

Issue: June 2018

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association & Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

WRAP UP...

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Brrrrrrrr it is starting to get cold!!

Chilly frosty mornings are on their way!

Have you noticed any early winter wildflowers yet? Wattle flowers are out and early orchids should start to appear soon. There is plenty of Fungi around at this time of year as well... Why not head out on a fungi walk? Can anyone locate the Glow in the Dark Ghost Fungi??

For those of us not taking off to somewhere warm for the winter months, it is almost the June Long weekend—this is usually the last weekend to attempt some camping before winter really sets in.

Thanks again to the editing team—many hands make light work.

STATS BY CHAS - May 2018 Rainfall

122.5mm for May bringing the progressive total for May to 221.5mm. This compares to the same period last year of 128.5mm for May with a progressive total of 334.5mm.

As of the 30th of May Lake Bellfield is holding 61,220 ML or 78% full compared to the same period last year of 64,060ML or 82% full. The total system is holding 256,630ML or 45.80%. This compares to the same period last year of 296,344ML or 52.89% full.

As of the 31st of May Mount William received 157.6mm of rain compared to the same period last year of 141.0mm. The highest temperature of 31.6 C was recorded on the 11th of May and the lowest of - 0.9 C was recorded on the 11th of May. The highest wind speed of 135 km/h was

recorded on the 11th of May.



FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



of cockatoos or chinnup) the coldest time of year.



FROM THE HISTORY ROOM

Do you remember when Halls Gap had a butcher shop?

Mark & Kerrie Williams November 1995.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HG

We have now spent all the money of the grant we received to improve communication in our village. The grant has provided for the purchase of a printer, laptop, office equipment and some training. We now have a couple of new people helping with our website www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au.

Don't forget to use it to get information and as a place to put up your information. There are links to other sites and there is a calendar of events where you can check what is coming up. It also has an archive of *Fill the Gap*'s.

CLOSING THE GAP

Unfortunately, for several reasons only a handful of people turned up to last month's discussion meeting on "Closing the Gap: what's next for Victoria". Those who attended heard from Tim McCartney about the national Closing the Gap agenda, which targets are on track (child mortality, early childhood education, year 12 attainment), and which ones are disappointing (e.g substance abuse), . Then some related issues which were not in the old agenda but should be in the new one (such as youth justice, economic participation) and why these matter, why it is important for it to be indigenous led, and whether a strength based approach would work better than focusing on the problems. We also were given a printed discussion guide.

It is not too late for interested individuals (indigenous and non-indigenous) to have a say. Contact engage.vic.gov.au/closing the gapvic or phone 03 83925387 or 03 9651 2166.

Closing the gap is important for all of us!

HALLS GAP POLICE

May 2018 was an eventful month for Halls Gap police members with the Grampians Grape Escape and Run the Gap events being held with both events attracting large numbers of people to our town.

Police were also busy attending 5 separate search and rescue incidents in the Grampians for missing hikers or injured hikers/rock climbers.

We've seen an increase in "bouldering" incidents due to the significant rise in the sport's popularity throughout Australia and the world. Police and Parks Victoria are working closely to manage this issue in the Grampians. Further information regarding safe bouldering practices can be located at www.verticallifemag.com.au/

As a part of National Volunteer week 21-27th May, 2018, Halls Gap Police would like to thank all volunteers for your tireless efforts and dedication in assisting not only us but the entire community. Thank you very much!! J.

For those on Facebook don't forget to "like" the "Northern Grampians Eye watch" page for all current updates regarding police activity in the Northern Grampians police service area.

Stay safe!

Sergeant Karen BAIN

Halls Gap Police

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Who celebrated a significant birthday in May?

Happy 70th
Birthday
Max Clark!



BOTANIC GARDENS

Adding an extra working bee date in May worked out well. We managed to do quite a bit of planting of the plants we received from both Greenfingers and Phil Williams. We also did the usual weeding and mulching, but decided not to go ahead with burning yet. Our fairly new volunteer Joy Robson has worked very hard both in the garden itself, and fundraising from her singing. She is really making a difference! Renata has finished spending the grant we received to help us be more sunsmart. We now have some very smart hats to protect us while we work. Thank you Renata.

Four of us went into Stawell for the *Thank You for Volunteering Evening*. And it was very appropriate that Joy won one of the door prizes. We were the only Halls Gap group there, which is a bit of a pity as so many in our community are active volunteers-school parents, sporting clubs, and more. Perhaps next year we could have an afternoon tea or something for locals?





WILDFLOWER SHOW

Our next planning meeting is on July 17 at 2,30. All welcome.

Please remember that we have changed the date of the show to the last weekend in September instead of the first weekend of October. Would Accommodation owners please inform any guests booking at that time of the year. There are brochures available at the VIC

FRIENDS OF GRAMPIANS GARIWERD

http://friendsofgrampiansgariwerd.org.au/

Our May activity was a working bee at our Red Gum walk down in the Victoria Valley. This walk was set up in the 1990's as the first walk for the less-abled. Since then of course more wheelchair accessible paths have appeared but it is still dear to those of us who worked on it back then. It was interesting to see how slow this forest has been to recover from the fire in 2006, but slowly it's getting there.







Our June event promises to be a fascinating one.

Declines, denial and disconnect: Victorian reptiles in a time of mass extinction

Nick Clemann will outline the "Sixth Extinction", and how the reptiles of south-eastern Australia exemplify this bio-catastrophe. Our planet is entering a mass extinction event unmatched in 66 million years. Although charismatic megafauna feature in this 'Sixth Extinction', and get the lion's share of attention from the public, lesser known species make up the bulk of the losses, yet fare poorly in terms of conservation attention and Reptiles are the least popular of the funding. terrestrial vertebrates, and are therefore particularly challenging to conserve. To highlight the value of some our least popular fauna, Nick will conclude with the story of Venom Bank - a new biological resource that explores the biopotential of venoms.

FRIENDS OF GRAMPIANS GARIWERD



In July FOGGies return to the outdoors with a fungi walk on July Sunday 15th. 2 PM start

Dave Munro will lead us. Actual site

to be decided closer to the date as it will depend on the weather over the next few weeks.

Contact: Rodney 0427 836 366 53836247

Nick leads the Threatened Fauna Program at the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research. Scientists in the Program work on the conservation management of species including Leadbeater's Possum, Greater Glider, Broad-shelled Turtles, Alpine Tree Frogs and Alpine She-oak Skinks. Nick also has an honorary position with Museums Victoria.

June 16th.Saturday 4.30pm in Mural room at Parks office Contact David Steane 0429 677 061 davidsteane2010@hotmail.com

RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS

The next meeting of the Residents & Ratepayers Association will be held this Wednesday June 6 at 7.30pm in the Hall. Why don't you come along?

Rumour file:

Though not official at this point, it looks like the use of school Road as a main thoroughfare is no longer being considered – this is yet to be confirmed by council.

At a meeting regarding the viability of a Skate Park, the issue of adding basketball facilities to the tennis courts was raised. This would enable the school children to practice out of school hours.

RUN THE GAP

Run The Gap debrief, supper room Centenary Hall Tuesday 6pm

First of all we'd like to say a big THANKYOU.

Run the Gap enjoys fantastic support from our local community and we appreciate enormously the heartfelt goodwill everyone brings with them to the event, our local HG Primary School support, the large number of local businesses who support the event both financially and with special vouchers, time and actions. Our local volunteers who happily join in each year, some for a full 7 events now, to keep the event running smoothly. Runners, walkers, and everyone in any way connected, all keeping the event successful.

We invite you, one and all, to the Run The Gap Debriefing session this next Tuesday evening 6pm in the supper room, Centenary Hall.

Hope to see you there,

The RTG organising Committee.



Halls Gap Funding

The following report and photo are taken directly from the Stawell Times-News by Alice Rennison

The state government has announced \$1 million in funding for Halls Gap.

The funding will go towards the Halls Gap activation project, which aims to increase the number of visitors to the area.

Funding will include a raised pedestrian crossing along Grampians Road as well as rerouting traffic travelling through Halls Gap from Grampians Road to School Road.

Member for Western Victoria Jaala Pulford, visiting Halls Gap on Thursday morning, said the changes would make the area safer and more accessible.

"People here would know that during particularly busy times, it can be a bit crazy getting across the Grampians Road," Ms Pulford said.

"The upgrades to School Road, which is all about getting the traffic to go around, will make this a much nicer and accessible area."

The funding also includes marked signs.

Ms Pulford said she announced the funding with "enormous happiness".

"I've been coming to Halls Gap all my life ... for as long as I can remember," she said.

"I think this is one of the most spectacular and special places in Victoria – or really, in the world."

The state and federal governments have invested \$19 million into the Grampians Peaks Trail walking track project.

"We're having tens of thousands of additional visitors each year to the area and stage two (of the peaks trail project) is expected to just add to that further," Ms Pulford said.

"This project is about giving this area behind you a real lift.

"This is a very, very exciting project.

"It's a big investment from the council and investment from the Victorian government."

Ms Pulford said she was confident the government's contribution would see the private sector pop up in the area in response.

Northern Grampians Shire Council mayor Tony Driscoll said the announcement was a great outcome for the community and wider region.

"Mother Nature has done all of the work in providing a backdrop – we're just improving the visitors' experience," he said.



Justine Kingan, Manager Economic Growth, is keen to provide an update on the Halls Gap Action Plan to the Residents and Ratepayers at a future meeting. (This will be either the June meeting or on September 5)





CERT





Community Emergency Response Team volunteers: Halls Gap

An opportunity exists for suitable local candidates to join the Halls Gap Ambulance Branch as Community Emergency Response Team volunteers (CERTs).

The role of CERTs is to assist ambulance paramedics in the provision of emergency care to Halls Gap and surrounding communities. CERTs are trained in providing basic emergency care services within their local community until the ambulance arrives. Suitable local applicants must be available for a minimum of 20 hours per month to provide support to the ambulance paramedics.

A suitable local applicant must be able to demonstrate:

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Teamwork and collaboration skills
- A high level of safety awareness and compliance
- A willingness to undertake training to the level of CERT
- A willingness to undertake required vaccinations as per Ambulance Victoria's requirements
- Successful completion of Police and Driver's Licence checks along with other relevant tests.

Applicants can obtain further information from our website and a CERT Application Package from Stawell.teammanager@ambulance.vic.gov.au

HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

From the classrooms of Halls Gap Primary School

Last week was a big week in sport for a lot of our students. Firstly, there was the Winter Sports.

We take every opportunity to spend time with students from Great Western, Concongella and Pomonal. This time we combined forces and entered some mixed soccer teams into the competition. Halls Gap PS has quite a few students who head in to Stawell each week to play soccer so we felt confident that we could field some competitive teams. And compete we did! All students had a great day and our girls teams even made it through to the next level of competition.



Later in the same week we spent another fun-filled day with the cluster schools (plus Moyston PS) competing in the athletics sports. This day is always goes so quickly as we are moving from activity to activity all day.

We start with the marching and then we move into the individual events such as sprints, shot put, discus, javelin etc.

There is so much going on!

In the afternoon we all come together to compete in the team sports. We do tunnel ball, bob ball, cross ball and spoke relay. So much cheering! As it's their first sports the prep students have no idea what to expect but they definitely finish their day with a huge smile. Especially when there's ribbons involved. We all slept very well that night.

It is definitely getting colder!

Halls Gap is a beautiful place to live, work and go to school but it can very chilly. Our Grades 4-6 students must really like the cold because they are heading off to Mt. Baw Baw on their ski camp in a couple of months. Some of our students haven't ever been to the snow so they are very excited about this opportunity.

They will be doing a little fundraising to help with the costs of the camp so if you can help in any way, it would be greatly appreciated.

Donations of pre-loved ski gear would also be a huge help!

LANDCARE

WEED OF THE MONTH

Arum Lily (Zantedeschia aethiopica



Arum Lily (Zantedeschia aethiopica) (also known as funeral flower), has long been associated with funerals and is now causing the funerals of many natural areas, particularly along waterways and wetland edges. Originating from South Africa and frequently sold in the cut flower trade, Zantedeschia is a weed throughout most of Australia, except the Northern Territory.

The plant is still widely available in nurseries outside WA, and is grown in gardens throughout Australia, so it's potential to continue to wreak havoc is very high.

It is able to form large spreading clumps that choke out indigenous plants, impede water flow and compete with pasture plants. In the South West, Arum lily has invaded thousands of hectares of pasture paddocks, forest and wetlands, requiring massive efforts by property owners and communities to clear it.

All Zantedeschia species are considered extremely poisonous to all animals and humans with fatalities recorded in both. All parts of the plant are dangerously toxic and irritating to the mucous membrane of the mouth and throat, and said to cause eczema. Australian hospital records indicate that these plants are a common and significant cause of child poisonings.





IDENTIFICATION

Robust clump-forming, perennial herb to 1.5 m high. Flower stem about as high as the tops of the leaves. Showy white funnel-shaped part of inflorescence (spathe) 10-25 cm long surrounding spike of yellow flowers. Upper half to three quarters of flowerspike (spadix) is male and lower part female. Fruit green or yellow berry, orange when ripe (about 40-50 berries per mature spadix), seeds yellow-brown, 3 mm in diameter (up to 18 per berry). Leaves at base of plant, dark green, arrow-shaped to ovate with a heart-shaped base. Commences growth in autumn forming large clump, yellows off mid-summer in low areas of low summer rainfall areas. Underground rhizome short and thick. Usually a dense cluster of several large, knobbly tubers and many small tubers. White fleshy roots. New tubers from shoots on the rootstock.

SPREAD

Reproduction vegetative (rhizome – localised spread less than 300 mm/year) and seed. Spread by water, birds (internal), foxes and livestock (internal), contaminated soil, machinery and in dumped garden waste. Widely available in nurseries, garden centres and markets.

CONTROL

Arum lily is a very resilient plant and therefore the control of this weed is not easy. For the home gardener the most effective method is to remove the flower head before the release of seed and dispose in sealed bag/container. The plant and underground rhizomes can be dug out by hand. It is unlikely that all the roots will be retrieved so follow up will be necessary.

As far as herbicides go, Glyphosate will only give you fair results but could be used in conjunction with digging the plant out. For better results Chlorsulfuron or Metsulfuron can be applied when flowering at the recommended rate. For the most effective treatment, Paraquat can be applied before flowering however a registered

PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE

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



Healthy Parks Healthy People

The recent approval of the Cultural Heritage Management plan has meant a number of projects can now begin across the Recovery and Grampians Peaks Trail Programs.

Flood Recovery

Parks Victoria is working with Accuraco to finalise plans to deliver road and walking track repairs across the flood affected areas of the park including: Silverband Falls, Brambuk Precinct, Mackenzie River and the Stapylton Loop walk. There are many drains, culverts and road surfaces to be repaired on firelines and key access roads. See the weekly road report for details of works underway.

Fire Recovery

Parks Victoria is working with a number of contractors to finalise planning and initiate delivery of key fire recovery projects throughout the park. Coppermine bush camp will soon be redeveloped as a small four-wheel drive based camp ground, suitable for off road camper trailers. Long Point West hikers camp will have sites defined and basic facilities installed to better cater for increased walker numbers in the Mt Difficult area. Ngamadjidj will undergo a facelift with a new car park, access track and signage. Briggs Bluff will have see a minor trail realignment built.

Sallow Wattle research and removal continues at a number of sites throughout the Northern Grampians. Rock art conservation and vegetation removal has been boosted with the addition of traditional owner representatives on the crew.

We continue to work with SHP consulting to finalise interpretation signage for Mackenzie Falls.

Volunteers

The walking track support group and Parks Victoria have recently begun the upgrade of the Golton Gorge walking track. Over the coming months, bushwalking volunteers, Parks Victoria and contractors will work to clear vegetation, cut in benching, stabilise the surface, move rocks and import gravel along a new alignment to the falls. The track will remain closed throughout this time. If you are interested in getting involved contact David Witham via the Grampians Walking Track Support Group.

Fire and Emergency

We are close to finalising the emergency marker project for the park. In the coming months we will be installing markers at key locations in the park to assist people identify where they are in an emergency. Part of this process has involved updating information and registering new emergency sites within the park that emergency services recognise. This will greatly speed up response times.

The Phone reception trial at Mackenzie Falls has been successful. We've been regularly checking service levels and it is now available most times at the top of the falls and also in areas along the Northern Grampians Road—where previously you couldn't get any coverage.

The window available for planned burning this Autumn was very limited, however we managed to achieve some results along the Serra Range. Project Firefighters have finished for the season but the team continues to undertake burn preparation, tree risk and fuel hazard mapping activities if, and when other opportunities arise in the coming months

In other News...

While planning continues for the trail alignment and camping experiences along the Grampians Peaks Trail, we are also currently in the process of initiating the interpretation and visitor experience plan for the Grampians Peaks Trail. This exciting project will produce the framework for the storytelling, journeys and visitor products for the trail. There will be extensive community engagement as part of this process.

We have a new solar pump at Mackenzie Falls which will service the toilets. It should be far more reliable and address safety issues.

Walking track Volunteers will be out and about over the June Long Weekend.

Seasonal Road Closures will come into effect after the June Long weekend.

GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

Walking Track Upgrades

A number of popular walks in the Grampians National Park are being upgraded over the coming months as the Grampians Peaks Trail continues to take shape.

Major Mitchell Plateau

The final section of the Major Mitchell Plateau walk from Mt William Summit to Jimmy Creek campground recently opened after extensive upgrades. The walk now features more elevated boardwalk sections as well as specialised rock steps, flagstone paving, improved drainage and track resurfacing. The remote location made this a challenging build, but the end results make exploring the Grampians Peaks Trail much more enjoyable.

Additional track works will continue over the coming months on the summit, to help define the walking track for future generations.



New rock steps and walking track over the Major Mitchell Plateau



Mt Staplyton and Mt Abrupt

The Mt Stapylton and Mt Abrupt walking tracks continue to be upgraded with the addition of over 500 new hand-built rock steps, flagstone paving, new drainage, a retaining wall, removal of trip hazards and track resurfacing.

The walking tracks will remain open while works are being undertaken, and will be completed later the year in readiness for the spectacular annual Spring wildflower display.

Please be aware of contractors working on site and follow all safety directions and signage.





New rock steps at Mt Abrupt

FROM THE HISTORY ROOMS

Chas does a brilliant job opening the HG & Grampians History rooms six afternoons a week. He has a wealth of knowledge he willingly shares with others. Many visitors have been intrigued by the number of industries that have thrived during various periods, and are surprised to learn that there was much more to Halls Gap than Guest Houses and a holiday destination! Some visitors to the rooms have a past family connection with the Gap or surrounding areas whilst many are simply curious to learn about the Grampians.

Over the last couple of years the HG&GHS have been working closely with our local Parks rangers to provide new interpretive signs at Heatherlie Quarry. These have now been produced and most have been installed. Last week members of our group picnicked at the quarry as we checked the new interpretation signs out. We were thrilled not only with the way the signs looked, but also by the way that they have been installed by Parks Victoria

Grant

Our society, like many other historical groups, holds a great deal of photographs, postcards and maps in our collection. Last year working with Marty Schoo we set up a website:

www.grampianshistory.org.au

to enable public viewing of some of our 'treasures'.

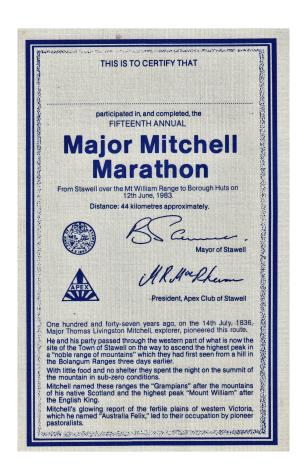
This month we were thrilled to hear that we were successful with our application to the Local History Grants Program, Public Record Office Victoria. With this grant we will be able to purchase equipment that will allow us to provide online cataloguing with Museums Victoria. This is a pretty big and ongoing project!

If you think this is something you might be interested in you would be made to feel very welcome! Whether your knowledge is historical, or technical, if you have a knack for artistic displays or are just a good organizer we would love you to join our group! We generally meet on a Thursday afternoon, just come on in!

If you haven't visited the History Rooms lately, pop in to see the displays!



Chas, Janet, Jen and Kathy view one of the new Heatherlie signs



In the spirit of Run-the-Gap!: 35 years ago this certificate was awarded for the marathon participants.



Budja Budja Neighbourhood House





BBNH in partnership with AST are offering the following 3 courses in early July. Please contact Lee-Anne if you are interested.

Access Skills Training
TOID 4603

Food Hygiene

5th July 10-3pm SITXFSA001

(for all hospitality workers)

Use hygienic practices for food safety

Manual supplied for each student and statement of attainment on statement of attainment of attainment of attainment of attainment on statement of attainment of a

completion.

clean, separate.

RSA—Responsible Serving Alcohol

5th July 6-10pm SITHFAB002

Provide responsible service of alcohol

Manual supplied for each student and

statement of attainment of successful completion



Safe Food Handling Practices

6th July 10-3pm SITXFSA002

(ideal for supervisors with the above unit as well)

Participate in safe food handling practices

If you are interested in any or all of these courses contact Lee-Anne asap to confirm numbers, enrolment and payment

20-22 Grampians Road, Halls Gap (behind the Medical Clinic)

0491 090 456

leeannel@budjabudjacoop.org.au www.facebook.com/budjabudjaneighbourhoodhouse



BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC

20-22 Grampians Road, Halls Gap 3381

PH: 03 53564751

www.budjabudjacoop.org.au

JUNE 2018	JULY 2018	AUGUST 2018
Dr Karen O'Brien 5,6,7,8 TBA 12,13,14,15 Dr John Hough 19,20,21,22 TBA 26,27,28,29 BOWEL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH	Dr Megan Helper 3,4,5,6 Dr Megan Helper 10,11,12,13 Dr Diana Jefferies 17,18,19,20 Dr Diana Jefferies 24,26,27	Dr Diana Jefferies 31,1,2,3 Dr Karen O'Brien 7,8,9,10 Dr Susan Watson 14,15,16,17 Dr Susan Watson 21,22,23,24 TBA 28,29,30,31



Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

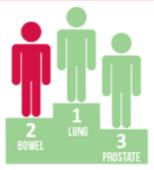
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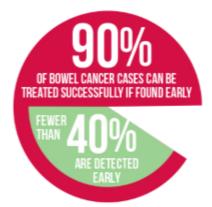












TALK TO YOUR GP OR PHARMACIST TODAY ABOUT BOWEL SCREEN AUSTRALIA OR PURCHASE A TEST ONLINE OR BY PHONING 1800 555 494

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

Q: Why do runners go jogging early in the morning?



A: They want to finish before their brain figures out what they're doing



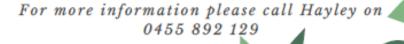
NATUROPATHA|PPOINTMENTS

NOW AVAILABLE IN HALLS GAP

Conditions that I can help you with

- Women's Health - Digestive complaints - Detox
and weight loss - Tiredness and fatigue Migraines - Skin conditions - Allergies - Stress
management - Cardiovascular health and many
more...

I also offer food intolerance testing and other functional pathology testing





- 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.