

November 2017

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

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WRAP UP...

Hi All, Where did October go?? It was busy, busy, busy with holidays, local events and loads of visitors to the area! This year has been an excellent year for wildflowers and that certainly drew in more visitors wanting to explore what the Victorian wildflower season has to offer.

After another busy Long weekend early November, the weather is starting to warm up finally and summer is only a few short weeks around the corner.

CFA have provided links to their website for residents to bushfire plans. The fire danger period has not yet kicked in so you do have time for final block clean ups if need be.

Christmas is just around the corner so can we please have all of your business trading hours and events in to us as early as possible for inclusion in next months newsletter. If anyone has suggestions for any new things to include in next years newsletter please get in touch.

STATS BY CHAS...

October 2017 - Rainfall by Chas:
72.5 mm for October bringing the progressive total for the year to 911.0 mm. This compares to the same period last year of 161.0 mm with a progressive total of 1158.0 mm.

As of the 01 November 2017 Lake Bellfield is holding 73,200 ML or 93% full compared to the same period last year of 71,000 ML or 90% full.

The total system is holding 364,290 ML or 64.91% full compared to the same period last year of 370,000 ML or 65.93% full.

FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



ballambar

season of butterflies - early summer
(mid november to late january)

Warmth, Butterflies and Wetland Plants
With the onset of summer heat, the land dries and the weather stabilises. This is the season of butterflies or ballambar.

*Who can
guess when
this was???*



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HALLS GAP

Don't forget we have a refurbished community website. Do take a look at it. It has information on groups in Halls Gap, links for shire and emergency information etc., local news items, and most importantly a **calendar of events**. Music, markets, special events

If you have an event in mind, you can see if anything else is planned then, and upload your information. It takes just a day or two for the administrators to post it.

And you facebook fans, don't forget to put your news up on the website and FTG. Not all locals are part of the facebook community!

hallsgapcommunity.org.au

CERT

The Community Emergency Response Team was called out 15 times in October. Once again it was incidents in the National Park that required the most involved responses because the Police and SES were needed alongside the Ambulance. There were 2 calls for people returning from The Pinnacle and 3 calls to McKenzie Falls. Parks Victoria has erected notices at the start of popular walks but visitors continue to walk without water and to wear inappropriate footwear.

Apart from the injured ankles, one man was dragged from the water at the base of McKenzie Falls in an altered conscious state and with the help of friends he climbed to the car-park and then drove off without further contact. CERT arrived at the car-park first and we were told he had gone. And then arrived ambulances from Stawell and Horsham, SES from Stawell and Horsham, Police from Stawell and the Ambulance helicopter from Warrnambool

HALLS GAP RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Most of you will have seen the various articles in the Stawell Times News regarding dogs being kept on leads and secure in homes as well as the article on feeding the wildlife. These issues will be followed up at later meetings with the HGRRA and the Wildlife Action Group (W.A.G) at their future meetings.

One of the other issues covered in the press was that of a Skate Park (for boards and bikes) for the benefit of our local children and tourists children alike. This project has bubbled away for some time now and went into hibernation when Sgt. Paul Russel transferred out of town. Well it now seems there is renewed interest in the idea, with some for the venue and some not so enthusiastic. To that end I am proposing we have a serious discussion at the next HGRRA meeting which will be held on Wednesday the 6th December in the Supper Room (Centenary Hall) at 7.30 pm.

If there are enough people with the enthusiasm to proceed, then I will propose a separate meeting in the New Year, dedicated to the project with a dedicated committee. We would need to raise some funds for the project and organise enough signatures of support for the Council to assist us in obtaining the bulk of the fund needed by way of Government grants.

So, if you think the project is a worthwhile one , make sure you attend the meeting on the 6th December"



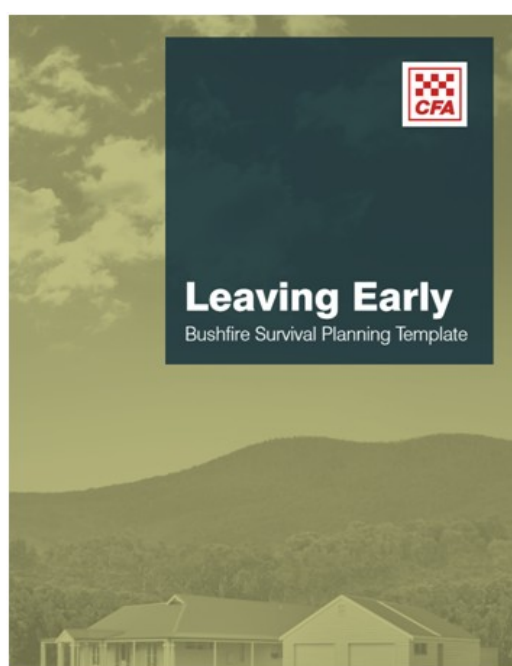
HALLS GAP CFA

With summer fast approaching the Halls Gap brigade has started to put in place emergency response strategies. Brigade members may be required to attend both local fires and fires where a strike team supports fire fighting at other locations within the state. Brigade Captain Colin Andrews could be deployed as a designated strike team leader, and on selected fire ban days the brigade is required to provide a strike team. On these days the brigade ensures that sufficient volunteers remain available in Halls Gap in the event of a local call out.

Training remains a priority with two members participating in the group exercise at Joel Joel, a lieutenant attending the fire conference at Laharum, two members learning chainsaw procedures, and all brigade members scheduled for 'burnover' protection drill.

Daylight saving has resumed which is a timely reminder that everyone change the batteries in smoke alarms, which fits well into the routine for the fire season.

It is hoped that all residents have their fire plan in place and that all family members are fully conversant with their approach. If you are unsure of how to establish a fire plan for you, your family or your visitors, the CFA website provides several tools and suggestions.



Film Society

Looking for new members



The Grampians Film Society has been going for 10 years. It is a great night out. The Grampians Film Society evenings are held at the Centenary Hall, Grampians Road, Halls Gap. 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.

The Aims of the Grampians Film Society are to provide an opportunity for members to view, be entertained and discuss the merits, or otherwise, of classic films, as well as films which are lesser known but regarded in the cinema world as meritorious. We endeavour to cater for everyone's tastes, whether that be for comedy or musicals, drama or thrillers, Westerns, documentaries or animation. There is also a mix of Australian and other English language films, as well as sub-titled foreign films. In doing this, the Grampians Film Society also aims to provide another opportunity for social interaction amongst members of the Grampians communities.

Contact Janet Witham 03 5356 4300 or Alison Bainbridge 0417 883 445 for more details.

Our last movie for the year will be screened on Wednesday 22 November 2017. It is the 2002 rendition of Oscar Wildes masterpiece - The Importance of Being Earnest.



PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE

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



Healthy Parks
Healthy People

Hasn't it been a wonderful spring? There have certainly been many opportunities to view a wide range of orchids and wildflowers this year.

With summer approaching, parks staff are now busy preparing for another busy holiday period, and the summer bushfire period. We enjoyed a successful fire conference this year with a range of agencies and community members represented. Special thanks go to the Laharum locals who generously offered to share their recovery stories post Northern Grampians Fire—for some the process still continues, so thanks for the insights and learnings.

Parks staff are currently busy with spring working bees at campgrounds, picnic areas and popular visitor sites.

Project Fire-fighter recruitment has concluded and new staff are currently undertaking final training before joining the team of permanent staff for the summer. They'll be busy clearing fire lines, slashing tracks and preparing burns for next season. You may notice the new 'unimog' tanker getting around town—this will greatly assist with extra water capacity and better safety features than previous models.

Recently, the Wimmera and Hamilton 4x4 Clubs assisted with track clearing activities along some of our seasonal track closures. Each year they assist to get tracks open for the November Cup weekend, by clearing trees and opening seasonally closed gates. We also had club members assist with volunteer camp hosting at Boreang campground over the Long weekend. We greatly appreciate the assistance these clubs generously provide.



Parks Victoria, Aboriginal Traditional Owners and Cliffcare (Victoria's Rock-climbing access representatives), recently issued a notice to cease all bolting within the Black Range area west of the Grampians National Park. Unfortunately a new route had been bolted only a centimetres away from Aboriginal art in a significant and well known shelter. New legislation has seen significant changes to the Aboriginal heritage act and damage to significant sites now carries heavy penalties. With the recent increase in sport climbing's popularity there have been numerous new routes placed on public land. Discussions have now begun with Parks Victoria, Aboriginal Victoria, Barengi Gadjin land council, Victorian Climbing Club and other industry representatives to find sustainable and respectful solutions to this issue.

FLOOD RECOVERY: Most seasonal tracks have now re-opened however there are some tracks that require further repair works under the flood recovery works packages prior to re-opening in the new year, such as Redman Rd. See our weekly road report for further detail.

FIRE RECOVERY: Works have commenced to replace the roof on the 'Blue' cottage at Zumsteins and the orange cottage is not far off. Contractors are also in the process of developing new interpretive signage for the area. Works continue on Cultural Heritage management plans for the repair and replacement of walking tracks and campgrounds in the northern Grampians.

GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

Existing track upgrade works were recently completed in the southern Grampians, and crews have now shifted focus to the Chatauqua peak Summit access. Works are also scheduled for the Stapylton Summit and Mt Zero area in coming months.

Works are scheduled to continue on Mt William and the plateau until the end of the year.

All in all thousands of new rock steps have been installed already which will provide a sustainable walking experience well into the future. The GPT is scheduled to open in late 2019 once planning and construction of new trail is complete.



GRAMPIANS WILDFLOWER SHOW

Our unique **Grampians Wildflower Walkabout 2017 Event** was enjoyed by many visitors and locals, experiencing guided tours and walks which happened over the first weekend of October. The event was met with great enthusiasm. Over 80 wildflower species were exhibited with many that are endemic and occur here and nowhere else in the world. This is a great introduction to our flora that are truly indigenous and not cultivars for gardens.

A variety of activities were available for wildflower enthusiasts and for those who simply enjoy the beauty of nature, to get up close and personal with the flowers, plants and fauna of the area—Such as:

- wildflower based art and craft displays by local artists
- A children's corner and Devonshire Tea
- A photographic exhibition by John Tiddy
- Lynn Stone creative exhibition and demonstration
- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority community engagement officer Rae Talbot and Blake Clark of Blakes Bushfood Café at Brambuk Cultural Centre talked about their experiences working with Aboriginal people and their cultural uses of plants.
- The show also gave visitors a chance to see plants in the 'wild' with guided walks through the Halls Gap Botanical Garden and tagalong car tours to wildflower and orchid hotspots.

Comments were made such as "The guided tours were brilliant. " "This is so accessible. I don't have to walk for miles and days to see these species."

"A beautiful display". "I came from England the second week of October to see the wildflowers in the Grampians. I got your walks sheets from the Tourist Office in Halls Gap, and had a very good week following the routes suggested. This message is just to ask you to pass on a big thank you to those who put together all the info and described the routes. I have been to California, and South Africa, and the Alps in Europe, to look at the flowers, but nowhere have I found such good help to see so much in a short time."

An enthusiastic (but small) group of locals worked hard to present this iconic event as part of the Halls Gap calendar again this year. We have group members with extensive botanical knowledge, so plant identification, collection and labelling is managed. A great big thank you to all those who supported and promoted this local happening. We do need more volunteers for this to continue.

Don't need any specific knowledge just willing helpers and a few hours of your time. Contact Margo Sietsma or Val Hastings. We will let you know about our next meeting which hasn't been scheduled yet.



HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

A few weeks back, our Grades 4 to 6 students had a lesson that was a double whammy in terms of making links with the community and our beautiful surroundings. Denis, who is an insect expert, along with Anthea and Cheryl who are all from WAMA came along to the Botanical Gardens to teach the students about Life on a Gum Tree. It was fascinating! There were so many wonderful creepy-crawlies that we normally would not take any notice of. The students collected samples (dead and alive) and took them back to Denis who was able to identify anything at all! His knowledge astounded us. He even knows the Latin names for these little critters. Halls Gap PS is very pleased to be involved with this WAMA project. It is not often we get the opportunity to have such expertise right in our very own back yard. We are going to be making our very own gum tree with all of its own insects, bugs and spiders.



Our Prep and Grade 1 students had a wonderful visit to the Halls Gap police station. The kids really appreciated Karen showing them around and teaching them about how the police communicate, what they have to wear to work, the special equipment they use and about some of the jobs they do each day. They were even allowed in the chicken coop!

At the moment we are reviewing our school's emergency management plan. The Department of Education and Training, in consultation with the CSIRO has found that we are in an area at very high risk of bushfire. This probably will not be any surprise to lots of community members out there. However, because we are a Category 1 school we are closed on Code Red days, and offer a relocation site to our students on days that are forecast Severe and Extreme. Currently our relocation site is the Halls Gap Centennial Hall.

The school's fundraising activities continue to be of vital importance to the running of school programs, purchasing of equipment and resources, and the upkeep of the school's grounds and buildings. We have recently had some new doors fitted into the main rear entrance of the school. We have also started the process of levelling our oval, which is starting to suffer from lots of wear and tear – kids having fun, and getting some exercise! This levelling will take lots of dirt and we would even like to consider putting in a sprinkler system and grass.

Our 'Halls Gap Market' has been running for many years and is the key fundraiser for the school. It is a great chance to come along, say hi to our volunteer parents and families, and buy one of our fantastic egg and bacon rolls. We have many clever stallholders who all make or grow their goods. Follow us on facebook— <https://www.facebook.com/HallsGapMarket/>

Our, very active, school council and staff have many projects both small and large on a wish list—some of the items on our "to do" list are a little beyond current fundraising capabilities. If any community members are aware of any grants and funding that may have slipped by us or are willing to donate some precious skills, please let us know. Send us an email (halls.gap.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) or give us a call on



GRAMPIANS MUSIC FESTIVAL 2018

GMF 2018 – Friday 2 February to Sunday 4 February

GMF is creeping closer – it's less than 100 sleeps to go! The committee has already geared up for the next three months of really intense work, and we're all really excited about the 2018 festival.

If you haven't heard, we released our line-up in early October to much fanfare and publicity including coverage from Triple J, which was fantastic PR for us. The line-up announcement is one of the biggest events on our calendar – this is when our target market finds out the bands we've booked and start getting really excited about coming to GMF. The buzz after line-up announcement was super exciting and we were rapt with the response!

Volunteer for GMF

We're still looking for volunteers, especially locals who would like to help out on Friday night, the Best in the West line-up of regional Victorian artists. We'd also love it if you have a few hours to spare on the Sunday afternoon or Monday any time for bump out. If you'd like to help out we'd really appreciate it! Send us an email at volunteerGMF@gmail.com.

Be a Mate of GMF

One of our sponsorship packages is called "Mates of GMF" and is designed specifically for local businesses and individuals who want to help us out either financially or via a contra deal. No donation is too small so let us know if you'd like to help by emailing your details and what you have in mind to info@grampiansmusicfestival.com. Or you can simply donate via this link: <http://fundly.com/mates-of-grampians-music-festival>

Chat to us

Feel free to chat to any of the committee members at any time via Facebook message, email, in person or over the phone. The Committee is: Carly Flecknoe (Director), Yasmina Khayat, Will Hudson, Leah Heinrich, David Nicholson, Richard Flecknoe, Yeti Harris, Jason Hosemans, Justine Linley, Juliette Lalli and Dee-Ann Kelly.

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



http://howlandechoes.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/polish-club-source-polishclub.com_.jpg

BAND BIO—POLISH CLUB

(Source <https://www.triplejuneearthed.com/artist/polish-club>)

Official website: <http://polishclub.co>

There are two of them. They are called Novak and John-Henry and are the loudest goddamn soul outfit you've ever heard. (And yes, they are both sort of Polish.)

John-Henry is the drummer. He's very good at hitting three separate things at once with great gravity. Novak's the singer. He also plays a beautifully brash blues guitar, but you won't remember that after you hear his voice, so just make a mental note of it now.

Sydney's Polish Club writes pop songs fifty years late and twice the speed. In any one of their numbers, which barely nip at the three minute mark, the full-bodied howl of Motown's finest frontmen is parsed through the garage rock scuzz of Detroit.

Soundcloud: <http://soundcloud.com/bestpolishclub>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/bestpolishclub>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/bestpolishclub>

Instagram: <http://instagram.com/bestpolishclub>

Contact: polishclub@thegrindhouse.com

GRAMPIANS WALKING TRACK SUPORT GROUP

The Grampians Walking Track Support Group was formed by our convenor, David Witham, in 2003 to attract and coordinate volunteer interest in maintaining and improving walking tracks within the Grampians National Park. We operate under the broad umbrella of the Community Association of Halls Gap which also undertakes other activities such as the Wildflower Show and Halls Gap Botanic Garden and provides support for Run the Gap, Halls Gap Landcare Group and the Jazz Festival.

What do we do?

In partnership with Parks Victoria, we carry out vital maintenance on popular walking tracks, such as trimming vegetation, cleaning water runoffs and clearing fallen timber.

Most of our works are carried out through the efforts of walking clubs:

- Grampians Bushwalking Club – Heatherlie and Beehive Falls Walking Tracks
- Warrnambool Bushwalking Club – Mount Abrupt and Chimney Pots Walking Tracks
- Melbourne Bushwalkers – various tracks
- Victorian Mountain Tramping Club - tracks

Over the last two years these clubs have contributed 61 person days to our program. Recently the Wimmera Bushwalking Club has joined our program and will undertake works on the Mount Zero and Mackenzie River Walking Tracks over the next few months. It is a simple model and works extremely well. If you are keen to join please get in touch with David Witham.



GRAMPIANS MARKET IN THE HALL

(Halls Gap Community Market @ THE HUB)

A big thank you from all of us stall holders to everyone who came along to our October Market.



After a relocation into the Hall we had another successful market with 43 stalls.

We introduced our BBQ & breakfast menu, this went down a treat. The BBQ will be back for our December Market.

We will be taking a break for November, but will return December 16th from the new time of 9:30am – 3pm.

We would like to say a big thank you to Halls Gap Bakery for the help with the Market Café & to Five Ducks Farm for the jams & to Jenny Hudson for your help to get our BBQ to & from the Market.

If you are not already, please feel free to follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/hgcmau/>

We look forward to seeing you all December 16th from 9:30am

Clive (Cliff) , Lillian & Del—Grampians Market In The Hall Managers

PS: If you're a stall holder please stay with us after the Market ends December for a meeting of stall holders. Thanks :)



PÍSZ & BROTH

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3
FROM 3PM - HALLS GAP HOTEL

SUPPORTED BY THE KITE MACHINE
AND GENA ROSE BRUCE

TICKETS \$38+BF - KIDS UNDER 15 FREE
AVAILABLE AT HALLSGAPHOTEL.02TIX.COM.AU OR DIRECT FROM THE HOTEL



Halls Gap Hotel

GRAMPIANS Texture 2018

17-22ND

MARCH

HALLS GAP

(WESTERN VIC)

Develop your interest in fibre arts and textiles at Grampians Texture 18. An opportunity to work with Australian and international textile tutors in 2, 4 and 6 day workshops.

Tutors

MAUDE BATH - felting

LEE BETHEL - paper

DANIEL ESSIG (US) - book making

VICKI ESSIG (US) - book making

LIZ EVANS - print & weave

PAM DE GROOT - felt

MARY HETTMANSPERGER (US) - jewellery

EVA AND JONIAN IVY NARGOODAH - bush dyeing

KEITH LO BUE - assemblage

ANNE LEON - indigo & print

SHARIT MEER (Netherlands) felt

KATIA MOKEYEVA (US) - felt

CATHERINE O'LEARY - felt

JULIE PATERSON - draw & design

HILARY PETERSON - print & stitch

WILMA SIMMONS - collage and dolls

JUDE SKEERS - knitting

SANDY WEBSTER (US) - construction

ILKA WHITE - stitch & braiding

U: www.grampianarts.com.au

PH: 0428 825 971

SANDLANT BUSES

Graeme Sandlant
Phone: 03 53582848; 03 53569342

STAWELL – HALLS GAP (GRAMPIANS LINK) ROUTE SERVICES
Incorporating

HALLS GAP VALLEY ROUTE SERVICE

Route Description:

Services operate every day except Christmas day.

Stawell to Halls Gap

Bus departs from Main Street Stawell bus stop and runs via Stawell Railway Station, then via Grampians Road to bus stops at Halls Gap Gardens Caravan Park, Halls Gap Hotel, Tims Place, Halls Gap Information Centre, Norval Camp, Cnr Tandarra Road, to Brambuk – The National Park & Cultural Centre bus stop.

Halls Gap zone (Halls Gap Valley Route Service)

This service operates along Grampians Road between Halls Gap Gardens Caravan Park bus stop (corner Grampians Road and Pomonal-Ararat Road) and Brambuk bus stop.

Halls Gap to Stawell

Bus travels in reverse from Brambuk bus stop to Stawell Main Street bus stop.

Wheelchair access:

The Victorian public transport network is progressively becoming accessible for people with special needs. Contact Sandlant Buses for further information.

SAN20170827

Graeme Sandlant – SANDLANT BUSES

HALLS GAP VALLEY ROUTE SERVICE - TIMETABLE

Bus Stop	Mon to Fri	Saturday + Sunday
Stawell City, Main Street	Dep: 12:40pm	11:20am
Stawell Rail Station	Dep: 12:50	11:30
Halls Gap Gardens Caravan Park	1:15	11:55
Halls Gap Hotel		12:55pm
Tims Place	Dep: 1:18	12:58
Halls Gap Info Centre	Arr: 1:19	12:59
	Dep: 1:25	12:04pm
Norval Camp		1:00
Tandarra Road		
Brambuk Centre	Arr: 1:30	12:10
		1:07
Brambuk Centre	Dep: 2:05	12:40
Tandarra Road		1:15
Norval Camp		2:20
Halls Gap Info Centre	Arr: 2:10	12:48
	Dep: 2:20	12:50
Tims Place	Dep: 2:21	12:51
Halls Gap Hotel		1:22
Halls Gap Gardens Caravan Park	2:23	12:55
Stawell Rail Station	2:55	1:28
Stawell City, Main Street	3:00	3:10
		3:12

Fares (Halls Gap zone)

Concession:	Single \$1.20	Day return \$2.40
Adult:	Single \$2.10	Day return \$4.20

Fares (Stawell – Halls Gap)

Concession:	Single \$3.90	Day return \$7.80
Adult:	Single \$7.80	Day return \$15.60

Where to buy tickets:

Halls Gap Valley and Grampians Link route services tickets can be purchased from driver: proof of concession entitlement must be produced on request. Connecting V/Line services at Stawell Rail Station (V/Line tickets available at Halls Gap Information Centre and V/Line Agency in Seaby Street Stawell.

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

Why do bananas
use sunscreen?



Because they peel....

Community Banking = Community Funds!

Did you know Halls Gap is now affiliated with the Dunkeld Community Bank? For every community member that makes the switch to the Dunkeld Branch, the town receives part of the profits to put back into the Community!

The Grampians Swimming club recently received funds to help grow their club... What local initiative will be next?

If you, or anyone you know is keen to help our community grow then contact the Dunkeld Branch Manager to learn how to make the switch.



See the change your
banking can make.
Switch and be the change.

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 Harvest 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.