early summer  
(mid november to late january)

#### Warmth, Butterflies and Wetland Plants

With the onset of summer heat, the land dries and the weather stabilises. This is the season of butterflies or ballambar.

## WRAP UP...

Well 2020 is almost over. Well done everyone for getting through it and still being kind to each other.

Bring on 2021 its going to be a good one.

We have got a bumper issue happy reading

Stay safe over the silly season and see you next year.

## Caught a cicada that was keeping me awake at night. Well guess what cicada, it's Baby Shark on a 12 hour loop



## STATS BY CHAS...

### November 2020

48.5mm for November bringing the progressive total to 952.5mm for 2020.

This compares to the same period last year of 50.5mm for November with a progressive total of 831mm for 2019.

As of the 25th of November Lake Bellfield is holding 54,260ML or 69% full compared to the same period last year of 57,280ML or 73% full.

The total system is holding 222,530ML or 39.72% full compared to the same period last year of 235,190ML or 41.97% full.

Mount William received 24.4mm for November 2020. ( I think there was a malfunction in the recordings between the 9th of November and the 28th of November ?). The highest temperature of 28.6 C was recorded on the 27 of November and the lowest of - 0.2 C was recorded on the 5th of November.

The highest wind speed of 93 km/h was recorded on the 11th of November 2020.



## HALLS GAP CFA



The fire restriction period for Northern Grampians Shire, which includes Halls Gap has commenced so anyone considering a fire of any sort should take care to consult "Can I or Can't I", the CFA's information about what the fire restrictions mean, and the additional rules for days of Total Fire Ban. We have already had two Total Fire Ban days this season, so we need to check every day. Even if the weather appears quite mild, the factors of dryness, wind and fuel load may indicate a fire ban is determined. See <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can> before planning any kind of fire.

Most of our active volunteer firefighters have completed the annual safety drills required to respond to emergencies. One new member has undertaken the General Firefighter course and will commence with us this season. We are excited that several others have joined recently, and we will be seeking training programs for them as soon as possible. As always, new volunteers are always welcome – call Peter on 0437 524 716.

Recent grants to the brigade have enabled the fitting of reversing cameras to both fire trucks, making manoeuvring vehicles much safer, especially with pump and hose operators working directly behind the vehicles. We are also training an additional driver and seeking opportunities for others to obtain heavy vehicle endorsements. Members who have previously learnt how to work with breathing apparatus will also be scheduled for a regular update now COVID restrictions allow training with this equipment.

It really is time to check your fire plan and ensure all is in place in the event of a fire emergency. Download the CFA Bushfire Ready kit to guide your plan. See <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fire-ready-kit>

## AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFRILLATOR (AED)

Halls Gap now has a 24/7 accessible AED in the centre of town! Thanks to Ambulance Victoria for the unit. If you notice any issues please contact Absolute Outdoors/post office staff member. We hope no one ever needs to use it, but very glad we've got it here if someone does.



### Adrian Peter Manikas



Check out this youtube clip as it gives a basic rundown of how to use the AED.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=UDVx8cUAjIE>

First step is to dial '000' for help.

The main aim is get the AED asap applied to the patient. Start chest compressions straight away.

Let me know if you have any questions call Kerry on 0457 795 405

### Kerry Linke



FOGG held their AGM at Heathlie Quarry on a beautiful spring day. Thanks to Catherine for all her work as President and Bill & Judy Gardner as joint Secretary for the past year. Welcome Leigh Douglas, President, Rodney Thompson, Vice President, and Alison Bainbridge, Secretary to the committee and thanks to Judith Thompson for continuing as Treasurer. Discussion centred around the Grampians/Gariwerd Management Plan, Victorian Dear Management Strategy and future FOGG activities. Check out our website for more information <https://friendsofgrampiansgariwerd.org.au/>

If you are interested in becoming a member email [secretary@friendsofgrampiansgariwerd.org.au](mailto:secretary@friendsofgrampiansgariwerd.org.au)

## MARIANNE MITCHELL (MEGS)

Last Saturday, November 28th, Halls Gap was saddened with the passing of a long term resident Marianne (Megs - as everyone knew her) Mitchell.

During her time in Halls Gap, going back some 35+ years she was an active member of the community and a very familiar face around town.

When Daryl and Megs moved to Halls Gap in the 1980's with work at the CRB (VicRoads) depot, their 3 children attended Halls Gap Primary School and she was involved in the Mother's Club, played tennis both midweek and Saturday competitions for Halls Gap and in later life she joined the Halls Gap Golf Club being so passionate with the game that she played regularly in Stawell and travelled the area in competitions.


Megs was always willing to assist in local events and would put her hand up at any opportunity to help out raising funds for the Halls Gap community and charity organisations.

Our deepest condolences to Mitch (Daryl), Naomi, Lydia and Michael and their families, she will be sadly missed by those that knew her.


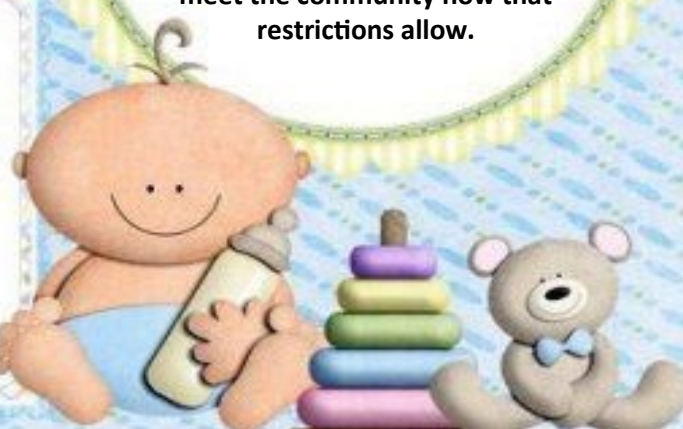
Vale Megs

Janine McDonald





Proud parents Danny and Matt from Wonderland Cottages are overjoyed to welcome their son Erik Alexander. Since November 15, 2020 he's the newest resident of Halls Gap. We're still fairly new to the area and look forward to meet the community now that restrictions allow.



**Budja Budja Neighbourhood House** is slowly coming back to life. Computer available however you need to book your time.

Youth week Event finally held in November! We had a great day with GYE, Absolute Outdoors and some great volunteers who got up early Saturday for a fun packed day abseiling, rock climbing and generally hanging out. One of the favourite activities was the smoothie bike. See photos below.

**Move It Move It Gentle Exercise** has resumed on Tuesday 1.30 at Halls Gap Centenary Hall. Last session for 2020 will be held on Tuesday 22nd December and we will resume on Tuesday 12th January 2021.



Thanks to Jo Brown for keeping us moving in 2020. Looking forward to more workouts in 2021

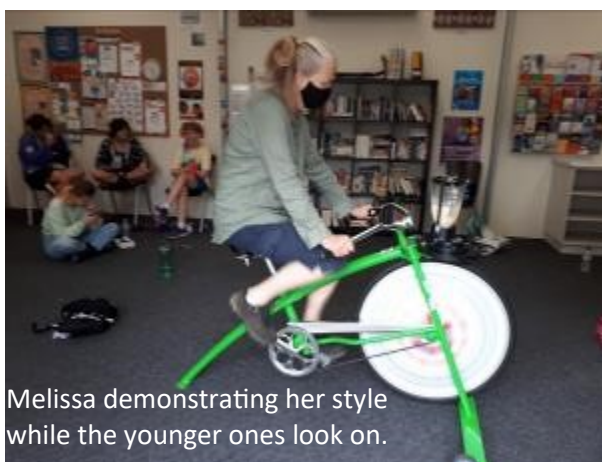
Come and join us for **Tai Chi** Thursday's 10-11am. Our last session for 2020 will be 24th December 2020 and we will recommence on Thursday 7th January 2021. We are fortunate to have two experienced teachers of Tai Chi that we can call upon both with their own style. Thanks to Tim and Bruce for volunteering their time during 2020.



**2021** will be an exciting year. We are planning more regular activates such as meet and make days, school holiday program, playgroup, finska, events and much more. Check out our website or facebook page for regular updates.



Alison showing how its done with no hands!



Melissa demonstrating her style while the younger ones look on.



**Budja Budja will be closed**  
**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of December**  
**and will reopen**  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of January**

Please be sure to check all prescriptions to ensure you have enough medication to cover the Christmas period or any holidays you might be taking.

**If you are in need of any help or assistance while we are away please find the following services who can support you.**

**Nurse on call - 1300 606 024 (open 24 hours a day)**

**URGENT Care Stawell - 5358 8500**

**URGENT Care Ararat - 5352 9300**

**After Hours GP Helpline - 1800 022 222 (Covering 24hours on public holidays)**

**Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636 (also have online chat available)**

**In an Emergency- 000**



**The team at Budja Budja  
would like to wish you all a  
very safe Merry Christmas  
and New Year! We look  
forward to seeing you again  
next year!**



# Grampians Area Newsletter

## Parks Victoria

November and  
December 2020

In Aboriginal culture, Grampians National Park and the surrounding landscape is known as Gariwerd.

Within Gariwerd, distinct seasonal changes occur throughout the year that influence the behaviour of the area's flora and fauna. While visiting keep an eye out for these changes and what makes the seasons unique.

From mid-November to late January many woodland plants are still in flower, including Christmas mint bush, grasstrees, hop goodenia and tea trees. Snakes and lizards are basking in the sun, beetles and moths swarm around lights and butterflies are spotted chasing each other.

In wetland areas, birds such as White Throated Warblers are calling, Honeyeaters are feasting on flowering banksia and Kites prey on mice and locusts. Pygmy possums have young and echidnas are seeking ant nests.

### News and updates

#### Open for visitors!

Now that restrictions have eased the park is welcoming back visitors.

Visitors are reminded of the public health measures in place across Victoria, with information available on the Department of Health and Human Services website:

[www.dhhs.vic.gov.au](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au)

For the latest information on park access across the state visit the Parks Victoria website: [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

#### Draft Gariwerd Management Plan

In partnership with Traditional Owner groups, Parks Victoria has now prepared a draft management plan for the Gariwerd landscape, an area that covers Grampians National Park and adjacent parks and reserves.

The draft Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan outlines proposals for the strategic planning of the landscape over the next 15 years to ensure that precious environmental and cultural values of this iconic landscape are preserved for future generations to enjoy.

To read the draft plan and provide comment visit Engage Victoria: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/grampians-management-plan>

### Cultural heritage assessments



Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners have recently undertaken condition assessments of registered rock art sites at Red Rock (Lil Lil) Bushland Reserve.

These assessments revealed further cultural heritage values, the management of which will be guided by the Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan. In the meantime, signage has been installed advising visitors to not enter these special places.

#### Planned burning

Recently Park Rangers spent the day undertaking candling of Stringy Bark trees at Ararat Regional Park. Candling is a fuel reduction technique used to reduce the amount of loose bark on Eucalypt trees and therefore the amount of spotting material available during a bushfire event.



#### Brambuk update

As communicated [earlier this year](#), Parks Victoria has temporarily taken on management of Brambuk in association with our partners: Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Barengi Gadjin Land Council, and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

As well as current operations at Brambuk, we are also working together towards future management of the precinct by a Traditional Owner organisation.

Until then, we are continuing to explore options to reinvigorate this important cultural and visitor site.

Over recent months, this has included undertaking building assessments and essential works, and partially reopening the precinct on 24 November.

The first stage of Brambuk's re-opening includes the visitor information building where national park information services are being delivered. These include map sales, brochures, campground bookings, permits, souvenirs and



interpretive displays, as well as scheduled holiday activities for kids (Junior Ranger Program).

Further assessments and maintenance works for the Cultural Centre are still underway so the building remains temporarily closed. Alternative options for delivering cultural experiences for visitors are currently being investigated.

In great news for Brambuk and the region, the Victorian Budget 2020–21 has allocated \$5.8 million to upgrade buildings, refresh activity spaces, and develop new environmental and cultural programs at the precinct. Further details about these upgrades will be provided by Parks Victoria and the Gariwerd Traditional Owner corporations in due course.

### Farewell Ranger Team Leader Mike Stevens

In 1999, a young bushy eyed university graduate named Mike Stevens joined Parks Victoria as part of its then group recruitment program. After 21 years with the agency, and a lengthy list of achievements, we are saying farewell as he heads interstate to further his career in Conservation and Land Management.

During Mike's time with Parks Victoria he secured over \$15 million in conservation investment in the Grampians, helped develop Conservation Action Planning, built large scale fox, feral cat, goat and deer control programs, was heavily involved with brush-tailed rock wallaby protection, helped rediscovered cultural sites and embedded winter burning into fire management.

Speaking to Mike, his most memorable moments include realising the importance of conservation after capturing and holding his first ever Bandicoot during a monitoring program, spending time on-country with Aboriginal staff and Traditional Owners and being caught in a burn over on the back of a fire tanker during his first-ever day at a "planned burn."

Parks Victoria and the Grampians team would like to wish Mike the very best at his new job and thank him for his dedication and passion for conservation in both the Grampians and across Australia.

### Fish Falls with FoGGs

In early October Ranger Han Auld and Friends of the Grampians-Gariwerd (FoGGs) installed a bench seat at Fish Falls (with money raised by the now defunct Friends of Zumsteins group) and removed African Weed Orchid along the walking track. The seat is a great addition and the perfect place to sit back, relax and take in nature. Thanks for your hard work FoGGs!



### Weed watch: South African Weed Orchid (*Disa bracteata* Sw.)

South African Weed Orchid, originally from (you guessed it) South Africa and is a significant environmental weed in Southern Australia. It invades native bushland and replaces ground flora such as native orchids. The flowers are self-pollinating and produce tens of thousands of dust-like seeds that are spread via wind and water. If you see South African Weed Orchid on public land report it to Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or use the Snap Send Solve phone app.

### Fyans Creek thistle removal

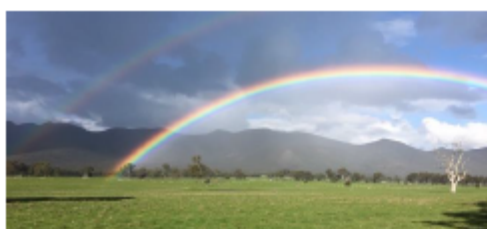
Over two days during the last week of October volunteers put on their gloves, pulled out the rake hoes and helped with the removal of thistles along the Fyans Creek walking track. The group managed to remove two ute loads of thistles between Brambuk and Tandara Road.

The Fyans Creek infestation is extensive and Parks Victoria will continue to work towards removal of this invasion weed. If you would like to help please send Ranger Han Auld an email: [Hannah.auld@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:Hannah.auld@parks.vic.gov.au)

### Volunteering

### Happy snaps from Ranger Mike Hanson

Mike Hanson is one of the Park's Rangers involved in the Grampians Ark small mammal protection program. Mike spends most days outside baiting, monitoring and trapping - here are a few photos he has recently taken.



## GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

Currently under construction, the Grampians Peaks Trail will provide a 160km walking experience that can be undertaken as one 13-day journey, enjoyed as shorter 2- 3 day sections.

For detailed information and the latest updates on the Grampians Peaks Trail project please visit [parks.vic.gov.au/projects/grampians-peaks-trail](https://parks.vic.gov.au/projects/grampians-peaks-trail)

### Airlift operations

On 20 October, helicopter air-lift operations commenced from a helipad near Roses Gap onto the Mt Difficult Range. Workers are airlifting materials to construct the remote Gar hike-in campground. There will be a series of additional air-lifting operations over November, December and January 2021. During these operations some walking tracks in the Mt Difficult area may be closed for visitor safety. Continue to check the Grampians page at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](https://www.parks.vic.gov.au) any updates.



### Keep off closed tracks – Please respect closures

Recently, track construction staff have had to ask several walkers to remove themselves from sections of trail that are under construction. Under law, these walking trails are worksites, where permission and inductions are required to enter. Many sections of the Grampians Peaks Trail are currently unsafe for walkers as they are missing critical safety infrastructure, workers are moving large rocks and trees and heavy machinery may be operating on site.

For safety reasons, it is important that walkers keep off these tracks until the Grampians Peaks Trail is officially open. Walkers will be turned around if found on site and fines can apply if closures are ignored.

## Seasonal fauna species

### Red-bellied black snake (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*)

Shiny black, red underneath and growing up to 2 metres in length the red-bellied black is one of Australia's venomous snakes. Active during the day in the warmer months, and usually found near creeks, wetlands or lagoons. Their diet includes fish, tadpoles, frogs, lizards, snakes (including its own species) and mammals. Generally, a shy species, they freeze to avoid detection (watch your step) and are quick to escape to a protected area if threatened. Normally only aggressive when provoked or unable to escape.

<https://australian.museum/learn/animals/reptiles/red-bellied-black-snake/>



## Seasonal flora species

### Oyster Bay Pine (*Callitris rhomboidea*)

A deep or silver green conical tree growing up to 6 metres high with leaves 1-4mm long and cones 1-2.5 cm in diameter. Main populations found in the Grampians ranges and Mallee sandhills. Found at all elevations in the Grampians, with stunted growth at high elevations.

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/9ecd7007-971c-49a5-981e-2433943d4ee7>



Do you want help identifying species in the field?

Download Museums Victoria Field Guide App:

[museums.vic.gov.au/apps/field-guide-app-to-victorian-fauna/](https://museums.vic.gov.au/apps/field-guide-app-to-victorian-fauna/)

## Upcoming events and activities

### Guided activities

Guided activities are planned for the summer school holidays – commencing on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. For activity information and bookings visit [www.juniorrangers.com.au](http://www.juniorrangers.com.au) and [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au).

### Self-Guided activities

#### Junior Ranger Activity Sheets

Help kids stay connected to nature by undertaking a fun self-guided Junior Ranger activity. Download an activity from [www.juniorrangers.com.au](http://www.juniorrangers.com.au) and get outside. There are also a range of online activities as well.

## Volunteering

Volunteering with Parks Victoria is a great way to contribute to conserving Victoria's special places. Each year, Volunteer Campground Hosts, Track Rangers, TrailRider Volunteers and community groups help make the Grampians National Park a better place. To find out how you can volunteer visit [parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/volunteering](http://parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/volunteering)

## Employment opportunities

To find out the latest employment opportunities with Parks Victoria visit [parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/careers](http://parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/careers)

## Report an issue

Noticed an issue such as fallen tree, damaged road or broken sign in a park or reserve you have visited?

Report it to Parks Victoria via the Snap Send Solve phone app. Visit <https://www.snapendsolve.com/> for more information.

## Further information

To stay up to date with the latest park information:



Call 13 1963



Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre is temporary closed..



Go online at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au). Be sure to check the weekly road report and monthly park access update on the Grampians page.

## **Brambuk National Park and Cultural Centre – (the National Park Information Centre) re-opens**



*Healthy Parks  
Healthy People®*



**BRAMBUK**  
Budja Budja-Gariwerd

Hi everyone,

Just a quick update on Brambuk the National Park & Cultural Centre (Brambuk), in Halls Gap.

Last week the National Park information services and gift shop re-opened in the front building

\$5.8 million budget has been allocated in the Victorian Budget.

As communicated earlier this year, Parks Victoria has temporarily taken on management of Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre, and together with our Traditional Owner partners - Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporations, we are working towards future management of the precinct.

Over recent months we have been exploring options to reinvigorate this important cultural and visitor site, and have completed building assessments and essential on-site works.

The first stage of Brambuk's re-opening saw park information services recommence in the entrance building on November 24th, delivered by Parks Victoria staff. Services include park information provision, map and brochure sales, campground and Grampians Peaks Trail bookings, LTO rock climbing and school permits, gifts and souvenirs, ice creams and interpretive displays. We have also scheduled a holiday program for kids throughout January (Junior Ranger Program).

Further assessments and maintenance works for the Cultural Centre building are still underway, so this remains temporarily closed. Alternative options for delivering cultural experiences for visitors are currently being investigated.

In great news for Brambuk and the region, the Victorian Government Budget 2020–21 has allocated \$5.8 million to upgrade buildings, refresh activity spaces, and develop new environmental and cultural programs at the precinct. Further details about these upgrades will be provided by Parks Victoria and the Gariwerd Traditional Owner corporations in due course.

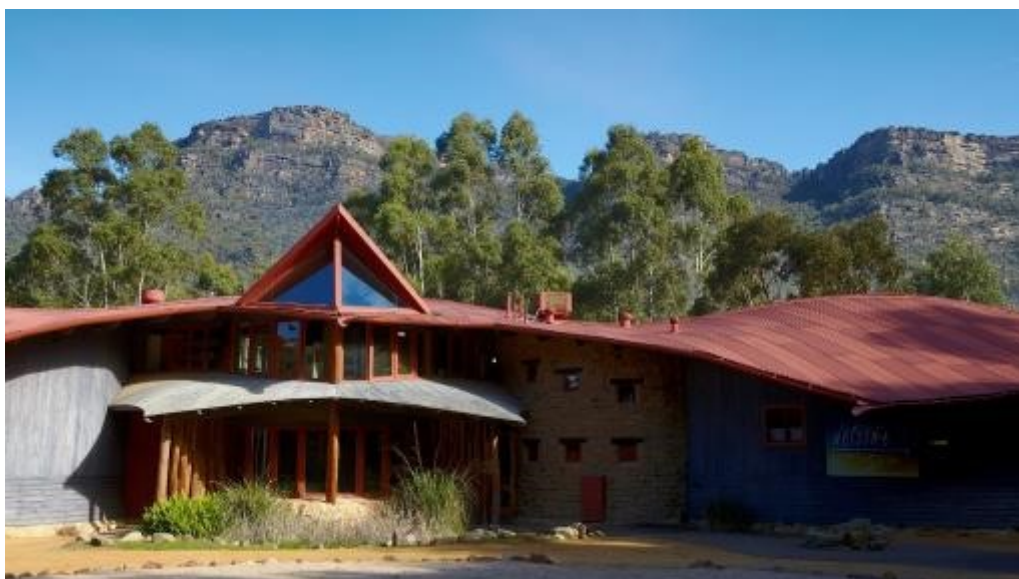
With people again returning to the Grampians/Gariwerd region, it's an exciting time to share this news and I look forward to keeping you updated on developments at Brambuk over the coming months.

To contact Brambuk please call us Ph 8427 2058 or email [Brambuk@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:Brambuk@parks.vic.gov.au)

**Opening hours are 9am-  
5pm daily except  
Christmas Day.**

### **Tammy Schoo**

Team Leader Brambuk  
(Secondment Feb 2021)  
Grampians National Park  
(Gariwerd)



## POMONAL MENS SHED

Pomonal Men's Shed reached several milestones during November. We took delivery of our shed kit on the 11th. Thanks to all who assisted with the unloading. Site works also started with the crushed rock pad being laid down after about 60m<sup>3</sup> of soil was removed. By month's end the layout for footings had been marked up and excavations were expected to take place very early December, with concrete and footings to go in shortly thereafter.

Ticket sales for the Monster Raffle are now in full swing. If you have not got your ticket yet they are available at various businesses around Pomonal and Halls Gap. We have a great list of prizes thanks to the generous support of our sponsors: Boroka Downs - Luxury Weekend Getaway for Two, Absolute Outdoors Australia - Family Adventure Session, Halls Gap E Bike Hire – 4 x 90 minute hires, Fallen Giants – Wine Tasting Plate for Two + Plus Bonus Bottle, Halls Gap Zoo – Gift Certificate, Flame Brothers Smokehouse – Gift Certificate, Five Ducks Farm – Basket of Local Produce and Russ Kellett Promotions - Music CD's. Tickets are \$5 each with the winners drawn at the Pomonal General Store on December 17th; just in time for Christmas. Tickets are going fast so get in now.

We have had a busy month at the shed (or more correctly outside in the open) with construction of the first of six outdoor table/seat settings for Barney's Bar & Bistro is almost complete. Now that all the bugs have been ironed out in the production process we will be pushing forward with fabrication of the remaining five sets. Busy time ahead.

As always we are happy to accept new members or talk to anyone wanting more information. Please call Peter on 0447 466 435 or email to [pomonalmentshed@gmail.com](mailto:pomonalmentshed@gmail.com) to have a chat. We normally get together at 10am every Thursday at the rear of the Pomonal Hall and you are welcome to simply turn up on the day.

**Peter Shelley**



## HALLS GAP RATEPAYERS

As president of the Halls Gap Residents and Ratepayers Association I wish to express our sincere regret that Cr. Hosemans has chosen not to re nominate as a councillor. Jason has been an excellent council representative for the people of Halls Gap over the years and much appreciated.

In his capacity as our councillor, he attended most of our Ratepayers meetings despite of the fact that we gave him a torrid time at some of them. All of which, he handled with great aplomb and grace and still continued to provide the answers that were required.

On a personal level, I found him to be always willing to assist, whether it be on a private matter, or on behalf of the Ratepayers.

Jason, we will miss you and we respect your decision to move on and can only wish you all the best for the future both in your endeavours and in health.

**BIG BOOTS TO FILL**

Our grateful regards

**Paul Turner**

President

Halls Gap Residents and Ratepayers Association

## The Community Association of Halls Gap

The Community Association of Halls Gap will hold only its second quarterly meeting of the year on Monday, 7th December at 4.30 pm in the Supper Room of the Hall. Prospective members are always welcome.

**David Witham**

## HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL



Lovely, lovely grass! If you haven't had a chance to come and look at our new, and improved, oval please feel free to call in over a weekend and have a nap on it. It's that soft! A big thank you to the amazing team of parents who dug in for a big day of work to lay it all. Such an amazing effort and one we should get to appreciate for a long time to come.

We hope lots of community members got the chance to head to the oval for the Halls Gap Market during the Melbourne Cup weekend. It was a very big event. Bigger

than we expected. We are thrilled with how it went and we know that our stallholders and patrons were thrilled too. It was wonderful to see so many visitors returning to the beautiful Halls Gap.

Our school has recently started Breakfast Club. All of our students have been invited each Wednesday to have breakfast together before school. FoodBank donates the food to us and our students and families get to enjoy it. FoodBank, Stawell Police and Neighbourhood House will also deliver a monthly supply of fresh fruit and vegetables. Two amazing programs that we are thrilled to have access to.

So far we have had two transition sessions with our 2021 Prep students. These sessions are a little different than usual but it has still been fantastic spending some time getting to know Orla, Nilah, Dakota, Tommy, Sahib and Maggie. I think they are nearly as excited as we are about next year!

As we head into the tail end of a very big year, our Grade 6 students – Miles, Addi, Danikah, Euan and Scarlett - are preparing for their virtual graduation. Due to restrictions it will be students and staff physically in attendance but all families will be able to watch it as it will be streamed live. It's taken quite some organisation to make this happen but hopefully our Grade 6 students will enjoy their event all the same.

I want to take the opportunity to thank the Halls Gap Bakery and Coolas Ice Creamery who supply us with our beautiful lunch orders every week. They do an amazing job as I'm sure all locals and visitors alike are already aware.

Halls Gap PS students and staff would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. Stay safe and take care. See you in 2021!





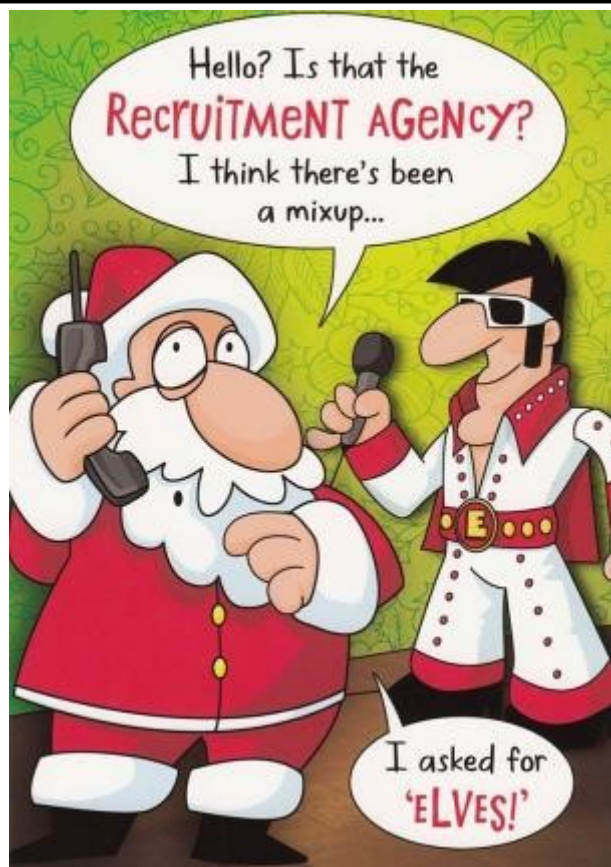
**Australian Plants Society (Victoria)**  
Promoting the Appreciation and Preservation of Australian Plants

Australian Plants Society Grampians Group are looking for new members. The Committee is working on an interesting and informative program for 2021. For more information email: [grampians@apsvic.org.au](mailto:grampians@apsvic.org.au) or check out our FB page.

**Andrea Shelley, Secretary**



Knock, knock.  
- Who's there?  
Doughnut  
- Doughnut who?  
Doughnut open until  
Christmas Day!



## UNTOLD RESILIENCE

"Untold Resilience" Stories of courage, survival and love from women who have gone before.

Many of you will remember Dot Hoffmann who was a very active member of our community until her husband Errol's health declined and they moved to Melbourne. I caught



up with her last week and learnt that hers is one of 19 stories in a recently published book about women who have come through traumatic experiences to nonetheless thrive. Hers is a story of her childhood experiences in post WW2 Germany, separated from parents, grandparents, months in hospital. Other stories are from stolen children, survivors of domestic abuse and other traumas. Each woman, mostly aged over 70, was interviewed by phone and the stories then written up. The aim is to encourage women who are finding the Covid experience tough, showing them that it is possible to recover and go on.

It's published by Penguin Australia.

Margo Siestma



Don't forget Pomonal's Christmas Market will be held on Sunday 20th December 2020. It will be a great chance to buy that special gift from local stall holders. Hope to see you there.

Future market dates on page 10.

## Significant Dates of December

### World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day - held on 1 December each year - is one of the most globally recognised events of the year. It raises awareness across the world and in the community about the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. It is a day for people to show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died.

National/State: International

Website: [www.worldaidsday.org.au](http://www.worldaidsday.org.au)

**10-23 December**

***(date to be confirmed)***



### UnitingCare Christmas Appeal

Organisation: UnitingCare

The Target and UnitingCare Christmas Appeal (previously Giving Box) has been an exclusive gift giving campaign to Target, offering support to disadvantaged people of all ages for over 20 years.

National/State: National

Website: [www.unitingcarechristmasappeal.com.au/donation-page](http://www.unitingcarechristmasappeal.com.au/donation-page)

### Decembeard

Organisation: Bowel Cancer Australia

Bowel cancer affects men of all ages. 1 in 10 Aussie men will develop bowel cancer in their lifetime, and it is Australia's second biggest cancer killer. A hair-raising fundraiser held during the month of December (1st-31st December), Decembeard Australia encourages REAL men to grow a beard in the final month of the year to raise awareness and much needed funds for bowel cancer.

National/State: National

Website: [www.decembeard.org.au/](http://www.decembeard.org.au/)



december 10

human  
rights day

**Thursday 10 December**

### Human Rights Day

Organisation: United Nations

A day to celebrate the basic rights of all humans, and to remember that many people still have to fight for their human rights.

National/State: International

Website: [www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day](http://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day)

# Santa's snack-stop



## 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>

### The Market Dates for 2021 are:

Labour Day Weekend- Sunday 7th March

Easter Sunday - 4th April

Queen's Birthday Weekend - Sunday 13th June

Melbourne Cup Weekend - Sunday 31st October

## POMONAL VILLAGE MARKET

**Pomonal Village Market** on the last Sunday or every month from 9am—1pm at the Pomonal Community Hall and surrounds. Run by volunteers of the Pomonal Progress Association to raise money for the community of Pomonal. Site enquiries: call the Market Coordinator on 0417 883 445.

### Market Dates for 2020



Christmas Market Sunday 20th December

### Market Dates for 2021

New Years market Sunday 3rd January. Regular markets on 31st January, 28th February, 28th March, 25th April, 30th May, 27th June, 25th July, 29th August, 26th September, 2nd & 3rd October (Pomonal Native Flower Show weekend, 31st October, 28th November and Christmas Market on 19th December

## HALLS GAP COMMUNITY MARKET

We are returning in 2021 with our 1st Market to be held in The Halls Gap Hall Jan 17th 9am - 1pm. Covid safe rules apply.

We would like to thank the Community for its continued support with our Market & look forward to a fun day. Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hallsgapcommunity> for our updates & event dates. If you or someone you know would like to be a stallholder please feel free to contact us.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon. Contact us via email to [csvic@bmgretailau.com](mailto:csvic@bmgretailau.com) or give us a call on 0400 745 261. Clive, Franklins Family Stores Management



Halls Gap is a  
Cat Free Zone



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

VICTORIA POLICE

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

- Report stolen bicycles, property from your car or other items
- Report personal property lost in Victoria
- Report damage to your property including graffiti
- Register your party
- Inform police when you are away from your home

Call 131 444 or visit [police.vic.gov.au](https://police.vic.gov.au)

## FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

Lee-Anne, Margo and Alison

Please email your articles and photos to us  
by the 18th of December to:

[neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au](mailto:neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au)

Upload your community events details to  
the Community Association webpage:

[www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au](http://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 7am - 10am daily except Tuesdays 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](mailto:peter@hilbig.id.au) or telephone 0437 524 716.
- \* Due to the Current coronavirus situation the History Room will be closed until further notice. Check out Chas's postings on Facebook
- \* Budja Budja Neighbourhood House - check the program at the house and online
- \* Various sport/fitness groups. Check the community website for details