

Issue: July 2016

# FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association  
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

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## FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR

### Chinnup—Winter Season of cockatoos

#### Winter June to late July

The Winter season is depicted by cockatoos, fungi .

This season incorporates the following:

Bleak mists, freezing winds and rain.

Animal breeding – Antechinus, Phascogales and Echidnas. Laying of eggs by Powerful owls.

Yellow - tailed Black Cockatoos on the move - tear at wattles for moths.

Blooming of fungi and winter orchids. Flowering of Heath and Correa providing flashes of colour.

Return of Aquila constellation (Bunjil).

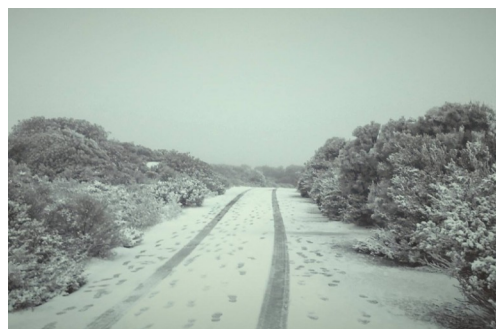
## OH MY WORD YOU LOVE FILL THE GAP!!

So much information to jam into one edition..It almost didn't fit!! Thanks to everyone that has contributed this month.

It's been a super busy month with loads of goings on in town...and the first snow of the season!

This edition is packed full of info that ranges from a playground update, to a nepalise adventure, to Hub discussions and upcoming events.

Pour yourself a cuppa and get Comfy...This is a bumper edition of Fill the Gap! Perfect for those wintry days spent huddled next to the fire... See you all in August :-)



## STATS BY CHAS JUNE 2016

A good amount of rain for the month with 121.5mm being recorded, bringing the progressive total for the year to 401mm. This compares to the same period for last year of 92.5mm for the month with a progressive total of 440mm. As of 29th June, Lake Bellfield is holding 43,720ML or 56% full compared to the same period last year of 51,186ML or 65% full. The total system is holding 130,860ML or 23.50%full.

The Moora Moora Reservoir has started to fill again with a recording of 910ML or 14% full compared to the same period last year of 1,190ML or 19%full. Mount William received 164.8mm for June compared to the same period last year of 113.8mm. The highest fall of 21.2mm was recorded on the 7th. The highest temperature of 11C was recorded on the 3rd and the lowest of -2.6 was recorded on the 25th. Brrrrrrrr

## LOOKING BACK...

Recognise any of these young, fresh faces???



ABOVE: Halls Gap Primary School leaders L-R (back) Takara Morgan, Miranda Scherger, Phillip Rethus, Ned Leithhead; (front) Maggie Smith, Matthew Smith, Tya Lovett, Tom Parkes.

## HALLS GAP RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Several people attended as did Cr, Jason Hosemans. Many issues were discussed with some follow up. Hub Precinct – the issue of the NGS putting part of the complex up for expressions of interest was raised, yet again. It appears the NGS will not desist in this endeavour and has re-advertised (for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time) with a closing date of September this year.

The issue of a pedestrian crossing in the main shopping area was raised, It was agreed that we contact VICROADS on this issue

Poor TV reception was of great concern as was mobile phone reception. A letter will be sent to the appropriate body by the President.

Wild Life Action Group project is ongoing with a view to educating the general public and business owners about the dangers of feeding the wildlife, not only to the animals but also the public.

Sadly, due to vandalism and theft, many of the signs that were designed and paid for by the group have been stolen. Any information on this would be appreciated.

The stairs at the end of Tandara Rd are to be re-instated by the Council with ongoing maintenance by Parks Vic.

Still looking how theft free “CAT FREE ZONE” signs can be re-installed after theft of previous signs.

There were several other topics discussed at the meeting, so if you want to learn more feel free to attend our next meeting in September.

Become a member and get involved.

Paul Turner

President HGRRA

## A BRIEF PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE...

We welcome Ben Thomas to our team in the Role of Grampians Ark Coordinator. Ben brings a wealth of knowledge to the role after holding numerous biodiversity roles with organisations such as DELWP and CVA. The ‘new Ben’ replaces Ben Holmes who has moved to take on a re-wilding project in the Little Desert National Park with Conservation Volunteers Australia.

Roads Management – As of the June Long weekend all seasonal track closures have been put in place until the November Long Weekend, however these dates may vary depending on seasonal conditions.

Goat control operations (using firearms) are continuing in the closed fire affected area on the Mt Difficult range. A closure is in place and everyone is asked to remain out of the area due to ongoing operations.

Grampians Peaks Trail works continue with resurfacing and step works almost complete on the Picanniny upgrade.

Fire Recovery works continue at Stapylton Campground with the recent installation of fences, bollards and campground infrastructure. Mapping, signage and booking system information is on its way. Sallow Wattle treatment trials continue and you may see evidence of this near Roses Gap. The heritage permit to install a protective structure over the orange cottage at Zumsteins has been granted and contractors for the re-design of Mackenzie Falls have been appointed. Cultural heritage works are focussed on the cataloguing of art sites and conservation works will start in July. Track works have commenced on Briggs Bluff walk and planning continues for the redevelopment of the Mt Difficult walking experience including campsite locations and walking track realignments.

*For the full GNP July Community update visit: <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/grampians-national-park>*

## HALLS GAP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### Annual General Meeting—June

Present: David Witham, Janet Witham, Paul Turner, Margo Sietsma, Errol Hoffmann, Joy Shaw, Graham Parkes, Lee-anne Lovett, Vonne Heinrich, Janine McDonald, Marianne Mitchell, Kayleen Urquhart  
Apology: Tammy Schoo

GUEST: Emma Kealy MP Member for Lowan

Matters arising: The Historical Society has **not** come under the CAHG umbrella as there has been an increase in members and funds are yet to be spent on signs for the Heatherlie Quarry site.

President's Report: The report outlined our concerns and activities for the year and was a basis of information for Emma's visit.

Emma Kealy thanked us for allowing her to join our meeting and assured us that she was here to hear the needs of Halls Gap and to find out how she could support us. She said her job is to listen and to be our advocate. Emma picked up on our concerns regarding The Hub and added that she would talk to the NGSC to ensure that the community benefits from State Government dollars that went into the centre. Also noted were:- 1) some concerns regarding camp fires in summer and 2) the need for a bike track to Pomonal due to popular use and dangerous conditions on the narrow hill road. Emma had to leave to attend a political function at Longernong College but invited us to stay in touch with her.

Paul invited questions re: Treasurers report. He also raised the issue of the honoraria for the WFS not being passed last year. After discussion Margo moved that the honoraria be cancelled because Ray Talbot (catchment management) and committee members had taken over more duties for the much smaller show. Janet seconded this motion. All agreed that this suits at the moment but can be re-instated if the situation changes.

David noted that the Walking track \$'s had to be spent in the Nat Pk and maybe be used to leverage \$ for \$ grant money.

### ELECTIONS

Graham Parkes took the chair to convene the elections as follows.

PRESIDENT: Paul nominated David Witham who accepted

VICE-PRESIDENT: David nominated Errol Hoffmann who accepted.

TREASURER: Janet nominated Paul Turner who reluctantly agreed to continue in the hope that another person may be found. It was noted that Kayleen Urquhart is an accountant and would be willing to learn the ropes. She will work with Paul in the interim.

### SECRETARY AND PUBLIC OFFICER:

Paul nominated Vonne Heinrich – will carry on till another may be found.

Each of the positions had one nominee who were duly elected.

The meeting was unanimously in favour.

The AGM closed at 10.30 am.

Followed by the quarterly Committee Meeting



**Photo Left: Grampians Film Society President, Janet Witham, cuts the cake celebrating 10 continuous years of monthly film screenings.**

## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HALLS GAP COMMITTEE MEETING 15/06/2016

Held at the community hall supper room 10.30 am.

MATTERS ARISING from the previous minutes

The "Welcome To Halls Gap" info sheet has been distributed to estate agents in Stawell and Ararat. The NGSC unable to circulate it with the rate notices as the printer does the mail out. It is available at the Post Office and the Newsagency and will be included on the web page when this is sorted out.

FILL THE GAP is up and running again. Thanks to Lee-anne for convening the printing of this at Neighbourhood house with a band of helpers.

Botanic gardens – with much effort the leaking pipe has been fixed

### GENERAL BUSINESS

- HUB MANAGEMENT No further information or official statements from the NGSC. We believe that events are the answer to the use of the HUB
- Fill The Gap is well received
- Facebook now has two community sites "Halls Gap Community" and "Halls Gap community watch and events"
- The Halls Gap Community Website was set up with flood recovery money and done through the State Library - it is an old system that needs a major upgrade. Margo and Tammy Looking into this.
- Botanic Garden lost plants in drought – some planting done in May – no success with work for the dole – need more bobcat work on rocks – shade cloth yet to go up, aim for Spring – Venus Baths gate too heavy & tiles too fragile. Gardens getting good reports.
- Walking Track Support Group. 3 working bees – Stawell group at Heatherlie. Warrnambool group adopted Mt Abrupt track and Chimney Pots. Melbourne Group worked on Major Mitchell plateau. Locks on donation boxes are being cut into – police involved. Boxes need emptying again
- Grampians Peaks Trail. Anne Wilson in charge of scoping. Nth end will stay on the ridge to overlook Wartook with a campsite. Good consultation between the team in charge and bushwalkers. There is a lot happening with Parks Vic focused on it. Will end up 160 km long with 60k using upgraded existing tracks. There is a new section done from Borough Huts along fire line to the tunnel.

- Wildlife Action Group. Large metal signs at oval and the picnic ground to be done as corflute ones stolen. Next step to get legislation to remove deer – and goats.

- WAMA - See correspondence note. Volunteers invited – next working bee 26/6

- Wildflower Show - The show to be over 2 days first weekend in October. Everything proceeding smoothly. Ray from CM involved. Sell printed notes for walks and drives before the event. \$2 ticketed entry so we can monitor numbers.

- Grampians Film Society has just celebrated 10 yr (continual) anniversary – has had some recesses over 30 years. Film night last wed of each month. 30 members.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Janine advised that a new festival "Halls Gap Jazz and Blues" will be held on 21st, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October this year. The Committee to play a small role in assisting with the festival.

CURRENT MEMBERS: David Witham, Janet Witham, Paul Turner, Errol Hoffmann, Margo Sietsma, Joy Shaw, Vonne Heinrich, Lee-anne Lovett, Graham Parkes, Janine McDonald, Marianne Mitchell, Kayleen Urquhart APOLOGY: Tammy Schoo

### NEW MEMBERS

Graham Parkes, Janine McDonald, Kayleen Urquhart and Marianne Mitchell.

### **Next Meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

Do you have an Idea for something you would really like to see happen in Halls Gap? Come and Join us at our next meeting and help our community prosper.

New Members Are Always Welcome.

## CERT

Your Community Emergency Response Team were called out 9 times this month. One patient self-transported and we arrived before the Ambulance 8 times. The job taking the most time was a lady who broke her ankle at the base of McKenzie Falls, requiring Police SES & Ambulance.

Information coming through on our pagers quite often doesn't match what we find on arrival because people calling 000 are usually under stress. If the caller is able to remain calm a lot of time is saved. You will be asked if you want Police, Fire & Rescue or Ambulance. Just say one because if more are needed the operator arranges that.

Calls are recorded & if calling from a landline the operator knows your location. All you need to do is answer questions as best you can.

Then if the patient needs 1<sup>st</sup> Aid the operator stays with you and tells you what to do. Thankfully now that more people have a GPS the location of accidents is becoming more specific.

## HALLS GAP JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL

### 21/22/23 October 2016

After many successful years, the Jazz Festival is continuing in the lovely valley of Halls Gap.

Moreover, it has changed in name and fixture dates to the above.

Weather at this new time of the year is beautiful & no other events clash with these dates.

A small extra flavour of Blues has been added to all existing genres of jazz.

Planning is progressing well. Support from musicians and followers is overwhelming. To ensure the viability of this community owned event, we need volunteers to help with the many & varied tasks leading up to & during the event. Please contact us (below) in offering your help.

At present, venues will be: Hall, Hub, Pinnacle, Mountain Grand, Comfort Inn, Spirit of Punjab, Kookaburra Hotel. If numbers are great, then a main Marquee will be considered.

So there will be room on the program for about 90-100 bands.

Accommodation Operators please contact & invite your regular music loving Festival guests.

Contact details are:

Post: HALLS GAP JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL, PO Box 72, Halls Gap, Victoria, 3381.

Email: [festival@hallsgapjazzblues.com](mailto:festival@hallsgapjazzblues.com) Web: [www.hallsgapjazzblues.com](http://www.hallsgapjazzblues.com)

Phone: Don 0428 227 261, Janine 5356 4424, Marilyn 5356 4618

## HALLS GAP PUBLIC RESERVE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The committee is made up of 8 volunteer members Robert Irvine, Rick Heinrich, Ian Leithhead, Murray Wilson, Blanche Wookey, Vin O'Callaghan, Doug McDonald, Mike Stevens, Claire Evans

This brings to the community a combined nearly 300 years of living, working, owning businesses, community involvement and socialising in Halls Gap with many other hats worn past and present over these years by members on numerous other Halls Gap committee.

The management committee on behalf of DEWLP is responsible for managing the lease on the central HG Caravan Park and a lot of the major capital works that occur at the caravan park such as the roads, we are also responsible for managing and in some cases, with assistance from local community user groups/contractors - the swimming pool, picnic grounds, BBQ areas and playground, tennis courts, oval and recreation reserves including the reserve pavilion and outbuildings, infrastructure at the oval including the toilets, cricket nets, community garden and patanque piste and also the Halls Gap Botanical Gardens grounds.

Re the Playground - As many locals would be aware a decision was made last week following communications with DEWLP and HG Reserves Committee members to temporarily close off the playground area from the public to allow further inspection of the equipment and reduce the risk of an injury from some equipment that currently may not be in useable condition.

Improvement and repair works are being carried out this week by the committee appointed maintenance contractors and we plan to have the playground open again for the winter school holiday period

Following this the committee will continue to meet to discuss the immediate short term and long term future of the current playground and structure of which we have had as an ongoing agenda item for future improvement. The committee is well aware that the playground is fast approaching the time for a serious revamp or renewal

The committee is working towards a long term vision for an effective revamp of the entire picnic grounds area including the playground and the best approach here is to ensure a strategic management plan is implemented for the area. There is a cost involved as well as significant cost for whatever works go ahead

The HG Committee is interested in moving forward with a whole of area approach rather than ad hoc improvements to keep things functioning. This takes time and we are very open to strategically work out what our options are, community engagement, plans, ideas, funding options etc

Halls Gap residents and interested locals/ratepayers are welcome to put forward ideas concerns issues and thoughts on the areas managed by the HG Reserves Committee - direct to the committee itself - All official correspondence can be directed to HG Committee of Management PO Box 40 Halls Gap Vic 3381

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## FRIENDS OF GRAMPIANS GARIWERD

The next Friends of Grampians activity is this weekend. Sunday July 3. We are joining Horsham Bird-watchers on an excursion to learn more about the birds of the Grampians. Visitors welcome but registration essential.

Phone Jan-Bert on 5384 6293.

## BOTANIC GARDEN REPORT

The rain has brought so many colourful flowers out! And our new plantings are looking healthy. Do check us out. By the time you read this a group of teenagers from Tandara will have given us an afternoon's work which is much appreciated. Next regular working bee is July 13. Mowing, weeding, repairs to the gate at Venus Baths end.



## HALLS GAP AND POMONAL PLAYGROUP

It's been a busy and fun first half of the year for the Halls Gap and Pomonal Playgroupers. We have had outings to Silverband Falls, Halls Gap Pool, a teddy bear picnic at the Halls Gap Botanic Gardens, traffic school at the tennis courts in Halls Gap, disco's, yoga class at Boroka Yoga Centre in Pomonal, visits to Budja Budja Neighbourhood House, craft and music sessions and just general run-a-muck play at the playgroup shed and around the traps.

The outdoor area at the playgroup shed, located at Pomonal Primary School, has had a revamp with synthetic turf, new picnic tables and a new sandpit. With thanks to a huge fundraising effort by the families and the local community, together with a community grant from the Ararat Shire Council, and a very generous donation from Spirit of Punjab Indian Restaurant, the outdoor space is looking great and is much more user friendly for babies, toddlers and parents. T

Thank you to those who have put in the labor to get it done and a big shout out to all the businesses who supported us with raffle prizes; Grampians Pioneer Cottages, Hangin' out in the Grampians, James McMurturie Glass, Vicasa Health and Fitness, Livefast Café, Grampians Adventure Golf, Barney's Bar & Bistro, Thai Aroi Ararat, Mitre 10 Ararat and Mystical Fortune. Plus a thank you to the Halls Gap Zoo for letting us run a BBQ over the Easter weekend and the businesses and VCAL students at Ararat College who helped us sell raffle tickets. We are truly grateful for all the community support.

Also a big thank you to The Gillespie family for creating an amazing farm sculpture to add to this unique and fabulous playgroup and to Pomonal Primary School for their continued support.

Next term we have some wonderful activities and outings planned, including an African drumming workshop, swimming (indoor), CFA fire safety, Brambuk Cultural Centre and visits into the class rooms at Pomonal Primary, Halls Gap Primary, and new to playgroup, Moyston Primary School and other fun stuff.

We have missed some of our families with little ones who have graduated to school and we hope they are all settled into school life. On the flip side, it has been wonderful to welcome new siblings to playgroup....and more on the way. We are a growing brood.

This year we have welcomed a number of new families to playgroup and are always happy to have families join or just visit; we meet on Monday mornings during school term. We are a very including and welcoming group. Any new families interested in joining Playgroup or finding out more information,

please visit our website :

<http://hgppplaygroup.wix.com/preschool>

or email [hgppplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:hgppplaygroup@gmail.com)

Stay warm, stay safe and we look forward to another fantastic term starting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Yvette



## HALLS GAP POLICE

A busy month for police resulted in two local people having an all-expenses paid holiday at “Her Majesties pleasure”. Hopefully things on the crime front will slow or disappear as a result! We are fortunate that, despite two millions people passing through the area each year, our crime rate is relatively low so remember to keep those cars locked around the shops and at home!

We have executed a number of drug search warrants around Halls Gap this month and were lucky enough to secure the services of a drug dog from Melbourne.

On the traffic front Kellie attended a fatal collision in Wartook where two passengers were ejected from their vehicle. With such a high number of international visitors who are not familiar with local driving conditions (wet roads, wildlife etc), nor some of them with using seat belts, we all need to be extra vigilant when travelling local roads.

More proactively, we intend increasing the number of drug tests for drivers over the next couple

of months so if you are a recreational drug user and get behind the wheel of a car the chances are you will be caught! These tests can indicate illicit drugs in a person’s system for several days after use.

From a search & rescue perspective this month, a 51 year old day walker had to be rescued from Mackie’s Peak Track over the Queen’s birthday long weekend after injuring her ankle. Once again the Stawell SES did some great work to carry a stretcher down those steep steel stairs in the darkness. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated local crew of SES volunteers at Stawell and Ararat. They are called upon at all hours, in all sorts of weather, to do a multitude of unpleasant tasks and never complain.

Stay safe over the school holidays and remember:

**“THERE IS A ZERO TOLERANCE TO DRINK or DRUG DRIVING IN HALLS GAP”**

24 hr POLICE ATTENDANCE CALL 000 otherwise  
Halls Gap 53564411

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## MT DIFFICULT GOLF CLUB

A cooler wetter last few months has contributed to the course greening up nicely. The volunteer green keepers have done a great job keeping the course in great shape. Local members have restarted their weekly competition rounds and we are always looking for new members. It’s surely the best value golf membership going around. If you’re interested in joining contact Rob at the club.

September through December will see a range of Golf events being announced including the clubs annual tournament. Stay tuned for updates soon.

The huge project to water the fairways is still gathering momentum. More updates will be available in the next issue.

New driving range mats are being installed at the practice range near the clubhouse during July. This will be a valuable asset to our members and visitors alike and add to the usability of the range year round.

This is also an opportunity to ask golfers to keep their practicing limited to the practice range provided. Hitting numerous balls off the fairways and on to the greens during practice (especially without repairing them) is causing undue maintenance issues for our volunteers. Thanks .



## HALLS GAP'S CHRISTIAN GROUPS

Serving One Lord, having the One faith, expressing it differently. We all welcome new members and visitors.

St John's Anglican has services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 8 a.m. Check the noticeboard outside the church. Contact Heather Scott 0433 477 365.

Tandara campsite hosts a service on the fourth Sunday of the month at 4pm, with a cuppa afterwards. Contact Cheryl Reif at 5356 4253.

Pomonal Community Uniting Church has

several Halls Gap members, 10 am every Sunday, plus a social coffee morning 11 am at Brambuk coffee shop, recently changed to the first Tuesday of the month. All welcome. Contact Margo S on 5356 4524 or 0429 201 139.

Plus several people go into Stawell to worship in other churches.

A group of women from several denominations join in a weekly Bible Study in Halls Gap on Tuesday afternoons. Contact Dot on 5356 4529.

## BUDJA BUDJA NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

A reminder about Activities at Budja Budja Neighbourhood House...

Tai Chi with Tim – every Thursday 10am (gold coin donation)

Yoga with Joyce is having a break – starting back again on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July for 10 weeks, at a cost of \$120 for the term.

Storytime is on again fortnightly – Fridays at 9am – 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Book club meets on a Thursday once a month

Exercise – hoping to start up again after school holidays

Cooking for Fun & Dreamtime creation are our 2 activities for School Holiday Program running here at Halls Gap.

Need a lot more activities happening, anyone arty/crafty or a group that want to meet for coffee, chats, fun game/card nights, any ideas for activities.

Budja Budja Neighbourhood House is for all Halls Gap Community, so pop in have a cuppa, use the computers and printers.

### Courses coming up –

First Aid/CPR (people who did First Aid in August will need to do update CPR)

September

RSP (responsible serving of alcohol)

RSG (responsible serving of gambling)

Food Safety

Governance – good for committees, sporting clubs etc.

### For any information or course/Activity ideas

contact- Lee-Anne

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

Phone- 5356 4751 Mobile- 0490 253 012



[www.peoplefornepal.com](http://www.peoplefornepal.com) | FB: People for Nepal

Wondering where Cass the postie disappeared to for a few weeks? Best read on ... The decision to head back to Nepal a little earlier this year in order to avoid some of the monsoonal rains turned out to be a great decision. Upon arriving in Kathmandu we begun to plan, analyse, reanalyze and plan some more. We identified 4 schools that we would be able to help out this trip. 2 previous schools in rural Kavre that we had worked with, the school in Bhaktapur and a school in the lower Solukhumbu region.

Bhaktapur is just a 40 minute drive from the center of Kathmandu and is one of Nepal's great historic cities. Unfortunately, the earthquake has caused much devastation to the old city. The beauty of the city still overwhelms us each time we head back though. The school in Bhaktapur holds a special place in our hearts and many, many hours have been spent playing around with the kids. This trip was all about bags and stationary. Each of the 35 kids have new bags, workbooks, pencils, erasers and sharpeners. The Bhaktapur school has decreased by more than 20 students since we visited last year. Due to the lack of housing and work in the old city many families have had to return to village life. Or, as we saw, many of the students are now having to work to try and survive. Heading back to Kavre we were amazed that we were able to drive all the way to Kavre school



#1 and most of the way to Kavre school #2. Kavre #1 is positioned just outside of a pine forest, perched up on the hillside and has a giant old tree in the front yard. Kavre #1 has just 25 students attending and most of them are younger children. We delivered some of the bags from our Bags for Nepal project. Packed in the handmade bags were school note books, pencils, erasers and sharpeners.

The atmosphere when arriving at Kavre #2 is incredible. Just a short drive and steep walk to the top of the hill, Kavre #2 has an entirely different community. The original school building is at the base of the steep hill and sits crumbled... Waiting. Kavre #2 is looking amazing now. When we first visited last year the kids were out in the open with no shelter.

Thanks to your wonderful donations and support they now have 3 shelters and a toilet. Again we were able to provide the students with new handmade bags, workbooks, pencils, erasers and sharpeners. Our fourth school in our Bags for Nepal project was in Ashok's home village of Maidel. After the 12 hour drive we arrived, three days of festivals followed and when Jonno thought he could eat no more we headed to the school on Thursday. The school has just on 115 full time students and is a primary through to class 10 school. Being the school that Ashok went to as a boy made this part of the trip even more special. By Nepali standards Ashok has created a life that many village children could only ever imagine to dream of. We were able to provide each of the students with workbooks, pencils, sharpeners, erasers and for each of the classrooms we were able to provide brand new whiteboards. To explain the difference between the 4 schools, the villages and the issues that they are facing is hard on paper. Now almost 4 weeks on we are still trying to sort through everything that happened and all that we saw. I would love to tell you that Nepal is recovering faster than we could ever imagine, that tourism is recovering and that everything will be okay. Honestly, I want to tell you this more than anything but, this trip our hearts were torn out. Nepal is struggling more than even we could comprehend. This trip we had incredible highs, much laughter and made many more new friends but, the lows were soul crushing.



The day we flew out I began my study – International Aid and Development and, I have never been so ready and so set that this is what I want to do. If you have been to Nepal, right now you can see the beautiful faces, those big smiles, and the scenery like no other. Mountains towering over you leaving you in awe of what the earth is capable. If you haven't been to Nepal I strongly advise that you do. At this stage we will be hosting another screening of 'Mira' over the weekend of Wonderland Run (20-21<sup>st</sup> August) and will keep you posted on other events coming up. Please if you have any questions feel free to ask us any time, visit our website [peoplefornepal.com](http://peoplefornepal.com) (thanks Dave!). Talking about Nepal is our next favourite thing to being in Nepal. Stay warm, Namaste.



## FILL THE GAP: A BRIEF HISTORY

FtG began in late 1984 or early 1985 . After Jill and John Miller settled in Halls Gap mid 1984, (John was the first ranger in the newly proclaimed Grampians National Park and Jill went on to start Grampians Community Health Centre) Jill asked Janet Witham how one got to know what was happening or about to happen in the town and it was as a result of that discussion that the idea of FTG took off.

It was for many years a fortnightly newsletter, edited by numerous people, (so many offered that most 'editors' only did it once a year!). Around eleven years later the Stawell Times News started a monthly Halls Gap Extra. FTG died briefly (see below), then it came back in a new format, cut back to once a month, putting it out mid monthly so that people were still getting their fortnightly news of HG. The Stawell supplement lasted a few years, then died, but FTG continued monthly, with a different editor each month for quite some time.

In recent years it moved to having a single editor. Margo Woodcock put a lot of effort into it and then Carolyn Russell also worked hard. Pomonal joined us and it became *"Fill the Gap and Pomonal too."* But when Carolyn had had enough and Flood Recovery money encouraged the shire to establish a Halls Gap website, no-one was keen on taking it on and it ceased publication. Soon after, the Halls Gap Community Watch and Events facebook page was started by others and seemed to *fill the gap* in a different way.

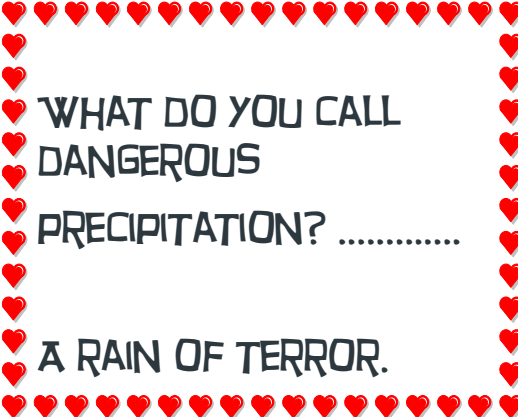
However neither the website nor Facebook really satisfied the need, and there are a number of people who can't or won't access the internet for news. Pomonal have already relaunched a community news sheet, and now we have two excellent issues out already.

WHAT SORT OF THINGS WERE IN AN EARLIER VERSION OF FTG?

I have found I have kept a copy of what was called "The final edition". There's no date on it, but Jill Miller was the editor and she talks about over 11 years history, so probably about 1996. It has clearly been assembled by cut and paste from articles sent in. Some typed on a computer, but then assembled by hand, then photocopied. Needless to say it was hard copies only, no emailing then.

So what's in it? There's Jill's editorial in which she mentions they had had over 70 different editors, produced 80 copies a year, had only 2 rules- no commercial advertising and no opinions. *"Over those years Fill the Gap has looked variously splendid, funny, whimsical, sporty, entertaining, arty, highbrow (well only once really), environmental, comical, very big and very small."*

Then there's a report on the Indoor Bowls competition (quite a few familiar names there), a report that \$1,139 had been raised for Red Cross by Evelyn Cox calling on people at home, a tale of the unnamed boy racing home from the bus stop one morning as he had forgotten it was casual day at the secondary college and he wouldn't be seen dead in school uniform ... (is the culprit still in town?), the Swifts Football Club selling large print telephone directories (Phone Mitch! - still in town), news from the Historical Society commenting on the charming new interpretive signs along the Silverband Falls track, and a comment on the speed limit between Delley's Bridge and the Pomonal Rd turnoff. Plus a couple of jokes, some cute drawings and other fillers. So not that different to what we hope will be in the 2016 issues of the reincarnated FTG.



WHAT DO YOU CALL  
DANGEROUS  
PRECIPITATION? .....

A RAIN OF TERROR.

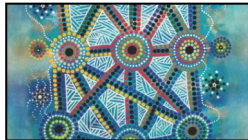


# BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC

20-22 GRAMPIANS ROAD, HALLS GAP PH: 53 564751

## GP DATES

JULY 2016	AUGUST 2016	SEPTEMBER 2016
Dr Diana Jefferies 5,6,7	Dr Malinda Leary 2, 3, 4	Dr Susan Lewis 1
Dr Diana Jefferies 12,13,14	Dr Susan Lewis 9, 10, 11	Dr Diana Jefferies 6,7,8,9
Dr Malinda Leary 19,20, 21	Dr Susan Lewis 16, 17, 18	Dr Diana Jefferies 13,14,15,16
Dr Malinda Leary 26, 27, 28	Dr Susan Lewis 23, 24, 25	Dr Diana Jefferies 20,21,22,23
	Dr Susan Lewis 30, 31	



### NAIDOC Morning Tea Invitation

**Where:** Budja Budja Community Room  
20-22 Grampians Rd, Halls Gap

**When:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July

**Time:** 10.30am – 11.30am

Songlines are the oldest living narrative of our nation, and will be the focus for the 2016 NAIDOC Week celebrations.

NAIDOC Week 2016 will run from 3-10 July and is an opportunity for all Australians to come together to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait people.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the Dreamtime describes a time when the earth, people and ani-

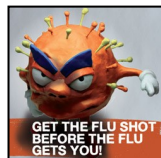


Budja Budja Medical Clinic is now able to register you for your own 'My Health Record'.

This is the new name of the national digital health record system. Having a My Health Record means your important health information like allergies, medical conditions and treatments, medicine details etc can be digitally stored in one place. This allows other doctors, specialists and hospital staff to see it online from anywhere at any time when they need to, like in an accident or emergency.

Over 2.6 million Australians already have a My Health Record!

Our friendly staff and doctors at the Budja Medical Clinic can help you register and upload your My Health Record  
**ASK TODAY.**



### 2016 FLUVAX

Fluvax STILL available!

You may be eligible for a FREE fluvax under the  
National Immunisation Program.

Please give us a call for more information  
or visit [www.immunise.health.gov.au](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au)

### ACUPUNCTURE & CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE

"Dr SUSAN WAYCOTT"

TUESDAY's BY APPOINTMENT @ Budja  
please phone reception for appointment 53564751



# GRAMPIANS TEXTURE 2017

18-23RD  
MARCH  
HALLS GAP  
(WESTERN VIC)

Develop your interest in fibre arts and textiles at Grampians Texture 17. An opportunity to work with Australian and international textile tutors in 2, 4 and 6 day workshops.

## Tutors

**Velma Bolyard (US) - paper and books**

**Elizabeth Calnan - weaving**

**Jan Clark - mixed media**

**Mahdi Chandler - eco dye and stitch**

**Desiree Fitzgibbon - mixed media**

**Brenda Gael Smith - patchwork**

**Jean Gauger (US) - felt**

**Nicola Henley (Ireland) - screen print**

**Bryant Holsenbeck (US) - basket/sculpture**

**Anita Larkin - felt**

**Cathy Moon - natural dye and shibori**

**Nicole Mallalieu - dressmaking**

**Jane Nicholas - embroidery**

**Catherine O'Leary - felt**

**Shona Skinner (Scotland) - machine embroidery**

**Adrienne Sloane - (US) knitting**

**Sandy Webster - (US) print/mixed media**

Early bird discount on bookings close 1/12/16

**W:** [www.grampianarts.com.au](http://www.grampianarts.com.au)

**PH:** 0428 825 971



## FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE:

Lee-Anne, Margo, Jenny and  
Tammy

Please email your articles and  
photos to us by the 20th 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

## WE NEED MORE PICTURES :-)

Please send in relevant pictures  
or Advertisements as jpegs with  
a short description and we'll do  
our best to include them.

Can we also please ask that all  
standard articles be submitted  
be in word format or as text via  
email and kept to under one  
page if possible to allow for  
pictures as well. Thanks ,editors.



health • fitness • wellbeing

Vikasa classes are about a lot more than just 'working out'. Each class is packed full of practical functional movement that will help you in your everyday life. Classes are filled with laughter and smiles. Dancing is almost essential.

We have new class blocks starting soon, be quick as places are limited and will fill quickly.

**Boxing : Monday nights, 6 week block, starting August 29th.**

**Circuit : Wednesday nights, 12 week block, starting July 20th.**

**Bootcamp : 6 week block, starting July 21st.**

For further information you can contact us via Facebook, email or phone.

Hope to see you moving soon!

| [cass@vikasa.com.au](mailto:cass@vikasa.com.au) | FB: Vikasa Health, Fitness & Wellbeing  
| Instagram: vikasa\_health.fitness |

## A reminder:

Grampians – Pyrenees Biolink plant outs are happening throughout winter.

Come and Help CVA plant over 6000 trees in the  
Ararat area between 27<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Contact Caity O'Reilly on 0428 553 040

Or email [coreilly@cva.org.au](mailto:coreilly@cva.org.au)



## Who are the Faces of Halls Gap??

The Grampians Brushes workshops program in September will be hosting portrait artist Ron Penrose as artist in residence. He would like to paint a number of local people's portraits, these will be displayed at the Halls Gap Community Hub during the Grampians Brushes week in September.

Would you like to nominate someone to have their portrait painted?

Please contact Marion Matthews: [grampiansbrushes@gmail.com](mailto:grampiansbrushes@gmail.com) or 0428 825 971 if you would like to nominate someone.