

Issue: March 2022

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

Articles for April FTG need to be received by the 25th March 2022 See page 11 for details

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FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



gwangal moronn

season of honey bees - autumn
(late march to june)

Sunrises, Bees and Flocking Birds
Autumn (the season of native honey bees or gwangal moronn) is when the country starts to cool down after the summer heat.

WRAP UP...

Welcome to Autumn or the season of gwangal moronn. This is the season of honey bees, beautiful sunrises and flocking birds. The cool mornings and warm days makes this time of year very special.

It is also festival time with many great activities. Check out page 2 for a listing of events in the region.

Our community working bee at the Community Garden was a great success. See all the fun on pages 6 to 7.

We lost one of our colourful local identities last month. Our condolences to Michael's family.

Keep connected and enjoy the events that are on offer in our region.

Ed.

STATS BY CHAS...

February 2022 - Rainfall by Chas:

10.5 mm for February 2022. This compares to the same period last year of 8 mm for February 2021.

As of the 23rd of February 2022 Lake Bellfield is holding 55,090ML or 70% full compared to the same period last year of 49,650ML or 63% full.

The total system is holding 191,180ML or 34.12% full compared to the same period last year of 180,910ML or 32.29% full.

Mount William received 11.6 mm for February 2022. The highest temperature of 27.5C was recorded on the 13th February 2022 and the lowest of 3.1C was recorded on the 2nd of February 2022. The highest wind speed of 100 km/h was recorded on the 13th February 2022.

Cheers - Chas.

Connecting to Community

Join us at Budja Budja Neighbourhood House and be part of our
Connecting to Community Textile Workshops.

We have six wonderful textile artists who will share their passion and skills
Call us to book your place. We have been able to keep the cost low due to a
Community Grant through the NGSC.

- Saturday 2nd April, 10-2 Shelley Husband - Crochet
- Thursday 5th May, 10-2 Lodi Lovett - Eco Dying
- Saturday 7th May, 10-2 Lodi Lovett - Eco Dying
- Saturday 4th June, 10-2 Emma S - Coil Weaving
- Wednesday 22 June, 10-2 Jodi Matthew - Tie Dying
- Saturday 30th July, 10-2 Glenda Nicholls - Pine Needle Weaving
- Saturday 13th August, 10-2 Judith Burke - Felting



Budja Budja Neighbourhood House
42 Grampians Road, Halls Gap



Bookings
Essential
Cost: \$40 per
workshop



BOTANIC GARDEN NEWS

Our new watering system is now complete and it is going to be so good. It includes a switching system inside the new office shed so we don't need to go down on our hands and knees to turn the sprinklers on and off. The funding comes from the DELWP grant we got last year. Now we just have to learn all the huge number of settings available, but we will start with it running for an hour once a week at night.

We still have one more project we are working on with funding from DELWP. It's to provide more information on how the local indigenous folk used local plants, such as for food, for tools and weapons, for shelter. We hope to finish this with help from local groups over the next few months.

There's another possible project. We have been offered some interesting rocks containing fossils so we can make a geology display. More information later.

Unfortunately the Melbourne based tour company who planned to restart bringing University students from overseas countries to explore rural Victoria, and as part of that they would volunteer several hours in our garden, won't be coming until April

POMONAL CHURCH NEWS

We have some thoughts about activities in 2022. We will have a monthly mindfulness session on the first Monday of the month at 2pm. So our next one will be on March 7. We discussed joining the Clean Up Australia working bees in March, but decided that we would wait till May 15 to do our share, as some of us will be involved in other groups and some years it has been very hot in March.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Events are coming up in the next few months in our region.

6 March—Clean Up Australia Day—Friends of Grampians Gariwerd event Register at ParkConnect

8 March—International Women's Day Lunch - see page 8

13 March Halls Gap Market—see page 3

19 March - Grampians Texture Twilight Makers Market- see page 3

26 March - Festival of Small Halls - see page 11

25– 26 March - Lake Bolac Eel Festival

The 13th Lake Bolac Eel Festival will be held on March 25 & 26, 2022 with the theme 'Caring for Country and Culture'. The Festival Commences on Friday 25 March with the Art Auction and Official Opening at 6.00pm at the Lake Bolac Memorial Hall. On Saturday 26 March, Festival activities on the lake foreshore include: a forum, workshops, stalls, music (am and pm sessions), roving entertainment, a buskers stage and the twilight ceremony.

26 March - Book Launch in Cavandish —see page 5

27 March - Pomonal Village Market

30 March—Grampians Film Society—Screening the classic "Vertigo" - should look great on the big screen- see page 5 for more details

2nd April - Crochet workshop with Shelley Husband at Budja Budja Neighbourhood House

4 April - First Aid - page 8

23 April - Red Gum Festival Check out website for more details cavendishredgumfestival.com





We are delighted to advise that **Grampians Textures 22 WILL** be going ahead, 19 – 24 March 22, with 16 leading Australian textiles tutors, teaching 2, 4 and 6 day workshops in venues across Halls Gap.

GrampianArts Market Place

Call into Hall Gap Community Hub to buy at GrampianArts Market Place 8 am—5 pm. Saturday 19—Wednesday 23 March. Expect to find delicious products for textile and other artists to create with: fibre, yarns, books, fabrics, hand-made papers, vintage kimonos. Exotic, beautiful, unusual, and delightful. Not all traders/sellers will be there for the whole time, but all will be there for the weekend and Monday morning.

Grampians Texture Twilight Makers Market

5 pm – 7 pm Saturday 19 March will be at the Halls Gap Community Centre at the GrampianArts Market Place. There will be a wide range of quality hand craft made by the tutors and students participating in Grampians Texture. Expect to find clothing, jewellery, paper, books and more all handmade and hand created, recycled and upcycled!!! buy direct from the artist.

Next Halls Gap Markets

Sunday 13th March

9am – 1pm: Recreational Oval

hallsgapmarkets.com.au

Over 70 stalls – Local Products –
Local Produce – Food & drinks –
Crafts & Giftwares – Homewares &
clothing – Music & more



Plus – fun for the kids

MOCO Gallery brings our Inspiring Creative Kids art sessions to the March market this year with a super fun day of making.

We'll be transformed into the ministry for silly putters.. just think, if Monty Python made golf clubs we think they'd look something like this!

Kids will be able to decorate their funny putters with all manner of silly touches and then test them out on **our own miniature golf course!**

There will also be a stall featuring our gallery's signature artist materials kits and kids activity packs as well as other arty and golf things.



HALLS GAP CFA



It was great to have a few community members join us at the fire station on 16 February for a facilitated workshop about bushfire readiness. Community educator and Captain of the Ballarat City Brigade, Nicole McGrath, outlined fire behaviour and the increasing threat to communities in hotter and dryer conditions. Did you know burning embers can travel 30 kilometres in the wind of a bushfire and start spot fires 30 km ahead! That means a fire as far away as Dadswells Bridge could spark a fire in Halls Gap! Nicole emphasised the importance of having a plan and acting early in response to advice.

We are continuing to recruit new members and adding additional training sessions to our regular Wednesday evenings. We also have some volunteers moving away from the area, so we are always welcoming new starters to improve our capacity to respond to emergencies.

Members also gain specialist skills by attending training with other brigades and at other locations. This month members will travel to Laharum for a First Aid course; and to Ararat to undertake HAZMAT Awareness training to improve safety when hazardous materials are encountered in fires or leakages. Training also includes maintaining tools and equipment, so everything we need in an emergency is in good working order. In February we checked pumps on our vehicles and trailers, and in March we will maintain hand tools and chainsaws.

Even though summer is over, the fire restriction period continues. Permits to burn stubbles may be issued as conditions allow, but all other fires, except a campfire for cooking and heating, are not permitted. A campfire must be within a fireplace or pit, and must have an adult present at all times, and water on hand to extinguish the fire when necessary. Please share this information with visitors and guests, as unattended campfires remain a serious risk even as the weather cools.

If you are interested in brigade activities, or in volunteering as a firefighter or supporter, please contact Peter on 0437 524 716.



Activities Update – 28th February 2022

Well, we have had an extremely busy month down at the shed with some real milestones reached. Early this month we had a group of members participate in a mental health first aid course that all found very informative and personally rewarding.

We continued to restructure our workshop and have now fitted out our storage container for our timber stocks. The workshop is looking fantastic with machinery placement issues solved and the place now being fully functional.

We have now built up the welding area with welding gear and PPE ready to start welding sessions.

Monday's social sessions are going very well with a great time of socialisation and comradery to be had by all.

We continue to work through projects for different folk within the community on Thursdays as more projects keep coming in to keep us busy.

We have had our solar system installed which will be great for the whole community as we look forward to the Pomonal battery hub.

The biggest event of the month of course was our official opening on the 17th that was absolutely fantastic. The day ran very well and was covered by all the local press well. Part of the day was the unveiling of the plaque to Peter Shelley which we are very proud of. The best part of the day was to see the pride on the faces of members as they worked hard to show off the results of all their hard work over the last 12 months.

As usual we did our regular sausage sizzle at the market which is always a load of fun and raises some funds for us too.

The shed is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-30am as is very welcoming to new members or anyone interested, for any information contact Russ on 0438 024 929.

Russ Kellett



VERTIGO

James Stewart
Kim Novak

Wednesday 30th March 2022

Centenary Hall, 117 Grampians Road, Halls Gap

Detective Scottie who suffers from acrophobia is hired to investigate the strange activities of an old friend's wife. She commits suicide while Scottie becomes dangerously obsessed with her.

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.

RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS

At the recent AGM as no nominations for executive positions were made the current members have agreed to continue in their roles: President Paul Turner, Treasurer Mandy Wadge, Secretary Jen O'Donoghue. Two topics that have recently generated conversation on the community fb page were discussed.

Fireworks: Public outcry about the recent fireworks was lengthy on the community fb page. To take action residents were encouraged to complete the NGS survey regarding by-laws. Unfortunately this survey is now closed. Further opportunity will arise for public comment when NGS publish a draft of their intentions related to this survey. Please keep your eyes open for this. Alternatively you could email the NGS - 03 5358 8700 or email ngshire@ngshire.vic.gov.au

TV reception: This is an ongoing annoyance for many! WIN are responsible for the Mt William tower but will not upgrade it. There is State Gov and Telstra money being made available for improvements in our connectivity but it is not known when this will occur. If you have poor reception please take the time to report this as well as posting on the local fb page. HG is now part of the Mallee. Our member is Anne Webster: anne.webster.mp@aph.gov.au

You could also contact WIN TV Ballarat – Tel: 03 5320 1366 and ask the receptionist to log a complaint every time reception fails. If we don't make them aware of the many times poor reception occurs nothing will ever be done!

Viewer access satellite television (VAST) is available if you prove you live in an area with poor free-TV coverage (most of HG!). Some residents have successfully navigated this route and help is available for any who are interested in doing so.

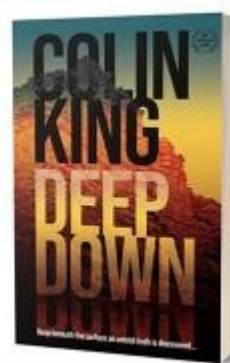
BOOK LAUNCH

DEEP DOWN by Colin King

A Grampians murder mystery

3.00pm, Sat 26 March 2022

The Bunyip Hotel, Cavendish





Lots of shovelling and filling our wicking beds ready for the HG Primary School outdoor classroom



Mummy hen looking after her 6 chicks with the help from the local children! All six survived being cuddled and cuddled and cuddled!

Thanks to Gabs, Nick and Tim for all the preparation work over the last few weeks. Thanks to our local bakery for the yummy morning tea and Alison from BBNH for organising morning tea and photos. Thanks to Northern Grampians Shire Council who gave us a Community Grant to get this project up and running.

Biggest thanks go to our 30+ volunteers on the day for making it such fun and so productive.

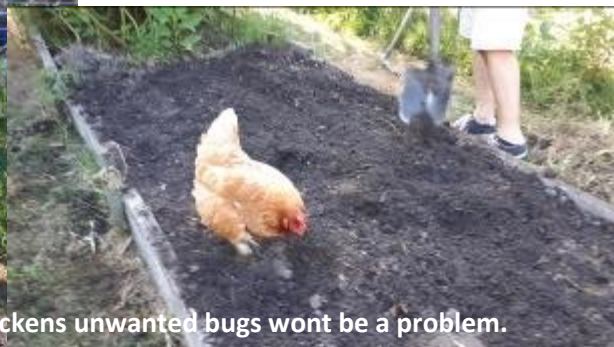


Tom helping Tim with moving the compost

Nickie enjoying her well deserved Morning Tea



Cleaning out the shed



Getting the beds ready to plant. Thanks to our chickens unwanted bugs wont be a problem.



Planting at last





Well February has been a big month for us with lots of planning and getting the community together. We have been successful in our application for a Community Grant from Northern Grampians Shire to run six textile workshops from April to August.

We are moving to 42 Grampians Road in March. Date to be confirmed. When we move it will take a little time to make ourselves at home however everyone is welcome to visit and check out our new surroundings.

We had a great time at the Halls Gap Community Garden Day (see pages 6 & 7) and look forward to holding events and workshops in the garden in the coming months.

If you haven't booked your spot at our IWD luncheon on the 8th March 2022 you better give Alison and Lee-Anne a call on 5356 4751.

First Aid & CPR dates for 2022

Time: 9am to 3pm
Cost: CPR HLTAID009 \$65
First Aid HLTAID011 \$155
BYO: Lunch
Trainer:



Dates: Monday 21st February 2022
Monday 4th April 2022
Monday 20th June 2022
Monday 15th August 2022
Monday 10th October 2022
Monday 12th December 2022



Book now to ensure your place

What's on in March at the house

We are open Tuesday to Friday 9am to 3.15pm

- **Mondays** 7-8pm Meditation with Rowena
- **Tuesday 8th March** 11.30-2pm International Women's Day Luncheon
#BreakTheBias
- **Tuesdays** 10am-12noon Craft mornings with Alison. Alison will be teaching Mosaic Crochet from 8th February 
- **Tuesdays** 1.30-2pm Gentle Exercise with Jo
- **Wednesdays** 10-12 Writers Group
- **Thursday 17th March**- HG Book Club
- **Thursdays** 10-11am Tai Chi with Neil
- **Fridays** 9.30-11.30am Playgroup - including story time with Alison
- **Fridays** 1.30-3pm Finska 

Tuesday to Friday 9am-3.15pm

- Computers available
- Printing available
- Internet access
- Come in for a cuppa and yarn

 International Women's Day
Budja Budja NH Luncheon
Tuesday 8th March 2022
11.30AM-2PM
 at Halls Gap Recreation Reserve
 46-72 Grampians Road HALLS GAP
 Guest Speaker: Marita Tobin
 Gentle Exercise Demonstration: Joanna Brown
 Cost: \$10 per head
#BreakTheBias

Bookings
Essential

Imagine a gender equal world.
A world free of bias,
stereotypes, and discrimination.
A world that is diverse,
equitable, and inclusive.

RSVP:
1st March 2022

20-22 Grampians Rd, HALLS GAP VIC 3381
 p: 03 53564751, option 3
 m: 0481 090 456
 e: neighbourhood.house@budjabudja.org.au
 w: <https://budjabudja.neighbourhoodhouse.org.au/>





Halls Gap Primary School

RESILIENCE Have strength, character and a positive outlook

EXCELLENCE Strive to be the best we can

COMPASSION Give care and compassion to others

2022 is off to a great start! We have 41 children enrolled across three classrooms. Mrs Karina Henderson has returned from maternity leave to teach and nurture the children in Prep, Year 1 & 2. Mr Zac Brygel has joined us from Melbourne, teaching our Year 3& 4 students. Ms Chris Fiscalini continues to teach, inspire and grow our Year 5&6 students. Our staff bring great additional experience in Art, Sport, Circus skills and Mindfulness practices.

With a focus on Mathematics and Wellbeing this year, we are well supported through Education Support staff member Caren McIntosh, funding for the Tutoring Program and The Resilience Project. We are once again offering Chinese as our additional language.



L-R: Ms Fis, Mr Brygel, Mrs Henderson

We are looking forward to a much more stable and routine year with plenty of fun and educational activities. Already we have had two weeks of swimming lessons, planting vegetables in the community garden, our Year 6 students headed off to Horsham for a leadership program lead by Lorin Nicholson, the Prep-2 students have participated in interactive science lessons through the Bendigo Discovery



From Acting Principal Mrs Nickie Peters, Staff & Students at Halls Gap Primary School.

If there are any families who may be interested in their children attending Halls Gap Primary, we would encourage you to give us a call to arrange a meeting and tour. Please contact the school on 5356 4235 or email halls.gap.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC



20-22 Grampians Road,
Halls Gap 3381

PH: 03 53 564751

WEBSITE: www.budjabudjacoop.org.au

March 2022

Dr Luhong Min

Monday 28 – Friday 4
Monday 7 – Friday 11
Tuesday 15 – Friday 18

Dr Lori Cameron

Wednesday 2 – Thursday 3
Wednesday 30 – Thursday 31

Dr Christine Harvey

Monday 21 – Friday 25
Monday 28 – Friday 1

Dr Rachelle Bassett

TBA



WHERE TO GET COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINATION

Stawell Regional Health

Walk up clinics only

Dates listed at www.facebook.com/StawellRegionalHealth or 5358 6550

WHERE TO GET COVID-19 5 – 11 YEAR OLD VACCINATION

Stawell

- Stawell Regional Health hope to offer vaccines in late January.

Find updates at www.facebook.com/StawellRegionalHealth or 53586550

Ararat

- East Grampians Health Service Book via portal.cvms.vic.gov.au or 5352 9363

WHERE TO GET TESTED FOR COVID-19

Stawell Regional Health Respiratory Clinic

www.facebook.com/StawellRegionalHealth

- Drive through testing, no appointment needed. Testing locations change, view Facebook or call to confirm location 5358 8630

AUTUMN TOUR 2022
PORT FAIRY FOLK FESTIVAL TO NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL
WOODFORDIA LINC. PRESENTS

Festival of Small Halls

COMING TO A SMALL TOWN NEAR YOU

AUTUMN TOUR 11TH MARCH - 17TH APRIL 2022

Pomonal Hall

Saturday 26 March

Door @ 6.30

Bar and food available

CHARM OF FINCHES (AUS)

JACK CARTY (AUS)

FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS
Australia Council for the Arts
CREATIVE VICTORIA
Australian Government
KINE Fund

WWW.FESTIVALOFSMALLHALLS.COM

GRAMPIANS

This small town has big history

To Book: 0414336774

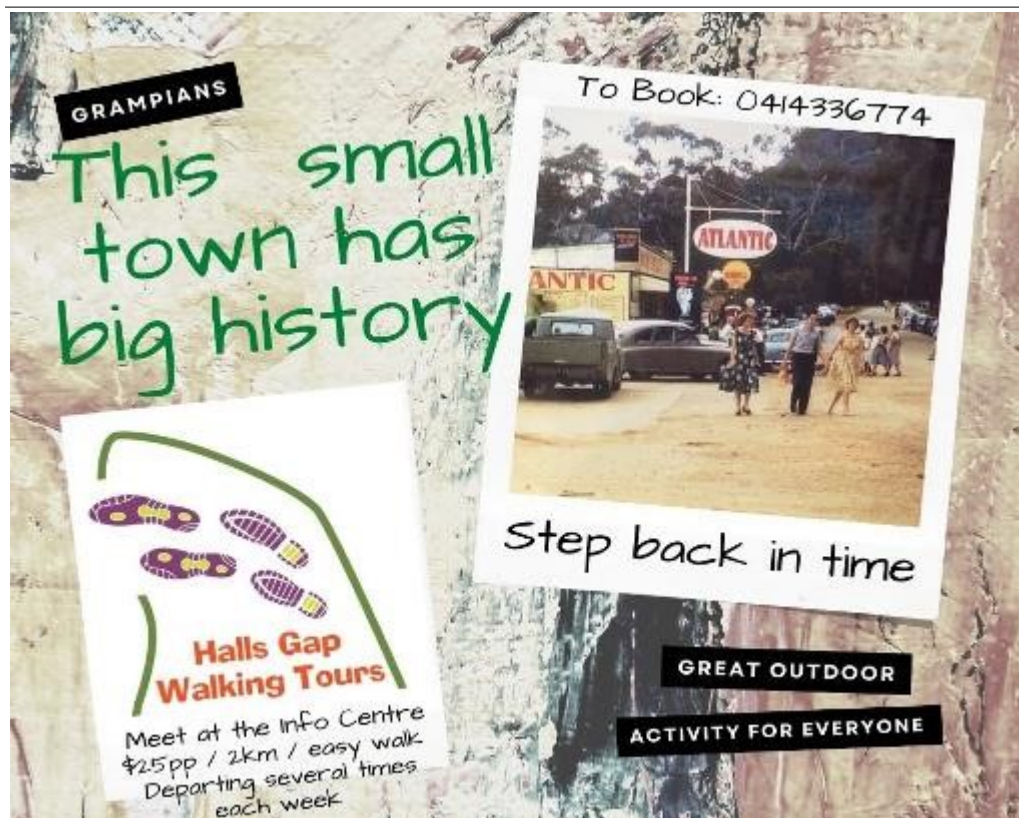
Step back in time

GREAT OUTDOOR

ACTIVITY FOR EVERYONE

Halls Gap Walking Tours

Meet at the Info Centre
\$25pp / 2km / easy walk
Departing several times each week



A great chance to explore our own backyard.

SILO ART TOUR
DEPARTURE DATES FROM
HALLS GAP

HAVE YOU SEEN THE SILO ART IN THE WIMMERA?

Departing from Halls Gap

- 4th April
- 15th May
- 8th June
- 17th July
- 31st August

Book online:

<https://www.grampianswinetours.com.au/silo-art-tour> OR phone: 0487401699



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: - <https://www.hallsgapmarkets.com.au/>

Market Dates for 2022:

Labour Day Weekend- Sunday 13th March

Easter Sunday - 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 | Hi-Lift Jack |
| Snatch Straps | Tree Trunk Protectors |
| Winch Extension Straps | Bow Shackles |
| Snatch Blocks | Soft Shackles |
| Shovel | Rated Recovery Points |
| Air Compressor | Chainsaw |
| UHF Radio Ch 20 | GPS Assistance |
| Fridge | Local Knowledge |



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



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



Report stolen vehicles, bicycles, property, tools, 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

Pomonal Village Market

Last Sunday every month - 9am - 1pm
Pomonal Community Hall
Ararat-Halls Gap Road, Pomonal

2022 Market Calendar

2nd January	31st July
30th January	28th August
27th February	25th September
27th March	1st & 2nd October
24th April	30th October
29th May	27th November
26th June	18th December

All site enquiries:
Alison Bainbridge
Market Coordinator
M: 0417 883 445

All proceeds to Pomonal Community



Halls Gap is a Cat Free Zone

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.



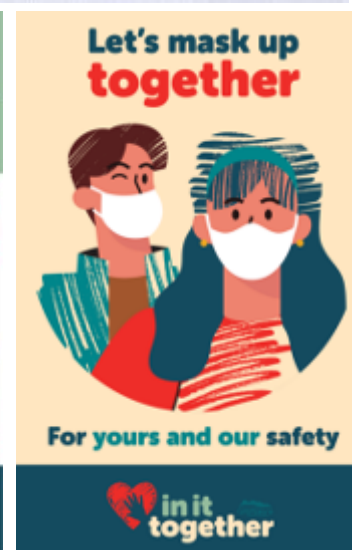
To keep up to date with what is happening in
Pomonal like **Pomonal Community Connections**
Facebook page and/or **Pomonal info & resources sharing** Facebook Pages

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 - <https://budjabudjaneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/>
- * Various sport/fitness groups. Check the community website for details—
www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au