

Issue: November 2018

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

WRAP UP...

In This Edition:

Stats by Chas	Page 1
HG Ambulance Vic	Page 2
Police Report	
HGRRA	Page 3
Botanic Garden, FoGG,	
Pomonal Carols	Page 4
HG Zoo	
Fed Election,	Page 5
Gariwerd Season	Page 6
Halloween	Page 7
History/Ads	Page 8

FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR

PETYAN (LATE SPRING)
Season of wildlife and
wildflowers.



In spring between August and November the bush bursts into life. The days are warmer, although the weather can still be tempestuous.

Some great excitement at the Halls Gap Zoo in this edition with the arrival of their magnificent Southern White Rhino! Photos on page 5.

And of course with the arrival of some lovely warmer weather, Halls Gap Police continue to remind locals and visitors to stay safe on our roads.

An important notice about our local CFA Bushfire Scenario workshop on November 7th is on page 3. Make sure you take advantage of this opportunity to be well prepared for the coming fire season.

Pomonal Christmas Carols are advertised in this edition too, which reminds us that there will only be one more edition of FTG before Christmas so make sure you get your articles about Christmas activities in nice and early.

OCTOBER STATS BY CHAS...

40mm for October bringing the progressive total for the year to 761.00mm. This compares to the same period last year of 72.5mm with a progressive total of 911mm.

As of the 24th of October Lake Bellfield is holding 65,970ML or 84% full compared to the same period last year of 73,380ML or 93% full. The total system is holding 284,250ML or 50.73% full compared to the same period last year of 367,662ML or 65.62% full.

Mount William received 81.6mm for October compared to the same period last year of 44.6mm. The maximum temperature of 21.1C was recorded on the 22nd of October and the minimum of -0.5C was recorded on the 4th & 10th of October. The highest wind speed of 106 km/h was recorded on October 16.



Step back in time...

Do you recognise
these young faces???

Testing soil samples

L-R Hayley Wilkinson,
Kate Rethus,
Clarice Margetts,
Sophie Smith,
Chelsea O'Callaghan



HALLS GAP—AMBULANCE VICTORIA

Some of you may have seen a lot more Ambulance activity and presence around town the last couple of months. The Halls Gap CERT team is in the process of converting over to ACO (Ambulance Community Officers).

So what does this mean for Halls Gap??

We will have an Ambulance in town and it will hopefully be available for '000' calls 24/7!

As ACO we will still be backed up by the local Paramedics from Stawell along with our support services through ESTA ie. Clinician. Having an actual ambulance in town will give us the opportunity to transport patients to Stawell if needed and free up the Paramedics to respond to other cases in a timely manner.

You also might have noticed a Paramedic sedan in town, that is Jim our training facilitator and West Wimmera PCSC (Paramedic Community Support Coordinator). If you see him around town please say 'hi', Jim is based to oversee our ACO branch and to respond and assist us if there is a call out when he is in town.

As Halls Gap CERT we will see John, Jennifer, Liz, Ros and Darryl retire from their role as volunteer members. We would like to thank them for all their hours and expertise that they have given to the community of Halls Gap.

As we convert over to ACO our team consists of Braeden, Nicolle, Crystal, Dave and myself. Jim is in the process of training another five members who will hopefully be ready to respond later in December.

Restart a Heart Day was held in October and we set up a stand at the Hub. We spoke with over 60 people about CPR and the GoodSam App.

CPR is a valuable skill to learn and if you would like to know more contact me or Jim who is able to speak in the Community.

Kerry Linke - Team Leader 0457 795 405.



HALLS GAP POLICE

It was a busy September/October school holiday period for us with 6 separate rescues of injured hikers and one snake bite incident. It's a timely reminder to please be vigilant when hiking in the Grampians. Remember to always tell someone where you are going, hike in a group or with a companion. Please make sure you carry a first aid kit, fully charged mobile phone and plenty of water.

Victoria Police is the lead agency in all search and rescue incidents in Grampians National Park. To increase our capability when responding to search and rescue incidents in the Grampians, I'm excited to announce the creation of the Stawell search and rescue team. Fifteen members, based at Stawell police station, are currently being trained and qualified in navigation and map reading, emergency management, 4WD and general bush craft skills.



CFA Bushfire Scenario workshop:

Please make the effort to come along on November 7, 2018, to the Halls Gap CFA for this very important and informative evening. Local Police and Ambulance Victoria will be there as well answering any questions the community may have. A free BBQ will be provided from 6.30pm.



Road safety –

Just a reminder of the new Road Rule introduced on July 1, 2018 to improve safety for emergency and enforcement workers.

You must slow down to a speed that would enable you to stop safely when approaching and passing enforcement, emergency or escort vehicles that are stationary or moving slowly (less than 10km/h), and have either:

- *Red and blue flashing lights*
- *Magenta (purple flashing lights)*

An alarm sounding

You must not exceed 40km/h when passing the vehicle and not increase your speed until a safe distance from the scene."

The new Road Rule does not apply to vehicles on the opposite side of a divided road (separated by a median strip) from an emergency or enforcement vehicle scene.

I'm currently performing the role of Senior Sergeant at the Stawell police station. Sergeant Pete Young from Stawell will be working at Halls Gap with LSC Kellie Harris until the end of November. Make sure to say g'day when you see him around town.

To follow us on Facebook please "like" us at EYEWATCH-NORTHERN GRAMPians POLICE SERVICE AREA

Cheers,

Acting Senior Sergeant Karen Bain

HG RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of the HGRRA will be on Wednesday December 5 in the Supper room of Centenary Hall. The meeting begins at 7.30pm. Tea and coffee are available at the conclusion of the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

HG BOTANIC GARDEN

There has been a steady flow of visitors through the garden this last month, with many appreciative comments, which are so good to hear. If you are an accommodation owner, do recommend us to your guests, and we also have a facebook page. Do "like us", that makes it easier for people to find our page. You are welcome to make comments too. Plus if you give us a donation (\$50 individuals, \$100 businesses or hands on help) we can print you a charming acknowledgement declaring you to be a friend of the Grampians Flora Botanic Garden, which you can frame for all to see.

If you want flyers to display for guests, please contact me. (margo@sietsma.com).

Last week we finished burning the piles of sticks etc before the start of the fire restrictions. We also planted quite a few running postman seedlings, propagated for us by the Pomonal APS.

The fountain project is still a work in progress but we hope that by the next FTG we will have it working and will be able to share some photos.



Grant success

As I wrote last time, we received a Bulgana Wind Farm Community Fund grant which has now been officially announced in the NGS newsletter.

"Recipients of the Bulgana Wind Farm Community Fund have been announced, with a variety of community groups and organisations sharing in the \$120,000 grant funding pool supplied by Neoen."

Grants were broken up into large (\$20,000) and small (\$5,000) categories, with 20 community organisations receiving funding.

This is the first time the grant program has been run, with 39 applications being made seeking approximately \$348,000 in funding.

Councillor Tony Driscoll, Mayor of Northern Grampians Shire Council said, "This obviously wouldn't have been possible without Neoen, so we thank them for their contribution in what will be a great injection for our community."

"Congratulations to all the winners, but to those who were unsuccessful this round, there will be another round of funding next year that will be available to apply for."

FRIENDS OF GRAMPIANS GARIWERD

Our October activity was to look at the wildflowers along Mt Difficult Rd together with the folk from Hamilton Field Naturalists Society. It was a beautiful day and we were rewarded with some beautiful flowers, ending up at stunning Wartook lookout. Our November activity is on Friday 30th, our AGM late afternoon, followed by a picnic tea together somewhere. Details are yet to be finalised.

POMONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Christmas Carols will be held at the Pomonal Community Hall on December 9. the night will commence at 6pm for a meal, with the singing of carols to follow.

Put it in your diaries now!

BBQ supplied BYO chair.

Gold coin donation.

All Proceeds will go to the Christmas Bowl Appeal. There will be more details next issue, but in the meantime we would love more people to join one of the singing groups.



Contact
Trevor Newell
0427994221

HG ZOO

Kifaru, the Southern White Rhino who has arrived at the Halls Gap Zoo as part of a strategic breeding program.



Canberra Zoo rhino keeper Siobhan Block travelled with the team to bring Kifaru interstate and has been his primary carer for more than four years.



"Kifaru was born in Hamilton Zoo, New Zealand and has grown up at the Canberra Zoo. It's really nice to see him come to his new home. He is approximately two tonne in weight," she said.

Ms Block said Kifaru is currently nine-years-old and southern white rhinos can live up to 40 years in captivity.

"We can expect to have this guy around for a very long time," she said.



Taken from the Ararat Advertiser, Oct 25
Pictures: Tom Parkes

FEDERAL ELECTION November 24

With the Federal election drawing closer all parties are making pledges which may—or may not – secure votes. This one, reported in the Stawell Times, might be of interest to the Halls Gap community.

Nationals make promise for \$2.75 million Halls Gap upgrade if elected

Halls Gap is set for a \$2.75 million upgrade to its village centre if The Nationals are elected to government in November, Member for Lowan Emma Kealy has announced.

The funding would go towards the construction of a new road and bridge over Stoney Creek, opening the door for more commercial land to be created as well as increased safety within the area.

The new bridge would connect Heath Street with Grampians Road, creating a major arterial road and a direct route for vehicles travelling through Halls Gap.

The project is estimated to stimulate more than \$30 million of economic activity, creating around 100 new jobs in the process for the Grampians region for the next ten years.

Member for Lowan, Emma Kealy said, "This investment will significantly improve safety for local residents and tourists by easing traffic and pedestrian congestion in the village centre."

Halls Gap Councillor, Jason Hosemans said, "This is an absolutely fantastic project that would be transformational to Halls Gap, essentially tripling the commercial retail opportunities in the village centre."

"We commend Emma Kealy and The Nationals on this announcement which would further help Halls Gap become an international standard destination."

Gariwerd Season

During this month our season will change from Petyan to Ballambar—season of butterflies



Early summer: Mid November-late January



THE LIFESTYLE FOR THE GARIWERD COMMUNITIES

The woodland areas during Ballambar

Plants

Many plants still in flower:

- teatrees, shaggy peas, hop goodenia and guinea flowers in bloom
- banksia, grass trees, blue dampiera and christmas mint bush
- sweet bursaria at flowering peak
- hycathinth, tongue and duck orchids
- Murnong is flowering in heathlands

Some plants in fruit/seeding:

- kangaroo grass seeding
- beard heath has berries
- seed pods of silver wattle open

Reptiles

Snakes and lizards bask in sun including copperhead snakes and jacky lizards.

Insects

Beetles and moths collect around lights at night.
Butterflies chase each other in the warm sun.
Lacewings hatch.
King crickets in old banksia logs.

The wetland areas during Ballambar

Plants

Water ribbons in creeks develop flowering spikes.
Nardoo are growing vigorously.
Cumbungi grows in streams and wetlands.

Birds

Grebes build floating grass nests on lakes for second brood.



Birds

Birds active include:

- orioles and white throated warblers calling
- squabbling honeyeaters clamber over the flowering banksias
- kites prey on mice and locusts

Many birds still have young including:

- bee-eater chicks hatch in nesting tunnels
- kookaburras and sacred kingfishers feeding young
- bee-eaters feed on young dragon flies
- pardalote and yellow robin nestlings leave nests

Many birds have post nesting moulting.

Mammals

Pygmy possums have young.
Echidnas seeking ant nests.

Reptiles and amphibians

Water dragons sit on riverside rocks.
Tadpoles can be seen in ponds.

Insects

Dragonflies and water striders are mating.
Daphnia water fleas develop large egg masses.
Whirligig beetle larvae pupate in muddy cocoons.
Swarms of midges can be seen above ponds.

<http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/calendars/gariwerd.shtml>

Halloween Highlights

A great night on Wednesday with 47 children enjoying Halloween action. Thanks to everyone who helped. Much appreciated.



FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

Lee-Anne, Margo, Jenni and
Tammy

Please email your articles and
photos to us by the 26th 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 Facebook Page

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/1099510706758784/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1099510706758784/)

**Q. Which side of a
duck has the most
feathers?**



A. The Outside!



Regular Events

- Chas Mangle Justice of the Peace is available for witnessing documents in the History Room at the Centenary Hall most days except Tuesdays from 1pm - 5 pm. Ph. 0439 837 052
- Grampians Film Society
- Various sport/fitness groups. Check the community website for details



The Halls Gap History Room in the Centenary Hall is open most days except Tuesday from 1PM - 5PM. Locals and visitors are most welcome and there is no entry fee.