

Issue: June 2017

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

WRAP UP...

In This Edition:

Stats by Chas	Page 1
CAGH/R'PAYERS	Page 2
GMF 2018	Page 3
CFA /CERT	Page 4
Books!	Page 5
Parks Vic	Page 6
Parks Vic	Page 7
Primary School	Page 8
Nature Play	Page 9
History/Ads	Page 10
Ads	Page 11

FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



Howdy Folks... My how the cold is settling in! Must be time to head off to somewhere warmer for a while?! No Way! There is so much good stuff to keep us in Halls Gap for the next few months! Has anyone been out to see some of the early wildflowers yet? Loads of native orchids in flower already such as parsons bands, Greenhoods and Pink Heath. Even the Thryptomene is starting to open up in some areas. Don't hide away indoors the whole of winter – Don those jackets and wellies and get out and about to experience the Grampians in all its winter/Chinnup glory! Don't forget we need articles, event wrap ups, photos and other interesting community based stories in to Lee-ane by the end of the month. Thanks Eds...

STATS BY CHAS...

May 2017 - Rainfall by Chas: 128.5mm was recorded bringing the progressive total to 334.5mm. This compares to the same period last year of 164.0mm for May with a progressive total of 279.5mm.

As of the 31st May Lake Bellfield is holding 64,190ML or 82% full compared to the same period last year of 42,050ML or 54% full. The total system is holding 298,590ML or 53.20% full. This compares to the same period last year of 124,960ML or 22.27% full. Mount William received 141.0mm for May.

The highest temperature of 13.8 C was recorded on the 10th of May and the lowest temperature of - 0.4 C was recorded on the 31st of May.

Step back
in time...

Anyone
recognise
these
faces???



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HALLS GAP

A Quick wrap up from the Community Association...

We held our AGM on June 7th and successfully voted in committee positions:

President—David Witham

Treasurer—Kayleen Urquhart

Secretary—Tammy Schoo

A few items on the agenda included:

Landcare – Margo was recently voted in as Chair and Angeline as secretary of the Halls Gap Landcare group—it will run as a sub-committee of the community association. The group has begun weed removal works around Halls Gap., particularly blackberry.

Community Communication. Fill the Gap continues but content is hard to gather. The new website has been finished and looks great thanks to a few very committed people such as Tom Parkes and Monica Coleman.

Botanic Garden. Repairs were undertaken to the leaking Tap and ride on Mower.

Wildflower show: The new format was successful last year so will be continued on 7th and 8th October.

The Wildlife Action group noted that some 'no feeding wildlife' signage has been removed so will look into replacement where required.

There will be films screened for local kids during the school holidays.

The Wonderland Run breakfast provided by the committee was a great success and should be continued.

The walking track support Group have been working on their adopt a track projects in the National Park and will continue to support the redevelopment of the Golton Gorge walk.

The Committee has supported the reproduction of an all abilities guide book by Parks Victoria. This is due for release in the coming months.

HALLS GAP RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

In BIG news, the committee survives!

At our recent AGM and in our very last breath, we successfully voted to continue on... Paul Turner was voted in as President, Mandy Wadge as Treasurer and in big news. Jenni (and Kevin) O'Donohue stepped up as Deputy Chair and Secretary respectively. Their assistance means the committee lives on to support the community take care of important community issues. For another year..

What do they do you ask?

Well from stepping in to bat for our rates and town services to monitoring and ensuring the maintenance of street furniture, gardens and signage is kept up. They are also keen to pursue new initiatives in town such as , playgrounds, kids/teens facilities and other ideas that will help our town thrive.

If you are interested in joining or have some great ideas for the town get in touch with Paul Turner via email: peturner@bigpond.net.au



GRAMPIANS MUSIC FESTIVAL

We want locals! Yes that includes you!!

Our first big news is that we have changed our dates – the festival is now being held from 2-4 February 2018. We've done this to avoid clashing with other big events in the region so everyone has the chance to attend all the great things that are happening at that time of year. So save the new dates!

The other big news is that we want you – yes, you locals – to get involved in the festival. There are lots of ways you can do this, but here are the main three:

Accommodation / ticket packages – we want to partner with local businesses to provide accommodation and ticket packages. This is a great way for you to gain new customers and help support the festival, so if you're interested, please contact festival director Carly Flecknoe at carly@limelightbc.com

Mates of GMF sponsorship – we're putting the finishing touches on our sponsorship packages but one of them is the "Mates of GMF" package. This is for local businesses or individuals to help us out either financially or via a contra deal, so get in touch with Carly to discuss your ideas. We are keen to discuss any idea you might have!



Volunteering – if you'd like free tickets to the event, why not volunteer? It's a great way to meet new people, help with a community event, and get yourself into the festival arena during the event. Plus, it's awesome fun! Put your name down to volunteer by emailing info@grampiansmusicfestival.com

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, Will Hudson, Leah Heinrich, David Nicholson, Richard Flecknoe, Justine Linley, Amber Ricks, Jason Hosemans, Yeti Harris or Juliette Lalli.

And don't forget to follow us on Facebook – facebook.com/grampiansmusicfestival – and Instagram [@grampiansmusicfestival](https://www.instagram.com/grampiansmusicfestival) to keep up to date.



HALLS GAP CFA



As we have moved into a cooler period of time, callouts for the Halls Gap brigade have slowed.

The brigade has responded to over sixty call-outs since July 2016 (the beginning of the 2016-2017 year). Recent responses have included house fires in both Halls Gap and Stawell. Two members are currently training in Fire Equipment Maintenance, a four-day program. This program provides a service to businesses and homes within our area and is the major fund raising source for the brigade.

Even though we have now entered a period of time where the fire season restrictions have finished, there are clear guidelines on when fires can be lit and for what purpose, how to obtain a permit and who to call if you are going to conduct a burn for fuel reduction or garden waste on your property.

For those who require a permit to burn, details and an application form are available from the Northern Grampians Shire - <http://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/Council-Services/Local-Laws/Local-Laws-Permits-and-Enforcement>

The guidelines for notifying VICFIRE are also available within this information.

As always, the brigade is interested in hearing from community members interested in joining as volunteers or using our fire equipment management services. For details contact Brigade Captain Colin Andrews on 5356 4618.

Judy Hilbig

Halls Gap Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

CERT



The Community Emergency Response Team was called out 13 times last month with 5 of those calls from people needing help in the National Park. Telstra has informed us they are going to set up communications near the McKenzie Falls Car Park so that mobile phones will work there, hopefully even at the base of the falls. Late one afternoon a lady in her 50's slipped over and injured her ankle at the base of the falls and we weren't paged till after 5:30pm because someone had to drive 2 kilometres to get a phone signal. A dozen helpful tourists had stayed to help her, so with Police, SES and Ambulance responding that was a lot of people coming up in the dark. On another callout we went to a lady who was uninjured but her boots had completely disintegrated as she returned from the Pinnacle. A simple job but Police and SES had to turn out.

A young girl who made a rash move while abseiling near Delleys Bridge and severely injured her leg when high up on a rock ledge generated an enormous emergency response. SES, Police, CFA and ambulance came from Ballarat, Ararat, Stawell, Hamilton, Warrnambool and Halls Gap. She was flown to hospital from Halls Gap oval in the AV helicopter.

And while we were on the way to a road accident at the corner of Grampians Road and the Ararat Road at 3 in the morning we were diverted to a Pomonal resident with heart problems who had priority. This is the first time we have ever had to drive past patients who needed help. Once we had handed our heart patient to the Stawell Ambulance we returned to the road accident and still were there 8 minutes before any ambulance arrived because Stawell Ambulance were having a busy night. We found two cars had lost control and been written off when they hit trees. The 5 passengers went to hospital. Hopefully they only needed observation.



GLOBAL COALITION FOR CHANGE

Indigenous Community Book Program (ICBP)

Books, Books and more books.....

Do you have books that you don't need anymore?

Would you like to give your books to a good home?

Indigenous Community Book Program collects fantastic high quality used books for Indigenous communities that unfortunately have little or no educational resources.

- Our books are sent free of all charges to needy Aboriginal communities, schools, families, community and health centres. To date we have donated over 100,000 books to Aboriginal communities around Australia.

- We NEED fiction and non-fiction. We NEED books for early readers to young Adults. 0-20 years.

- We do NOT require heavy encyclopedias or old text books. We do NOT accept books that are damaged with frayed bindings, stained or weathered. Also, NO magazines or books with religious or Adult content.

- Our books help young readers and those with a low literacy background develop their reading, spelling and grammar skills. Books are the building blocks to a successful school experience and a better life!

For more information about the book program, please visit www.globalcoalitionforchange.org or email Biljana Radoicic at icbp.books@gmail.com.



DONATE YOUR HIGH QUALITY SECOND HAND BOOKS NOW

Any enquiries or offers to help please email

**GLOBAL COALITION FOR CHANGE - IN-
DIGENOUS FUND**

at icbp.books@gmail.com & for more information log onto

www.globalcoalitionforchange.org



INDIGENOUS FUND
AN INITIATIVE OF THE GLOBAL COALITION FOR CHANGE

PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE

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



Healthy Parks
Healthy People

News in General

Environment Land and Water

The local NVM team, along with Traditional Owners and Rock Art Conservationists have just completed graffiti removal works at Mt Talbot Scenic Reserve, Red Rock Bushland Reserve and Black Range State Park. There have been a number of sites impacted on by rock scratching, charcoal and paint recently, and it appears most of it is probably due to visitors being unaware that rock art is actually there. There are numerous registered sites in the Park, and probably many more we don't know about.

Usually, the local rock art consists of white or dark red ochre and may contain simple lines, emu, kangaroo or hand prints or figurines. We have a fantastic way of testing a site these days, which involves taking a filtered photo of the site in a process known as 'de-stretching'. This assists us to see an image that may be unrecognisable to the naked eye. Without this tool, an easy way for everyone to avoid damage to sites is to apply a cautionary approach when exploring this Heritage listed National Park; to respect all natural surfaces especially in any shelter or rock overhang areas and to 'leave no trace of your visit'.



Figure1 – Rock Art preservation works

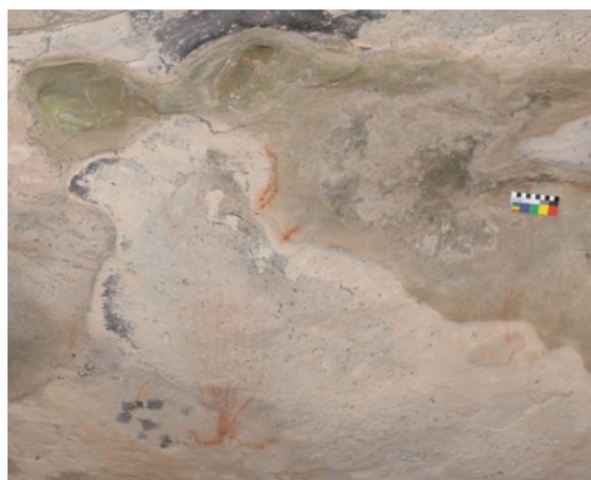


Figure 2 – Normal rock art vision

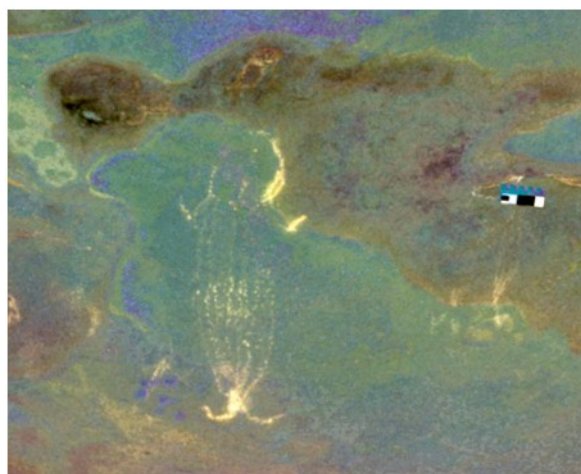


Figure 3 – 'De-stretched' Rock art Vision

In other works, the NVM team has also recently initiated blackberry eradication works at Mackenzie Falls and on the park boundary surrounding Halls Gap. The program of weed spraying will continue over the coming months. Volunteers have been assisting with the Goat Control program in the Victoria Range, and the Mt Cassell area. This last round of shooting has been successful with a positive reduction in feral goat and deer numbers.

Fire/Flood Recovery

Works to repair drainage, culverts and surface damage along Mt Zero and Pohlner Rd is scheduled to begin in the coming weeks. Assess Ears road repairs should also begin before the end of the financial year. Mt William works are scheduled for Spring. Other roadworks packages are being scheduled as the Insurance replacement program is finalised.

In addition to restoration works at Zumsteins, Interpretation specialists are currently developing signage for the site. Each cottage will have its story told and there will be a range of other historical stories shared across the precinct.

In Other Park News

Seasonal Road closures will come into effect after the June Long weekend. A detailed list of these can be found at: <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/safety/fire,-flood-and-other-closures/seasonal-road-closures2> or you can see them marked on our park notes.

There will also be a few remaining road closures for flood repair. These can be found on our 'road report' available on our website:

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

For all other park information, topographic maps and general park enquiries call into Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap Phone 5361 4000

GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

Project Planner Anne Wilson and Project Delivery Coordinator Rod Spinks have been working with Traditional owners in the past few weeks to undertake cultural heritage assessments at trailheads and campsites along the new GPT route.



Figure 4 – Traditional Owners Undertaking recent cultural heritage surveys.

On ground progress continues in earnest - Air-lifting operations will begin on the Major Mitchell Plateau Wednesday.

Crews will begin moving steel mesh walkway panels into place across wet and sensitive areas of vegetation. The area is currently closed but further closures will be in place while the operations are underway.



Figure 5—Rock works on the Major Mitchell Plateau

HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

Halls Gap recently hosted an event called Run the Gap. The people of the town organised a 6km, 12km and a 21km run. Over a thousand people came. Some students helped at the drinks station. Mandy, a parent from the school, organised the Mini Run the Gap for the kids. Arlo and Tom from the school helped put the cones out though the mini run. They also ran in front of the kids so they knew where the track was going. Run the Gap is a great event that the town organises and has provided lots of great equipment and tracks. It's also great exercise for anyone that chooses to compete.

Naplan was just a little while ago and the grade three and five students went to the Community Hall to do their tests. Naplan is all about seeing how well the grade three and five students are going with learning. This also continues into secondary school. It happens every second year from grade three. Some people enjoy Naplan but others can be nervous. On the first day of Naplan we did two tests in one day, they were Writing and Punctuation and Grammar. On the second day of Naplan we did the Reading. On the last day of Naplan we all did Mathematics. We all got super yummy chocolate treats on the last day because we had worked so hard. Tasty!



Last month we had School Sports day. On the day students from Pomonal, Concongella, Moyston, Great Western and Halls Gap competed. The schools started off the morning with marching. Throughout the day the students of the schools competed in a

range of sports from discus to bean bag throw. In the afternoon students finished off the day with the team sports and relays. A new tradition started this year was that the oldest student from the hosting school read the Athletics oath and the oldest student from the school that was helping read the umpires oath. For the day Halls Gap had won the marching and had three students that were the best in their age groups and they got a medal.



Every year our school cluster has a cross country, if you get a fast time you go to St Arnaud for the Division Cross Country. This year two people made it through from Halls Gap, the Erkelens family, their names are Isobel and Miles. This was Miles' first time at the Division Cross Country and Isobel's third time. Miles was up first after the girls and was excited but nervous in the end he came in 24th which is a great job for his first time. Isobel came in 6th which means she gets to go to the next level of cross country in Warrnambool. Good job Miles and good luck Isobel in your next event.

JOIN THE 2017 NATURE PLAY DAY



18 JUNE ON THE WAMA SITE

Adults and kids are invited to come and enjoy playing in nature at the beautiful WAMA site.

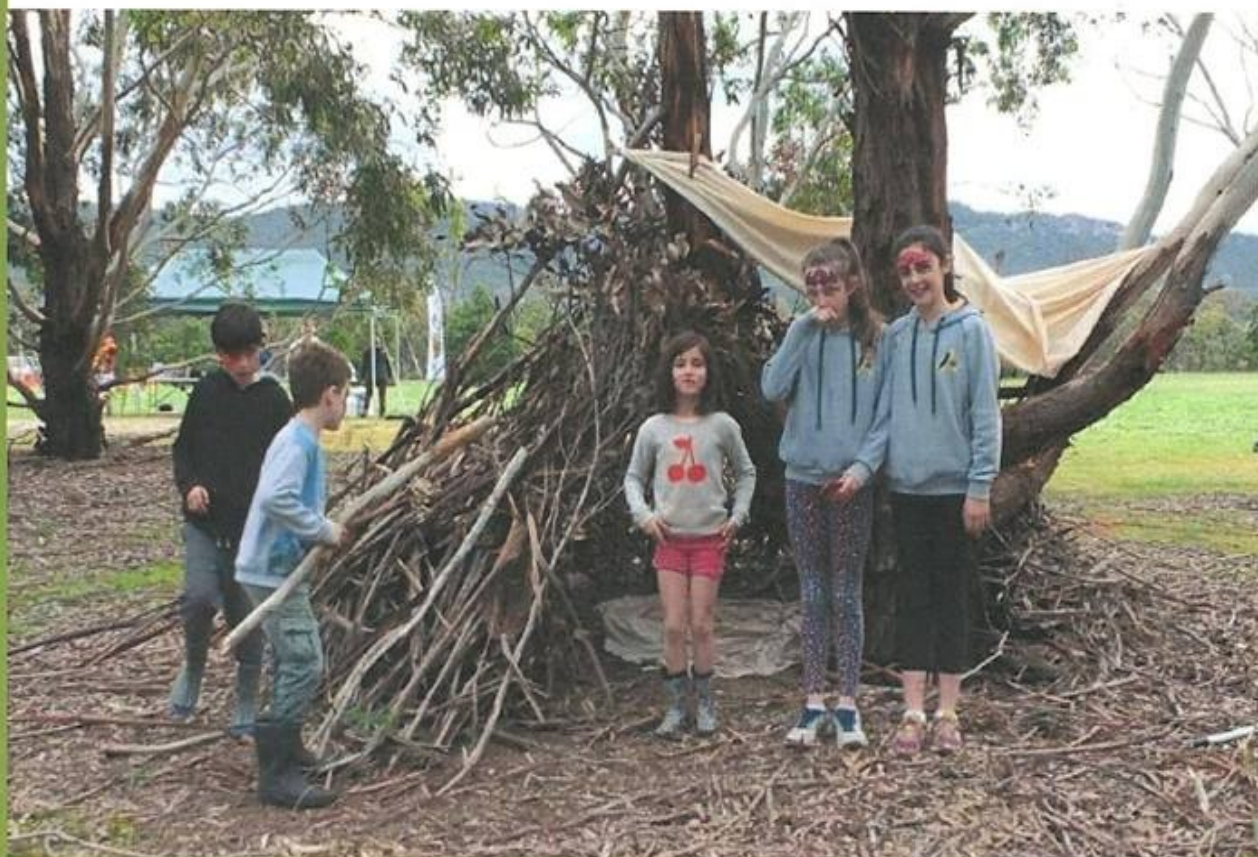
ACTIVITIES: will include mud play, cubby building, exploration, face painting, building stick towers and bush fairy homes, a discovery hunt.

WHEN: Sunday 18 June, 12-4pm. GOLD coin donation.

WHERE: WAMA site, Corner Neal Road and Ararat-Halls Gap Road, Pomonal.

BRING: gumboots, spades for digging and picnic lunch or afternoon tea.

CONTACT: Michele Forbes on 0438 067 848.



HISTORIC HALLS GAP

Just a few years back - Newspaper Headlines from the past - 2004

From The History Room.

02/01/2004...Woohlpooer Works Of Art - Tim Butler To Open Grampians Furniture In Halls Gap.

06/01/2004...New Yellow-Lid Recycle Bins Being Delivered To Halls Gap.

07/01/2004...New Name For Festival - Halls Gap's Annual Grampians Gourmet Festival To Grampians

Grape Escape - The Food And Wine Festival.

16/01/2004...Tornado Strikes In Grampians.

10/02/2004...Jazz Feast To Bring Grampians To Life.

19/03/2004...Sharon And Andrew Fish Are New Managers Of Halls Gap Colonial Motor Inn.

31/03/2004...Macbeth Drama At Heatherlie.

16/04/2004...Barney's Old Style Big Shed Opens at Pomonal.

30/04/2004...Halls Gap Fire Brigade Raised \$3500 In Raffle.

30/04/2004...Petanque Grows In Popularity - Now Played Weekly.

04/05/2004...3000 Attend Grampians Grape Escape.

04/05/2004...Lucas O'Callaghan & Roy Schuyler Partner Debs.

21/07/2004...Heavy Snowfall In Grampians.

02/08/2004...Drowning Tragedy At Lake Fyans.

10/08/2004...New Interpretation Officer - Ryan Duffy.

13/08/2004...Delleys Bridge Now On Target To Commence By Christmas

07/09/2004...Firemans Ball At The Colonial Motor Inn.

24/09/2004...DNA Tests For Man Who Went Missing In Grampians 18 Years Ago.

29/09/2004...Parks Vic. Invites Tenders For Construction And Refurbishment Of Brambuk

26/11/2004...Grampians Adventure Services Enter Tourism's Hall Of

Fame.27/12/2004...Crews Fight Blaze Near Mount William. (Bomjinna).

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

SHANKS & SHIRAZ

Halls Gap Hotel

\$25pp



Every Thursday from 6pm

Come along and enjoy a delicious slow cooked Lamb Shank with root vegetable gravy, potato mash and steamed greens.
Including a glass of beautiful Grampians wine, Bests Bin 1 Shiraz

2262 GRAMPIANS RD HALLS GAP
PH: 53564566
BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED LIMITED SEATING
AVAILABLE IN THE BAR

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

What do you call an
academically
successful slice of
bread?



An honor roll.

HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL PRESENTS

HALLS GAP'S
Queen's Birthday
MARKET

Sunday 11th June

9am—1pm

To be held at:
Halls Gap Primary School

The outdoor market features home grown, hand made arts, crafts, clothes and produce.

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.

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.
- Grampians Film Society
- 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.