

Issue: December 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



larneuk

season of nesting birds - early spring  
(late july to late august)

**Nesting Birds and Changeable Weather**  
Early-spring (season of nesting birds  
or larneuk) is usually the wettest time  
of the year with rivers running high.  
It is a time of dramatic weather  
changes, with up to six seasons  
in one day.

## Seasons greetings

Our final edition for the year. We hope that you have found FTG informative and of interest throughout 2017. There are many varied interest groups within our community who welcome both younger and older members so perhaps a new years resolution might be to check out some of them and become more involved and informed about what is happening in our town. In particular, the Community Association and the Residents and Ratepayers groups welcome your input to assist with decisions on town planning and social activities pertinent to those who live and work in Halls Gap.

A HUGE Thank You must go to Tammy who somehow manages to fit pulling together and publishing each monthly edition of FTG into her already busy life. Also to Lee Anne for her timely reminders and follow up emails and coordinating the articles in preparation for Tammy. And lastly thank you to the many contributors we have had, both regular and occasional, who have provided such varied, informative and interesting articles for our community.

We wish you all the very best for the festive season. Stay safe.

### STATS BY CHAS...

November 2017 - Rainfall by Chas:

41.0 mm for November bringing the progressive total for the year to 952.0 mm. This compares to the same period last year of 58.5 mm with a progressive total of 1216.5 mm.

As of the 29th of November 2017 Lake Bellfield is holding 72,230ML or 92% full compared to the same period last year of 72,090ML or 92% full.

The total system is holding 351,490ML or 62.63% full compared to the same period last year of 379,240ML or 57.50 % full.

Mount William recorded 66.6 mm for November compared to the same period last year of 110.8 mm. The maximum temperature of 28 C. was recorded on the 29 of November and the minimum of -1.1 C. was recorded on the 4th of November. The highest wind speed of 87 km/h was recorded on the 15th of November.



## HALLS GAP POLICE

For those of you that don't know me, my name's Karen Bain and I'm the new sergeant based at the Halls Gap Police station.

I'll be working alongside Leading Senior Constable Kellie Harris who has been a member at the station now for over 5 years.

My family and I moved to Halls Gap from Melbourne in August, 2017 and I bring with me over 28 years' experience as a police officer working at a variety of very busy and diverse stations and units throughout metropolitan Melbourne.

I have extensive experience in emergency management and look forward to being an integral leader within the Northern Grampians community.

### November news -

Halls Gap police were recently involved in a two day organised search for missing man Gerald VANDERWERF.

Mr VANDERWERF went missing in the Grampians in October 2016.

A large scale search was conducted at the time involving a multi- agency response but unfortunately he was not located.

The recent 2 day search was co-ordinated by the Victoria Police Search and Rescue unit and involved the use of specialist cadaver dogs from Queensland police, 2x detectives from Port Phillip Criminal Investigation Unit, 2x Search and Rescue members, 2 x Parks Victoria members and myself.

Sadly for the VANDERWERF family the search failed to provide any further leads into Mr VANDERWERF's whereabouts and the family expressed their appreciation of our efforts to locate him.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, Kellie and I would like to wish everyone a very **Merry Christmas and safe, happy and healthy New year for 2018.**

Please continue to be safe on the roads, plan your breaks and be mindful of your speed and surroundings at all times.

Feel free to drop into the station at Halls Gap any time to meet or say g'day to your friendly local police.

## BOTANIC GARDEN

We have had so many compliments on the garden the last few weeks. But we struggle to get enough volunteers to help maintain it. We held a working bee on December 13 and will be planning more. We would love to see YOU at our next working bee to help us keep our garden looking good over the holiday season. Every little bit helps.

### BITS AND PIECES FROM HALLS GAP LANDCARE GROUP

You may remember that early in the year, Angeline managed to get a grant to start a Landcare group in Halls Gap. The thinking was to work on pests such as weeds, rabbits and foxes, through cooperating with Project Platypus, which operates as an umbrella group for all the local Landcare groups.

In the last few weeks Project Platypus's staff have been out treating various escaped garden ornamentals (Arum Lily, flowering bulbs, Blackberry, Watsonia, English Ivy and Horehound) in Halls Gap and Pomonal. In 2018, after the holiday break, we hope to have a meeting to discuss what our priorities should be for the year. Keep an eye out for the date.

Another project of Project Platypus in our area is their Biodiversity Hubs project which is in its first year. This involves mapping of the Deep Lead Conservation Nature Reserve (Ironbarks), Devil's Garden and the Ararat Hills Regional Reserve. We hope to gain a better understanding of the condition of these reserves and treat invasive species as we find them. This project is working closely with Trust for Nature, the Royal Botanic Gardens, DELWP, Parks Vic and WCMA to protect biodiversity assets and covenanted land in the Grampians to Pyrenees (G2P) Biolink area. They have also begun work on the Northern Grampians Shire roadside invasive plant and animal program through until mid-December.



## KEEP AUSTRALIA GREAT AGAIN    BY DENIS MORIARTY, MANAGING DIRECTOR, OUR COMMUNITY GROUP

*Australia is a great place to live, and to keep on living. Our life expectancy, for example, has gone up by about three months a year since 1890, and is now among the highest in the world. That's wonderful, and we probably don't appreciate it enough. We certainly don't realise how fragile that achievement is, and how much vigilance is needed to protect it.*

There's nothing inevitable about living longer. In the US, where improvements in the treatment of heart disease and cancer have increased life expectancy overall, deaths caused by overdoses of prescription and illegal drugs, particularly opioids, are so prevalent that they actually reduced the average life expectancy by about three months between 2000 and 2015, according to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

One of the underlying causes, surely, is the loss of community.

Healthy societies trust each other and help each other. Unhealthy, divided societies lash out at each other like rabid ferrets in a sack. Joining one of Australia's community groups is an opportunity to join those who are working to make life better. It's good for you as an individual.

### Ten reasons to join a community group

1.    **It's good for your health** Studies show that having a good social network extends your life, keeps you healthy, and staves off mental deterioration.
2.    **You meet new friends** Get to know new people and work with them on things you all care about. How many people have met their future partners at the club?
3.    **You make new contacts** Keeping your networks in good repair helps you to see opportunities when they come up and gives you people to call when you want help.
4.    **You learn new skills** You can learn workplace skills from being a volunteer. You can learn governance skills – committee management, business planning – from joining a committee.
5.    **It's good for the community** The more people work together and get to be familiar with the way things work around the area, the more people support each other through the tough times.
6.    **You can follow your interests** Whatever you like to do, there are other people out there who like it too. Join a group and you can learn from them.
7.    **You can build up your CV** If you're applying for a tertiary place, or a new job, or a new relationship, it helps to be able to point to the unselfish efforts you're putting in for the community.
8.    **You can learn how to win your battles** Experience in operating a community group gives you the tools you need to get your voice heard in the centres of power.
9.    **You can make a contribution** We all want to make the world a better place, even if it's only by having our team take the flag.
10.   **It's good for the country.** Australia needs a strong civil society, where the government and business don't run everything and people manage their own organisations for community goals.

## News From The Grampians Market In The Hall - Halls Gap

We are looking forward to our Christmas Market Saturday December 16th from 9:30am. We have over 45 stalls offering you a selection of handcrafts, local foods, treasures & some surprises. Our Market Cafe will be open for Breakfast from 8am & Lunch will be served from 11am - 2pm.

We will be in the Halls Gap Hall & Community Hub to allow everyone to keep cool. Everyone is welcome to attend & enjoy the day.

Working together with all parties involved in the market we are setting the dates as we go along to ensure they can go ahead around bookings.

Our confirmed future markets are:

December 16<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 2pm

**2018**

**January 21st** 9:30 - 2pm

**February 4th** 9:30am - 2pm (with our friends from [Grampians Music Festival](#) )

**NO MARKET FOR MARCH**

**April 15th** 9:30am - 2pm

(More dates to be confirmed)

To date we have returned \$3000 to Halls Gap Community in returns to Community Projects & local business that have helped us to run the Market. A big thank you to Halls Gap Bakery & Halls Gap General Store for the help given to the Market Cafe.

We look forward to continuing to bring you a fantastic high-quality market.

The Team at Grampians Market In The Hall - Halls GapPS: Follow us on Instagram: @grampiansmarket

Thank you for your support everyone. We appreciate it & look forward to seeing you very soon.



Cockies getting into your bin?

Some residents are securing their bin with elastic bands attached to a screw—that seems to do the trick

## HALLS GAP RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

The last meeting for the 2017 year was held on Wednesday December 6. It had been hoped that a major focus of this meeting would be to form a committee of people keen to establish a skate park in Halls Gap. Unfortunately, despite being promoted in the Stawell Times and FTG, and the committee being contacted by interested individuals, none attended the meeting or have volunteered to steer a committee to take this proposal forward.

An interesting alternative suggestion was for a Bicycle Adventure park but once again this would need someone to drive any proposal.

**The dates for 2018 meetings will be (tbc):**

Wednesday **March 7**  
**June 6**  
**September 5**  
**December 5**

All Residents and Ratepayers are invited to attend.

## CERT CALLOUTS

The Community Emergency Response Team was called out 13 times in November.



There were 2 rescues involving the Police & SES when walkers got into trouble.

Then 2 people had chest pains, 2 people had breathing difficulties, 1 person had a stroke, 1 had an epileptic fit and 2 were vomiting.

2 people went to hospital following a head on collision when an overseas tourist allegedly drove down the wrong side of Mt Victory Road.

2 campers were injured when a tree fell on them. And a pedestrian died when hit by a car.



## HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are definitely on the downhill run to the end of the school year. Rehearsals for our end of year concert are the main focus. This year's performance is a play called, "Kids at Sea – Sinbad Sails Again." It has everything you could want in a play .... pirates, sailors, mermaids, sea devils, a fortune-telling gypsy, comedy, songs and dancing. What more could you ask for? As always, we would love the Halls Gap community to come along and see our concert on Thursday the 14th of December. We start at 7pm. We'll also be selling tickets to our annual Christmas Raffle – some pretty special prizes this year. VIP passes to Grampians Music Festival, \$200 in pampering goodies from Didjun and a gift basket. \$2 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$5.

Our 2018 Prep transition program is well underway. You may have noticed that Halls Gap Primary School is a steadily growing. We have 8 preps next year! They have had 3 transition days and will join us for their final day during December when we hold a statewide transition day. Our Grade 6 students are also very excited about the opportunity to go and spend the day at the Stawell Secondary College for their transition day. We have 5 students heading off to secondary school this year. Part of our concert is their graduation .... another good reason to come along.



During the last week of the year our whole school is heading Melbourne to see Aladdin. A wonderfully generous donation to our school from Matt and Marianne at the Halls Gap Hotel has helped to make this possible. We will certainly be making the most of the opportunity that they have given us. Keep an eye on our Facebook page on the 20th of December. I'm sure there will plenty of updates.

**Step back in time...**

**Anyone recognise these faces???**



## PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE

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



Healthy Parks  
Healthy People

### Halls Gap

The period just prior to Christmas is usually a little quieter in the park, so staff are currently continuing working bees at campgrounds, picnic areas and popular visitor sites. Due to good conditions, grading of roads is underway and fireline slashing has also started.

**STAFF MOVEMENTS:** We recently welcomed Brett Robinson the seat of Ranger – Environment and Heritage, while Jake Goodes is on secondment in the Regional Cultural Heritage Advisor role, and we also welcomed our two Seasonal Summer Rangers who will be with us for the next 12 weeks. Connor and Hannah will assist with much of the visitor service tasks over the busy summer period. Sadly though we recently farewelled Mark Whyte, who moved on to a new role with DELWP in Melbourne. Mark has been with us for the past two and a half years as Team Leader- Assets and Infrastructure. He has been a great addition to the team and will be greatly missed.

**FIRE TEAM:** Our seasonal fire-fighters have been busy finalising training and have also commenced township fire preparedness. Township slashing is also underway. Please note we are no longer piling vegetation up along the old rail easement for burning due to public safety issues. Crews have already attended a few small fires through private burns and campfire escapes and we will be supporting bushfires in the east where necessary.

**CULTURAL HERITAGE:** 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. Redman road works will commence in the coming weeks. 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 cottages. 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.

**VISITORS AND COMMUNITY TEAM:** Expect to see some great Ranger guided activities over the Christmas and

New Year period including guided ranger walks, pop up Ranger information stalls and a mix of Junior Ranger Activities.

Junior Ranger Activities are for children aged 6-12 and offer a chance to discover the treasures of the Grampians National Park. Bookings are required as there is a maximum of 15 participants. Check out the Junior Ranger portal online <http://juniorrangers.com.au/whats-on/> or drop in to Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre to find out more.

## PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE

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



Healthy Parks  
Healthy People



### Junior Ranger Activity Dates:

• **December 27:** Mini treasures discovery - Venus Baths 09:30am

• **January 2nd :** Mini treasures discovery - Venus Baths 09:30am

• **January 4th:** Flora Explorer Piccaninny Carpark Southern Grampians 10:00am

• **January 9th:** Tracks and Traces - Brambuk NPCC 09:30am

• **January 11th:** Minibeast safari - Brambuk NPCC 09:30am

Guided Ranger walks are for adults and children over 12. Dates are:

• **December 28th - Heatherlie Quarry historic walk** 09:30am

• **January 3rd - Get to know Grampians Geology and more** - Reeds Lookout/Balconies 09:30

• **January 4th - Fire in the Landscape - Hollow Mountain** 09:30am

• **January 12th - Historic Zumsteins Walk** - 09:30am

Visit our website to discover more <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/get-involved/events>

## GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

Stage 2 of the Grampians Peaks Trail track upgrades are continuing on pre-existing tracks with five contractors working onsite. Track upgrades are progressing along the Major Mitchell Plateau, Chatauqua Peak and Mt Difficult eastern escarpment with further works beginning in the new year along the Mt Staplyton and Mt Difficult to hiker camp tracks.



MMP walk is progressing with the installation of the raised steel boardwalk panels nearing completion and the commencement of rock work in the new year.

Mt Sturgeon walking track upgrade to the upper section of the walk is now complete with the additional of new hand-built sandstone steps creating a durable track.



Lake Wartook Lookout track upgrade is now complete. The track has gone from being slippery and difficult to navigate to a well-defined

raised rock track made from large rock slabs harvested on site.

[http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/grampians-national-park GPT info](http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/grampians-national-park-GPT-info)



# BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC

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

[www.budjabudjacoop.org.au](http://www.budjabudjacoop.org.au)

## GP DATES

DECEMBER 2017		JANUARY 2018	
5,6,7	Dr John Hough	2,3,4,5	TBA
8	Dr Megan Helper	9,10,11,12	TBA
12,13,14	Dr Susan Watson	16,17,18,19	TBA
19	Dr Jim Thomson	23,24,25,26	Dr Diana Jefferies
20,21	Dr Siobhan Reddel	30,31,1,2	Dr Diana Jefferies





## 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: 11:20am	12:40pm	11:20am
Stawell Rail Station	Dep: 11:30	12:50	11:30
Halls Gap Gardens Caravan Park		1:15	11:55
Halls Gap Hotel			12:55pm
Tims Place	Dep: 11:58	1:18	11:58
Halls Gap Info Centre	Arr: 11:59	1:19	11:59
	Dep: 12:04pm	1:25	12:04pm
Norval Camp			1:00
Tandarra Road			1:33
Brambuk Centre	Arr: 1:30	1:30	12:10
			1:07
Brambuk Centre	Dep: 2:05	2:05	12:40
Tandarra Road			1:15
Norval Camp			2:20
Halls Gap Info Centre	Arr: 2:10	2:10	12:48
	Dep: 2:20	2:20	1:22
Tims Place	Dep: 2:21	2:21	1:25
Halls Gap Hotel			1:26
Halls Gap Gardens Caravan Park		2:23	1:28
Stawell Rail Station		2:55	2:38
Stawell City, Main Street	Arr: 3:00	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

Tammy, Lee-Anne, Margo, Jenni

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

[leeannel@budjabudjacoop.org.au](mailto:leeannel@budjabudjacoop.org.au)

Upload your community events details to the Community Association webpage:

[www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au](http://www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au)

Like our Halls Gap Community Association Facebook Page

Like our Halls Gap Community Watch and Events Facebook Page

The 4 stages of life:

1. You believe in Santa Claus
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus
3. You dress up as Santa Claus
4. You look like Santa Claus!



## Integrated Star Therapies

Massage~Emmett Therapy~Spiritual Healing

Melanie is a local therapist from Wartook, Victoria, specialising in Spiritual and Energetic Healing, Massage and Emmett Therapy. She has over 20 years experience in Spiritual Healing and first completed a certificate IV in massage in 2001. She is currently studying a Diploma of Massage and due to be graduated in December 2017, Melanie combines Emmett therapy, massage and healing into a powerful combo for healing and body work.

[www.integratedstartherapies.com](http://www.integratedstartherapies.com)  
[www.facebook.com/IntegratedStarTherapies](https://www.facebook.com/IntegratedStarTherapies)

Email- [melanierobinson77@hotmail.com](mailto:melanierobinson77@hotmail.com)



0400161227 Text Only (We live off grid)

**Emmett Therapy-** A unique body therapy designed to release muscle tension, re-balance and realign the body with light activation points and switches.

**Massage-** Relaxation, Sports, Trigger point therapy and Remedial massage.

**Spiritual Healing-** For anxiety, stress relief, PTSD, relaxation, Chakra balance, inner child and trauma healing, karmic release, reconnection, entity and curse removal and much much more depending on your needs.

**Also available-** Distant Healing, Children's sessions, Empath Support, Home and office clearing.

**Clinic Room-** Roses Gap Rd (house number given at booking)  
**Mobile Clinic service to Wartook holiday accomodation-** no travel fee  
**Mobile Clinic service to Halls Gap holiday accommodation-** \$15 travel fee.

**Also frequenting Halls Gap and Pomonal Community Markets.**

## 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
- 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.