

Issue: May 2018

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

WRAP UP...

Whoo-hoo! How was everyone's hangovers after the Grape Escape? What a weekend! Super busy crowds, great wine and food, brilliant presenters and fantastic music... We even managed to dodge the rain! Speaking of rain we finally got some decent falls—even our first snowfall. Where did Autumn go?? Hope you all have your firewood stocked for winter...It's set to be a cold one. Rug up xx

STATS BY CHAS... April 2018 Rainfall

A very disappointing month with 35mm being recorded bringing the progressive total for the year to 99 mm. This compares to the same period last year of 117 mm for April with a progressive total of 206 mm.

As of the 25th of April Lake Bellfield is holding 62,020 ML or 79% full compared to the same period last year of 64,490 ML or 82% full. The total system is holding 261,700 ML or 46.71% full compared to the same period last year of 298,047 ML or 53.19% full.

As of the 30th of April Mount William has received 61 mm of rain compared to the same period last year of 129 mm. The highest temperature of 26.1 C was recorded on the 11th of April and the lowest of 1.9 C was recorded on the 17th of April. The highest wind speed of 104 km/h was recorded on the 14th of April.

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FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



gwangal moronn

season of honey bees - autumn
(late march to june)

Sunrises, Bees and Flocking Birds
Autumn (the season of native
honey bees or gwangal moronn) is
when the country starts to cool
down after the summer heat.

Step back in time... Anyone recognise these faces???

Some younger, current Halls Gap residents



HALLS GAP RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

SCHOOL ROAD PLANS

What a great Primary School we have in Halls Gap, with record numbers of students enrolled and all of them enjoying a clean environment with fresh air and the only pollution being the call of the Currawongs and Kookaburras.

However that could be about to change forever if one of the options for traffic flow is adopted in the new town centre development plans.

One of the proposals (and it is not yet adopted) is to widen School Road and make it the main traffic thoroughfare for the Halls Gap township.

If this option is adopted it would mean all traffic would then pass right past the school every day. That means cars, caravans, trucks of all persuasion would be creating noise, air pollution and a safety risk to the children. The plan would install safety barriers for pedestrians but this will not eliminate the noise and pollution.

The saying goes something like this “bad things happen when a few good people do nothing”

So it's up to all residents to have their say on this proposal **NOW**. If you agree with it, then fine, allow School Road to be converted, but remember the predicted growth in tourism is about to be exponential over the few years according to the tourism bodies.

There are alternatives that can be considered, however there is a greater expense involved so you may think we need to wait until they can be afforded.

Then there is the Caravan Park where people have come for years to enjoy sitting beside School Road and enjoying the scenery as well as the peace and quiet. If the proposal does go ahead, the caravanners and campers will now have traffic outside their camp site, day and night. The sheep trucks, which travel through Halls Gap in the middle of the night and early hours of the morning, will really make them enjoy their stay, not to mention the already noted pollution from exhausts. So it's up to you.

If you oppose the idea of developing School Road, then **DO SOMETHING**, don't sit around mumbling at your navel.

Hopefully petitions will be organised for those who oppose the change to School Road, but don't wait for that, get moving and write a letter to Cr. Jason Hosemans (hand written/typed/emails). Hopefully he won't mind me providing his email address, Cr.jason.hosemans@ngshire.vic.gov.au.

Please feel free to copy me, so that I can pass it on with any petitions and present them to the Halls Gap Residents and Ratepayers Association, at our next meeting on June 7.

Paul Turner- peturner@bigpond.net.au

As I understand it, there will be a Council meeting on the 30th June to finalise all thoughts and ideas, so don't hang back

Paul Turner—President HGRRA



HALLS GAP CFA

The Halls Gap CFA works with other emergency organisations to respond to various emergencies. Recent activity throughout the Easter period included support to Police, CERT and SES at several car accidents. When attending such accidents the CFA focuses on vehicle immobilisation, the possibility of fire, washing and cleaning of road surfaces and support to other agencies which includes activities such as traffic control.



The Halls Gap Brigade is looking to recruit new members. Continuing to build the brigade and to replace members who have relocated is critical in ensuring that the brigade can respond to emergency callouts within Halls Gap and surrounding areas. The brigade currently has 24 members – six non fire-fighters and 20 fire-fighters. Of this 20, there are approximately 12 active fire-fighters. To fully load both trucks in an emergency the brigade needs 10 fire-fighters to respond. Not all CFA volunteers need to be fire-fighters, so people interested in communications, education, maintenance and/or administration are also welcome. Anyone interested should contact Peter Hilbig (Acting Captain) on 0437 524 716.

With the fire restrictions coming to a close please continue to check the rules re burning off on the CFA website. A useful link for what can and can't be done is -

https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/documents/20143/80821/Can_I_or_Cant_I_brochure_nov_2016.pdf/5e14373f-e64d-3676-bb7b-2685a831a5f8

Every two years each CFA brigade elects a new leadership team. Halls Gap members are advised the Annual General Meeting for this purpose will be held at the Fire Station at 7:00 pm on Wednesday 13 June. A dinner commencing at 6.00pm will be held prior to the meeting.

Did you replace your smoke alarm batteries when daylight saving finished at the end of March?

Judy Hilbig.

SKATE PARK?

Are you interested in a Skate park or 'Bump' park in Halls Gap?

A meeting was held last Tuesday May 1, to discuss its feasibility and to determine if there are sufficient volunteers who are willing to propel this idea forward.



Pleasingly, the meeting was well attended and a group of keen locals are going to meet to gather ideas of designs and costing to see if this is a feasible idea. There is certainly a lot of interest!

LANDCARE

WEED ALERT-WEED OF THE MONTH (A SILENT KILLER!)

This pretty but deadly plant is also known as English laurel or common laurel, cherry laurel.



This is somewhat a boring small **tree/large hedge** one which you would not take as a killer. But it's always the ones you least suspect I guess! It is commonly used as a hedging, specimen or border **plant**. Ingesting any part of the **poisonous plant**, especially the leaves or seeds, can cause potentially fatal respiratory problems.

But why is such a tree an environmental hazard? Besides its deadliness it is quick to spread and to grow. It is spread by birds and other animals into native forests, where it shades out and replaces native species, reduces biodiversity and degrades the habitat available to native fauna. Its berry-like fruit also attract aggressive birds like the introduced common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) and the native pied currawong (*Strepera graculina*).



So we suggest you kill it before it kills you, and don't go about planting it!



BOTANIC GARDEN

For May we are adding an extra working-bee date as we have found that our Wednesday date clashes with other events in HG. So do join us on May 9 at the garden. We hope to do some planting and burning as well as the usual weeding and mulching.

It is still not too late to join up to become a Friend of the Botanical Garden. It costs only \$50 for families or \$100 for businesses. For this you will get a charming certificate for your fridge or your front desk. If you are interested please ring or email 0429 201 139 margo@sietsma.com

WILDFLOWER SHOW

This year is our 80th birthday, and we have some big plans! We are fortunate to again have the amazingly talented textile artist Lynn Stone as our artist in residence. Our small team are working on plans for other interesting art displays and an art competition for the children on the theme of Pollination -how flowers turn into seeds, bees of course, wasps, ants, birds, and wind. More details later. We have printed our flyers and will have some at the Grape Escape and to distribute to accommodation places. Our next planning meeting is on July 17 at 2,30pm in the HG Hall. All welcome.

Please remember that we have changed the date of the Wildflower Show. It will be held on the **29th-30th September** which is the **last weekend** of September (instead of the first weekend of October.) Accommodation owners please inform any guests booking at that time of the year.

FRIENDS OF GRAMPIANS GARIWERD

Our April activity was a fascinating talk by Ian Clarke on Bunyips and Bunjil. It was a most interesting talk and enjoyed by a large audience. We have put a link to Ian's work on our website:

<http://friendsofgrampiansgariwerd.org.au>

Our **May** activity will be a working bee at the Red Gum walk down in the Victoria Valley. Come along and help us repair this flat and easy path as the forest recovers from the fire of 2006. **May 12 from 10 am.**



Join Pomonal Progress Group for an evening of fun and excitement as we try to break a Guinness World Record! This free community event will include a live screening of *Stargazing Live with Brian Cox*. Food stalls will be available at this event to purchase dinner and a gold coin donation will be requested on the evening to cover costs of organising the event.

Adam & Pep at **Pomonal Estate** are hosting **"Stargazing" Night** on **Wednesday 23rd May** for a Guinness book of records event.

Details on attached link.

<http://www.space.com/40351-world-record-australia-skygazing-event-2018.html>

Pomonal Primary will also use the night as a fundraiser event for their school offering a bbq. Telescopes can be pre-purchased for \$6.50 at the following website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/pomonal-progress-association-star-party-tickets-45132142453>



7.00pm: Event registration / Telescope collection

8.00pm: Stargazing Live broadcast commences

(World Record attempt will take place between 8.00pm and 9.00pm)

10.00pm: Event concludes

HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

FROM THE CLASSROOMS OF HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

Space is our theme this term! We are learning lots of new and interesting facts about the planets, the solar system, night and day, astronauts, the space station all things space! In fact, we have just had a whole day dedicated to this topic. We got to work with our buddies and do Space related art, maths, writing and science activities. It was a terrific day, although our rockets didn't quite go off as planned.

We had 5 students go to Black Ranges Cross Country in St Arnaud. They had a fantastic day and ran their hearts out. It's a very different atmosphere than running with our cluster friends around the Halls Gap track. Some of our students were nervous and hadn't been to an event like this before. Well done to Alice, Arlo, Flynn, Bailey and Miles for making it to that level.



Once again, Chas conducted his "low key" ANZAC day dawn service. Tilly laid the wreath on behalf of the Halls Gap Primary School community. Our aim is to remember those that have served or are serving and to share these memories with future generations. It is a credit to the community that the number of locals attending this event is growing.



If you were in Halls Gap over the Easter weekend, we hope you got the opportunity to call in to the market at the school, say hi to the students selling raffle tickets and buy an egg and bacon roll. It was a huge market and we are very thankful to all of our parent volunteers, our patrons and stallholders. Schools rely heavily on fundraising and our markets are growing bigger and bigger. We hope you can come and visit our next market in June on the Queen's Birthday long weekend.



COMMUNITY WEBSITE TRAINING

We had a good session teaching people how to navigate our website last month. We taught how to add events or information to our community website, www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au

Do you use it to get information? Is there interest in repeating the session?

We encourage more folk to be better acquainted with the website and to use it as a way of promoting local content to our community.

In using it you will also help us by pointing out errors and current omissions! If you are interested please contact Lee Anne at Budja Budja on 53564751 so we can arrange a time.

Don't forget—Run the Gap 27.05.18

7am start

Breakfast available

Support 0475 862 995

Monique 0400 113 218



Email: support@runthegap.com.au

Parks Victoria Update

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



Healthy Parks
Healthy People

Here's a very brief summary of what has been a super busy April—May period.... For a full update go to our website.

It was all hands-on deck over the busy Easter and Victorian and South Australian School holiday period in the Grampians. High visitor numbers saw every campsite booked out weeks in advance and popular day visitor areas were brimming with families and international visitors.

Luckily there were minimal callouts for emergencies and antisocial visitor behaviour, unfortunately though, there were loads of unattended campfires, rubbish and people ignoring signage - such as 'no dogs permitted in National Parks', 'no entering the Balconies and Boroka lookout rock platforms' and 'no swimming at Mackenzie Falls'. Compliance interviews were conducted at the Balconies for visitors climbing over barriers and fines may be issued.

Park Operations

Telstra is trialling a reception tower at Mackenzie Falls which is increasing reception in zones around the popular visitor site. A landline will also be trialled. A decision will be made in the coming months as to which option is the most appropriate for safety and emergency communication.

Fire access road repairs will be undertaken in the coming months on key access roads and once the rain begins to fall, grading is scheduled to continue. Be aware of heavy machinery operating throughout the park. Check for road access on our website.

Fire and Flood Recovery

A number of fire and flood recovery projects are scheduled to begin by the end of the financial year. This will include Coppermine bush camp redevelopment, Golton Gorge walking track redevelopment, the new Dead Bullock Creek campground, Longpoint west hikers camp, Briggs Bluff realignment and Ngamadjidj Art shelter redevelopment.

Access to nature for all is a vital part of life... So we are planning a few projects that will improve the opportunities for people with mobility limitations to get in touch with nature. Combined with our Trailrider and volunteer Sherpa program, seeing that waterfall or reaching that lookout may soon be a lot easier. Stay tuned...

If conditions permit, planned burning operations will continue as per the Fire operations Plan for the Grampians. Check the emergency Vic App for notifications or sign up via DELWP planned burn notification system. Check our website for closures or call Brambuk for further information 5361 4000.

Staff movements

We welcomed Chris Washusen to the Visitor and Community Team last week as our first Grampians Peaks Trail Walking Track Ranger. Originally from Victoria, Chris has been working as a Ranger in the Northern Territory for the past few years and will no doubt need to acclimatise back to Victoria's chilly winter weather.

GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

There are a number of projects being planned or delivered as stage two of the Peaks trail ramps up including vegetation removal along the new trail alignments, Salt Creek works in Dunkeld, Mt Christabel revegetation and building removal and interpretation and experience planning with traditional owners. For further GPT project information you can read the latest GPT community update at:

<https://www.visitgrampians.com.au/what-to-do/grampians-peaks-trail>

Volunteer in Parks—via Parkconnect

Become a registered park volunteer and connect with hundreds of park activities and groups right across the state. Our next program is the June long weekend campground host and walking track program...

Or register your volunteer group or working bee at:

<https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/>

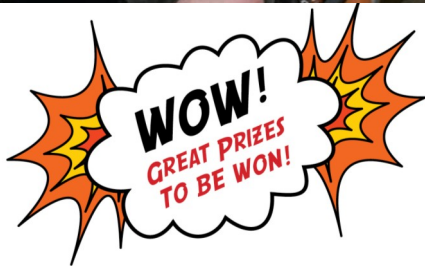


Bring
the whole
family!

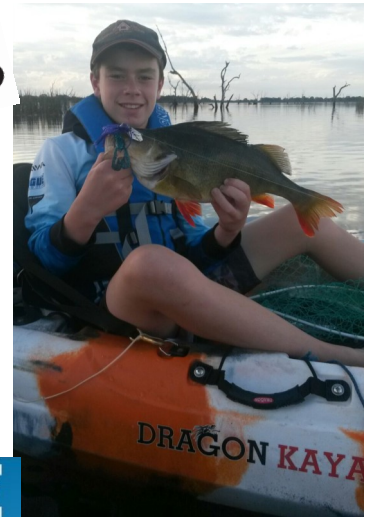


Get Hooked

it's **BBQ** Time!



FILLET TABLE



LAKE FYANS KAYAK FISHING TOURNAMENT

Stawell & District Angling Club

VENUE: Lake Fyans—Kellies Beach Road

DATES: 19th & 20th May 2018

TOURNAMENT TIMES: 7:00am until 1:00pm Daily

COST: Senior = \$15.00 P/person Junior = \$5.00 P/Person

- All anglers need to have valid fishing licences and must wear appropriate PFD whilst participating.
- **NO MOTORS ALLOWED!!**

REGISTRATIONS: Open from 5:00pm until 7:00pm on Friday 18th May 2018 and from 5:00am on Saturday 19th May 2018

CONTACT PERSON: Neal Dowsett on 0407 350 640

ON SITE CAMPING: Limited sites available - please book early by

Kayak Fishing Competition at Lake Fyans -Family Fun Day

Saturday May 19th 7am-1pm & Sunday May 20th 7am -1pm

\$10 Camping fee

Raffle table Junior and senior prizes



Pomonal Primary School will be cooking a bbq and selling drinks. (All proceeds of the event goes to Pomonal PS)



HOST Lee-Anne Lovett, Budja Budja Neighbourhood House

DATE Tuesday 22nd May 2018

TIME 10.30am to 12pm

WHERE Budja Budja Neighbourhood House

DETAILS Bring a plate and a donation and catch up with friends

Come along and be part of
AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA!



An Invitation to all Volunteers in our community:



You are invited to join other volunteers from organisations and groups in the Northern Grampians Shire to celebrate

National Volunteers Week.

The combined event will be a celebration of the enormous contribution that volunteers make to our community in their organisations, groups and clubs.

You will hear from inspiring local guest speakers, be entertained and have the opportunity to meet other volunteers.

Details of this celebration are listed below; we look forward to you joining us.

When: Thursday 24th of May, 2018

Time: 5.00pm to 7.00pm.
Welcome and guest speakers from 6.00pm

Where: Stawell Powerhouse, 42 Sloane Street Stawell (next to Cato Lake)

Cost: Free event, light supper provided

RSVP: To the person who sent you this invitation in your organisation, group or club to Lisa.Gillard@ngshire.vic.gov.au or phone 5358 0725.

Give a little. Change a lot.

There will be people there on the night to answer your questions about the Child Safe Standards. They can also help you apply for a Working with Children's check right there and then.

This event is organised by a working group made up of staff from Stawell Regional Health, Grampians Community Health, Stawell Neighbourhood House, Northern Grampians Shire, Eventide Homes and The Centre for Participation.



STAWELL ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE



**AME
SYSTEMS**



**NORTHERN
Grampians
SHIRE COUNCIL**



Specsavers

From the creators
of "Cabaret" & "Chicago",
proudly presented by
Ararat Musical Comedy Society
and featuring a live band:

CURTAINS

**A MURDER
MYSTERY
MUSICAL
COMEDY**



**@ THE STAWELL
ENTERTAINMENT
CENTRE**

(Town Hall, Main St, Stawell)

For further information,
ring 0439 81197
or 0438 282008

TICKETS

2018 DATES

www.araratmusicalcomedysociety.com

FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

Lee-Anne, Margo, Jenny and
Tammy

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

leeannel@budjabudjacoop.org.au

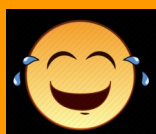
Upload your community events
details to the Community
Association webpage:

www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au

Like our Halls Gap Community
Association Facebook Page

Like our Halls Gap Community
Watch and Events Facebook Page

Can a kangaroo jump
higher than a house?



Of course, a house doesn't jump at all.

BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC

20-22 Grampians Road, Halls Gap 3381

PH: 03 53564751 www.budjabudjacoop.org.au

OPEN 4 DAYS NOW!



Schedule May 2018

1,2,3,4	Dr Susan Watson
8,9,10,11	Dr Susan Watson
15,16,17,18	Dr Diana Jefferies
22,23,24,25	Dr Diana Jefferies

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BEFORE THE FLU GETS YOU**
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DIABETES EDUCATION NURSE

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EDUCATION NURSE * MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH NURSE

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.