

Issue: May 2017

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

WRAP UP...

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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.

Well, we made it through the busy Easter rush! Well done everyone!! By all accounts it was a super busy Easter with all accommodation booked and visitors travelling in from various regional townships as well...

Did you know...Facebook is useful but not everyone uses it... So The Halls Gap Community has a new website!! Details are on page 2 but please check it out and remember to update your events, business details etc there—we would love everyone that searches the Grampians or Halls Gap to know there is a flourishing community here, and a great , up-to-date website will reflect that. Go to www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au/

WHAT'S ON OVER WINTER???

Remember to get your event wrap ups, advertisements and community group updates to the newsletter team by the end of the month. Thanks Eds...

Step back in time...

Anyone for Bowls???

The Halls Gap Bowling Green on the south side of the now Kookaburra Hotel. circ. 1950

STATS BY CHAS...

117.00mm for April bringing the progressive total for the year to 206.0mm.

This compares to the same period last year of 13.00mm for April with a progressive total of 114.5mm.

As of the 26th of April Lake Bellfield is holding 64,490ML or 82% full compared to the same period last year of 42,420ML or 54% full.

The total system is holding 298,400ML or 53.17% full compared to the same period last year of 123,530ML. Mount William received 129mm for April compared to the same period last year of 22.8mm. The maximum temperature of 19.2C was recorded on the 7th April and the minimum of -0.3C was recorded on the 27th of April.

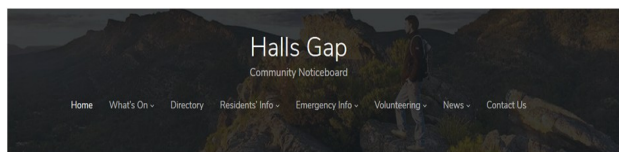
The maximum wind gust of 91 km/h was recorded on the 26th of April.



THE ROSE SERIES P. 3046

HALLS GAP, BOWLING GREEN, VIC.

HALLS GAP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Latest News

- Halls Gap bike path extension begins
- Run The Gap 2017 temporary road closures
- Residents & Ratepayers Association under threat of folding
- Local musicians wanted for Grampians Music Festival 2018
- WAMA needs your support – sign up to their newsletter now



The heart of the Grampians

NEW Halls Gap Community Website launched

It's been a long time coming but we hope you'll be impressed with what we've put up. It has a fresh, new look and is easy to use. The website still has the same

Address as Before: <http://www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au/>

Here are some of the features:

Home Page

Latest News. If you have news you want to add that's easy – just click on "Add your own news or event" under the News tab.

There's a link to the latest Fill the Gap Newsletters.

At the bottom of the page you'll see live weather info and forecasts for Halls Gap.

What's On

There's a calendar of events and activities. Click on the month you are interested in and see what's on offer. Click on the event and more info will appear.

Once again, if you know of an event that's coming up please go to the "Add your own news or event" under the News tab.

Volunteering

Here you'll find a list of groups and events that are looking for some assistance.

Directory

Here you'll find a list of community groups, organisations, clubs, markets etc. with information and contact details about each one. They are organised in the following categories:

- Arts, Culture & Learning
- Community Services & Facilities
- Environment
- Events
- Markets
- Sports & Recreation
- Tourism

If we've missed something please let us know, and we'll add it for you.

Residents' Info

This is where you can go to find out info on things like:

- Connecting to the NBN
- Do the Right Thing with Plants & Animals
- Electricity & Water Issues
- Justice of the Peace
- Newspapers & Radio Stations
- Rubbish & Recycling
- Transport
- Weather (including rainfall by Chas)

Emergency Info

- Live Emergency Information from Vic Emergency & the RTA
- Fire Warnings & Restrictions
- Medical Assistance
- Police
- SES
- Wildlife Rescue
- Neighbourhood Safer Places
- CERT – Community Emergency Response Team
- Prepare & Get Ready
- NGSC Emergency Management Plan

We are happy to change info and add new photos anytime you want. You can add your own news or event or just send info on an email if you prefer. Most of all, use the site and let others know about it so that we can build it into a wonderful asset for the whole of Halls Gap.

A huge thanks!

This site could not have been developed without the kind assistance of Tom Parkes. He volunteered his time to develop the template for the site and put up with my many calls for help. Margo has also been [instrumental](#) in getting this project off the ground. And of course, thanks to all the locals who I've been hassling this past month to send me info and pics!

Finally, we are looking for a couple of people who can assist with adding events and news to the site (it's easy to learn for anyone with basic computer skills).

Monica Coleman

Run the Gap

May 21st 2017

<http://www.runthegap.com.au/>



We want local bands!

GMF 2018 – Friday 23 February to Sunday 25 February

With Team GMF in full organisation mode, we are now calling for local musicians to get in touch to perform at Locals' Night at the 2018 fest.

Locals' Night is held on the Friday night and gives our talented musos an opportunity to take centre stage. So if you're in a band or you're a solo artist that lives within a one-hour drive of the Grampians, get in touch with the committee (contacts below) as we'd love to hear from you.

In other GMF news: We've welcomed three new members to our committee – Yeti Harris and Juliette Lalli.

We're working to get our food vendors sorted. If you're a local vendor interested in trading at the 2018 fest, get in touch – info@grampiansmusicfestival.com

We're working through a HUGE list of bands who want to play at GMF 2018 and making a short list. We're getting very excited about the 2018 fest!

If you'd like to discuss any aspect of GMF 2018, please email us at info@grampiansmusicfestival.com or you can chat to any of the committee members – Carly Flecknoe (Director), Yasmina Khayat, Ashleigh Dark, Will Hudson, Leah Heinrich, David Nicholson, Richard Flecknoe, Justine Linley, Amber Ricks, Jason Hosemans, or our new members Yeti, Ange and Juliette as mentioned above.

And don't forget to follow us on Facebook – facebook.com/grampiansmusicfestival – and Instagram @grampiansmusicfestival!

HALLS GAP CFA

Have you checked and changed the batteries in you smoke alarms recently?

Have you checked your fire blankets and fire extinguishers recently?

WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE A SMOKE ALARM?

- If you don't have a working smoke alarm installed in your home, and a fire occurs, you are:
- 57% more likely to suffer property loss and damage
- 26% more likely to suffer serious injuries
- Four times more likely to die.
- When you're asleep you lose your sense of smell. A smoke alarm is your electronic nose. It will alert you if there is smoke from a fire. A small fire can grow to involve an entire room in just two to three minutes. A smoke alarm provides early warning and time to escape.

SMOKE ALARMS ARE COMPULSORY IN EVERY HOME.

Since 1 August 1997, Victorian law states that smoke alarms (complying with Australian Standards AS3786) must be installed in all homes, units, flats and townhouses. It is the responsibility of all owners and landlords to install working smoke alarms.

Residential homes constructed before 1 August 1997 need only standalone, battery powered smoke alarms. Residential homes constructed after 1 August 1997 must have smoke alarms connected to 240 volt mains power. These smoke alarms must also have a backup battery installed in the smoke alarm in case there is a loss of power.

All fire services in Australia recommend the installation of **photoelectric** smoke alarms that meet Australian Standards (AS3786) when installing or replacing existing smoke alarms.

TIPS TO KEEP YOUR SMOKE ALARM IN WORKING ORDER:

- Test your smoke alarms once a month. The alarm should produce a loud *"beep, beep, beep"* sound when you press the test button
- Clean your smoke alarms at least once a year by using the brush attachment on your vacuum cleaner. Gently clean dust around the outside cover.
- Replace all smoke alarms, both battery powered and hardwired, every 10 years. The manufacturing year will be printed on the smoke alarm if you are unsure of its age.
- If your smoke alarm is powered by a replaceable battery, use long-lasting 9V alkaline batteries and replace them annually.

Waiting until the smoke alarm beeps before you change the battery is too late - this indicates that the battery is already flat, and your family is not protected.

RENTERS AND LANDLORDS

It is the **landlord's** responsibility to install and maintain smoke alarms within their properties. It is the **renter's** responsibility to:

- Test the smoke alarm every month to make sure it is working.
- Contact their agent/landlord if the smoke alarm is not working
- Contact their agent/landlord if the smoke alarm emits an occasional chirping noise as this means the battery or unit itself is faulty.

SMOKE ALARMS FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

A specialised smoke alarm is available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Due to the cost of this type of smoke alarm, the Department of Human Services may be able to provide financial assistance via a subsidy.



CFA CONT....

Subsidy

Profoundly deaf people can apply for a smoke alarm subsidy to help cover the costs of visual and vibrating smoke alarms.

For further details visit the [VicDeaf website](#)

WHAT TO DO WHEN A SMOKE ALARM GOES OFF

It is vital you know what to do if a fire occurs. Follow these simple rules to plan how you would escape a fire in your home and practice it with the whole family.

- Get down low and stay out of smoke
- If it's safe, close doors on your way out to slow down the spread of fire and smoke.
- Alert other people on your way out by shouting "*get out*" Get out and stay out
- Meet at a safe place such as the letterbox outside of your home
- Call 000 (triple zero) from a mobile phone or a neighbours phone. Ask for FIRE

The above information plus additional advice is available at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/smoke-alarms/>

The Halls Gap CFA sells and services extinguishers, fire blankets and hose reels. The brigade uses the fee charged for this service (set by the CFA) to purchase and maintain firefighting equipment. We would appreciate your support in using the brigade for these services. For details contact Brigade Captain Colin Andrews on 5356 4618. Businesses should check what additional firefighting devices should be installed and regularly maintained.

Judy Hilbig

Halls Gap Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

CERT



The Community Emergency Response Team were called out 16 times in April with 10 of the calls to tourists and 6 to locals.

Three of the calls were from walkers in the National Park. A 64 year old man had to be winched up from Silent Street by the ambulance helicopter after a serious fall. A lady developed severe chest pain returning from Silverband falls but she was able to walk to the carpark. And a 36 year old man returning from The Pinnacle did a 30 minute walkout to Halls Gap Caravan Park after an unseen person hit him on the head with a thrown rock, leaving him with concussion and a possible fractured skull.

The other calls required a variety of responses. Two cars ran off the road into trees, there were two strange reactions to prescribed medications, an anaphylactic reaction, a stroke, a fainting, a fall, a fit, a fractured arm, breathing difficulties and two easily treated cases of hyperventilation.



Photo—courtesy of Stawell SES

PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE

<http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/grampians-national-park>



Healthy Parks
Healthy People

After surviving a super busy Easter period, park staff continue on with a range of other projects and management priorities.

Fire management

The Autumn Planned burning program is in full swing. A large number of Parks staff are involved either out on ground or with the management teams behind the scenes. If conditions are suitable, burns scheduled to occur at Mt William, Serra Rd, and Griffin track in the Grampians National Park. Further details can be obtained from Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre (BNPCC) or by calling DELWP Horsham.



Environment and heritage

Sadly the team recently said goodbye to our Grampians Ark Coordinator Ben Thomas who has taken up the Ranger in Charge position with Phillip Island Wildlife Park. In other staff movements we also welcomed back Mike Stevens to the local team as Team Leader Environment and Heritage. Mike brings back a tonne of knowledge from his previous state-wide role, and will continue to roll out the Conservation Action Plan for the park.

Amongst projects such as fox baiting, rock art conservation works, threatened species management and fire recovery projects, the team have also been continuing to deliver the goat control program across the park. The next round of control begins this week and will target areas including Mt Cassel, Black Range State Park and the Victoria range. Road clo-

sures may in place and all park visitors are reminded not to enter any operational areas behind closure signage. Contact BNPCC for further detail.

Our university research partners have been busy with small m a m m a l



monitoring over the last few weeks. Here's a pic of an Antechinus that was recently trapped for the first time, weighed, tagged and released for future population monitoring.

Volunteers

Our volunteer coordinator Caity is working one of the busiest periods for school visitation during April/May. Visiting schools often undertake programs in the park where students are involved with a range of outdoor education activities. We often get requests for hands on park management experiences 'to give back' so Caity facilitates a series of activities such as sallow wattle removal, basic track maintenance and general park facility maintenance and repair. Anyone interested in being involved please contact us at: volunteer-gramps@parks.vic.gov.au

GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

Works on the major Mitchell Plateau are underway. Over 800 stone steps will be constructed between Boundary Gap and The Plateau. Track



clearing works are also underway around Briggs Bluff and Mt Difficult.

GRAMPIANS WALKING TRACK SUPPORT GROUP

Grampians Walking Tracks Support Group
Heatherlie Quarry.

In early April our local Grampians Bushwalking Club held a working bee to tidy up the area in time for the Ozact performances at the quarry over Easter. The Club members live in Stawell and Ararat and over recent years they have adopted Heatherlie as the place to give something back to the National Park which they visit regularly.

Native pine trees that were killed by the 2014 fires regularly fall across the tracks and the regrowth vegetation needs a trim once or twice a year. Good water drainage on the tracks also has to be maintained. The Club members have developed a sense of ownership of the place and enjoy these sessions, as well as the wealth of botanical interest that the area offers. Parks staff are very appreciative of their help.



Brushcutting...



Chainsawing.... GO David!



Lopping....



And dodging these beautiful creatures....!!

HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Friday the 21st we went to the Peter Cannon Photography Exhibition at the Halls Gap Community Halls. We were extremely impressed with all of his pictures and we had some favourites. When you walked into the exhibit he had a picture of his daughter's cat and for the display he called it Catarina the Ballerina because in the picture the cat looked like it was twirling in the air. He had many other pictures like his daughter Claudia, a ghost train and a star trail. The star trail was a picture of stars that took about half an hour to take because he put the camera on this setting so the camera took a photo of the stars spinning. Peter is very clever and we were so grateful that he took some time out to let us visit and talk to us about some of the photographs.

Some of the students of Halls Gap Primary School went to the Anzac Day Drawn Service in Halls Gap. To show our respect we laid a wreath on behalf of Halls Gap Primary School. The students learnt more about what Anzac Day means. It means to remember the soldiers that sacrificed their lives so that we could stand here today. Lest We Forget.

On Friday the 28th of April, our grade 5/6 students went to Ballarat fed university to do the GRIP leadership program. There was many schools from Victoria there. When we got there, the first thing they did was sit our school right up the front because we were there early. We had books that we worked through during the day, depending on the activity. We really enjoyed it when the Loud Noise Crew came out and got everyone screaming, dancing and laughing. Everyone had challenges to accomplish. We all made a big effort to talk to new people during the day. At the end of the conference, we came away with project ideas, skills that are important for leadership and how we could improve our leadership.

This term we have started a new theme, which is under water. We are turning the middle of the

school in to the sea. We have turned our faces into a school of fish and we have made paper plate sea animals. This is going to be very fun learning about the sea. We are going to learn lots more. Remember we are now a **school of fish!**



Term 3 is very busy for our school. For the grade 3s and 5s, they have NAPLAN next week. We also have athletics day where everyone in the school participates in different like beanbag throw, javelin, shot put, running and marching with Pomonal, Concongella, Moyston and Great Western schools.

On Tuesday the 2nd of May, Isobel and Miles are going to do cross-country. Another thing coming up is mother's day, the teachers have asked the students to bring money to make gifts for their mothers and/or grandmothers. It's been a huge secret! We love our mums and grandmothers and we hope that all the community Mums have a fantastic mother's day.

Written by the Grades 4 to 6 students

FRIDAY 30 JUNE

BG's

MASSACHUSETTS

TRAGEDY

NIGHT FEVER

SPICKS & SPECKS



STAYIN ALIVE

JIVE TALKIN

&

MORE

REVIVAL

COUNTRY PLAZA HALLS GAP

141 GRAMPIANS ROAD, HALLS GAP

8.30 PM - 11.30 PM • DOORS OPEN 8PM

2 COURSE MEAL & SHOW \$70
SHOW ONLY \$36

**ACCOMMODATION PACKAGES
AVAILABLE ONLINE
AND AT VENUE**

**Tickets available online at www.eventbrite.com.au
or contact venue on (03) 5356 4344**

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

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