

Issue: October 2016

# FILL THE GAP

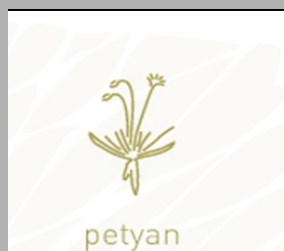
Produced by the Community Association  
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

## RAIN, RAIN AND MORE RAIN...

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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 busts to life. Natures rock Gardens amaze.

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

Well for those weather buffs out there it seems like the persistent strong negative phase of the Indian ocean dipole combined with La Nina like warm seas in Northern Australia has bought continued wet weather to most of Eastern Australia.

Rainfall averages have been higher than usual, with many records being broken this year. It sounds like this weather may stick around for a few more weeks yet!, so don't put away the brollies and gumboots just yet!

The wet weather didn't seem to keep the visitors away over the September school holidays though with most accommodation operators ad the National Park reporting capacity occupancy. The extra Grand final long weekend has again bought many visitors to the Grampians. very popular in the Grampians.

Waterfalls were an obvious choice for visitors as they have all been looking spectacular.

Reports are that the wildflowers are looking amazing this spring with increased numbers of orchids on show. Get out and see them around Heatherlie Quarry and Devils Garden in particular.

**Send us your pictures of wildflowers and floods for the next edition.**

### LOOKING BACK...

**RECOGNISE ANY OF THESE YOUNG, FRESH FACES???**

**SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR EARLIER EDITION YOUNG FRESH FACES ;-)**

### July 2016 - Rainfall by Chas

Wow! What a difference a year makes,232.5mm was recorded the month with a progressive total of 997mm for the year. This compares for the same period last year of 52mm with a progressive total of 687.5mm.This has been the wettest September since 1996 when 239.2mm was recorded. The top officially recorded rainfall for September was recorded in 1960 with 270.5mm

As of the 28th of September Lake Bellfield is holding 61,890ML or 79% full compared to the same period last year of 53,330ML or 68% full. Ararat 93%,Lake Fyans is 80%, Lonsdale 78%,Moora Moora 103%,Rocklands 39%,Stawell 100%,Taylors Lake 103%,Toolondo 11%,Wartook 105%,Green Lake 71%.

The total system is holding 307,050ML or 55.14% full compared to the same period last year of 179,950ML or 32.31% full. Mount William received 328.2mm for the month compared to 99.6mm last year. The minimum temperature of -0.9 C was recorded on the 23rd of September and the maximum of 12.4 C was recorded on the 8th of September.



## BOTANIC GARDENS

Hi to all locals, yes that's you.

Have you been to our & ( your ) lovely Botanical Gardens lately.

You should go for a walk, take the dog, take the kids, take your partner and see what's new.

A very small handful of volunteers have been working very hard we have weeded, pruned, built, planted and with the help of this

years blessed bountiful rain, it is looking quiet lovely in readiness for our upcoming flower week end.

We have replaced the arbour that got totally crushed when a huge branch fell on it, and re-planted replacements for the crushed plants as well.

There are fun things to amuse the kids while the parents browse around the plants.

Included are some new very rough, rustic metal art works made by Renate, with a massive thanks to Wayne Dickinson for the

loan of his plasma metal cutter and his helpful advise and hints, if you need art made or metal cut out, he is your man.

Plus art pieces made by Wayne and other local artists.

So come on down, take a look, meditate, rest or watch the kookaburras or birds, sit on one of Barrie's lovely seats strategically placed around the gardens.

And if you feel proud of our tiny town having a botanic garden of it's own you might like to adopt a small plot, and add to it's charm.



## INDOOR BOWLING IN HALLS GAP

The ranks of indoor bowlers have been diminished by the passage of time to the point where the remaining few feel it is no longer worth continuing unless we can muster some new recruits.

For many years we have played carpet bowls in the Centenary Hall for a couple of hours or so one evening per week, except when the Hall has been needed for some larger function. At one time there used to be competitions but even with smaller numbers we have still benefited from enjoyable social evenings.

There is skill involved in the game but most people acquire sufficient skill quite quickly to make it rewarding, and nobody takes the business too seriously! So if

you have any interest please contact me and we can arrange an evening of bowls when you can explore that interest. David Witham.

## AREN'T DAD'S JOKES THE BEST....??

I don't trust stairs...they are always up to something!!



Old Yachtsmen don't die....

They just keel over.

RIP Boiled water.....

You will be mist!

## HALLS GAP CFA



September has been a very quiet month re callouts for the Halls Gap CFA. At our most recent meeting the brigade endorsed and welcomed two new members and are currently working through the registration and application process with an additional two members – always great to have new people join the team! Members participated in a simulated accident scenario as part of our monthly training program. Various members completed training in the areas of First Aid and Hazmat and fundraising continued through the Fire Extinguisher Maintenance program. The brigade is excited about its success in gaining a grant through the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program for an Ultralight Tanker to replace our aging 'slip on'. The new tanker will enhance our access to bushland properties in steep terrain and improve safety and capacity for fire fighting.

Now is the time to begin preparing properties for the warmer months. The CFA provides an online tool that allows you to assess your home bushfire risk.

The tool will help you:

- Calculate your defensible space.
- Assess the amount of defensible space required to protect you from radiant heat during a bushfire
- Reduce the risk of ember attack on your property
- Identify and manage the vegetation in the inner and outer zones surrounding your home
- Identify flammable objects around your house that pose a fire risk.
- Assist with the development of your Bushfire Survival Plan (Prepare. Act. Survive).

The complete assessment will take about 20 - 30 minutes. The tool can be found at - <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/house-bushfire-self-assessment-tool/>

In addition to a range of online resources, the CFA will have a stand at the Halls Gap Primary School October market. CFA personnel will be available to provide information and respond to questions.



## PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE

Well it's certainly been a wet Spring! Parks Staff have been busy throughout the past few weeks assessing impacts from heavy rainfall, ensuring closures are in place for public safety, repairing immediate safety issues and working to pull together timely information updates for communities and businesses. At this stage the rain is set to continue so we would ask all locals and visitors to be aware of the following:

The parks unsealed road network is very soft. In some areas heavy rain and fast flowing water has caused washouts, impacted drains and culverts and removed surface gravel. While we wait for the land to begin to dry out, there are some road closures in place. These are there to protect your safety—please do not drive around them. Culverts, floodways and creek crossings may be damaged and roadsides are so soft that attempting to turn around could mean you get bogged. Also, sodden soils have increased the risk of tree fall, especially during excessive winds. Be mindful of this when setting up camp or while out visiting the park.

Ongoing rainfall may see temporary closures of roads and walking tracks, however most popular sites are currently open. For the latest list of what's open and closed in the park please visit :

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

### In Other News...

This week we welcome a new member to the team. Rick Shiner will commence as a member of the roading crew (couldn't start at a better time really!!) Rick has a great deal of experience working with plant and machinery and if you see him out on the roads in the tractor or grader please give him a wave.

All this rainfall has helped with the movement of aquatic animals. Mark Backman from Nature Glenelg Trust has reported a new Platypus sighting just inside the National Park at Gooseneck swamp. Rainfall events can assist animals to discover new territories.

We are currently surveying for threatened species in the Ararat Hills. If you are interested in assisting please contact Caity O'Reilly on 0428 553 040 or email [coreilly@cva.org.au](mailto:coreilly@cva.org.au)



Healthy Parks  
Healthy People

Parks Victoria, with the help of the Friends of Grampians Gariwerd recently participated in the Spring Park BioBlitz. This state-wide activity saw junior ranger members, local community and holiday makers sign up with the *Inaturalist App* on their smartphones then record and upload sightings of native species at particular locations throughout their local parks. The Grampians designated walk was Venus Baths and there were a number of interesting species found. You can still utilise the app at any time when out and about. All you do is upload a photo and specialists will help I.D. what you have found. Search for the *inaturalist app* in your app store.

### FIRE RECOVERY

In exciting news, Stapylton campground reopened for the school holidays! Always popular with schools and families, the new campground has sites that cater for groups of up to 16 (or more) at a time, vehicle based camper trailer and campervan sites, standard tent sites and also provides three wheelchair accessible sites.

Works continue to stabilise the walls of the Zumsteins cottages while the protective roof structure is being built off-site.

Mackenzie Falls redevelopment plans will be available for community feedback in the coming weeks.

Walking track crews are about to start on the Briggs Bluff walking track.

Reeds Lookout carpark will be closed for resurfacing works during the last week of October. The Balconies Walking track will be closed for three weeks from October 11th.

Goat control activities (using firearms) will continue throughout the Park.

## GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

Planning continues to forge ahead particularly around trailhead locations. The next phase of works will be along existing track footprints. Ear-marked for temporary closures in the coming months whilst upgrades are completed are the Major Mitchell Plateau and Stapylton Loop walks. Further information will be available closer to the date.

## GRAMPIANS SWIMMING CLUB

Our local pool keeper Ange Leithhead is passionate about swimming. This year Ange has followed her dreams and created her own club, Grampians Swimming Club.

GSC will cater for all levels of competitive swimming. The club will provide swimmers with an opportunity to swim competitively within the Wimmera, or reach an elite level. Training started in Ararat on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September. The Halls Gap Pool will also be a training facility in the warmer months.

If you are interested in reading more about the club we have a Facebook page, along with a wordpress site-

<https://grampiansswimmingclub.wordpress.com/> - where you can find documents and forms regarding the club. You can also email the club at the address provided below for more details on training schedules and locations.

GSC is holding a trivia night on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October with all proceeds going to the club.

Details as follows-

**When:** October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 from 6.30pm

**Where:** Halls Gap Recreation Reserve

**Cost:** \$60 per table of 6-8ppl. Single booking or bookings smaller than 6 people are \$10 per head.

**Contact:** [grampiansswimmingclub@gmail.com](mailto:grampiansswimmingclub@gmail.com) or

VIA our Facebook page.

Raffles will be held throughout the night with fantastic prizes donated from local businesses.

Light refreshments will be provided, and the bar service will be available.

Come on down and support the Grampians newest sporting club!

## LANDCARE

Hopefully most of you will recall that I am starting



**Landcare  
Australia**

the Halls Gap Landcare Group. After a meeting with the Community Association of Halls Gap it was agreed that the Landcare Group would fall under its umbrella. Which is fantastic! So now what? We will be applying for a grant to help with weed eradication and feral animals in Halls Gap and anywhere surrounding that is in need of help.

This Landcare Group is about helping the community and Halls Gap township and with the help of Project Platypus together with Parks, Vicroads and other interested parties we hope to make a positive difference. Any questions please call me (Angeline) on 5356 4445.



## FRIENDS OF GRAMPIANS GARIWERD



Friends of Grampians Gariwerd have been busy this month. On a bright but chilly morning earlier in September twenty five questing souls gathered in Wartook to look at wildflowers. We were joined by several first time attendees who saw facebook and website promotion, or heard the radio ad. After last season's dry September we were worried about finding much to look at but nature was very obliging this year. I guess a wetter season is a big help to the plant life. Our biggest concern leading up to the day was the grazing macropods that see flowers as candy. But they left us some to admire. Those who attended had a great time, and saw some great flowers. With many eyes many things can be spotted and people danced from one treasure to another with great delight. We had a small film crew following us everywhere with students making a documentary about the Stawell Field Naturalists.

Then last week some of us helped local Park staff with a Junior Ranger Park Bioblitz. We explained to young visitors how they could take photos of plants and animals with phone or camera, and upload them to share with others on the website [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org).

Have a look at some that have been posted (search for Grampians). And you don't have to be a child to add your observations.

Our next activity is another wildflower walk, this time near Lake Fyans to help celebrate its centenary. Sunday afternoon October 15. exact time yet to be confirmed.

### WILDFLOWER WALKABOUT

I am writing this of course before the show, and you are probably reading it after it's all over. And I hope many of you joined in and enjoyed the beauty of our special flowers. So many people have been working hard to make it a success. More to follow next issue. In the meantime, some photos for you. The workers

from last year and some history photos. Five years ago in 2011 was after the floods and landslides, ten years ago was after the bushfires. This year has been wet and almost peaceful and wonderful.

The money we raise from the weekend and our sales of notes goes to the Community Association for local projects, in particular towards continuing to improve our Botanic Garden. Do go over and have a look at all the flowers out at the moment and the new artworks. And don't forget you can volunteer to help at any time with the garden. Our regular working bee is the second Wednesday of the month, but some folk choose to work at any time that suits them.

## ACCESS TO NATURE FOR ALL...

Hey All, I'm looking for some super helpful folk that are keen to get out in the bush and want to help others experience the same feeling! I

I'm running a training day where you can learn all about the Trailrider all terrain wheelchair and what it takes to be a Sherpa—to assist those with mobility issues to go where conventional wheelchairs can't. The training will be at Brambuk Cultural Centre at 10:30am on Saturday the 22nd of October. If you're keen or want to know more please give me a call on 0428 553 040 or email me at [coreilly@cva.org.au](mailto:coreilly@cva.org.au)



The trailrider at the Piccanninny Summit.



## 100 WOMEN WHO CARE FUNDRAISER

100 Women Who Care – The Grampians was founded by four local women, Samantha Stoffel, Poll Ripper, Robyn Rouse and Fiona Margetts, who really loved the idea of using the power of 100 to raise money to support those in need. The aim was to have 100 women – each donating \$100 = \$10,000 – therefore creating a powerful impact!

Each attending woman had the opportunity to nominate her favourite charity on the night. Three nominations were drawn, Mary-Ann Humphries (Young Care), Julieanne Phelan (Children's Tumour Foundation) and Kayleen Urquhart (Royal Children's Hospital -NICU).

After partaking in a delicious meal at the hotel, these three ladies took to the floor. They shared their very personal stories and raised a new awareness for us all in regards to the three charities and how they support those in need. Needless to say it was extremely emotional and a lot of tissues were required!!!

Then came the difficult task of voting! Everyone got a vote and once they were all counted, Young Care was declared the chosen charity. Mary-Ann was later presented with a cheque for \$7200 which she has forwarded on to Young Care who were very excited to receive such a large donation.

The evening was filled with lots of fun and frivolity that only a group of women can create. New friends were made, old friends reconnected and there was a general feeling of community in the room. All in all it was a fabulous evening and if you missed out, make certain you don't next year!





## BUDJA BUDJA NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE



Just finished a great School Holiday Program thanks to Alison from Stawell Neighbourhood House who organises these activities. These Holidays we had – Street Bocci – Bush Toy Making – Construction Art – Cooking for fun, can't wait to see what we will be doing next Holidays.

Book club still meeting every month (diverse books with many different opinions)

Computers for the Terrified – every Monday 1.30 to 4.30

Scanning photo's, Calendars and Greeting cards were attempted last week (with a lot of 'Oh where did that go, Richard I've lost it' "stupid mouse doesn't go where you want it")

YOGA – will be starting back – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am

10 week term – cost \$110

Winters finished, Wildflower Walkabout finished (well on Sunday), Grey Nomads should be back (or are they ready to take off again), so come and wind down and relax with Joyce.



10 years ago...A few memories from after the 2006 fires...

## Halls Gap Jazz & Blues Festival 21st, 22nd & 23rd October 2016



**Over 60 Bands  
in 7 Venues  
Tickets from  
\$25 for adults less  
for kids**

Tickets can be purchased on the day  
from the Halls Gap Centenary Hall

Need more information?

Phone: 0428 227 261

Email: [festival@hallsgapjazzblues.com](mailto:festival@hallsgapjazzblues.com)

Web: [www.hallsgapjazzblues.com](http://www.hallsgapjazzblues.com)

Traditional Jazz, Swing,  
American Song Book &  
Blues played in the  
township of Halls Gap in  
the midst of the  
spectacular color of  
Spring in the Grampians



## 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



# 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

Looking back images... From the front page From Edition 2 –  
June 2016

“Names left to right - John Hastings – Lachlan Whitham – Joel  
Hastings – Pat McIntosh – Val Hastings – Lynn Newton”



### FIRE SEASON PLANNING AND PREPARATION

#### DECLARED PERIOD FOR FUEL REDUCTION BURNS

As part of an integrated fuel management strategy, it is intended to allow residents to reduce the fire fuel load on their property.

As per Clause 10 (1) (d) of the Northern Grampians Shire Council General Local Law 2012, the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer has declared a period where the owners or occupiers of land (including residential and industrial zoned land) within the Northern Grampians Shire are exempt from obtaining a permit to undertake fuel reduction burns.

From 2pm on 3 October 2016 to 11pm on 14 October 2016 the owner or occupier of land within the municipality of the Northern Grampians Shire can light a fire for the purpose of fuel reduction without a permit. Refer to conditions below.

#### CONDITIONS

A number of conditions must be met before burning off can commence. These are as follows:

1. The declared period where the owners or occupiers of land (including residential and industrial zoned land) within the Northern Grampians Shire are exempt from obtaining a permit to undertake fuel reduction burns would be rescinded if a declared Fire Danger Period is introduced during the declared period.
2. Dry organic material only is to be burnt (this includes dried garden waste and dried branches up to 50mm in diameter).
3. You should notify neighbours at least two hours before

starting the burn.

4. To ensure that the fire services are aware of your planned burn, give the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) prior notification on 1800 668 511 and provide the required information.

Be prepared to provide the following information: location, date and expected start and finish times, estimated size, and what you intend to burn.

Alternative methods of contacting ESTA can be obtained from the following CFA website link:  
<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/contact/register-your-burn-off/>

Notifying ESTA about planned burns prevents unnecessary fire brigade response.

When callers reporting a fire call ESTA, ESTA can verify that the fire is a planned burn or if this can't be verified, a fire brigade will be tasked to respond.

5. Check the weather forecast for the day of the burn and a few days afterwards. Check wind direction and speed and be mindful of neighbours.

6. Establish a fire break cleared of all flammable material around the burn and ensure there is no flammable material closer than three metres above the burn.

7. Make sure there are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively.

8. Until all fires lit have been completely extinguished -

- (a) The perimeter of the burning area must be continuously patrolled; and
- (b) An adequate number of adults and adequate water (reticulated water (town supply) is recommended) and/or fire suppression equipment or appliances must remain present until the fire is fully extinguished.

9. Burning off must not be allowed to cause a traffic hazard or a smoke nuisance or endanger the health of any other person.

10. No person shall burn or cause to be burned any of the

following or any substance containing any of the following:

- (a) any rubber or plastic;
- (b) any petroleum, oil or derivative thereof; or any other material deemed offensive or dangerous by an Authorised Officer of the Council.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

It may be that the permission, approval, consent or authority of some other person or entity must be obtained. Nothing in these conditions represents (or should be taken as representing) that the holder has all permits, approvals, consents and authorities which are necessary to operate lawfully.

Costs incurred to Council due to rectifying any breach will be levied against the responsible owners or occupiers of land.

Severe penalties including prosecution may apply if your fire should endanger life or damage another person's property.

If you have any queries, please contact either the Northern Grampians Shire Council Customer Service on 5358 8700 or the District CFA Office on 1800 858 116.

#### PROPERTY CLEANUP AND PREPARATION FOR FIRE DANGER PERIOD

It's important to prepare your property for fire. Preparation can include proper disposal of waste and in particular green and timber waste from your property.

This is a reminder that green and timber waste can be deposited at a cost at a Council transfer station. Gate fees for green and timber waste are currently set at \$28 per cubic metre and as a guide a heaped single axle trailer/ute is estimated to cost around \$28 (however each load is assessed on arrival).

For current fees and charges and transfer station operating hours please visit: [www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/waste](http://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/waste)

