

Issue: February 2019

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

WRAP UP...

Welcome to our first addition for 2019. Hope everyone had a safe and fun holiday season. Now we are back to normality with the children back to school. Check out what events are happening over the next two months.

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FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



kooyang

season of eels - late summer
(late january to late march)

A Parched Landscape

Late summer (season of eels
or kooyang) is the hottest and
driest time of the year.

The risk of bushfire (Piikorda) is high.
Streams dry up.

STATS BY CHAS...

December 2018

106.5 mm for December bringing the progressive total for the year to 942.5 mm. This compares to the same period last year of 33.0 mm for December with a progressive total of 985.5 mm.

As of the 19th of December Lake Bellfield is holding 63,890ML or 81% full compared to the same period last year of 70,550ML or 90% full. The total system is holding 264,290ML or 47.17% full compared to the same period last year of 331,982ML or 59.25% full.

Mount William received 82.2 mm for December compared to the same period last year of 54.2 mm. The highest temperature of 31.9 C was recorded on the 27th and the lowest of 2.7 C was recorded on the 2nd of December. The highest wind speed of 109 km/h was recorded on the 1st of December.

January 2019

Only 2 mm for January. This compares to the same period last year of 17 mm.

As of the 30th of January Lake Bellfield is holding 61,180ML or 78% full compared to the same period last year of 68,660ML or 87% full. The total system is holding 236,920ML or 42.28% full compared to the same period last year of 309,510ML or 55.24% full. It is interesting to note other Reservoir's in the area, Lake Fyans, 12,420ML or 67% compared to 13,180ML or 71% full. Lake Lonsdale 9,350ML or 18% full compared to 26,640ML or 50% full. Moora Moora 2,960ML or 47% full compared to 4,200ML or 67% full. Lake Wartook 14,420ML or 49% full compared to 22,030ML or 75% full.

Mount William received 3 mm for January. This compares to the same period last year of 23.2 mm. The highest temperature of 34.4 C was recorded on the 24th and the lowest of 3.9 C was recorded on the 10th of January. The



Step back in time...

Who remembers the "Old Log" in the Picnic Ground opposite the shops in the 60's.



BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC

20-22 Grampians Road, Halls Gap 3381

PH: 03 53564751

www.budjabudjacoop.org.au

FEBRUARY 2019		MARCH 2019	
Dr Barbara Hoare	5-8	Dr Karen O'Brien	5-8
Dr Barbara Hoare	12-15	TBA	12-15
Dr Barbara Hoare	19-22	Dr Susan Lewis	19-22
Dr Barbara Hoare	26-1	Dr Susan Lewis	26-29

HEALTHY HYDRATION

Over half of our body is made up of water. Water is used to make up bodily fluids, maintain our body temperature, and in many other bodily processes required for day-to-day functioning. So when it comes to maintaining healthy hydration - tap into water first! So how much do I need? Your fluid needs depend on your gender, age, activity levels and the outside climate. Requirements are different during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Use the values on the right as a guide to your individual fluid requirements:



Boys: 9 - 13yr	1.6 L per day (about 6 cups)
14 - 18yr	1.9 L per day (about 7-8 cups)
Girls: 9 - 13yr	1.4 L per day (about 5-6 cups)
14 - 18yr	1.6 L per day (about 6 cups)
Men: 19 - 30yr	2.6 L per day (about 10 cups)
Women: 19 - 30yr	2.1 L per day (about 8 cups)

Warning signs of dehydration:

- Dizziness and light headedness
- Muscle cramps
- Nausea/Headaches
- Inability to concentrate
- Dark urine and infrequent urination
- Dry mouth and throat

How do I know if I have healthy hydration?

One of the best indicators of hydration is urine colour. Aim for a pale yellow colour. There is no benefit to being over-hydrated, this can actually make you feel bloated and increase the urgency of urination.

Tips for tapping into water:

Carry a water bottle with you. Have a drink of water with your meals and snacks. Keep fluids cool, this encourages drinking. Add some strawberries, lemon slices or mint leaves to a jug of water for a flavour boost.



One spectacular location, one stage, 20 incredible new artists – Grampians Music Festival celebrates genre-spanning up-and-coming musicians from across Australia.

Small and intimate, with boutique wine, beer, cocktails and food, GMF is held in sunny Halls Gap, western Victoria. With no timing conflicts and 360° mountain views, Grampians Music Festival is one very unique festival in an insanely beautiful location.

Grampians Music Festival is located within the beautiful Grampians National Park / Gariwerd, a sacred part of Victoria, a place that has always been and always will be the land of the Djab Wurrung and the Jardwadjali people of the Kulin nations. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

We're building a safe space, promoting good vibes and encouraging you to discover all that regional Victoria has to offer.

Big mountains, huge sounds – come boogie in the sunshine with us!

GRAMPIANS MUSIC FESTIVAL PLAYING TIMES

FRIDAY 15TH FEB 2019		SATURDAY 16TH FEB 2019		SUNDAY 17TH FEB 2019	
5.10	ALICE SKYE	12.25	WELCOME TO COUNTRY	12.25	REGIONAL DJ COMP WINNER TBC
6.10	BENNY WALKER	12.55	SWEAT DREAMS DJS	2.10	SEASIDE
7.10	SAGAMORE	2.10	KAT EDWARDS	3.10	SUNSCREEN
8.15	WHITE BLEACHES	3.10	RATIHAMMOCK	4.10	BATTS
9.20	BONES AND JONES	4.10	PLANET	5.10	COOL OUT SUN
10.30	A MINER	5.10	JADE IMAGINE	6.10	BODY TYPE
		6.10	HOBSONS BAY COAST GUARD	7.10	ANGIE MCMAHON
		7.10	HUNTLY	8.15	MILAN RING
		8.15	SLUM SOCIABLE	9.20	WAFIA
		9.20	SAMPA THE GREAT	10.30	SWEAT DREAMS DJS
		10.30	MZRIZK		

grampiansmusicfestival.com

Facebook Instagram Twitter @grampiansmusicfestival

beat BLUE PRINCES PRESENTS music 106.7FM

BUDJA BUDJA NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Budja Budja Neighbourhood House program for Semester 1 will be out early February. Check our website and Facebook page for the latest updates.

Lee-Anne and Alison are happy to hear from you about classes and activities you would like us to hold. We are also renovating the Art and Craft room which will allow us to run more activities.



You're invited to

Pomonal & Halls Gap Playgroup 2019

Friday from 9.30am to 11am
during school terms



Term 1 Dates & Venue

- 1/2/19 Pomonal Primary School
- 8/2/19 Story Time @ Budja Budja Neighbourhood House
- 15/2/19 Pomonal Primary School
- 22/2/19 Story Time @ Budja Budja Neighbourhood House
- 1/3/19 Pomonal Primary School
- 8/3/19 Story Time @ Budja Budja Neighbourhood House
- 15/3/19 Pomonal Primary School
- 22/3/19 Story Time @ Budja Budja Neighbourhood House
- 29/3/19 Pomonal Primary School
- 5/4/19 Story Time @ Budja Budja Neighbourhood House

For more details contact Jess Mackley on 0428 317 752

Pomonal Primary School, Ararat- Halls Gap Road Pomonal
Budja Budja Neighbourhood House, 20-22 Grampians Road, Halls Gap



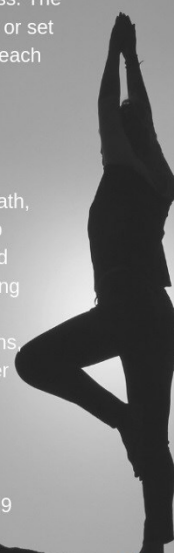
YOGA WITH NICOLE

6:00PM - BEGINNERS

This class is perfect for those who are new to yoga or experienced students looking to refine their practice and technique. Discover the foundations of vinyasa flow in this alignment focused class. The class will be based around a theme, posture or set of postures – something different to explore each week.

7:00PM - FLOW

This dynamic class links movement with breath, in a creative, fun-flowing class. Find a deep connection within through full exploration and expression of the body. It will leave you feeling invigorated and inspired! Open to all levels, beginners will be offered simpler modifications while experienced yogis can play with deeper variations.



When: Wednesdays starting from 6 February 2019

Where: Budja Budja Neighbourhood House
20-22 Grampians Road, Halls Gap

Cost: \$10 per session

NOTE: Mats, Straps & Blocks provided



Halls Gap Tai Chi

When: Thursday at 10am

Where: Budja Budja Neighbourhood House
20-22 Grampians Road, Halls Gap



Halls Gap Book Club



Held Third Thursday of the month February to November from 7.30pm
at Budja Budja Neighbourhood House

20-22 Grampians Rd, Halls Gap, 3381

For more details contact Lee-Anne on (03) 5356 4571 and press 2 or
email: neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au



The Grampians Film Society evenings are held from January to November. The doors open at 7pm and screenings commence at 7.30pm. Drinks and nibbles are served prior to the film and a light supper is served afterwards. Membership is only \$45 annually, \$25 half-year or \$15 for three consecutive months. Contact Janet Witham 03 5356 4300 or Alison Bainbridge 0417 883 445 for more information. Come along and enjoy

viewing, being entertained and discussing the merits of films we screen. We endeavour to cater for a variety of tastes as well as have a fun social night.

Screening Date: Wednesday 27 February 2019 at 7.30pm
Screening Venue: Centenary Hall, 117 Grampians Road, Halls Gap
Film: A Man Called Ove, (2015) Swedish Comedy-Drama

Grumpy old men aren't born they're made.... Meet Ove, a cranky curmudgeon who seethes with perpetual annoyance at everyone around him. He runs his condominium block with strict principles and a short fuse, reluctantly helping his hapless neighbours with their day to day problems, while dreaming of the perfect suicide. The last thing Ove is looking for is a friend – but when a boisterous Iranian family move in next door, He may finally have to open himself up to the unwanted and unexpected. Based on Fredrik Backman's beloved international bestseller, this offbeat and charming Swedish film reveals it's never too late for friendship .



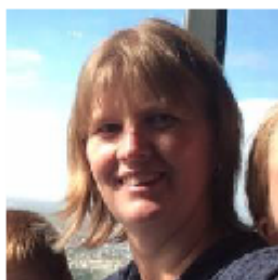
Screening Date	Film	Venue
23 rd January 2019	White Lion - South African 2008 - Drama	Halls Gap
27 th February 2019	A Man Called Ove, Swedish 2015 Comedy/ Drama	Halls Gap
27 th March 2019	The Zookeeper's Wife – 2017 Drama based on a true story	Stawell
24 th April 2019	Brooklyn – UK 2015 - Drama	Halls Gap
22 nd May 2019	Whisky Galore – UK 1949 – Classic Comedy	Halls Gap
26 th June 2019	The Imitation Game – UK 2014 – Drama based on a true story	Stawell
24 th July 2019	Unforgiven – USA 1992 - Western	Halls Gap
28 th August 2019	Women on the 6th Floor – French 2011 - Comedy	Halls Gap
25 th September 2019	A Street Cat Named Bob – UK 2016 – Drama based on a true story	Stawell
23 rd October 2019	Fences – USA 2016 – Drama	Halls Gap
27 th November 2019	Ali's Wedding – Aust. 2017 - Comedy	Halls Gap

Grampians National Park Community Update

January 2019

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Late in 2018 Grampians National Park welcomed a new Area Chief Ranger, Rhonda McNeil. Rhonda joins the Grampians team with a wealth of experience and knowledge in conservation, land management and community engagement. She has previously worked for Parks Victoria in various management positions in Western Victoria, and has held roles within local council and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. We are excited to have Rhonda as part of our leadership team in Grampians National Park.



ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Recovery (2014 Fire and Flood)

A number of road, walking track and park asset redevelopment projects were completed late last year and focus now shifts to completing the following projects:

- Nagamadjidj walking track, carpark and art site interpretation signage redevelopment
- Stapylton loop walking track repairs
- Zumsteins Cottages Pise repair works
- Zumsteins heritage site interpretation signage
- Coppermine 4X4 bush camp redevelopment
- Coppermine Group Hikers Camp redevelopment
- Longpoint west Hikers camp redevelopment
- New Dead Bullock Creek (Barriguwa) campground development. Replacement of Troopers creek.

There have been alignment changes to Briggs Bluff and the Mt Difficult walking tracks. Check for alignment updates at Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre prior to venturing out.

Roads

Unsealed roads have been upgraded throughout the park as part of flood recovery works. However, dry summer conditions have resulted in many dusty and corrugated sections. Please slow down and drive safely. Note unsealed roads cannot be graded until there is an increase

in soil moisture. See the latest road report for any closure and access updates.

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

The Grampians team was successful in receiving funding for Biodiversity Response Planning last year. The funding will be used to run research and monitoring projects and on ground management of environmental threats including include the spread of Sallow wattle, herbivore overpopulations (rabbits, feral goats and deer), and predator management (foxes and cats). Final project approvals and planning are in progress.

New technology is assisting with monitoring of the reintroduced Rock Wallaby population. These new cameras with remote data communication abilities allows rangers to rapidly detect fox and cat activity on site and respond accordingly. The cameras also allow the team to better understand wallaby numbers and home ranges.

Hard rubbish dumping is fast becoming a major issue in our smaller reserves surrounding the Grampians. The team is responding to a number of reports of household and commercial waste being dumped in reserves near surrounding townships. Local residents are encouraged to make use of council rubbish facilities and report all illegal dumping to parks Victoria or the EPA.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY

While there has been numerous total fire bans and severe and extreme fire danger days, it has been a relatively quiet summer in the Wimmera and South West Fire Districts. The Halls Gap fire crew have continued with fire line slashing works, burn preparation for the Autumn and Spring program, and have also assisted the wider team with Junior Ranger education programs and a safer together community information stall in Halls Gap.

With several large bushfires burning in Gippsland, local staff have also been deployed on task forces to bolster on ground resources and provide relief to weary Gippsland crews.

Did you know? Parks Victoria is part of Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV). To learn more about FFMV's role and responsibilities please visit <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/who-we-are/forest-fire-management-victoria>.

VISITORS AND COMMUNITY

The summer holiday program has been a fantastic success this year. Our Summer Rangers have delivered a range of Junior Ranger programs to over 200 participants. They have also been key in the delivery of our 'Be Safe Be Prepared' visitor awareness campaign, Total Fire Ban day assistance, Asset database management and campground maintenance.



Upcoming activities and events:

- 2/02/2019 - Sherpa Volunteer Training Day (become a volunteer to help others use the TrailRider – all terrain wheelchair)
- 3/03/2019 - Clean Up Australia Day (help clean up Grampians National Park)
- April 2019 – Active April (Kids and adult activities to get active in our parks)

For more information about how to get involved with these activities please email Hannah:

hannah.auld@parks.vic.gov.au

To assist with emergency response Parks Victoria has recently installed over 110 emergency markers throughout the National Park. These can be used to quickly locate lost or injured walkers, and reduce response times of emergency services. Keep an eye out for them and take note in case you need them.



BE SAFE BE PREPARED

Understanding the landscape you are about to visit and the activities you are about to undertake is vital, particularly during extreme summer weather. Here's a few important tips to ensure all visitors have safe and enjoyable visit to the Grampians National Park.

Research before visiting: Check park conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au, Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre or a local Visitor Information Centre. Check for closures, check weather, check fire danger ratings, check that the walk you want to do aligns with your fitness and bushwalking experience – A grade 4 difficult walk should not be attempted by everyone.

Don't rely on mobile phone coverage: It doesn't exist in many areas of the Grampians. Take a GPS or personal locator beacon. Take a map and know how to navigate your way to safety. If you don't know how, stick to the easy, short, well sign-posted walks instead.

Wear appropriate clothing: Shorts, thongs and singlets will not protect you if you do happen to get lost or sprain your ankle and need to wait hours in the heat or cold for assistance. Wear boots, long sleeve pants and shirts and carry other protective layers in a backpack.

Take food and water: Extreme weather can sap your energy very quickly. Many injuries occur on the return leg of a walk when people have become tired and thirsty. Stay hydrated and refuel. Every member of your group should have a 2L water bottle with them as a minimum.

Time your visit: Walk early in the morning to avoid heat and allow yourselves plenty of time to return before dark.

Help protect this important natural and cultural area: Reduce your use of plastics, take all your rubbish home with you. Stay on designated tracks, leave your pets at home and leave no trace of your visit.

GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

Though summer weather conditions have been harsh, construction works on the Mt Difficult to Halls Gap section remain on schedule for completion by Sept 2019. Hiker camp construction is set to start by April.

Follow the progress of the GPT at:

<https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/grampians-national-park/plans-and-projects/grampians-peak-trail>

BOTANIC GARDEN NEWS

Our fountain is working, of course only when we have sun on our panels. Mornings are the best time to see and listen to it. There are still some adjustments to be made and this may increase the hours it flows. The next step is to pave the area surrounding it using the sandstone scraps we were given from the hub courtyard.. Hours of work and quite a bit of money has gone into this project and we are very grateful to all who have contributed, particularly Paul for his donation, Wayne for the design, metal work and stone work and David for his mammoth commitment. I'm a bit cautious about naming names as there are several others who work steadily on less obvious but very important tasks. We would welcome more people to join us, either at our regular 2nd Wednesday of the month working bees, or on their own at a time that suits you. Come regularly or occasionally, every little bit helps. Or give us a donation. Donations over \$50 or equivalent entitles you to a charming certificate to display.

Now the fountain is more or less complete we will start on buying and then installing the furniture for our shade shelter in February, thanks to a grant from the Bulgana Windfarm group.

We are very disappointed to announce that our emu has had to be taken off for rehabilitation. Some stupid person has managed to break it off it's legs, and the repair won't be simple. So we don't know when our friend will be able to return.

Next working bee February 13. Put it in your diary now!

TOURISM NEWS

(copied from a recent post by Marc Sleeman)

The International Market to the Grampians currently represents approx 395,400 nights in our region with an annual growth of over 20%. Grampians Tourism works in partnership with Great Southern Touring Route and three other Regional Tourism Boards to promote our region Internationally.

HALLS GAP LAND CARE GROUP

Halls Gap Landcare Group is keen to build its support base and focus on a number of environmental weeds within the township.

In recent times the group has done some excellent work, in conjunction with Project Platypus, but there is much more to do. Environmental weeds from the Kunzea family, Watsonia and Blue Periwinkle, are becoming well established in parts of the town and will require significant attention, particularly in areas adjoining the national park.

The Landcare Group is able to apply for grants to assist with projects, such as the control of environmental weeds. Assistance with the management of funded projects is available through Project Platypus.

We are seeking members who can assist with monitoring pest plant infestations around the township and input into grant application processes. The work would probably involve about four meetings per year and liaison with Project Platypus and other agencies, such as Parks Victoria.

If you would like to contribute to the environmental protection of our township and adjoining national park and become a Landcare Group member, please contact Graham Parkes on 0429839179 or email graham@grahamparkes.com.au

Further information about environmental weeds in Halls Gap is available on the Community Noticeboard at <https://hallsgapcommunity.org.au>, managed by the Community Association of Halls Gap.

HG RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Please note that there is a change of date for our first meeting this year. It will be held on **Wednesday March 20 at 7.30pm in the Supper Room of Centennial Hall**. The general meeting will be preceded by the AGM. Pop the new date in your diary and come along to see what issues are of interest to your fellow residents and/or ratepayers.

VALE ERROL HOFFMANN



Errol died this month (16/1/2019) of bowel cancer. He and Dot lived full time in Halls Gap from 1998 to 2017, after having had a holiday house here for quite a few years prior to that.

Errol did so much for this community that it is almost impossible to summarise. He was a committee member in the CFA, the Community Association and the Ratepayers. He taught religious education at the primary school, coached some students in maths and science, and was very active with children's activities at the Wildflower show. He was part of a group of volunteers in Melbourne who recycled broken computers and gave them free to new owners, and several families here benefited from this, as well as his assistance with using our computers.

Errol and Dot will be also remembered for the song project after the fires of 2006

which so nearly destroyed their home. They were responsible in getting songwriter Fay White to work with the community to write songs, form a choir and then record the CD "Alive in Grampians Gariwerd" with its many beautiful songs (These mountains stand, Out of the Ashes, Fields of Myrniong, Green things growing, Heartbeat heard, Gariwerd Hiking song and more). Out of the Ashes was played at the end of the funeral service – very moving.

Also at the funeral in their home church in Brunswick a series of photos showed Errol's enthusiastic love and care for the plants and animals of this area. The emus he encouraged to visit their home, the native orchids he spent hours studying each spring.

If you would like to write to Dot please contact Budja Budja Neighbourhood house for her address.



FRIENDS OF GRAMPIANS GARIWERD

FOGGS will be starting the year with a bird walk at Brambuk, led by Neil Macumber, followed by a presentation of his photos of birds and animals of our area. See poster. Then on March 3 we will be joining in with Clean Up Australia Day.



Birds and Animals of the Grampians

Neil Macumber

When : Saturday 2nd February 2019 at 4pm

Where : Mural Room at Brambuk - The National Park & Cultural Centre,
277 Grampians Rd, Halls Gap

Time : 4pm—6pm Meal 6.30pm

Join us and local Bird and Animal expert Neil Macumber on a walk around the picturesque grounds of Brambuk bird watching followed by a slideshow of some of the rare and not so rare animals seen in the Grampians.

All welcome

4pm –5pm Bird watching walk

5pm –6pm Slide show

6.30pm All welcome for a meal at the Halls Gap Hotel

RSVP foggsgariwerd@gmail.com



Halls Gap Community Garden

Free for all Locals

Have you checked out our community garden lately. We are looking for more volunteers to help with the weeding and watering

Kellie Soule from the Grampians YHA has volunteered to co-ordinate the Community Garden.

For all enquiries, contact her on 5356 4544 or 0448 371 189 or at grampians@yha.com.au



Reminder

Please remember we have a Halls Gap webpage. It has all sorts of useful information and links, and it's where you can find previous issues of Fill the Gap. Not everyone in HG is on Facebook, so if you are planning an event make sure you do put it up on the website. And if you need to make changes to information about your group, or find errors, please let the administrators know.

www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au

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:

neighbourhood.house@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



Stay straight and brake

Never swerve to avoid wildlife on the road. You risk rolling your vehicle, hitting a tree or colliding with oncoming traffic

- 1 Slow down at dusk and dawn
- 2 Kangaroos travel in mobs (groups), there usually will be more than one in the area
- 3 If a collision is unavoidable **stay straight and brake**

In an emergency call 000

VICTORIA POLICE

How Children Perceive Their Grandparents: Grandma was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Gramma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I'll probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye.



Regular Events

- Chas Mangle Justice of the Peace is available for witnessing documents in the History Room at the Centennial Hall most days except Tuesdays from 1pm - 5 pm. Ph. 0439 837 052
- Social Coffee catch-ups at Brambuk 11am on the first Tuesday of the month.
- 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.