

Issue: January/Feb 2018

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

WRAP UP...

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Welcome to the first issue of *Fill the Gap* in 2018. Hope everyone is enjoying the fantastic summer weather. We've combined Jan and Feb edition so apologies for articles that didn't make it out last month. Don't forget, Halls Gap also has a community website where we plan to keep archival copies of *Fill the Gap* so you can look back at them. Also the webpage has a useful calendar of events where you can upload your own event and check what's on over the next few months.

STATS BY CHAS...

December 2017

- 33.0 mm for December bringing the progressive total for the year to 985.5 mm. This compares to the same period last year of 55.5 mm with a progressive total of 1272.0mm.
- As of the 20th of December Lake Bellfield is holding 71,460 ML or 91% full compared to the same period last year of 70,910 ML or 90% full. The total system is holding 340,410 ML or 60.66% full compared to the same period last year of 360,180 ML or 64.18% full.
- Mount William received 54.2 mm for December, compared for the same period last year of 63.6 mm. The highest temperature of 30.4 C was recorded on the 13th and the lowest of 2.3 C was recorded on the 3rd of December.
- The highest wind speed of 96 km/h was recorded on the 2nd of December.



January 2018

- 17.0 mm for January. This compares to the same period last year of 53.5 mm.
- As of the 31st of January Lake Bellfield is holding 68,660 ML or 87% full compared to the same period last year of 69,640 ML or 89% full. The total system is holding 309,510 ML or 55.24 % full compared to the same period last year of 343,008 ML.
- Mount William received 23.2 mm for January, compared to the same period last year of 59.2 mm.
- The highest temperature of 36.1 C was recorded on the 19th and the lowest of 3.3 C was recorded on the 31st of January.
- The highest wind speed of 91 km/h was recorded on the 12th of January.

FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



LANDCARE GROUP UPDATE

Have you noticed a few new weeds spreading through Halls Gap? They are from the Kunzea family, Kunzea ericoides, Kunzea leptospermoides and Kunzea ambigua all garden escapes and environmental weeds in Halls Gap. They are Australian, just not a genuine local and now spreading rapidly and could become a real problem.



It's a tall bush, quite pretty and we have discovered it in many places, including even the Botanic garden where we mistook it for a local. Halls Gap Landcare group is entitled to 3 free days of Landmark work and they were working with Project Platypus and



Parks to remove this and other weeds within the public areas of Halls Gap just before Christmas. But please let's all of us remove it from our properties too. Look at the photos taken in December when it was in flower and check

HG RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Next meeting is **Wednesday March 7 at 7.30**

Have you got some great ideas for Hall Gap? HGR&RA provides an opportunity for you to contribute your ideas or to just come along and listen to what others have to discuss. At the very least it is an opportunity to meet fellow Halls Gaparians. Part of our next meeting will be the AGM but we promise we won't make new members office bearers!!

Membership is minimal, just \$10 and includes an emailed copy of the minutes.

Expect to hear of a couple of interesting events as we get this group going. We recognise that most folk are busy and don't want meetings for the sake of meetings, but to be able to get grants to improve our local environment by attacking weeds etc we do need a bit of structure.

We're looking at forming a smallish local knowledge group that feeds into Project Platypus and meets approximately four times a year. Limited on-ground activities could include mapping weeds, etc. producing a leaflet on what not to plant close to a National Park, and what would be good to plant.

Some of us have nesting boxes on our properties. Project Platypus could help us check these out and see who is using them and if they need any maintenance and monitoring into the future.

Project Platypus would do all the work to access and manage grants and Landmate crews on behalf of the group.

Your help would be useful to identify problem weed areas, possible projects, environmental issues etc.

Further news next time I hope.

Margo S



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HALLS GAP



The **Community Association of Halls Gap** plans to meet 4 times in 2018. Each meeting is held on a Wednesday commencing at 4.30 pm in the Supper Room of the Hall. Join us if you are interested in helping with community based events, projects, working bees etc...

March 5, June 4, September 3, December 3

See community website for details or contact david@witham.net.au

BOTANIC GARDEN

Have you been through the Botanic Garden recently? Do go in and look at all the work that has happened over the last few weeks.

Firstly we have a great new shade shelter. Renata saw a grant advertised, chased it up and was successful. So now we have a shady space for working bees, meetings etc. it will also act as a rain shelter. It still needs some more work, a bit more shelter on the west side, a sandy gravel floor, and some noticeboards.

Then we have had a large tree severely lopped. Our much loved tree with the koala door was condemned and had to come down. And you can still see just how rotten it was if you look at the cut timber. We are thankful that we were able to get it done before it fell and hurt someone, or landed on our new shelter. See a couple of photos.



Arron heading out along side branches

Inside the monster tree.



Job done!
January 28
2018

However all of these projects require money, and currently almost all our funds come from the profits from the Wildflower Show and the donations box in the garden, plus one off grants. We are sure that many in the community welcome what we do but are unable to come to our working bees.

That's why we are going to set up a group of Friends of the Halls Gap Botanic Garden. To be a member will cost individuals \$50 a year, and businesses \$100 a year. (waived if you contribute labour instead). For this you will get a charming certificate for your fridge or your front desk.

If you are interested please ring or email me margo@sietsma.com, 0429201 139.

Don't forget our **working bees**, second Wednesday of each month.

Next one is February 14

We have a wedding booked for the following weekend and it would be wonderful to have the garden looking spectacular!

WILDFLOWER SHOW

At our meeting in December we made some big changes. We have changed the name of our annual show back to **Grampians Wildflower Show**, and we have changed the date.

It will now be on September 29 & 30, no longer the first weekend in October. This puts it on the long weekend of the Grand Final in the middle of the school holidays.

This year will be our 80th show, which makes it rather special, and quite a milestone.

We are not planning many changes to what we do, but we will be making more of a feature of the two artists who come each year, **Lynn Stone** with her exquisite textured flowers, and **John Tiddy** with his photos.

Everyone is most welcome to come to our next planning meeting on February 13 in the Supper Room at the Hall. We would love to see both familiar and new faces and would welcome both your ideas and support.

GRAMPIANS FILM SOCIETY



Grampians Film Society are looking for new members

The Grampians Film Society has been going for over 10 years. Held monthly, our film nights are an opportunity to see good movies and enjoy good company. It is a great night out!

The Grampians Film Society would like to invite those who would like to see what it is all about to come to the February Screening of the 1954 classic **"On the Waterfront"** starring Marlon Brando for free.

The Grampians Film Society evenings are held at the Centenary Hall, 117 Grampians Road, Halls Gap and for three shows at the Stawell Neighbourhood House, 42 Sloane Street, Stawell (see below for dates).

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.

Membership is \$45 annually or \$25 half-year.

Contact Janet Witham 03 5356 4300 or

Alison Bainbridge 0417 883 445 for more details.

On the Waterfront is a 1954 American crime drama film directed by Elia Kazan and written by Budd Schulberg. It stars Marlon Brando and features Karl Malden, Lee J. Cobb, Rod Steiger, Pat Henning, and, in her film debut, Eva Marie Saint. The soundtrack score was composed by Leonard Bernstein. The film was suggested by "Crime on the Waterfront" by Malcolm Johnson, a series of articles published in November–December 1948 in the New York Sun which won the 1949 Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting, but the screenplay by Budd Schulberg is directly based on his own original story. The film focuses on union violence and corruption amongst longshoremen while detailing widespread corruption, extortion, and racketeering on the waterfronts of Hoboken, New Jersey.

On the Waterfront was a critical and commercial success and received twelve Academy Award nominations, winning eight, including Best Picture, Best Actor for Brando, Best Supporting Actress for Saint, and Best Director for Kazan. In 1997 it was ranked by the American Film Institute as the eighth-greatest American movie of all time and in AFI's 2007 list it was ranked 19th. It is Bernstein's only original film score not adapted from a stage production with songs. In 1989, On the Waterfront was deemed "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant" by the Library of Congress and selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry.



Screening Date	Film	Venue
24 th January 2018	Living Is Easy (With Eyes Closed) – Spain 2013	Halls Gap
28 th February 2018	On the Waterfront – USA 1954	Halls Gap
28 th March 2018	Bright Star – British/French/Australian 2009	Stawell
25 th April 2018	Florence Foster Jenkins – UK 2016	Halls Gap
23 rd May 2018	Good Morning Vietnam – USA 1987	Halls Gap
28 nd June 2018	Elizabeth – UK 1998	Stawell

HG POLICE

Happy New year everyone,



It's been a very busy month for police in the Northern Grampians police service area.

Firstly we had a good news story locating missing hiker Julio ASCUI after 5 days lost in the Grampians. The search generated a great deal of media attention and certainly put Halls Gap and the Grampians on the map!!

It was a fantastic team effort by everyone involved with a very successful out-come. Thanks again to all who assisted Vic Pol.

We've unfortunately had two vehicle fatalities in the month of January on our roads and on both occasions it was tourists coming to visit our town.

Vic pol are working with the appropriate agencies to further educate drivers regarding the risks, including strategies, of driving on country roads with the presence of wildlife.

Sadly, we also had a man drown at McKenzies Falls, Grampians National Park in January.

Vic Pol and Parks Vic have conducted a risk assessment of the site and temporary hazard signage has been erected advising visitors not to swim at the falls along with other potential hazards.

The matter is currently with the state coroner.

On a lighter note, Northern Grampians police service area now has its own Facebook Eyewatch page!!!

It's a great way for police to reach out to the local community and for the community to see what their local police are up to!!

Please jump on and "like" the page.

<https://www.facebook.com/eyewatchnortherngrampians/>

Take care

Sergeant Karen BAIN

LETTER of THANKS

Dear Halls Gap CFA team, SES team, Max the Policeman, Stawell Ambulance and Bendigo Air Ambulance,

I am writing to thank everyone for their marvellous support and rescue operation for my husband Craig Whitehead at Fish Falls on 22/12/17.

It was such a relief to be in receipt of such a wonderful team of people at the scene of this traumatic accident. Being so isolated and in need of help was indeed alarming, and I cannot tell you how comforted we were to have such a skilful team of rescuers arrive to assist us.

We feel so grateful to live in Australia, and to have been fortunate to have dedicated people working around the clock to assist in such emergencies. We feel indebted to the volunteers with the CFA and the SES who interrupted their lives to save ours. THANK YOU SO MUCH!! A special thank you to Graeme with the SES whose 70th birthday was on that day. The Ambulance team were incredibly professional and life saving to our family- we are so grateful.

Anthea, Finlay and I truly appreciated the care, conversation and escort provided by everyone following Craig's airlift to the Royal Melbourne Hospital. We were pleased to gain mobile phone reception once back in Halls Gap. How lucky we have also been to learn that Craig is expected to make a full recovery following his head injury, and no other physical injury was diagnosed. Craig was discharged on Christmas Eve, and was able to enjoy his Christmas Day with family. WOW- how bloody lucky!!

With Craig cleared to return to work tomorrow, we continue to process the enormity of this recent event. Cannot help but feel humbled, lucky, grateful and proud to be Australian living in this country.

It is with great appreciation to everyone who assisted the Whitehead family on 22 December 2017, thank you so very much.

May you enjoy a safe, quiet and peaceful 2018.

Melissa Whitehead

FROM THE HISTORY ROOM

The Grampians A Record Holiday Season

15 January 1926

There was a larger influx of visitors to Hall's Gap during the Christmas and New Year holidays than ever before. Hotel Bellfield, Grampians House, Norval, Myrtle Bank, Morningside, and other boarding houses being filled, whilst several hundreds were camped amidst the tea tree in the spacious camping ground by Stoney Creek which is well kept by a caretaker employed by the Tourist Committee (writes the Stawell "News")

A large contingent of Boy Scouts had their tents pitched close by. There were not less than 1000 visitors in the Gap. Motor trips to the top of Mt. Victory, the new road made by the Tourist Committee, from which most magnificent views are obtained, were very much indulged in: walking tours to Wartook Lake, Mackenzie Falls, Wonderland, Mackay's Peak, Lake Fyans and Lake Lonsdale were well patronised. As in previous years, the old custom of bringing in the new year was observed at Halls Gap.

At midnight a huge bonfire was lit and some 500 visitors formed a circle around it and sang

"Auld Lang Syne." then the first honor of 1926 was merrily spent in singing and dancing.

The scene set off in such picturesque surroundings was one long to be remembered. On New Year's Day the Hall's Gap Progress Association's annual sports meeting was held and there was a very large attendance to witness the various athletic events. Wood chopping contests etc. A dance was held in the public hall in the evening. At Hotel Bellfield a fancy dress ball was held on New Year's Eve and was a most delightful function.



The Old Nerve Test
Wonderland Range

Historic Extract —

SPORTING GLOBE

MELBOURNE SAT 30 OCTOBER 1926

Grampians Golf Meeting at Hall's Gap

The third open amateur meeting of The Grampians Golf Club will be held on the Bellfield links, Hall's Gap on Friday and Saturday November 26th and 27th.

An attractive programme has been arranged.

The course that was so favourably commented on last year has now been greatly improved.

J:D.A. Scott has remodelled it and some of the new holes will be used during the meeting.

Entries should reach H. Paton, hon. secretary, Grampians Golf Club, Stawell on November 18.

Ladies foursomes, men's foursomes and mixed foursomes will be played on the opening day and

the events on the second day will be

(1) men's championship, (2) Ladies championship,

(3) two men's handicaps, and (4) two ladies handicaps.

VILLAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Anniversary

Two well known couples have celebrated their
50TH Wedding anniversaries !!

Our congratulations go to

John and Val Hastings

David and Janet Witham

Congratulations
on defying
marriage statistics.

someecards



World's Greatest Shave

The Leukaemia Foundation's 'World's Greatest Shave' raises funds annually to assist in research of various blood cancers. Our local 'The Flashing Lights' team comprising PARKS Vic and Pomonal identities are shaving it all off on Friday the 16th of March.

The 'Flashing Lights' team members comprising of Dave Roberts, Kyle Hewitt and Graeme 'Shonky' Scherger will bare all on Friday **March the 16th at 4.00pm in front of Livefast Cafe in Halls Gap.**

The Pomonal component Dave Handscombe, Alison Bainbridge and Peter Greenberger, will shed their locks in the outside courtyard at **Barney's Bar and Bistro at 7.00pm**

Come along to either or both events and see what they are hiding underneath!

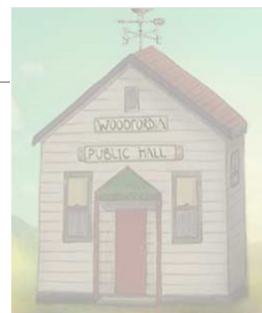
The six members are keen for sponsorship. You can sponsor them now by going online to 'The World's Greatest Shave'. Click on 'Sponsor' and then sponsor a team 'The Flashing Lights' or an individual or drop some money in the boxes around town.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1687478361328667/permalink/1687480857995084/>



Festival of Small Halls

*Festival of
Small Halls*



The Festival of Small Halls is coming to Pomonal! Thursday, 15th March at Pomonal Community Hall.

Festival of Small Halls is a series of tours that takes the best folk and contemporary acoustic artists performing at two of our country's largest festivals, and sends them on the road to tiny halls in communities all over Australia ... and its coming to a town near you!

Canadian singer-songwriter Dave Gunning and captivating Australian star Claire Anne Taylor will join the Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2018, playing 18 community halls across regional Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales throughout March and April. Including Pomonal Community Hall on Thursday March 15th ... doors open 6.30pm.

Pomonal Primary School is very excited to be hosting the Festival of Small Halls Show in collaboration with the Pomonal Community Hall Committee. The night will offer a chance for the community to get together, catch up and enjoy a great night of original music. Its a fun night ... not to be missed!

Pomonal Primary School will run a bar showcasing locally made wine and beer and will also be putting on a good old country 'sausage sizzle' and selling soft drinks. It's a great excuse to get together, socialise and support the school at the same time!

So don't waste any time **get your tickets online here:** <https://festivalofsmallhalls.com/pomonal-15-march-2018/>

or in person from: the Pomonal General Store or the Halls Gap Post Office

All people, from young to old are encouraged to head to the hall for what will be a truly memorable and enjoyable evening!

HELP!

OUR SMALL COMMUNITY CAN DO BIG THINGS FOR SMALL FROGS!

Have you heard of the Kroombit Tinker Frog? No? Well don't hold the fact that it's a Queenslander against it please. These small frogs (a mere 25 mm long) are critically endangered and only found in gullies and streams in Kroombit Tops National Park. Because of this they are extremely susceptible to amphibian *chytrid fungus* which is responsible for numerous amphibian extinctions worldwide.

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary in conjunction with Griffith University have implemented a captive husbandry plan as an insurance population to help save these tiny frogs. They have done similar for other Tinker frog species since 2009 and will adapt this knowledge. As little is known about the Kroombit Tinker Frog's reproductive biology, Currumbin aims to document their lifecycle and reintroduce them to parts of the park they have not been sighted in recent years.

The zoo-keeping team at Halls Gap Zoo do our best to make a real difference to help with conservation in the wild. We are a small team with a small local community but we have shown last year that size doesn't matter when it comes to compassion and effecting change.

Every year the Australasian Society of Zookeepers fundraises for a nominated animal conservation cause in the wild. Previous years have seen \$89000 raised! Last year the Halls Gap community helped us raise a tenth of the total for Australia and New Zealand! We were one of the top fundraisers. We really showed those city folk who seriously underestimated our community's heart.

This year we want to blow the other zoos out of the water. More importantly, we want to help save this Aussie battler. For those who supported us last year, thank you and please come again. For those who just heard about our fun night, don't miss out this year. Bring your wallets. We have some fantastic raffle and auction items.



PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT US:

We are holding a trivia night with an auction.

When: Tuesday 13th March

Where: Halls Gap Hotel bistro area

Time: 6 pm onwards for 7 pm start

Finish time approximately 9.30 pm

Cost: \$10 per person (Tables of 4-6)

Halls Gap Hotel have very generously provided a venue.

Please come early to support those who've supported us for drinks and a meal and to meet our team.

Children welcome.

For more information please contact

Naline : naline@hallsgapzoo.com.au

or

Brittany: brit@hallsgapzoo.com.au



Source: http://frogs.org.au/ppt/EdMeyer-KroombitTinkerFrog/slide0055_image006.jpg

HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

We hope everyone in the Halls Gap community had a fantastic break (if you were lucky enough to have one at all) and got to spend quality time with friends and family celebrating Christmas and the New Year.

The 2018 school year has started! We have 50 students. Ten of them are brand new preps who were very excited to be starting school last week. Our staff is comprised of Sam Stoffel, Karina Wilkinson, Judy Hilbig, Lisa Arnfield, Ja-San Trimble and our newest recruit, Simon Edge. We think we're the luckiest people in the world being able to come and work in such a beautiful environment and community. If you have a Working With Children Check and feel like you'd like to volunteer reading with students, feel free to come over and talk to our teachers.

The other awesome thing we get to do is go swimming! How lucky are we? It's really hot so it's fantastic to be able to cool off and, at the same time, Ange and Tracey are teaching us some important skills to ensure that we are safe in the water. You will see and hear us over at the pool for two weeks.



You may have noticed on the Halls Gap Market page that our market is slowly evolving and building. We have had a new parent team (with lots of fantastic skills and enthusiasm) take over our market for us and we think it's going to be bigger and better than ever. Please let everyone you know about our market. The fundraising is so important for our students. It helps us buy resources, fund camps and excursions and maintain our grounds. Most schools are not rich places so this is really important for us and any support is very much appreciated.

It's only the start of the year so our report is not a long one. You'll be hearing more from us! A huge thanks to the Fill the Gap team for keeping this going. It's a great form of communication that we all look forward to.

WEBSITE UPDATE

**Attention all clubs and groups.
Have you updated your details
and dates for 2018?**

**It is important that we keep
the website up to date.**

**Remember how quickly things
on facebook disappear from
view, whereas the website is
easy to search.**

We need both. Thanks :-)



GRAMPIANS BRUSHES 2018

**8-13TH
SEPTEMBER
HALLS GAP**

Explore new skills and be inspired!

Twenty fantastic tutors presenting 2, 4 & 6 day workshops, including oils, charcoal, watercolours, drawing, mixed media, pastel, printmaking, acrylics, botanical, landscape, contemporary and traditional.

Jan Clark - drawing

Katherine Cooper - wildlife

Helen Cottle - acrylic

Lorna Crane - mixed media

Lawrence Finn - print making

Mandy Gunn - print making

Amanda Hyatt - watercolour

Robert Knight - acrylic and charcoal

Marion Manifold - print making

Jan Martin - watercolour

John Mathieson - pen and watercolour

Mali Moir - botanical

John Pastoriza-Pinol - botanical

Amanda Penrose Hart - oil

Alan Ramachandran - watercolour

Ann Rayment - acrylic & mixed media

Suzie Riley - pastel

Anne Spudvilas - illustration and eco mixed media

Lars Stenberg - Acrylic

Todd Whisson - oil

W www.grampianarts.com.au

PH: 0428 825 971



BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC

GP DATES

February 2018

6,7,8,9	Dr Diana Jefferies
13,14	Dr Jim Thomson
15,16	Dr Siobhan Reddel
20,21,22,23	Dr Megan Helper
27,28,1,2	Dr Megan Helper



Our valuables should
never be left in the car

Leaving children unattended in a car on any day is dangerous, let alone when it's hot.

It could result in serious injury or death. In Victoria, it is against the law to leave children unattended in a car. Parents or carers could face fines or up to six months' jail.

What are the risks?

Even on mild days, the temperature inside a parked car can be 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the temperature outside.

Within five minutes, the temperature in the car can double. When it's 30 degrees outside, your child could be suffering in up to 60 degree heat.

As a child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adults, the impact of this heat on a child's body is almost immediate. This puts them at greater risk of life-threatening heat stroke, brain injury, heart and lung failure, and dehydration.

Large cars heat up just as fast as

smaller ones. Leaving the windows down slightly has little effect on the inside temperature. Tests have shown that when windows are left open by 10cm, it reduces the inside temperature by only five degrees.

PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE

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



Healthy Parks
Healthy People

It has been a busy summer holiday period in Grampians National Park. According to the latest figures the Halls Gap area saw a 1774% increase in population – from 316 permanent residents to a peak of 5500 people! This was the largest percentage increase across the state of Victoria and evident by the sheer volume of people visiting the national park.

However, the impact on the park has been both positive and negative. It is fantastic seeing so many people out enjoying this landscape, however disappointingly we have noticed an increasing number of people failing to take responsibility for their own rubbish.

We need your help! Please help spread the message of taking your rubbish with you, leaving no trace of your visit and keeping the national park and surrounding landscape beautiful.

The photo below was taken by one of our rangers at Silverband Falls Carpark.



STAFF MOVEMENTS: After 3 years in the Grampians as a Volunteer Coordinator and Project Firefighter, Caity O'Reilly has accepted a new marine focused role with Parks Victoria at Queenscliff. Caity will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best in her new position.

Ian Hanson has returned to the team as acting Ranger Team Leader for Park Operations. With over 10 years of experience in the park, Ian will help guide the team responsible for roads and visitor site infrastructure and maintenance.

This month we have also had Jess Sharp join the team as Grampians Ark Coordinator. Jess will bring a wealth of knowledge and skills to the role of protecting native small mammals and managing introduced predators.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY: The F&E team have spent the last month completing a range of activities and works. They have responded to several fires, including a large plantation fire at Mooralla on the western side of the park. The team also played a key role in the successful search and rescue operation for missing bushwalker Julio 'Lester' Ascui. Looking forward, the team will continue to work on maintaining access to waterpoints and clearing strategic firelines.

This season be sure to keep an eye out for the team in the new Mercedes Unimog fire tanker. This tanker provides increased capability on the fireline and significant improvements in firefighter protection.



ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE: The E&H team have been busy with several projects. These have included deploying fox and feral cat remote sensor monitoring cameras throughout the park, searching for new Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby release locations, clearing of vegetation regrowth impacting significant rock art sites, successful funding bids for goat and deer control programs in Autumn, and working with the Catchment Management Authorities on National Landcare phase 2 grants for Sallow Wattle and feral animals.

PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE

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



Healthy Parks
Healthy People

GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

2016 FLOOD RECOVERY: Key recent works have seen Redman Road reopened. See our weekly road report for further detail on what is open and closed in the national park.

2014 FIRE RECOVERY: At Zumsteins the roof on the middle cottage has been replaced and expert stone masons have completed restoration works to the walls. Contractors are continuing to develop new interpretive signage for the area

Before restoration...



After restoration

VISITORS AND COMMUNITY: The V&C team have been making the most of the increase in visitors. With two enthusiastic seasonal rangers on board, the team has facilitated four Ranger guided walks, five Junior Ranger kid's activities and a series of information "pop-up's" at Mackenzie Falls, Wonderland Carpark and Halls Gap Visitor Information Centre. The aim of these was to help visitors better prepare for their visit, provide park specific information and promote the Survive the Heat campaign.



The Grampians Peaks Trail (GPT) continues to evolve and take shape. Contractors have completed work on over 1.5km of steel walkway on the remote Major Mitchell Plateau. This was achieved in challenging conditions over a winter that involved rain, hail and snow.



As a result, First Wannon Hiker Camp has reopened, however access is only from Mt William or Mafeking. The walking track between Stockyard Saddle and Jimmy Creek Campground remains closed for extensive stonework.

Works on Chatauqua Peak remain on track for completion by the end of March. Walkers are reminded that Chatauqua Peak remains open via the Bullaces Glen Walking Track.

Over the coming months works will begin on upgrading the Mt Abrupt walking track between Signal Peak/Mt Abrupt saddle and the summit of Mt Abrupt. This work is expected to take several months.

The peaks trail team is working on finalising all approvals by mid-2018. Once approvals have been given, work will commence on clearing the vegetation along the entire length of the trail – including 100km of previously untracked terrain. As part of this process an offset strategy including revegetation works will be put in place to mitigate any vegetation loss.

WILDLIFE RESCUE



There have been some changes to the local wildlife rescue numbers.

Ian is still the Halls Gap person to call **locally** but he is now part of the **Wildwood Wildlife Shelter**, rather than **BADGAR**.

Call Ian—5356 4797

Wildwood Wildlife Shelter operates 24/7 and is dedicated to the RESCUE, REHABILITATION and RELEASE of sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife

Their website www.wildwoodwildlife.com.au has lots of useful information about what to do if you come across an injured animal.



OTHER NUMBERS YOU CAN CALL

**WILDLIFE
VICTORIA**
ON CALL TO HELP
03 8400 7300

**HELP FOR
WILDLIFE**
0417 380 687



1300 badgar
2 2 3 4 2 7
BADGAR
EMERGENCY WILDLIFE RESCUE

Seven ways to be a smart shopper under the NDIS



Before you buy a product or service under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), it pays to do your research, so you can be confident you are getting the best product or service for your needs, and to know your rights if something goes wrong. This is important if you are buying a product or signing up for a service.

Here are some tips to help you make an informed decision.

1. Think carefully about the product or service and what you want it to do

Asking the right questions will help you decide what kind of product or service you should buy or hire.

If you want to hire a motorised wheelchair or a scooter, for example, think about the differences in quality and features. Where will you be using it? What is the ongoing sales and care support? Are repairers accessible?

2. Compare offers and choose what is right for you

Compare offers so you can choose what's right for you. Take your time and don't feel rushed.

Ask the business questions until you understand what product or service you are purchasing. For example, if you are purchasing home care services, what exact services are included? Are there any cancellation fees?

If you need help, talk to someone you trust, such as a family member, friend, community organisation, advocate or other support network.

3. Be aware that sometimes businesses make claims that are not true

Sometimes a business or a salesperson may exaggerate the benefits of a product or service, or tell you that it does something it doesn't do. If you have doubts about a claim, ask the salesperson for evidence to back up their claims. You can also seek advice from someone else. Remember, you have the right to say 'no' to a salesperson..

4. Find out as much as you can about the business selling you something

Ask around, talk to other customers if you can, talk to your friends or support networks, search online and look at independent product reviews.

5. Don't give you details to anyone you don't know or trust

Be careful with your personal information such as bank, tax file number and pension or Centrelink information. Sometimes people will try to trick you into giving them your personal information so they can steal your money.

6. You have rights if you don't get what you paid for

When you buy products or services, they come with automatic consumer guarantees set out under the law. Guarantees apply to most items, including items purchased through the NDIS.

When you buy products, the business guarantees products are safe, work correctly and meet promises made about their condition, performance and quality. The same rules apply to services.

If you pay for something and it doesn't meet one of these consumer guarantees, you have the right to ask for a repair, replacement or refund.

CONTINUED OVER....

7. Make sure you keep all the paperwork in a safe place where you can find it again

If something goes wrong after your purchase, you might want to complain to the business. This means you have to prove you've made a purchase. Proof of purchase can be a receipt, or a bank or credit card statement. You have the right to ask for a receipt for anything you buy or pay for, no matter if you use your money, NDIS or state government funding.

This is just as important when hiring goods or services. You need to know how much it costs and have proof of what you paid, and what you paid for.

Make sure you keep a copy of receipts, warranties and anything you sign.

More information

Australian Consumer Law regulators have produced videos and guides to help consumers with disability understand their rights. These include:

- an educational video on how to shop smart and use your rights
- an Easy English educational video (with Casey and Reece) on how to shop smart
- a fact sheet with a short summary of your consumer rights and the steps you can take to resolve problems
- a detailed guide explaining your consumer rights, how to be a smart shopper, what to look out for when signing a contract or service agreement and the steps you can take to resolve problems.

All these videos and guides can be found on the [Consumers with disability page on the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's website](#).

For information on your consumer rights, view our [Consumers with a disability section](#)



FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

Lee-Anne, Margo, and Tammy
and Jenni

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 happened when two
vampires went on a
blind date?



It was love at first
bite!

GRAMPIANS Texture 2018

17-22ND
MARCH
HALLS GAP
(WESTERN VIC)

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

Special exhibitions: open from 16 March - 30 April

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

CONNECTIONS
Artist: Sue Cunningham - Using salvaged family domestic textiles, along with needle and thread, the artist honours family members gone by, and the passage of time.

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

PIGMENT & WAX: NEW FLORA WORKS & LANDSCAPES
Artist: Carolynne Hamdorf—An exhibition of artwork made from blending beeswax with pigments and natural ochre's

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

CAVALCADE
Artist: Trevor Smith: A parade of crochet character tea cosies. They include the famous and the infamous, daily occupations and characters from around the world.

Artist in Residence.
The Nest project: come and work with Gwen Egg, renowned Australian basket maker in the forecourt of the Halls Gap Community Hub as she constructs a giant nest, which will have a permanent home in Halls Gap Botanical Gardens. Gwen will be working on site from Thursday 15 March throughout the Textures week. If you would like to come and be part of the making please contact us on 0428 825 971.

Traders:
Traders are located at the Halls Gap Community Centre, next door to the Visitor Information Centre. Open Saturday 17 to Thursday 22: 8 am — 5 pm. On sale will be a wide range of supplies for textile enthusiasts: fabrics, fibres, books, hand dyed wools, threads and yarns, buttons and much more. Not all traders will be there for the whole time but all will be there for the weekend and Monday morning.

Grampians Texture Twilight Makers Market
5 pm — 7 pm Saturday 17 March On the lawn in front of the Stony Creek shops. A wide range of quality hand craft make by the tutors and students participating in Grampians Texture. Expect to find clothing, jewellery, paper, books and more all handmade and hand created, recycled and upcycled!!!

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

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.