

Issue: March 2017

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

AN ACTION PACKED FEBRUARY AND MARCH...AND APRIL....

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FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



kooyang

season of eels - late summer
(late January to late March)

A Parched Landscape

Late summer (season of eels
or kooyang) is the hottest and
driest time of the year.
The risk of bushfire (Piikorda) is high.
Streams dry up.

Thanks so much to everyone that contributed this month... We have a huge edition for you! The warm summer days roll on and we are blessed with blue skies and a bit of warmth. It's a perfect time to get out and about and enjoy all of the events and festivals in the area.... How good was the Grampians Music Festival??? Some awesome Aussie acts playing right here in Halls Gap!!! Best of all it will be back bigger and better next year so lock it in your diaries for and make sure you tell your friends and family.

Don't miss the round up of events on the last page and remember if you have something you want to share with your local community send it in to us here at Fill the Gap and we can add it to the newsletter. Next Month will be HUGE with all the goings on of Easter... So make sure articles are in by the 25th March please.

Thanks Eds...

February 2017—Rainfall by Chas:

A dry month with only 17.0mm being recorded bringing the progressive total to 70.5mm. This compares to the same period last year of 43.0mm for February with a progressive total of 64.0mm.

As of 22nd of February Lake Bellfield is holding 68,040ML or 87% full compared to the same period last year of 45,660ML or 58% full. The total system is holding 325,390ML or 57.98% full compared to the same period last year of 137,410ML or 24.48% full.

Mount William received 30.4mm for February bringing the progressive total to 68.6mm compared to the same period last year of 51.2mm for February with a progressive total of 156.2mm. The maximum temperature of 33.5C was recorded on the 9th of February and the minimum of 2.9C was recorded on the 19th of February.

Halls Gap Primary School Students circa 1963.

Taken from Facebook— Alex Martin



CERT



There were seventeen 000 calls for an ambulance to attend in our area during February but because two of the calls overlapped your Community Emergency Response Team's pagers only went off 16 times. Again bush-walkers were in trouble with 2 calls to The Pinnacle track, 2 rescues at McKenzie Falls and a midnight callout to a Mount Rosea campground which fortunately had vehicle access.

The 6 new members are experiencing the wide variety of reasons people call an ambulance. Twelve of our calls were from tourists and four from locals. There were three motor vehicle accidents. A young boy rode his bike into the side of a car. A van rolled twice on the Mt Zero Road with only slight injuries for the two occupants thanks to seat belts. Sadly a motorcyclist died on Greenhole Road near Lake Lonsdale.

HALLS GAP RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of the Hall Gap Residents and Ratepayers , which will also be our AGM = elections, will be held on March 8th @ 7.30 p.m. in the Centenary Hall Supper Room.

Due to Errol Hoffmann leaving Halls Gap , we no longer have a secretary and will be looking for someone to nominate for the position. If this does not happen, there is a real risk that the association will fold.

So if you care about our community, please come along and nominate for that position and any other position, as all positions will be declared vacant.

Paul Turner - President

GRAMPIANS TEXTILES

A few pics from last years Textiles workshops.

See over page for details of this years event.





There are lots of things for the visitor to see at Grampians Textures.

Special exhibitions: open from 17 March - 30 April.

Kookaburra Hotel 125—127 Grampians Rd, Halls Gap. Open daily except Monday from 4 pm

WIMMERA MALLEE VIEWPOINTS: Artists: Nina Gould, Helen Blandford, Isobel Martin.

Three women from the region who come together annually at Grampians Textures explore their horizons in stitched textiles.

Halls Gap Estate Winery. 4133 Ararat – Halls Gap Road Halls Gap. Open 11 - 5 Wed/ Sun.

SPUN: Artists: Horsham Spinners and Weavers. An exhibition of work by members of Horsham Spinners and Weavers Group, showing a range of hand spun, hand dyed, knitted, woven, crocheted.

MOCO Gallery 475-481 Grampians Rd, Halls Gap. Open daily 10–5. & Fri/Sat evening.

STITCHED: Artist: Helen Hobbs. Naive embroidery inspired by a workshop with Barbara Mullan at Grampians Texture 2 years ago

Artist in Residence.

Wendy Golden distinguished Australian basket maker will be our resident artist working in the forecourt of the Halls Gap Community Hub. Wendy is well known for her body shapes made with cane, at Grampians Textures she will be making bodies with cellophane. Call in and see her work and observe what she is producing over the week. She will be working in the space every afternoon of Grampians Texture, or if you would like to catch her some other time please contact us and we will make a special time.

Traders:

Traders are located at the Halls Gap Community Centre, next door to the Visitor Information Centre. Open Saturday 5 to Thursday 10 8 am – 5 pm. On sale will be a wide range of supplies for textile enthusiasts: fabrics, fibres, books, hand dyed wools, threads and yarns, buttons and much more. Not all traders 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 18 March On the lawn in front of the Stony Creek shops. A wide range of quality hand craft make by the tutors and students participating in Grampians Texture. Expect to find clothing, jewellery, paper, books and more all hand made and hand created, recycled and upcycled!!!

W: www.grampiansttexture.com.au
PH: 0428 825 971

HALLS GAP CFA

At a recent meeting of the Halls Gap brigade it was highlighted by the CFA Operations Officer for our area, that there are concerns about communities not understanding what a “neighbourhood safer place” is in the event of a fire. The full name for these places is – **Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort**. The following will hopefully clarify what it means, if in the event of an emergency you need to access one.

Neighbourhood Safer Places - Places of Last Resort (NSPs) are places of last resort when all other bushfire plans have failed.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES - PLACES OF LAST RESORT ARE:

- Locations that may provide some protection from direct flame and radiant heat, but they do not guarantee safety.
- Not an alternative to planning to leave early or to stay and defend your property; they are a place of last resort if all other fire plans have failed.

AN EXISTING LOCATION AND NOT A PURPOSE-BUILT, FIRE-PROOF STRUCTURE.

LOCATIONS OF NSPs

- A NSP may be at a local sports field, fore-shore or park, or they may be located within a community facility such as a hall, community centre or school.
- It is important to know that NSPs are not always a building or structure - they can simply be a clearing that provides a level of protection from radiant heat.
- NSPs are identified with a green and white sign which includes the words 'Bushfire Neighbourhood Safer Place - A Place of Last Resort'



NSPs ARE ESTABLISHED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT - NOT ALL TOWNSHIPS HAVE DESIGNATED NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES - PLACES OF LAST RESORT - PLACES OF LAST RESORT

NSPs DO NOT GUARANTEE SAFETY

- In a fire, the CFA or other emergency services may not be present at an NSP.
- NSPs may not have the capacity to cater for special needs. There will be no support services (food or drink, material aid) or provision for pets.
- NSPs may not provide shelter from the elements, particularly from heat and flying embers. On extreme and Code Red Fire Danger Rating days, the temperature is likely to be more than 35°C and the heat and sun will impact on those who shelter at an NSP.

THINGS TO CONSIDER IF YOU DECIDE TO SHELTER AT AN NSP

- Safety and survival cannot be guaranteed at an NSP and there may be no support or services provided. NSPs will offer limited protection against radiant heat and embers.
- Travelling to a place of last resort is dangerous. Traffic congestion, fire activity, accidents or fallen trees may block the route.
- Visibility is likely to be extremely poor due to smoke. People sheltering at an NSP are likely to experience extreme conditions such as heat, high winds, fire noise, and exposure to embers and radiant heat and may experience breathing difficulties due to smoke and ash.

NSPs WILL NOT GUARANTEE A PERSON'S SAFETY - THEY ARE PLACES OF LAST RESORT TO SHELTER DURING A FIRE FRONT WHEN ALL OTHER PLANS HAVE FAILED.

NSPs ARE PLACES OF ABSOLUTE LAST RESORT.

HOW NSPs ARE DESIGNATED

- Councils identify, designate and maintain Neighbourhood Safer Places - Places of Last Resort
- Councils request CFA to assess potential Neighbourhood Safer Places - Places of Last Resort against their Neighbourhood Safer Places - Places of Last Resort - Assessment Guidelines.
- The basic principle of a NSP is that it may afford some protection from radiant heat, the biggest killer during bushfire.
- CFA's criteria for NSPs are based on radiant heat calculations taking significant vegetation into account. Each site will be evaluated on its own merit. See [Neighbourhood Safer Places - Places of Last Resort - Assessment Guidelines \(PDF 65K\)](#) | [\(DOC 77K\)](#)
- CFA assess potential NSPs to ensure sites will not exceed the prescribed maximum potential for radiant heat exposure, and provides its assessment to the relevant council.
- If the site meets with CFAs assessment criteria, Council then assess the site against other criteria outlined in a Municipal NSP Plan, including access and egress, vegetation clearance, traffic management and uses allowed within buffer zones. Agreements with landowners must also be negotiated in some cases.

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/neighbourhood-safer-places/>)

The location of the **Neighbourhood Safer Place – Place of Last Resort** in the event of a fire, is the grassy patch beside the visitor centre in Halls Gap (part of the signage has been covered; this has been reported and we are ex-

GRAMPIANS WALKING TRACK SUPPORT GROUP

Golton Gorge picnic area has been closed since the fires in 2014. In response to popular demand Parks Victoria has now indicated that it will reinstate the facility in a modest way in the foreseeable future. It has also responded favourably to the Support Group's proposal that we be allowed to create a new walking track to the waterfalls at the foot of the gorge, along the south side of the creek..

This is the opposite side of the creek to the old track, which went with some difficulty past the waterfalls, into the gorge and up to the old copper mines. This new track will be simply out and back to the waterfalls, which were a magnificent sight during the rains we had this last winter and spring. Even when there is not much water it is still a very attractive spot to visit.

There's a few hurdles to be jumped yet but we are confident that we will be able to make this a signature project for the group.

PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE



Healthy Parks
Healthy People

We had another successful Clean up the Grampians event this year as part of the National Clean up Australia Day Campaign. In all, we had over 120 volunteers assist from right across the community. We collected over 200kg of wind blown rubbish from around the National Park and local communities and approximately 2 tonnes of illegally dumped rubbish from our surrounding reserves. Reports were that there was less visual rubbish than last year.

Special thanks go to the following groups as without their help this event would not happen: Friends of Grampians Gariwerd, Grampians bushwalking group, Wimmera 4x4 club, Panyabyr landcare group, Halls Gap primary school, Pomonal Primary school, St Brigids College Horsham, Ararat Secondary college.

A round up of day to day programs, fire and flood recovery and GPT:

A major project has been the finalisation of insurance works and funding from the heavy rainfall event late last year and we are expecting a range of projects to begin to roll out over the coming months for damaged roads and walking tracks.

Contractors have recently completed repair works on the Sundial to Pinnacle walking track where low lying wet areas were a problem. roading contractors have completed the repair and unblocking of a number of culverts throughout the park. Road repairs to potholes and hazardous tree works have also been undertaken by contractors at a number of visitor sites.

The Environment and Heritage team have deployed over 60 cameras throughout the park to monitor cats and foxes. They will be in operation until April 30th. You may see these along roadsides. Images from a further 34 cameras in the Black Range and West Grampians are currently being analysed. These cameras were targeting critical weight range mammals, and

initial finds have included Southern Brown Bandicoots, and Heath Mice.

A new strain of the Rabbit control disease RHDV1 K5 was recently released into the National Park and Black Range. This is the first time in 20 years that a new rabbit biocontrol agent is being released into Australia, however RHDV1 K5 is not a new virus; it is a strain of the existing virus already widespread in Australia, commonly known as *calicivirus*.

Cultural Heritage management planning is underway for a number of sites in the Northern Grampians including Briggs Bluff realignments, Longpoint Hiker camps, Dead Bullock Creek campsite and Coppermine campsite.

Works to stabilise the Zumsteins cottages are underway. The roof structure over the orange cottage has been constructed to protect the remaining pise walls. The next step is to repair the walls and timber elements. The green cottage has had its walls lowered to a safe level on instruction from Heritage Victoria. The Blue cottage has had some vegetation works completed and is ready for the scope of works to reinstate the cottage. We are also looking at the interpretation signage required at the site.

In sad but happy news, the Grampians Team will be saying farewell to a loved member of the team at the end of March. Ryan Duffy, Team leader Environment and Heritage will be heading to sunny Coffs Harbour with his wife May as Ryan takes up a position reintroducing threatened species into NSW parks. Ryan has seen some major projects roll out in his time, particularly the release of the Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby, fire and flood recovery including Sallow wattle eradication and we will miss his skills and expertise and his humour dearly. All the best Ryan.

BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC



BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC

20-22 Grampians Road, Halls Gap PH: 53 564751

GP DATES

MARCH 2017	APRIL 2017	MAY 2017
Dr Diana Jefferies 28,1,2,3 Dr Diana Jefferies 7,8,9,10 Dr Diana Jefferies 14,15,16,17 Dr Susan Lewis 28,29,30 Dr Siobhan Reddel 31	Dr Susan Lewis 4,5,6 Dr Susan Lewis 11,12,13 Dr Susan Lewis 18,19,20 TBA 26,27	TBA 2,3,4 TBA 9,10,11 Dr Susan Lewis 16,17,18 Dr Susan Lewis 23,24,25 Dr Susan Lewis 30,31,1

Halls Gap's Budja Budja Medical Clinic receives accreditation



Patient care at Halls Gap's Budja Budja Medical Clinic was rewarded after it received a national award of accreditation.

Australian General Practice Accreditation Limited chair Dr Richard Choong said accreditation showed the practice made a significant investment and commitment to quality on a day-to-day basis and across all levels of the practice team.

"Achieving accreditation is a major achievement for any practice and a clear demonstration that Budja Budja Medical Clinic is striving to improve their level of care to both patients and the community," he said.

"Practices seek accreditation because they want to do their best and view this as another step towards excellence in patient care."



Coping with the heat

- Look after yourself and keep in touch with sick or frail friends, neighbours and relatives.
- Drink plenty of water, even if you don't feel thirsty (if your doctor normally limits your fluids, check how much to drink during hot weather).
- Keep yourself cool by using wet towels, putting your feet in cool water and taking cool (not cold) showers.
- Spend as much time as possible in cool or air-conditioned buildings (for example, shopping centres, libraries, cinemas or community centres).
- Block out the sun at home during the day by closing curtains and blinds. Open the windows when there is a cool breeze.
- Don't leave children, adults or animals in parked vehicles.
- Stay out of the sun during the hottest part of the day. If you must go out, stay in the shade and take plenty of water with you. Wear a hat and light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing.
- Eat smaller meals more often and cold meals such as salads. Make sure food that needs refrigeration is properly stored.
- Avoid strenuous activity like sport, home improvements and gardening.
- Watch or listen to news reports that provide more information during a heatwave.

GRAMPIANS MUSIC FESTIVAL

First-ever Grampians Music Festival goes off like a frog in a sock!



Perfect weather, amazing bands and an awesome crowd – what more could you want for an inaugural festival?

That's exactly what the Grampians Music Festival 2017 got and the Committee couldn't have been happier with how everything went.

With a mix of rock, pop and indie music and incredible acts like Saskwatch, Tigertown, Alex Lahey, Felix Riebl and Clair Browne on the bill, our punters were blown away by hearing amazing music in such an incredible setting.

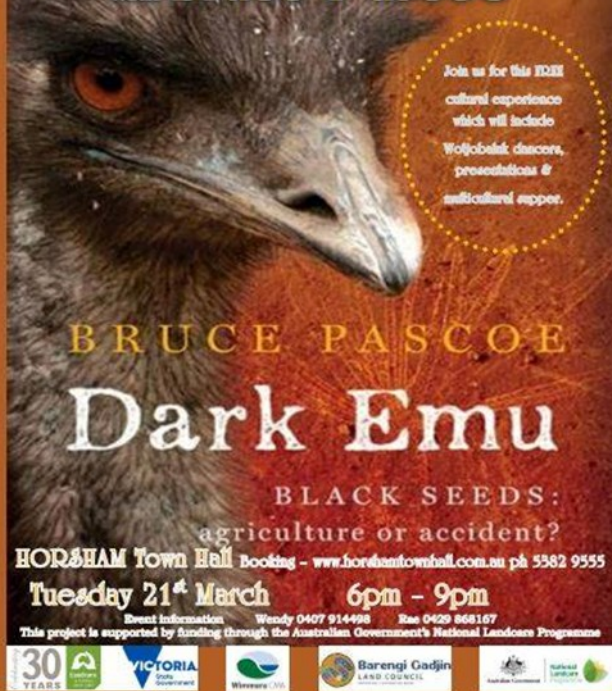
The Committee would like to thank all you amazing locals who helped make the first festival a success, especially Doug and Janine for providing their beautiful site down on the valley floor. And to everyone who came along, the food vendors, the winemakers, the local bands and buskers, thank you for your support!

So, will you be involved next year? We've already started planning so register your interest (as a punter, a volunteer, a vendor, a busker or a band) with the committee by visiting our website www.grampiansmusicfestival.com.au. You can also contact us at info@grampiansmusicfestival.com.au.

We'd love to have more locals on board so get in touch!



**Celebrating 30 Years of Landcare
& National Harmony Day
with Bruce Pascoe**



GRAMPIANS FILM SOCIETY



29th March 2017

Woman in Gold – 2015 UK

Maria Altman sought to regain a world famous painting of her aunt plundered by the Nazis during World War II.

She did so not just to regain what was rightfully hers, but also to obtain some measure of justice for the death, destruction, and massive art theft perpetrated by the Nazis.

A member of the Federation of Victorian



Your Image is Our Focus

PRIMATES OF THE CONGO NEED YOUR HELP!

SUPPORT GREATLY APPRECIATED

This year, the zoo-keeping team at Halls Gap Zoo want to make a real difference to help with conservation in the wild. We are a small team but we would like to show that size doesn't matter when it comes to compassion and effecting change.

Every year the Australasian Society of Zookeepers fundraises for a nominated animal conservation cause in the wild. Previous years have seen \$73000 raised! Every day we face people who have negative attitudes towards zoos/wildlife parks/sanctuaries. We are not zookeepers because we want to cuddle cute fluffy animals all day (fun as that sounds). We care deeply for the welfare of all animals and strive to help tackle the issues we have with our world's rapidly disappearing fauna and flora. There is very little funding for conservation and even less in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa. This year the LWIRO Centre of Rehabilitation for Primates will be the nominated recipient.



The centre opened in 2002 and currently cares for 72 chimpanzees and 92 monkeys (from 11 different species) who are victims of illegal poaching for meat and the pet trade. They are the key law enforcement body rescuing and rehabilitating primates as well as developing health and sanitation projects for the local community. Sadly, every chimpanzee at the Centre

was poached using dogs, adults shot for meat and infants sold into pet trade.

Funds raised across Australia will help construct new semi-natural enclosures that provide a more stimulating environment for the Mountain Monkeys and Blue Monkeys who are currently housed in a very old run-down enclosure. This will help them develop natural ecological and social skills to help transition reintroduction back into the wild.

This is the very first time the Halls Gap Zoo team have participated in this annual event so we hope to make an impact. I have personally had friends work at this Centre and know that there are many challenges faced given the Centre's location.

For more information you can check out their Facebook page or www.lwioprimates.org

PLEASE COME SUPPORT US:

We are holding a trivia night with an auction and raffle.

Wednesday 29 March

Halls Gap Hotel bistro area

6 pm onwards for 7.30 start

\$10 per person (Tables of 6)

Halls Gap Hotel have very kindly provided a venue. Please come early for drinks and a meal and to meet our team.

Children welcome.

For more information please contact Naline or Brittany:

naline@hallsgapzoo.com.au

brit@hallsgapzoo.com.au

HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

We get pretty excited to find out who our buddies are at the start of each year. Older students buddy up with either preps or younger students. Being an older buddy means looking after our younger buddies. Leadership is a big part of having buddies. Older buddies make sure that the younger buddies change their readers, aren't alone at play time and are not being silly. We do lots of activities with them. Every morning we read with them. The latest activity we did was showing our buddies how to use Scratch. Scratch is a computer program where we can make mini games, the buddies LOVED it. The buddy program is a way to make new friends.



The students in Grades 4 to 6 are invited to make a speech to run for junior school council. Not everyone chooses to but there's always plenty of people who want to try. The junior school council is for students to take leadership and responsibility for the school. All of the students in the school do have to vote. The results were - Tobie as president, Isobel vice president, Tom secretary, Jaala treasurer and Bonnie, Danikah and Aleisha are class representatives.



Our whole school is learning about something called S.S.P. which stands for sound speech pics. Part of SSP is Speedy Six spelling program. In Speedy six we have six different steps, one of the things we do is coding. To code you get a word and under line each different sound, so dog would have three different sounds. We also do something called word chain. In word chain we get given a word like dog and we change one sound at a time. So dog would be fog and fog would be for and it keeps going on. The last thing we do is made up word! Which is great fun. In this we choose a word and change up the sounds so dog could be spelt like this, ddautg. You're welcome to come and check it out from 9.30 – 9.50am each day.



We have started our swimming program which runs for two weeks. Prep to six students have been put in to groups and have been getting better at swimming thanks to Ange and Kim. Ange has been training the fastest students every morning at 7:30 am before school so that they can compete against other schools in Horscham. This shows great commitment. The students racing are Jaala, Marissa, Tobie and Tom. They will be representing our school. We wish them all good luck.

Written by the grade 4, 5 and 6 students.



27 MAY 2017

FOLK FOR REFUGEES



GRAMPIANS PIONEER COTTAGES
HALLS GAP 2PM-9PM

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO

FRIENDS OF REFUGEES

& ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE

FEATURING

ALISTER TURRILL ORANGE WHIP THE WAR OF IDEAS
THE RECALCITRANTS BEATROUTE & THE NANG NANGS
GHOST OF CONNIE FRANCIS

TICKETS \$30, CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

www.trybooking.com/264602



TICKETS NOT AVAILABLE AT THE GATE
BOOK YOUR TICKETS ONLINE NOW AS
TICKETS ARE LIMITED! DONATIONS
ALSO WELCOME, SEE ONLINE

FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE ON SITE, NO BYO, NO DOGS
FOR ANY ENQUIRIES CALL 03 5356 4402



GRAMPIANS
PIONEER COTTAGES

YES BELIEVE IT—WE HAVE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY ACTS COMING TO HALLS GAP!!

When: Saturday 25th March,

Where: Halls Gap Centenary Hall

Time: Bar open from 5:30pm and come early to met the guests. Show starts at 7.

How Much: \$10 (yes, you read that right!) +BF (sorry)

For more details Go to <http://hallsgapcomedyfestival.weebly.com/>



Seymour Mace (UK)

"Willfully odd yet compelling"

Scotsman

DeAnne Smith (USA)

"Cheerful, confident and smart standup"

The Guardian

Markus Birdman (UK)

"Thought-provoking, hilarious standup"

Edinburgh Reporter

Zach & Viggo (Norway)

"Unpredictable, ridiculous and joyous"

Chortle

FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

Lee-Anne, Margo, Jenny and
Tammy

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

leeannel@budjabudjacoop.org.au

Upload your community events
details to the Community
Association webpage:

www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au

Like our Halls Gap Community
Association Facebook Page

Like our Halls Gap Community
Watch and Events Facebook Page

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- Thursday 9 March: Botanic Garden Working Bee
- March 10th - 13th: Pitch Music festival Moyston
- March 12th: Halls Gap Craft Market @ school
- March 12th: Riley Mason performing @ Fallen Giants Vineyard
- March 25th: Comedy Festival Halls Gap Centenary Hall
- March 25th: Historical Society Meeting @ Centenary Hall 10:30am
- March 28th: First Aid & CPR course @ Budja Budja Community House. Contact Leeanne 53564751
- Thursday 30 March: Open Mike at Livefast cafe
- April 8th Harvest Cafe: A taste of the Grampians Dinner. Book early @ the cafe.
- May 6-7th: Grampians Grape Escape
- May 21st: Run the Gap
- June 30th: BEEGEES revival in the Grampians @ the Plaza Inn
-

Regular Events

- Chas Mangle Justice of the Peace is available for witnessing documents in the History Room at the Centennial Hall most days except Tuesdays from 1pm - 5 pm. Ph. 0439 837 052
- Social Coffee catch-ups at Brambuk cafe 11am Tuesdays.
- Ultimate Frisbee Monday evenings



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.