

Issue: November 2019

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

WRAP UP...

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FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



petyan

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

Wildlife and Wildflowers

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

Well November already!!!

This edition of FTG has some important information on how to deal with snakes coming too close to home.

HG CFA are looking for volunteers if you think you can help give Peter Hilbig a call on 0437 524 716.

Check out the fun Halls Gap children had at the Budja Budja Spooky Party on 31st October. We celebrated Halloween with some traditional Scottish fun thanks to Denise from Grampians Adventure Golf. I think some of the parents had way too much fun dressing up the children.

November is the time of markets and events so there is no excuse to go out and see what is happening in our region.

Enjoy our wonderful environment, community events and stay safe.

STATS BY CHAS...

October 2019 - Rainfall by Chas:

55 mm for October bringing the progressive total for 2019 to 780.5 mm. This compares to the same period last year of 40 mm for the month with a progressive total of 761 mm.

As of the 30th of October Lake Bellfield is holding 58,380ML or 74% full compared to the same period last year of 65,970ML or 84% full. The total system is holding 244,280ML or 43.60% compared to the same period last year of 284,250ML or 50.73% full.

Mount William received 60.4mm for October. The highest temperature of 26 C was recorded on the 24th of October and the lowest of -0.7 C was recorded on the 9th of October. The highest wind speed of 124 km/h was recorded on the 25th of October.

Congratulations Tanisha Lovett



Indigenous leader and artist Tanisha Lovett won the Regional Development Victoria Leadership and Innovation Award. Here she is celebrating with her family.

Congratulations Tanisha.

GRAMPIANS WILDFLOWER SHOW

I gave a very brief report on this year's wildflower show in the October FTG so won't say much more until we have our post show committee meeting on Nov 12.

But we would love some feedback from the general community.

- Did you come yourself?
- What are your thoughts? Are you an accommodation provider?
- If so, did you promote it to your guests?
- If not, why not?
- Did you get any reports from your guests?
- Have you suggestions for improvement?

Do help us plan for the future by giving us some honest answers to these questions. You can email me at margo@sietsma.com

Margo Sietsma



BOTANICAL GARDEN REPORT

It's been a busy month for the garden, and we hope some busy weeks still coming up.

We've been delighted to have the assistance of Jacqui Ridler from Jalluka Landcare to start making a grassland garden near our fountain, with trigger plants, pincushions and various daisies going in there and some in other beds. They've had some lovely rain to settle them in, but may need extra TLC as the weather heats up.

We've also had several groups ask to be shown around the garden, which we are always happy to do.

Four of us had a trip to the Melton Botanic Garden with the Australian Plant Society group, which was most interesting. They too are a mainly volunteer run garden, but with financial support from their council for things like paths and seats. We picked up some ideas for signage, and recruiting help from the community, recording of helpers and

visitors etc. There are quite a few things on our wish list we need finance for (a toilet, electric power to the shelter, a mural on the outside of the shelter), so if you know of a sponsor do contact one of us.

Our hard working team have finished repairing the drip watering system, a huge job, and much work has also gone into updating our insurance under the umbrella of the Community Association, plus of course the regular raking, mowing, weeding.

As I said, the plants have enjoyed the rain, but so have our weeds! Our next working bee is November 13 and it would be great to see a large team!

Margo

FRIENDS OF GRAMPIANS GARIWERD

FOGGS welcome casual visitors to any of our activities. The next one is here in Halls Gap on Saturday 9th November starting in the Botanic Garden at 10 am for a short working bee to remove weeds from the vicinity of the gardens. 12 noon approximately we'll stop for lunch. A BBQ will be operating so bring along whatever takes your fancy for lunch...so picnic things.

1 to 1.30 pm AGM followed by a short general meeting by the newly elected committee (please get in touch if you feel motivated to put your hand up for any position or just do so on the day)

2 pm approx...we will relocate to the Mural Room at Brambuk to hear the latest on wildlife diseases from **Pam Whiteley, the | Wildlife Health Victoria Surveillance Coordinator, Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, The University of Melbourne.** She'll be talking about opportunities for us to be involved in monitoring and investigating any odd wildlife deaths.

We also know that there are folk who care about our environment but can't get to weekend activities. If you are one of those, consider joining us anyway, getting our quarterly newsletter and grow support. Look us up on the web, pick up a membership form from Brambuk, or drop in on one of our meetings.

Margo

SNAKE AWARE

Stawell Times News Oct 1

Ararat based snake catcher Jamie Lind lucky to be alive after snake bite at Willaura property

ARARAT-BASED snake catcher Jamie Lind is recovering in hospital after a tiger snake bite.

Just hours after talking to the *Ararat Advertiser* on Tuesday about snakes - including safety, property clean-ups and removal of snakes from properties - Mr Lind was called to remove a reptile from a property at Willaura, south of Ararat.

After putting the snake in his vehicle, Mr Lind walked around the property with the owner and gave her a bandage to keep, giving her instructions on what to do if she was bitten.

As the conversation finished, Mr Lind put his arm out to stop the owner from walking any further as he spotted another snake.

"Lying there was one of the biggest tiger snakes I have ever seen," he said.

"I grabbed it by the tail and as I was picking it up above my head, it swung up to bite me on the face.

"I moved back to miss the bite and it bit me under my shoulder blade in my armpit area."

"I shouldn't have even attempted to grab it, but I did. I'm paying for it now and lucky to be alive."

Mr Lind spent 24 hours in intensive care at Ballarat Base Hospital before being transferred to a ward.

Talking from the hospital on Thursday morning, Mr Lind said he would have to retire from snake catching because the antivenin had an impact on his system.

"You can't have it twice. You get all sorts of complications," he said.

"I had two lots this time around. It was a very close call.

Warmer weather means cold-blooded reptiles are now becoming more active, and a lot more visible.

With several sightings of snakes around the region already, wildlife handler Jamie Lind said snakes were mostly found of an evening when the sun goes down.

"Most people who are bitten by snakes are those who try and catch or destroy the snake," he said.

"It is illegal to capture, harm, or kill them. Snakes can

be caught and relocated humanely by experienced wildlife controllers."

"The first thing snakes do when they come out from hibernation is source a mating partner. Spring is traditionally the most active time for snakes."

Mr Lind has worked with reptiles for over 20 years and said there were some tips for people to do which could deter snakes from moving into backyards.

"Trees and bushes should be kept cut up high so there isn't too much shade underneath for snakes to find shade during the day," he said.

"A snake cannot penetrate deep if it bites, so always wear long pants and gloves while in the garden."

"When bitten, a snake injects some venom into the meat of your limb, so the most important thing to do is remember to stay still."

"When staying still the venom cannot travel around the lymphatic system. Put a compression bandage at the sight of the bite and call for an ambulance immediately.

"If an animal is bitten, a vet needs to be called immediately."

Mr Lind said watching the snake or trying to find out what type of snake caused the bite was immaterial.

"You generally get bitten by a snake you don't see rather than one you do," he said.

"People need to remember to back away and keep kids and pets away from the snake and call a snake catcher.

"Once caught the snake will then be relocated."



If you have a snake issue
Hodgson's Snakes
service our area.

Contact: Gianni
Hodgson on
0490 415 734
check out his
Facebook page

HALLS GAP CFA



As the season warms up, volunteer firefighters are completing safety drills and making sure vehicles and equipment are all set for emergencies. We responded to several calls during October to unattended campfires and fuel leaks. Team members have undertaken specialist training locally, as well as in Bendigo and Stawell, and a couple of our Brigade Management Team attended the recent Grampians Fire Conference in the Victoria Valley. Qualified volunteers also continue to provide Fire Equipment Maintenance around Halls Gap and beyond.

Every year the CFA evaluates each brigade's readiness for the summer, making sure our equipment is maintained and we have sufficient volunteers appropriately trained for a safe and effective emergency response. The recommended minimum for Halls Gap is 24 trained volunteers, but right now we do not have that many. Most of our volunteers are engaged in work, and often across weekends and holidays, so our capacity to respond needs to be strengthened and broadened with new members from a cross section of the community. If you are interested, please call or message Peter Hilbig on 0437 524 716. Not every volunteer needs to fight fires – there are roles in communications, logistics, maintenance and coordination which contribute to the brigade's operation and efficiency.

And of course, the usual reminder. Daylight saving started at the beginning of October – have you changed over your smoke alarm batteries yet?



Last Film for 2019

The Grampians Film Society evenings are held from January to November. 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, \$25 half-year or \$15 for three consecutive months. Contact Janet Witham 03 5356 4300 or Alison Bainbridge 0417 883 445 for more information.

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.

Christmas Break up BBQ: 6pm in the HG park
Screening Date: Wednesday 27 November 2019 at 7.30pm

Screening Venue: Centenary Hall, 117 Grampians Road, Halls Gap

Film: Ali's Wedding, 2017 Aust - Comedy





BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC

20-22 Grampians Road, Halls Gap 3381

PH: 03 53564751

www.budjabudjacoop.org.au

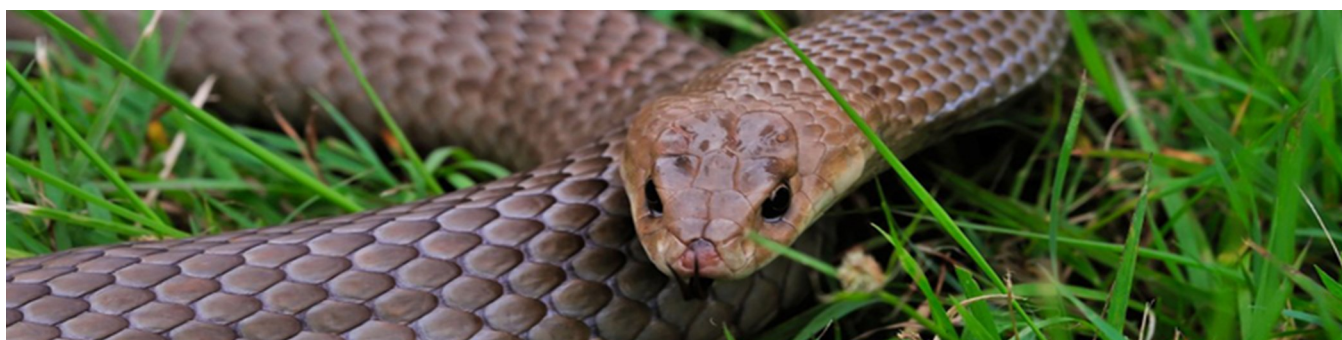
NOVEMBER 2019	DECEMBER 2019	JANUARY
<u>Dr Partridge</u> 5,6,7,8 12,13,14,15 <u>Dr Barbara Hoare</u> 19,20,21,22 26,27,28,29 <u>Dr Amanda Gibbons</u> 19,20,21,22 26,27,28,29	<u>Dr Amanda Gibbons</u> 3,4,5,6 10,11,12,13 17,18,19,20 <u>DR Partridge</u> 17,18,19,20 <u>Closed</u> 24,25,26,27 30,31	<u>Closed</u> 1, <u>Dr Amanda Gibbons</u> 2,3 6,7,8,9,10 14,15,16,17 20,21,22,23,24 28,29,30,31 <u>Closed</u> 27 public holiday

First aid for snake bites

For all snake bites:

- Provide emergency care including **cardiopulmonary resuscitation** (CPR) if needed.
- Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance.
- Apply a pressure immobilisation bandage and keep the person calm and as still as possible until medical help arrives.
- Avoid washing the bite area because any venom left on the skin can help identify the snake.

DO NOT apply a tourniquet, cut the wound or attempt to suck the venom out.



Grampians National Park Access Update

November - 2019

Throughout the year Grampians National Park may have closures in place from natural events (storms, floods and bushfires), park operations and projects. **Before visiting the park always check for closures on the list below.**

Please adhere to signs and notifications, and do not enter closed areas.

Closed Day Visitor Sites

- **Golton Gorge Picnic Area and Walking Track** – Realignment works are in progress.

Closed Roads and Tracks

- **Harrop Track** is closed until further notice to replace bridges and causeways.
- **Red Rock Road** is closed until further notice to replace bridges and causeways.

Seasonal roads are now open for four-wheel drives only.

See the **Grampians National Park Road Report** on parks.vic.gov.au for more information on individual road conditions.

Remember to consider the suitability of your vehicle for the parks roads:

Sealed Roads: All vehicles

Unsealed Roads: All vehicles, 2WD use caution

Vehicle Tracks: 4WD vehicles only

Closed Walking Tracks

- **Golton Gorge Walking Track** – redevelopment works underway with a reopening date TBC.
- **Longpoint East Hiker Camp to Boroka Lookout Walking Track** – pending Grampians Peaks Trail works.
- **Ngamadjidj Shelter** – Open!

Walking tracks closed due to roadworks on Harrop Track until further notice:

- Manja Shelter
- Hut Creek Walking Track
- Fortress and Thackeray Walking Track – only accessible from the Eastern end and Goat Track. No access from Harrop Track.

Closed Campgrounds

- **Coppermine Group Camping Area** – Closed. Development underway.
- **Briggs Bluff** (GR294055) & **Mount Difficult Hiker Camps** (GR284030) are permanently closed.

Rock Climbing Access

Rock climbing access has changed in Grampians National Park. For more information please refer to the Grampians National Park page at parks.vic.gov.au.

GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

For the latest Grampians Peaks Trail information please visit: parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/grampians-national-park/plans-and-projects/grampians-peak-trail

Further Information

For the latest information about the park, please visit Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre 2.5km south of Halls Gap, visit a local Accredited Visitor Information Centre or call the Parks Victoria information centre on 13 1963.

'Horizons #2 Textile Exhibit'. Featuring Jenny Bacon and Margaret McDonald.

Plus Richard Bazeley. 'Natural Edge'



St Arnaud Rail Station, Queens Avenue.
Saturday, November 2nd, 2pm Launch.
View Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday
(11am to 4pm) until November 30th.
Presented by Raillery Hub Incorporated.



Stawell City Brass Band will be playing at the Christmas Pomonal Village Market on Sunday 24th November from 9am—1pm at the Pomonal Community Hall. Come along and support our local brass band.

HOPETOUN & DISTRICT
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE PRESENTS

MARKET DAY 2019

LOCAL HANDMADE STALLS,
PARTY PLAN, SAUSAGE SIZZLE,
JUMPING CASTLE, FACE
PAINTING & MUCH MORE.
GOLD COIN ENTRY GOING
TOWARDS HDNH.

16.11.19
MEMORIAL HALL,
HOPETOUN

**SATURDAY
9AM-1PM**

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT ERIN
ON (03)5083 3408

First Aid & CPR



Date: Saturday 7th December 2019
Time: 9am to 3pm
Cost: CPR HLTAID 001 \$65
First Aid HLTAID 002 \$155
BYO: Lunch

Enroll by the 29th November 2019 to
ensure your place

20-22 Grampians Rd., HALLS GAP VIC 3381
p: 03 53564751, option 2
m: 0491 090 456
neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au





Fun in Halls Gap at the Budja Budja Spooky Party.
Thanks to YHA, Gariwerd Motel, HG Police, HG Pool,
Grampians Adventure Golf and all our wonderful volunteers
who made the party a great success.





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 2019 are:

Melbourne Cup Weekend – 3rd November (Halls Gap School)

The Market Dates for 2020 are:

Labour Day – 8th March (Halls Gap School)

Easter Sunday – 12th April (Halls Gap School)

Queen's Birthday – 7th June (Halls Gap School)

Melbourne Cup Weekend – 1st November (Halls Gap School)



Halls Gap Village Market
November 17th 2019
8:30am - 1pm
Halls Gap Hall

Come along & enjoy a great day out in the beautiful Grampians.

We offer you a great range of handmade crafts, treats for the home, plants, health & wellbeing, treasures, books & lots lots more.

New stallholders very welcome to join us.

For more details see our group on Facebook Halls Gap Village Market & follow us.

Looking forward to seeing you.



POMONAL VILLAGE MARKET

Pomonal Village Market on the last Sunday or every month from 9am—1pm at the Pomonal Community Hall. 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 2019

24th November and 29th December.

Market Dates for 2020

5th January, 26th January, 23rd February, 29th March, 26th April, 31st May, 28th June, 26th July, 30th August, 27th September, 3rd & 4th October, 25th October, 29th November, 27th December.

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.



VICTORIA POLICE

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



Report stolen vehicles, bicycles, property loss 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

FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

Lee-Anne, Margo, Alison , Jenny and Tammy

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

Like our Halls Gap Community Watch and
Events Facebook Page



Stay straight and brake

Never swerve to avoid wildlife on the road. You risk rolling your vehicle, hitting a tree or colliding with oncoming traffic

- 1 Slow down at dusk and dawn
- 2 Kangaroos travel in mobs (groups), there usually will be more than one in the area
- 3 If a collision is unavoidable **stay straight and brake**

In an emergency call 000



VICTORIA POLICE

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon?

Great food, no atmosphere



Regular Events

- Chas Mangle Justice of the Peace is available for witnessing documents in the History Room at the Centennial Hall most days except Tuesdays from 1pm - 5 pm. Ph. 0439 837 052
- Budja Budja Neighbourhood House - check the program at the house and online
- Check Social Coffee catch-ups at Brambuk 11am on the first Tuesday of the month.
- Various sport/fitness groups. Check the community website for details



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