

Issue: June 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).

RUN THE GAP SUCCESS

Massive, massive increase in numbers, up from 762 last year to 1176 plus over 140 little ones led by Sam Stoffel in the Mini Run the Gap taking it well over 1200.

From RTG organisers, volunteers, marshalls, lead bikes, Parks team and all the wonderful crew on the brekky brunch, we sincerely thank all for supporting our event and making it so special! Results were scheduled to be up by 6pm and lots of photos were taken and general feedback was excellent.

Money raised this year is earmarked to contribute to bike / walk paths, plus \$1 each participant to "Friends of the Grampians" to help maintain our NP trails. So well done and brilliant support everyone :) Next years date already locked in 21.5.17

For images of Runners and the day itself visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/runthegap/posts/986307034798477>



LOOKING BACK...

Tennis anyone? Some of our local tennis guns. Wonder if they can still cover the court?



STATS BY CHAS MAY 2016

Up to the 30th May 2016 a good rainfall of 165mm being recorded bringing the progressive total for the year to 279.5mm. This compares to the same period last year of 114.5mm with a progressive total of 341.5mm.

As of 25th May 2016 Lake Bellfield is holding 42,050ML or 54% full compared to the same period last year of 50,656ML or 64% full. The total system is holding 121,620ML or 21.84% full compared to the same period last year of 156,436ML or 28.09% full. Lake Lonsdale and the Moora Moora Reservoir are still registering 0% full.

As of the 29th May Mount William has received 96.6mm of rain (however this is not an accurate measure as the automatic station did not record for 11 days). This compares to the same period last year of 164.4mm. The highest temperature of 17.2 C was recorded on the 7th of May and the lowest temperature of -0.4 C was recorded on the 29th of May.

COMMITTEE ROUND UP

GRAMPIANS FILM SOCIETY

Our film society has a long, if sometimes interrupted history, spanning some three decades. However, we are about to celebrate our tenth anniversary since the GFS was reinstated in May 2006 after a two year hiatus.

These days the film society goes from strength to strength with members drawn from Pomonal, Stawell, the Deep Lead and Lake Lonsdale area as well as Halls Gap.

We show an assortment of films – old and new; Australian and foreign; comedy and drama – and our monthly film evenings, generally the last Wednesday of the month, are real social occasions, with drinks and nibbles before the film screenings followed by supper and more chat afterwards.

All this for just \$45 per person annually but if you would like to join us at the Centenary Hall for the. Remainder of the year, it will cost you a mere \$25. The program for the remainder of the year is displayed on the noticeboard outside the Halls Gap newsagency.

Enquiries: Janet Witham on 5356 4300 or Alison Bainbridge on 0413 628 306.SCREENINGS:

SCREENINGS: We are inviting members to come along at 6.30pm on Wednesday 25th May to share a meal prior to the screening of “Her” (2013) Drama/Romance written and directed by Spike Jonze.

We would also like to discuss what we screen on 23rd November 2016 and a Saturday afternoon at the movies in July.

“HER PLOT”: A sensitive and soulful man earns a living by writing personal letters for other people. Left heartbroken after his marriage ends, Theodore (Joaquin Phoenix) becomes fascinated with a new operating system which reportedly develops into an intuitive and unique entity in its own right. He starts the program and meets "Samantha" (Scarlett Johansson), whose bright voice reveals a sensitive, playful personality. Though "friends" initially, the relationship soon deepens into love.



UPCOMING SCREENINGS

Screening Date	Film	Supper Roster
25 th May 2016	Her (2013) USA - 10 years celebration	Dot & Errol
22 nd June 2016	The Girl with the Pearl Earring (2003) USA	Leigh & Douglas
27 th July 2016	Mozart's Sister (2010) French	
24 th August 2016	The Hedgehog (2009) France/Italy	
28 th September 2016	Babette's Feast (1988) Danish	
26 th October 2016	Life is Beautiful (1997) Italian	
23 rd November 2016	TBC	

FRIENDS OF GRAMPIANS-GARIWERD GEOLOGY EXCURSION

14 May

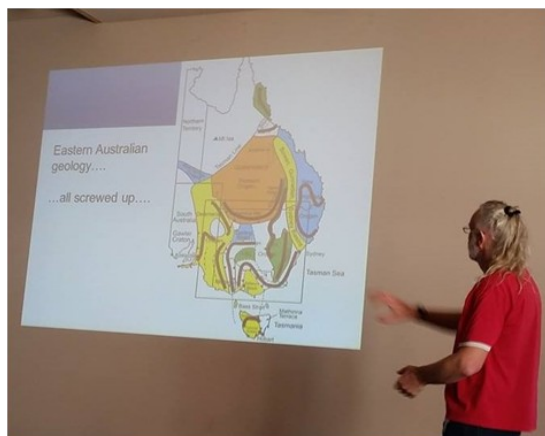
FOGGS were very happy to see a good turnout of members and interested others at this event. Dr Ross Cayley presented us with a rapid tour through millions of years and from the Grampians to Antarctica through slides, maps, photos, diagrams and analogies. The Grampians like a wrecked warehouse, or like a stack of playing cards reshuffled. The earth like a pan of simmering soup.

We then went out to look at the real world. A magnificent day to picnic on Mt William summit, look across to the Ararat hills in one direction, and the Serra Range in the other.

I don't remember seeing the air so clear before. We examined a cast of a large worm hole deposited when the summit rocks were a muddy beach, and stopped on the way down the mountain to look at an ancient landslide, and examples of mudstone.

Then some of us continued round to Silverband Falls road to have a look at faults in the rocks there.

An excellent if mentally exhausting day. There are some photos up on our Facebook page, and there will be a full report in our winter newsletter later in June, and subsequently on our website <http://friendsofgrampiansgariwerd.org.au>.



GRAMPIANS WALKING TRACKS SUPPORT GROUP

We have had a fairly usual number of three working bees during the Autumn period with a total of 18 people involved from bushwalking clubs.

In March our local Grampians Bushwalkers did some strategic clearing of small areas at Heatherlie Quarry to meet the needs of the Ozact performers at their Easter

presentations of Shakespeare. Warrnambool Bushwalking Club did work on the circuit track around the Chimney Pots in

April. They have adopted the track up Mt Abrupt on a permanent basis but this is now in good condition so they turned their attention elsewhere..

May saw members of Melbourne Bushwalkers and VMTC scaling the heights from Boundary Gap to Major Mitchell Plateau and trimming vegetation most of the way to the First Wannon campground.

The Support Group's next sessions are scheduled for Spring.

As I am usually the only local par-

ticipant in these working bees I would welcome anybody who would like to get out into the bush and contribute to the National Park. Please Ring me on 53564300. David Witham.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Do you have an interest in the past history of Halls Gap and the Grampians area?

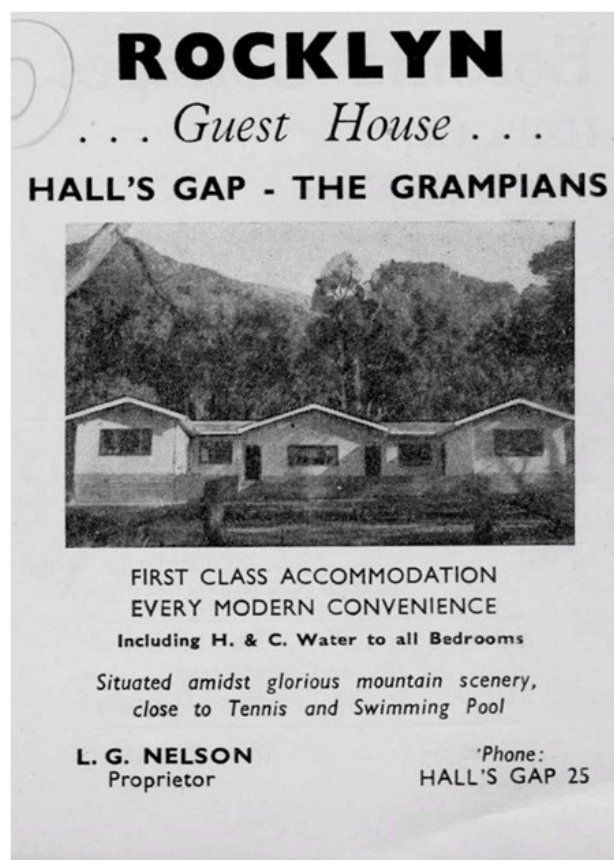
Would you like to discover more about the beautiful stone quarried at Heatherlie that was used in buildings throughout this region as well as in Melbourne? Or learn about the many Guest Houses that catered for the vast numbers of tourists who holidayed here? Perhaps you are the keeper of memories and knowledge of earlier days in Halls Gap which are worth sharing?

If the answer is yes come

down and meet with the members of the History Group or just come and have a look through our collection of photos and information.

We gather each Thursday morning in the Hall. The History room is currently being rearranged with new items and information being displayed-well worth a look!

****Please note:** The History Room will not be open May 26 as we will be supporting the Biggest Morning Tea at the Neighbourhood House.



Thank you everyone for your support of the Biggest morning tea on Thursday 26 May.

The school raised \$121.30 for their little biggest morning tea and \$207 was raised at Budja Budja Coop . What a great effort!



BOTANIC GARDEN REPORT

We had a very productive day on Wednesday 11 May. We put in quite a few plants propagated for us by our Pomonal Plant Society partners and managed to burn all the woodpiles without bringing the fire brigade out. We've made a new bed along the main path, and filled in some bare patches in other areas. So well done everyone who helped. It was good to welcome a new young recruit, Heather, who was a great help shifting timber.

Depending on the weather

our new plants may need some watering over the next few weeks, the soil in some beds is remarkably dry. And it will need mowing soon and I suspect the weeds will be taking off too!

Our next working bee is Wednesday 8 June. We start about 9.30 and finish at lunch time. Newcomers are very welcome.

May 29 has been pronounced Botanic Gardens Open Day across Australia.

We in Halls Gap are not doing anything special but many other gardens are having

events. Maybe take a day off and enjoy our peaceful spot or visit another garden somewhere? Melton has a beautiful new garden or closer to home both Hamilton and Horsham have well established gardens.



Right: Bonfire to burn woodpiles.

;Left: Hard at it cleaning up.



WILDLIFE RESCUE TRAINING

HALLS GAP TOWN HALL

BADGAR Founder Donna Zabinaskas will lead you through all aspects of wildlife rescue from birds, to bats, to emus and lizards.

Come along and enjoy the fun.

Date: Sunday July 24th 2016

Cost: \$ 40 Per person. BYO lunch Morning and afternoon tea provided. Notes and CD provided

Time: 8:30am —5:30pm

Phone Pam to register 55774343 or email

wildwoodws@bigpond.com



FROM THE CLASSROOMS OF HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

Earlier this term Halls Gap Primary School's buddy groups created volcanoes out of plastic bottles and newspaper. If you are not aware of what the buddy groups are they are 2-3 student group which includes a senior student and 1 or 2 juniors.

The longest process of this experiment was wrapping the newspaper around the bottle. We got excited when we started painting our volcanoes because we just couldn't wait to erupt our volcanoes. The eruptions lived up to their hypes with the pink and red fake lava exploding out of the small craters. We all had an amazing day.

Every Tuesday after lunch, the whole of Halls gap Primary School goes to petanque (which is a French game) at the piste which is at the Halls Gap cricket oval. This is part of the Sporting Schools program.

A lot of the local Halls Gap petanque group comes down to the piste and teaches all the kids how to play. Plenty of our parents come and help us out too. It really is a cool game and we all love playing the game with our friends. You should get on down there on a Saturday and try it out!

On the 6th of May we had our athletics sports day with Moys-

ton, Concongella, Pomonal and Great Western. The first thing we did was marching. We had been practising for ages for this! After that we split up into age groups to do the individual sports. Everyone did long jump, long distance, sprints and so much more. After the individual sports we did teams events like bob ball and tunnel ball.

At the end when they did presentations it turns out we didn't win the marching but we had some students who had won individual medals, which is great! At the end of the day everyone had a lovely day especially the kids who got lots of ribbons.



HALLS GAP RESIDENT' & RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Our next meeting is on 8th June at the Halls Gap Hall at 7.30.

We talk about local issues affecting us as residents and ratepayers, and try to put wheels in motion to solve them.

Please come along to the meeting if you have any concerns about Halls Gap and surrounds. Everyone is welcome.

FUNNY HA HA.....

**I ONCE WROTE A SONG
ABOUT A TORTILLA. WELL
ACTUALLY, IT WAS ACTUALLY
MORE OF A WRAP....**

WILDLIFE ACTION GROUP

This group came into being after the Community Association expressed concern a

year ago about the frequency with which kangaroos were being fed, especially by

visitors to the oval. Feeding them human food such as bread is bad for their health

and it can make them

more dangerous when they come to expect such handouts

A committee was formed with representatives from ourselves (CAHG), HGRRA,

Halls Gap Tourism, the Recreation C of M, Parks Vic, DELWP, NG Shire and the

Wildlife Shelter. Funds were contributed by

most of these bodies and some rapid

action was taken.

Hopefully you have seen some signs around the village asking people not to feed the

wildlife, including birds. They are in various prominent places including notice

boards, shop windows

**KEEP WILDLIFE
WILD—DO NOT
FEED OR
ENCOURAGE
CLOSE
ENCOUNTERS
WITH WILDLIFE**

MUNICIPAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION PROCESS

Community Consultation Program for Northern Grampians Shire Municipal Fire Management Plan.

The Northern Grampians Shire, together with the Country Fire Authority, the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, and Victoria Police are undertaking a collaborative approach to bushfire planning community consultation.

You are invited to Review the MFMP online and download the feedback form to submit your comments on the plan. You can also attend a Community Session .

Through community information sessions, they seek to address and support the community with any fire planning, preparedness, response and recovery questions or concerns.

The community will be provided an opportunity to review and submit feedback on the Northern Grampians Shire Municipal Fire Management Plan including Community Information Guides.

The Consultation period runs from Tuesday 17 May.

Submissions close:

Sunday 12 June 2016

Community Sessions:

Stawell

Monday 30 May
Stawell Town Hall
Entertainment Centre Foyer
5.00pm to 7.00pm

St Arnaud

Wednesday 1 June
St Arnaud Town Hall
Community Meeting Room
5.00pm to 7.00pm

Halls Gap

Thursday 2 June
Halls Gap Hub
5.00pm to 7.00pm

Review the plan and Download the feedback form at
<http://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au>

Email your submission to john.matthews@ngshire.vic.gov.au

Post Written submissions addressed to:

John Matthews
Northern Grampians Shire Council
PO Box 580, Stawell VIC 3380

PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE

After the retirement of our long standing Ranger in Charge and District Manager Graham Parkes, we recently welcomed Jemma Owen to the South West District Manager role. Jemma is new to Parks Victoria however she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in business and strategy from previous roles in Local, State and Federal government agencies and private sector organisations.

It has been a busy period for school outdoor education programs in the Park. Many Victorian and South Australian schools make the most of Autumn to undertake bushwalking, climbing, canoeing and other camp based activities. While campground maintenance increases during this period, it is great to see so many young students spending time in nature. School camps are the reason many adults return to the Grampians years down the track.

Volunteers from a number of school groups have been busy assisting with sallow wattle removal in the northern Grampians and vegetation management at Mt Christobelle in the Southern Grampians. We have also had a host of volunteers assisting with GPT Trail alignment scoping. Thanks you all!

GPT

Work recently commenced on Stage Two of the GPT with the upgrade of the Piccaninny walking track in the Southern Grampians. 1.4KM of existing track is being improved to provide better drainage, more robust track surfacing and will involve the construction of a new sections of stone

steps. This work is anticipated to be complete by mid-June.

Ground-truthing of the proposed trail alignment is almost complete thanks to the assistance of track design specialists, walking clubs and experienced park staff. Taking the trail from concept to reality is quite complex and establishing the route on ground is no easy task. There have been many kilometres spent in thick scrub, scaling rocky outcrops and trialling different routes. The next phase is to undertake detailed environmental and cultural assessments of the planned route. As a result of these assessments there might be further tweaking of the alignment.

Fire Recovery

Parks Victoria met recently with Heritage Victoria to present recovery options for the Blue, Green and Orange cottages at Zumsteins. The next phase involves applying for permits to undertake work on the heritage listed cottages and further community consultation will occur to finalise the methods to restore or prevent further degradation of the cottages.

MacKenzie Falls is in line for a major upgrade in the wake of recent fires and floods and in response to an increasing surge of visitation to the site. We will focus our planning around new and improved Traffic management, car parking, Site orientation and pedestrian flow, as well as improved outcomes for people with accessibility challenges. Providing quality open space for recreation, space for pop up commercial

operators and improved interpretation is also high on the wishlist.

Stapylton Campground is getting closer to being finalised. Contractors continue to install campground furniture such as fencing and bollards, while behind the scenes information for signage and the online booking system is being completed.

The Sallow Wattle mechanical trial works are nearing completion. A few final sites will be mulched in the coming weeks near Roses Gap.

Goat management activities will be continuing throughout the Mt Difficult Range over the coming months. The program is all located within the closed fire affected area of the Mt Difficult Range however we would like to remind all locals and visitors to remain clear of this operational area at all times until safely reopened. Information on the program is available by calling Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap 5361 4000.

Alignment planning for the reinstatement of the Mt Difficult overnight walking network has begun. Works on the Briggs Bluff walking track have commenced and further planning is being considered for the location of bush camps throughout the range.

FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

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

Bill Carlyon
Is turning 90 on the 17th of June!
Come and have a light lunch or arvo cuppa to celebrate with him at
5 Mackeys Pk Rd.
Halls Gap.
From 11.30 onwards on
SATURDAY JUNE 18TH
No presents thank you.
RSVP/Enquire (would be
Most helpful) to
Pam 0409 615 042 or
June/Bill on 5356 4378.

GRAMPIANS BIOLINK PLANTOUTS—ARE YOU IN???

Are you interested in learning new skills and helping our local environment? Conservation Volunteers Australia and Parks Victoria are working with an assortment of Landcare groups to assist landholders with tree planting this winter and we need your help with between the 27th of June and the 12th of July.

The Grampians to Pyrenees (G2P) Biolink will protect and link key habitats across the south western extreme of the Great Dividing Range,

aim to increase carbon stores and improve connectivity between the Grampians and the Pyrenees Ranges for a variety of nationally threatened species.

There are over 6000 plants to go in the ground at 6 properties so if you are interested in helping out please contact Caity O'Reilly at coreilly@cva.org.au or phone 0428 553 040.

