

Issue: November 2016

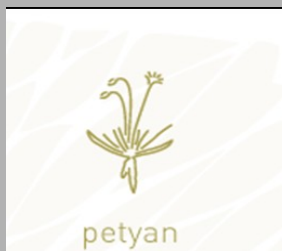
# FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association  
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

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## FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



### Petyan... Season of Wildflowers—Late Spring

(Late August until Mid November)

In Spring the bush bursts into life. Nature's rock Gardens amaze.

The days are warmer, although the weather can still be tempestuous.

## WILL THE RAINFALL CONTINUE OR WILL THE SUN COME OUT TO STAY

So the tempestuous weather of Petyan is totally kicking in.... Strong winds, heavy rainfall, sunshine, clouds, hail and fog... and that's all on a good day!!

While the decent rainfall has filled dams and waterfalls and provided a boom year for plants and animals it has also brought about challenges for access to paddocks and tracks, and visitors to the area; unaware of the lethally boggy soils of our red gum and Stringybark forests....

Lets hope the next few weeks bring some drying weather, sunshine and happy days.

Thanks to everyone that has contributed to this month's newsletter.. Its a bumper read.

Don't forget if you are submitting an article we would really appreciate it as a word document or simple email to aid our formatting needs.

Thanks everyone and happy reading.

## LOOKING BACK...

*Recognise these young school faces? Circa 1998??*

*Faces from July's Issue... Back Row L-R—Takara Morgan, Matthew Smith, Phillip Rethus, Ned Leithead. Front Row L-R—Maggie Smith, Matthew Smith, Tya Lovett, Tom Parkes.*

## October 2016 - Rainfall by Chas

A good rainfall for October with 161 mm being recorded bringing the progressive total to 1158 mm.

This compares to the same period last year of 2 mm for October with a progressive total of 689.5 mm.

As of the 26th of October Lake Bellfield is holding 71,000 ML or 90% full compared to the same period last year of 52,060 ML or 66% full. The total system is holding 370,000 ML or 66.44 % full. This compares to the same period last year of 171,930 ML or 30.87% full.

Mount William recorded 225 mm for October compared to the same period last year of 11.4 mm. The maximum temperature of 19.4 C was recorded on the 25th of October and the minimum of - 1.7 C was recorded on the 31st October.



## BOTANIC GARDENS

It has been most rewarding to see how many tourists have been taking time to explore the garden this last month. We had put so much work into getting it ready for our Wildflower walkabout and it is looking really good. Do go and look at our flowers and the new sculptures by Renata and Barry. We are happy for you to walk your dogs there, but please clean up after them, and remember they can't continue on to Venus Baths.

Our next working bee is Friday December 14th from 9.30 am.

*Many of our plants have labels thanks to Joy O'Brien.*

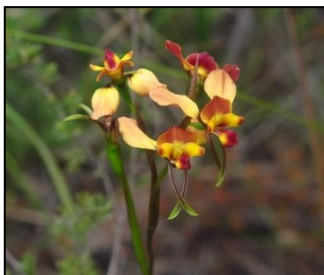


## FRIENDS OF GARIWERD GRAMPIANS

Friend of Grampians Gariwerd joined in Lake Pyans centenary celebrations in October by taking some hardy souls out to enjoy the wildflowers in the rain. So many beautiful orchids, lilies and myrniong in flower, plus the fascinating tiny trigger plants. Lake Pyans is a special place to many of us and it is such a joy to see it full, and all the surrounding wetlands too. The foreshore areas will continue to have new flower displays as the weather warms.



Our next activity is our AGM on November 19 when we will meet at Borough Huts at 10 am and look at part of the Grampians Peaks Trail.



*Searching for Ground dwelling Orchids and trigger plants*



## CERT CALLOUTS

Your Community Emergency Response Team were Called out 13 times in October, slightly more than our monthly average of 10.

There was 1 motor vehicle accident, 3 people injured while walking in the National Park, 1 diabetic emergency, 1 patient unable to move because of lower back trauma and 7 people having breathing difficulties. Only 1 of the calls was in the middle of the night, so if you see us in the street there is proof we have been getting our beauty sleep.

Happily the training of 7 new Halls Gap recruits is going well and we hope they will be joining the team

## BENDIGO COMMUNITY BANK



**Proudly supporting  
our community**

The community of Halls Gap has an exciting opportunity to be part of the highly successful Bendigo Community bank initiative.

It is envisaged that a Halls Gap Community Bank will be a great way to support both personal and business banking needs and generate a reliable source of funding for community development initiatives—such as skate parks, fitness equipment, bike paths, gardens, art spaces individual or group achievements and more....

A steering committee of interested locals has been developed and the group will begin working through business planning and fundraising options for the bank.

If you are interested in investing, switching banks, being part of the committee or have suggestions for community based initiatives please get in touch with Tammy Schoo ph 0428 790 783 or Scott Olsen.

## HALLS GAP CFA



In readiness for the coming fire season, the Halls Gap Fire

Brigade is hosting a community bushfire safety session. The brigade encourages all community members to attend.

### The program will include:

- The bushfire risk in your local area
- Fire danger ratings and what they mean for you
- Warnings and how to receive them quickly
- Personal safety and how you can survive a bushfire.

For further information, please contact CFA West Region Office on 5329 5510 or refer to CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) for details of other meetings in your area.

### Session details:

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November

7.00 pm.

Halls Gap Fire Station

78 Grampians Rd, Halls Gap.

A free BBQ provided at 6.00pm.

Judy Hilbig

Halls Gap Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

## PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE

The Grampians has certainly had a wet spring this year. So far, rainfall totals are up around 1100mm and that means many park roads and tracks have been very wet. There are still some road closures in place where road surfacing, culvert and crossing repairs are required, and seasonal track closures have been extended at this stage until November 19th to allow lower lying tracks to dry out.

We've had some significant orchid finds in our reserves this spring including *Caladenia audasii*, *Caladenia fulva* and *Pterostylis despectans*.



Preparations are in place for the summer with the commencement of Project Fire Fighters. Along with six returnee PFF's this year we have three new recruits. Crews will be busy with training initially and will begin programs such as fire access track clearing and maintenance, vegetation slashing, road grading, fire dam access and monitoring and planned burn preparation works.

The weekend of November 26/27<sup>th</sup> will see the Great Victorian Bike ride start in Halls Gap. To cater for riders, the Grampians Tourist road (to Dunkeld) will be closed to one lane (south - north access only) between 06:42am – 12:36pm on 27<sup>th</sup> November. There will be no access to the south (Dunkeld) Between Bellfield and Mirrinatwa rd. Road detours and closures will be in place and access to a number of visitor sites including campgrounds will be limited between these hours. Further detail will be available closer to the date.



Healthy Parks  
Healthy People

It was extremely disappointing to see graffiti at Hollow Mountain recently. The matter has been referred to police and the perpetrators have apparently been found. We will work through options to remove the graffiti using appropriate techniques.



### Fire Recovery

Fire recovery crews recently completed track reinstatement works in the Briggs Bluff area, reopening the popular but challenging day walk to visitors. The official fire closure remains in place for the rest of the Mt Difficult Range. See the Grampians National Park 'change of conditions' page at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) for further detail.

Construction works continue on the roofing for the Orange cottage at Mackenzie Falls. Further heritage planning continues for the restoration works on all cottages.

Reeds Lookout recently received a facelift with a reseal of the carpark. Line marking and signage is to follow. Planning is underway for interpretive signage and trail head features. Maintenance works have been undertaken on the balconies walking track, but further drainage work is required.

Preliminary concept designs have been created for the Mackenzie Falls Redevelopment. There will be an opportunity for the community to provide feedback at a community meeting on Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Halls Gap Hub.

## GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

Construction activity continues on sections of pre-existing tracks that sit on the Grampians Peaks Trail alignment in the Stapylton and Mt Abrupt areas.

Contracts have been signed with two businesses in the region for off-site fabrication of metal boardwalks that will be installed on the Mt William summit early in 2017.

Design consultants have recently completed concept designs for the 12 new trailheads (car parks that link to the Grampians Peaks trail). These will be used to estimate the costs for their construction.

Environmental assessments are being undertaken along alignments in the southern section of the walk, particularly from the edge of the National Park into the Visitor Information Centre in Dunkeld township. This section passes through open paddocks and important riparian woodland so flora and fauna studies are important considerations.

## Mackenzie Falls Visitor Precinct Design Community Information Drop In Session



Parks Victoria along with Glenn Berrill from Thompson Berrill Landscape Design would welcome the opportunity to share our preliminary concepts with you and provide the opportunity to discuss and explore the future of the MacKenzie Falls Visitor Precinct.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Open 4 - 7pm**  
**Location Halls Gap Hub**  
**117 Grampians Road, Halls Gap**

## HALLS GAP JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

There was something in the air last weekend that was seen in the street as people greeted each other with big smiles and hugs and an anticipation that put a spring in the step. Though the participants had to rug up against the cold air the atmosphere was warm and welcoming and the tourists from all over the world who were here to enjoy springtime in the Grampians were given a lovely bonus that will ensure they remember their Halls Gap holiday.

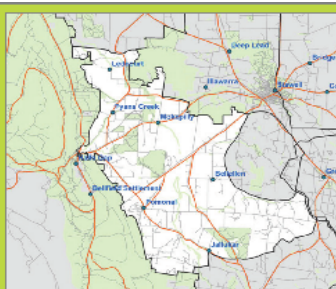
The first Halls Gap Jazz Blues Festival kicked off in the evening of Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> Oct with bands playing in 6 venues.



The Town Centre Hub was the centre of activity where registrations took place, a bar was run and the area buzzed with outdoor tootling, singing voices and the rhythm of musical instruments of all sizes and shapes. The crowds particularly enjoyed the cosy atmosphere of the indoor venues and the intimate closeness to the performers, with interactive fun spontaneously erupting.

Followers had their favourite bands to enjoy and there was a great variety of musical styles. What made this festival different from the previous jazz festivals in Halls Gap was the introduction of Blues bands. The Blues originated from African American gospel songs after the Civil War, so there was a mixed feel of soul and folk as well. The bands varied from quiet and soothing, vampy and upbeat to a wild and vivacious latin & funk style. Vocalists sang the stories of life and had the audiences spell-bound. Quote for the weekend "If everyone would just listen to Jazz and Blues we would solve the world's problems"

What a wonderful contribution the many volunteers made to the success of this Festival without them, such a magnificent event would never happen! If you didn't get to this Halls Gap Jazz & Blues Festival, save next October's date for 2017 in your diaries."



JALLUKAR LANDCARE MAP

*"The Jallukar region is ideal, being species rich, with open grassy woodlands and many interested and knowledgeable locals,"*  
Jess Gardner, Greening Australia

## BE A PART OF THE JALLUKAR NATIVE GRASSLAND PROJECT

Would you like to attend workshops, volunteer for seed collection or become a **SEED MENTOR**?

Jallukar Landcare and Greening Australia are partnering to establish a native grassland project. Funds to set up the project have been provided by the Wimmera Regional Community Grants program and Sunshine Foundation.

The aim is to increase **community involvement** with Jallukar Landcare activities and **local skills** in seed identification, collection and propagation and to ultimately **restore native grasslands** in the Jallukar Landcare region.

Project stages include

1. Bus trip to Chatsworth seedbank site - Oct
2. Workshops in identification and collection - Nov-Dec
3. Site identification, seed collection and cataloguing - Nov-Jan
4. Propagation - 2017
5. Mass propagation, harvesting and sowing mid 2017 onwards



If you already belong to

- Jallukar Landcare
- Australian Plant Society
- WAMA volunteers

you will receive email updates and notifications of workshops and events via those groups.

For any others that are interested, please email [Ange Turrell](mailto:ange.turrell@gmail.com) [ange.turrell@gmail.com](mailto:ange.turrell@gmail.com) and we will add you to the database

## NEWS FROM THE HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Thursday the 6th of October 2016 Halls Gap School went to Clematis Falls. It was good day to go for a walk and we all had lots and lots of fun. The water was splashing on everyone and everyone was laughing. The teachers took lots of pictures we saw mountain goats and an echidna, we clapped and the goats ran and away. Then we walked back to school and it was about time to go home.

On the last week of Term 3 we went to Melbourne for 4 days for camp. We stayed in Belgravia in Footscray. The first day we went to the Eureka Sky Deck, then we went to dinner at Blue Train. After we went to see the flames that shoot up from the Crown Casino. On the second day we went to the Melbourne Zoo and that night we had spaghetti bolognese.



On the third day we went to the Jurassic World Exhibition, after that we went to explore the Melbourne Museum. For dinner we went to a pub/restaurant. The last day we came back to Halls Gap and started to relax! We all had a wonderful time it was a really great camp.

On the 16th of September we were all very excited for Footy Colours Day and the school holidays. The footy session started with a competitive trivia and we had plenty of winners. We then went outside and did some fun footy drills including goal kicking, handballing and passing. We were all extremely lucky there was no rain. We then finished off with some delicious hotdogs. It was a great day.

On Thursday the 13th of October we had cheese toasties for lunch. A couple of days before Miss Wilkinson went to Neighbourhood House in Stawell and they gave us bread and fruit.

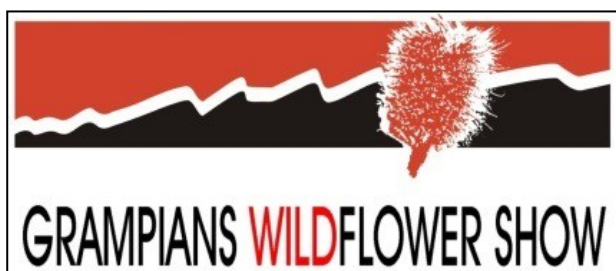
In late Term 3 Halls Gap Primary School was extremely lucky to get new sports equipment. The sports equipment includes cricket equipment, netballs, soccer balls and much more. The students are very excited and using them all the time.

On Friday the 14th of October we were all proud of our student Isobel as she was competing in the Regional Athletics in Ballarat, Isobel was in the 10/11-year-old girls 1500m run. First she had to qualify at the Black Ranges Athletics, which were postponed three times due to all the bad weather. So we were all very excited to see her run again.

These last few months we have been competing in the Young Archie Awards. Everyone competed in the competition the Prep to Two were in one age group and the Three to Sixes were in another. We have five finalists Barney Baker and Danikah Harman from the Prep to Two age group and Marissa Kelsey, Barnaby Beckley and Isobel Erkelens from the Three to Six group. The results will be announced in Ballarat soon we are all excited to see the results.



We have begun practising for the 2016 School Concert, we are all very enthusiastic about it. Our themes are Christmas and Summer. We are doing songs as a school and some of the Y5-6 are doing a play. If you want to come the concert it is on the 15th of December at the Halls Gap Hall at 7pm. We will be running a raffle at the front of the hall. But general admission is free.



The Grampians Wildflower Walkabout was enjoyed by nearly 300 people as well as those that enjoyed the guided tours and walks which happened over the first weekend of October. The event was met with great enthusiasm for all those that attended.

Over 82 wildflower species were exhibited with many that are endemic that occur here and nowhere else in the world. This is a great introduction to the uniqueness of our flora that are truly indigenous and not cultivars for gardens. A variety of activities were available for wildflower enthusiasts and for those who simply enjoy the beauty of nature, to get up close and personal with the flowers, plants and fauna of the area. Comments were made such as "This is what we want to see and hear about when we come to the Grampians." "This so accessible I don't have to walk for miles and days to see these species."

"I have learnt so much today thank you".



The walkabout activities are based at the Halls Gap Centenary Hall with a comprehensive labelled display of flowers that are indigenous to the Grampians, as well as wildflower based art and craft displays by local artists and a children's corner. Devonshire teas were also available. The show also gave visitors a chance to see plants in the 'wild' with guided walks through the Halls Gap Botanical Garden and tagalong car tours to wildflower and orchid hotspots.

An enthusiastic (but small) group of locals worked hard to present this iconic event as part of the Halls Gap calendar again this year. We have group members with extensive botanical knowledge, so plant identification, collection and labelling is managed. A great big thank you to all those who supported and promoted this local happening. A substantial amount of money was raised for our community as well providing such enjoyment for locals and visitors.



## BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC

20-22 GRAMPIANS ROAD, HALLS GAP



NOVEMBER 2016	DECEMBER 2016	JANUARY 2017
Dr Susan Lewis 2,3,4 Susan Lewis 8,9,10 Dr Diana Jefferies 15,16,17,18 Dr Diana Jefferies 22,23,24,25 Dr Diana Jefferies 29,30, 1, 2	Dr Susan Watson 6,7,8 Susan Watson 13,14,15 Dr Diana Jefferies 20, 21,22	TBA 3.4.5 Dr Diana Jefferies 10,11,12,13 Dr Diana Jefferies 17,18,19,20 Dr Susan Lewis 24,25,26

## Top tips to LiveLighter

- 1 Watch your portion size**
- 2 Avoid sugary drinks**
- 3 Sit less**
- 4 Cut back on salt**
- 5 Cut back on alcohol**
- 6 Watch the fats you eat**
- 7 Go for 2 fruit and 5 veg**
- 8 Cut back on sugar**
- 9 Choose healthy snacks**
- 10 Be active every day**

For more information

[www.livelighter.com.au](http://www.livelighter.com.au)

Live\_Lighter



@Live\_Lighter


**Ambulance  
Victoria**

Ambulance Victoria responds to over 800,000 calls for medical help from Victorians every year. That is over 2,200 calls a day. Emergency medical transport services are not free and not covered by Medicare. Become a genuine Ambulance Victoria member and be protected against the cost of transport and treatment by paramedics.

**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 1 year \$89.80**

**SINGLE MEMBERSHIP 1 year \$44.90**

People holding Pension or Health Care Concession Cards are eligible for free clinically necessary ambulance transport.

**HOW TO JOIN**

**Phone:** call 1800 64 84 84 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm & Sat 9am-5pm) and pay over the phone using your credit card or provide your bank account details.

**Online:** [Join Now](#) and pay via credit card or provide your bank account details to set up a direct debit payment.

**Australia Post:** Download a [Membership Application Form](#) or call 1800 64 84 84 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm & Sat 9am-5pm) to request an application form be sent to you. Complete the application form and pay over the counter at any Australia Post branch. You can pay by cash, cheque, credit card or EFTPOS.

**Mail:** Send your application form with cheque or money order to Ambulance Victoria PO Box 278 South Melbourne Vic 3205.

## IS YOUR VEHICLE STUCK IN THE BUSH???

### Need Help?

Call Glenn on 0419 802 846

Alternate Ph. 0424 619 355

Leave a clear message with your details.

### Our On-Board Recovery Equipment Includes :

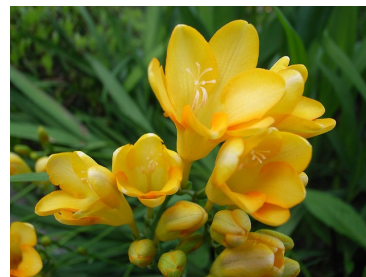
Winch	Hi-Lift Jack
Snatch Straps	Tree Trunk Protectors
Winch Extension Straps	D Shackles
Snatch Blocks	Shovel
Sand Anchor	Rated Recovery Points
Air Compressor	Chainsaw
UHF Radio	Fridge



## LANDCARE



Attention gardeners, you will have seen how much the plants are loving this rain, both the ones we love and the weeds. I don't know what we can do about the cape weed and the soursop, but I am concerned about the garden escapees, three in particular. I see a few gardens with arum lilies in flower. But have you seen how several local creeks are being choked with arum lilies? Prevention is better than the work of digging them up later, Please, for the sake of our environment, don't let yours escape. Cut off the heads before they go to seed, make sure you keep the bulbs confined, or better still dig them all up! The shire used to have a list of plants banned in Halls Gap and arum lilies were high on the list. The same goes for freesias and gazanias, only they spread into the orchid areas of the woodlands, not along the creeks. These are also on the Don't Plant list.



*Freesia*



*Arum Lily*



## MEDITATION & INTUITIVE DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

Tuesday's (starting) 15<sup>th</sup> Nov  
6:30pm-8pm

at Budja Budja Neighbourhood House, Halls Gap  
\$10 or \$8 concession

RSVP ESSENTIAL ~ ALL WELCOME

Please contact Yasmina on 0478 923 382 or email  
[thesacredjourneyau@gmail.com](mailto:thesacredjourneyau@gmail.com)

*Join us for deep relaxation and exploration of our intuitive selves*

[www.thesacredjourneyau.com](http://www.thesacredjourneyau.com)

## FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

Lee-Anne, Margo, Jenny and  
Tammy

Please email your articles as a  
word document or email 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



**VIKASA CLASSES**

- \* Memberships now available
- \* Limited personal training sessions
- \* Small group sessions
- \* At home programming

**Boxing**  
October 17 - December 5  
8 week block  
Gloves & wraps included  
\$125

**Bootcamp**  
October 21 - December 9  
8 week block  
\$105

**Circuit**  
October 19 - December 21  
10 week block  
\$100

**VIKASA**  
health fitness wellbeing

## Halls Gap Transfer Station

Halls Gap residents make use of the facilities we have close at hand! Use it or lose it...Clean up before summer.

Halls Gap Transfer Station Open Sunday 12 - 4pm

## Gearing up for the Great Victorian Bike Ride

Halls Gap primary school along with a number of other community groups and local business will operate pop up cafes and food stalls on the Heath st side of the Hub, Friday 25, 4-8pm & Sat. 26 November 7-11am.

The grass out front will be converted into a relaxed chilled space to enjoy food and drinks.

We would love the local community to come down and sample our tasty stall food.

People attract people and we love the extra atmosphere! Pop down to our pop up foodie strip! If people would like to add to the pop up strip the more the better call Justine Kingan or Tammy Schoo.

P.S. If anyone is keen to provide music or other entertainment please let us know.

