

Issue: February 2020

# FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association  
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

## WRAP UP...

### In This Edition:

Stats by Chas	Page 1
HG Botanic Garden	Page 2
HGRRR	
CFA	
CFA	Page 3
HG Community Garden	
Fund raising event	Page 4
GMF	Page 5
Grampians Wildflower show	
Specs to a good cause	
BBNH	Pages 6-7
BB Medical	Page 8
Mens Health Day	Page 9
FOGG	Page 10
Clean Up Aust.	
Parks	Pages 11-13
Markets	Pages 14
Ads	Page 15

### 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.

We got through January and the children are back at school.

There are a number of initiatives to assist those adversely affected by the drought and fires. Budja Budja Neighbourhood House is a drop off point for wildlife Rescue Craft Collective. See page 6 for more details. Spirt of Punjab is having a fundraising day for the CWA to help drought stricken farmers on Sunday 16 February 2020 see page 4 for details.

There is loads to do in Halls Gap and surrounding district so get out there, support our locals and enjoy our wonderful part of the world.

## STATS BY CHAS...

January 2020 - 36 mm for January 2020 compared to the same period last year of 2 mm for January 2019.

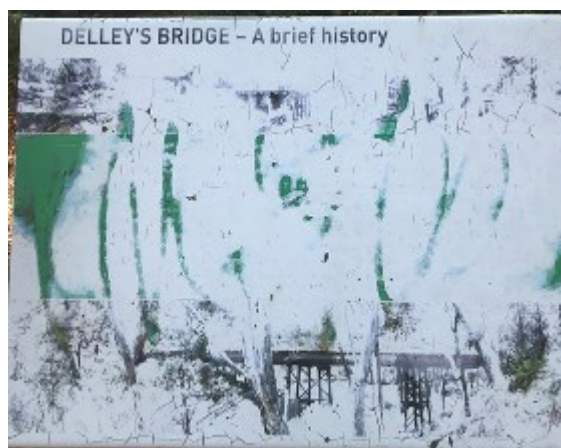
As of the 29th of January 2020 Lake Bellfield is holding 53,410ML or 68% full compared to the same period last year of 61,720ML or 79% full. The total system is holding 197,710ML or 35.29% full compared to the same period last year of 242,140ML or 43.22% full.

Mount William received 35.6 mm for January 2020 compared to the same period last year of 3 mm for January 2019. The highest temperature of 34C was recorded on the 31st of January and the lowest of 1.8 C was recorded on the 17th of January. The highest wind speed of 98 km/h was recorded on the 22nd of January.

An extra 29mm until on 31st January to 7am 1 February

Cheers - Chas

## HISTORY ROOM NEEDS YOUR HELP



Many of you will have noticed that the Delley's Bridge sign has been illegible for some time. The Historical society would like to replace it. Unfortunately we have been unable to locate the original notes and layout of the sign and are asking for your help.

Perhaps you attended the unveiling and have a photograph of or one that includes the sign in a better

more legible condition? If you can help in any way we would appreciate it. Please drop in and speak with Chas one afternoon or send an email to [hallsgapandgrampianshs@gmail.com](mailto:hallsgapandgrampianshs@gmail.com)



The garden is coping reasonably well with the dry weather now that our drip watering system is back working again, thanks to the care and vigilance of a couple of our volunteers, plus some hand watering of areas it doesn't cover.

Our January working bee was very poorly attended with several regulars with other commitments but we managed to get quite a bit done. We have moved to a Friday this year, hoping that might bring us more workers, but may need to play around with dates. In the meantime I'm proposing one on **Friday 7 February**.

In other news, we are very pleased that we are going to see more visits from the OutBeyond group. Having Melbourne and overseas young people helping us will be a great help.

We are grateful for the money that comes in from activities like the wildflower show, Joy's busking and shire grants, but we also really appreciate those of you who have been donating time or money. If you donate over \$50 we give you a gift certificate which you can display to your guests. Why not start 2020 with a donation? Our mower needs an upgrade, we would like a new noticeboard in the shade shelter ..... We also have an opportunity to apply for a grant from the Victorian government for some major improvements to the garden. We would love some input from locals and tourism operators. What apart from electricity to our shed would you see as priorities?

Finally, another appeal for help. Several of our workers are needing to reduce their commitment due to health problems, and others of us are ageing. We need to look at our succession plans for the future. You can get involved in giving your ideas, help in applying for grants then spending them, recording our plants, supervising students, working on signs and so on, even if you can't weed. So if you would like to be on the mailing list do let me know.

Margo Sietsma

## HALLS GAP RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

**HGRRA meeting and AGM, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm Centenary Hall Supper Room.**

### **December 2019 Minute Highlights:**

At the December meeting Cr Jason Hosemans addressed matters related to the various and many works being undertaken in Halls Gap. He also undertook to investigate what regular maintenance is required for the 6 defibrillators in Halls Gap and who is responsible for this.

The idea of a kids state/pump park was raised again on one of the Community fb pages. This continues to be a recurring idea. Previously a suitable location had been sourced but no one is willing to take on this project. Paul Turner reiterated his offer to be involved with such a group but not to manage or lead it. Community members who are interested in forming a committee are urged to contact Paul.

### **2020 meetings**

4 March, 3 June, 2 September & 2 December 2020

All Residents and Ratepayers are invited to attend.

If you are wanting more information on HGRRA and/or to receive the full minutes please contact Paul Turner on 0418 992 510.



Monthly training for Halls Gap CFA volunteer fire fighters – first Wednesday of each month from 6:00pm to 7:15pm at the Halls Gap Fire Station, 78 Grampians Road Halls Gap 3381.

**Annual brigade meeting including election of leadership team for following two years will be held on Wednesday 6 May 2020 7.30pm at the Halls Gap Fire Station.**

## HALL GAP CFA BRIGADE



It was good to work with Parks Victoria and Forest Fire Management Victoria in Halls Gap over the long weekend to connect with the community. Locals and visitors enjoyed climbing aboard vehicles

and trying out pumps and hoses, with children looking the part dressed in green and orange firefighting outfits.

We are really pleased to have recruited another two volunteers during January and welcomed back a former member rejoining the brigade after a couple of years interstate. We are getting steadily closer to the recommended minimum 24 active volunteers, but still need several more to secure our turn out rates. Call Peter if interested 0437 524 716.

Whilst we have not had the intensity of fire activity experienced in other parts of Australia, we have responded to a number of incidents including several crews assisting Moyston and Ararat brigades at Rocky Point and our Ultralight tanker on task there for several days.

Training this month involves checking and testing our 'quick fill' trailer. This is a pump and lighting set we can tow to a water source to fill tankers as close as practicable to the fire ground. Volunteers will learn and practise setting up and running the pump and lights, and supplying water through various different hoses and couplings.

As well as our local training, two members will attend a course in February to become accredited in isolating electricity by safe removal of supply fuses and three members will commence heavy vehicle driver training. We also have new members who will soon commence the Wildfire Firefighter course.

Remember we are still in the fire restriction period and the fire risk remains high. Take care with activities and machinery that may cause sparks or heat, and remember a permit is required for any fire that is not for cooking or warmth.

Contact Peter if you would like to join the Halls Gap CFA Brigade.

Peter Hilbig  
Captain  
0437524716  
Peter@Hilbig.id.au



## Halls Gap Community Garden

The Halls Gap Community Garden has been maintained over the summer holidays by a small but enthusiastic group. Myself, 2 deer, numerous kangaroos and emus plus regular flocks of birds have kept the garden in ship shape condition until the local residents return to the Gap after the school holidays.

The dry conditions and lack of human assistance meant that when called upon the wildlife did not let down the Halls Gap Community. I would suggest that the garden is looking the best it has ever looked at this time of the year.

When the autumn plantings begin we will of course shut the gates on the summer work crew but until that time myself and my ever reliable gang will maintain the garden in the present format.

I would hope the Halls Gap Primary School students, YHA and Tim's Place will continue on with this worthwhile project. However every community member is welcome to come down and enjoy the serenity and joy of working in a community garden with the most beautiful views of the Grampians National Park. Why not take on a plot and grow vegetables for yourself and the community?

Again a special thanks to my reliable summer work crew and if anyone is interested in spending time in a community garden please call me on 53564288.

Tim Walsh, Tim's Place



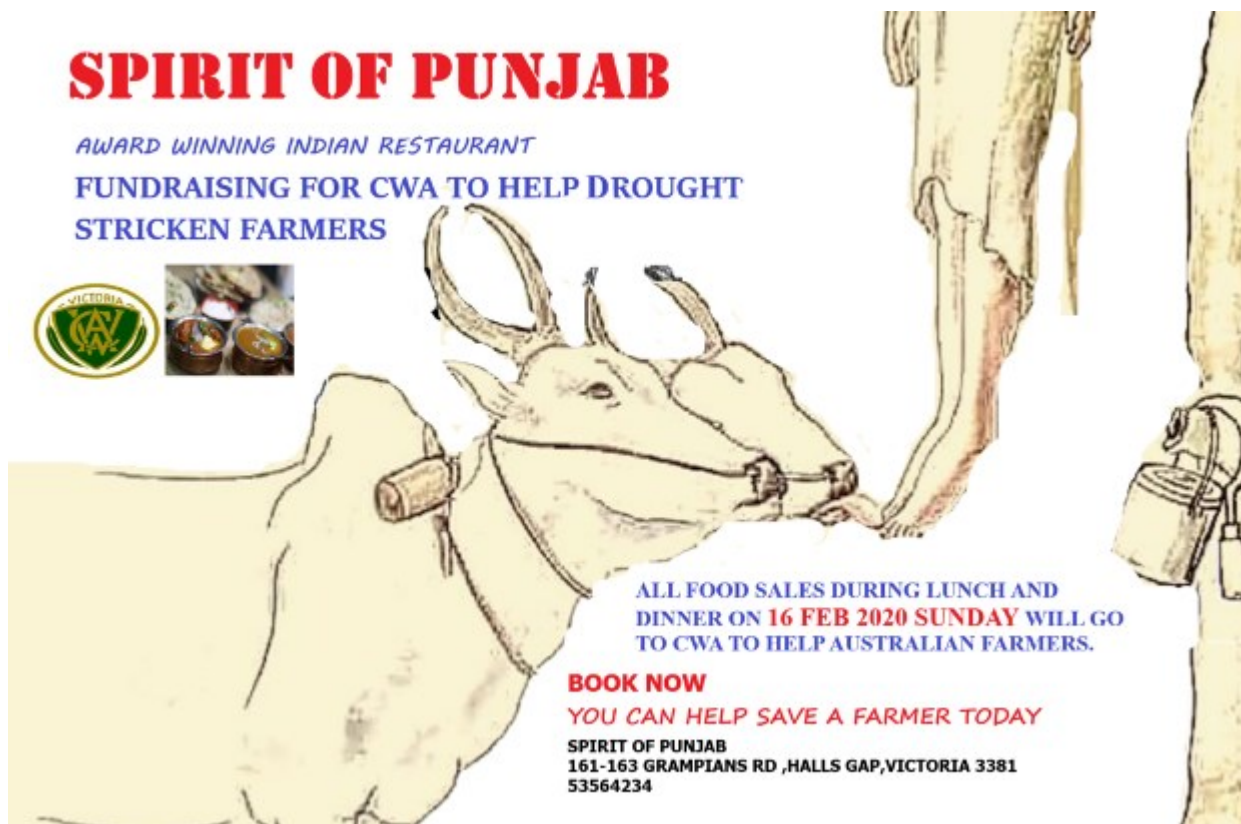
## SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2020

The generous people at our local Indian restaurant, the Spirit of Punjab, are organising a fundraising event to assist drought stricken farmers. They will donate all money paid for meals from noon on this day to the close of business. All funds raised will go to the Stawell branch of the CWA to distribute to local needy farmers.

### SPIRIT OF PUNJAB

AWARD WINNING INDIAN RESTAURANT

FUNDRAISING FOR CWA TO HELP DROUGHT  
STRICKEN FARMERS



ALL FOOD SALES DURING LUNCH AND  
DINNER ON **16 FEB 2020 SUNDAY** WILL GO  
TO CWA TO HELP AUSTRALIAN FARMERS.

#### BOOK NOW

YOU CAN HELP SAVE A FARMER TODAY

SPIRIT OF PUNJAB  
161-163 GRAMPIONS RD, HALLS GAP, VICTORIA 3381  
53564234

### Stawell Sport & Aquatic Centre Redevelopment

*Don't miss the opportunity to have your say about how you want to see the centre to look and feel in the future; for you and your family for generations to come.....*

Consultation is currently underway for the community provide their input on future program, service and infrastructure improvements at the Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

#### Complete the engagement survey

Survey is now live until **9th February 2020**

**Online:** [www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/Have-Your-Say](http://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/Have-Your-Say)

**In person:** Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre during centre opening hours

#### Individual/group submissions

Written submissions are welcome from clubs, groups or individuals until **12th February 2020**

**Email:** [ssac@ngshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:ssac@ngshire.vic.gov.au)

**In person:** Stawell Town Hall Council Offices, Main Street Stawell

For more information on the Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre Redevelopment go to:  
<https://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/Have-Your-Say/Stawell-Sports-Aquatic-Centre-Redevelopment>





**After 80 years, will the Wildflower Show cease this year?**  
It's up to you.

Keeping the show going is a real challenge. We will be losing the invaluable contribution of Rae Talbot as she retires. This means the CMA contribution will be rethought, and while we have had encouraging words from the management, it's not guaranteed. And then there's the current committee. Val and Margo have been doing the plant ID etc for years now ( with excellent database which we can lend around to anyone who would like to learn to use it), and neither of us is going to last for ever.

The same is true for others on the committee and the experienced flower collectors. It is really great that we had a couple of newcomers who were a great help in 2019, but they have work and study commitments which can get in the way.

The current committee is well aware that if the show is to continue we need to make changes: Make better task lists, change meeting times, etc. Plus be prepared for the new members to make unexpected changes.

We plan to make a decision at the Community Association meeting on March 2 at 4.30. Before then we'll be talking with the shire, with the organisers of the Pomonal Native Flower Show, with Grampians Tourism, with Parks and DELWP, but unless we have a solid group of committed Halls Gap folk the show just can't keep going.

So please give us your thoughts on this, and/or put your hand up to assist. It isn't really onerous except for the mad few days the week before, which are also actually rather fun. Early in the year we decide if there will be a theme, design the handout leaflet, put it up on our website etc. Then sit back for a couple of months, have a meeting in August or so to do the next round of planning and publicity. Much of this doesn't require any actual knowledge of our Grampians flora, so that's no excuse.

Margo Sietsma



## SPECS TO A GOOD CAUSE...

Do you have any old spectacles lying around that you don't use anymore? Yes? Well that's great because I am looking for some.



My name is Rowena and I am in Halls Gap for a wee while staying with my parents, David and Janet Witham. I was sorting through some stuff from my past the other day and came across a few of my grandmother's old glasses. Since then I have rustled a couple more from the household and I have a plan.

Specsavers have a recycling program where they send pre-loved glasses to developing countries for free to improve the sight of those who can't afford these kinds of (necessary!) luxuries.

So I thought ....While taking some to Specsavers would be good, more would be better!

So if you have any that you no longer use, please just drop them into the Budja Budja Neighbourhood House by February 18<sup>th</sup> and I will take it from there.

We may not be Fred Hollows or Dr James Muecke, but we can all do our bit to improve the vision of this world. Thanks so much.

Best wishes

Rowena



Another one for the diary.

Returning to one of the country's most picturesque locations, the GRAMPIANS MUSIC FESTIVAL is kicking off a brand new decade, bringing another exciting edition of the event to the

iconic Grampians Mountain Ranges in February 2020! Join us on Friday 28 and Saturday 29 February 2020.

Check the website for more details and where to get your tickets.

<https://grampiansmusicfestival.com/>



The BBNH Program for 2020 is well underway.

We have had a very busy January with the start of our Move It Move It (MIMI) program and School Holiday Program being lots of fun. The children did so well and the result so delicious we thought we would share the recipes from our cooking class.

BBNH has become drop off point for the Rescue Craft Collective. If you have material, yarn to donate volunteers will make wildlife pouches, nests and bat wraps. We are planning some workshops during the week and on weekends contact Alison or Lee-Anne if you are interested in being part of this initiative. Patterns can be downloaded from <https://rcchub.org/patterns/> or grab a copy from us.

Hope to see you soon at the Neighbourhood House.

Lee-Anne & Alison



### *What's happening at Budja Budja Neighbourhood House in February 2020*

Activities	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Play Group - no cost				9.30-11am 14 & 28	
Afterschool Craft Club - Free	3.30-5pm 4,11,18 & 25				
MIMI- Gentle Exercise - Gold coin	1.30-2pm 4,11,18 & 25				
MIMI - Beginners Tai Chi - Gold coin		10-10.45am 5,12,19,26			
Yoga - \$10		6pm-7pm 5,12,19 & 26			
Tai Chi - Gold coin			10-11am 6,13,20 & 27		
Yarn Group - Gold coin			1-3pm 6,13,20 & 27		
MIMI - Gentle walking group - Gold coin				9.15-10.15am 7,14,21 & 28	
MIMI - Finska - Gold coin				1-2pm 7,14,21 & 28	
Pine Needle Weaving - \$80					10-2pm - 22nd- all materials provided
Men's Health Evening- Free Need to book			5-6.30pm 27th		
Grampians Music Festival				Helping out at the Grampians Music Festival - Kids Tent 28 & 29	



## Pine Needle Weaving With Glenda Nicholls



Glenda Nicholls is an author and artist. Her craft reflects the continuity of her family storyline. It reflects the story of her elders and ancestors and the connection between the past and present.

In this workshop you will learn how to do contemporary weaving style

Check out Glenda's website to find out more about Glenda and her art at: <http://www.glendanichollscreative.com.au/>

**Date:** Saturday 22nd February 2019

**Time:** 10am to 2pm

**Location:** Community Space at Budja Budja Neighbourhood House

**Cost:** \$80 all materials supplied

**BYO:** Lunch and morning tea to share.

**Limited Numbers - bookings essential**

Contact Lee-Anne or Alison to book your place for this very special workshop.

20-22 Grampians Rd., HALLS GAP VIC 3381  
p: 03 53564751, option 3  
m: 0491 090 456  
e: [neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au](mailto:neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au)



**THURSDAY  
27TH FEBRUARY  
2020**

**AT BUDJA BUDJA  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
HOUSE**

**5PM-6.30PM**

**GLEN FROM  
ABORIGINAL QUITLINE  
WILL HOST  
THE GATHERING  
COME YARN ABOUT YOUR  
HEALTH**

**JOIN US FOR**

**Mens Health  
Evening**

**Talk on stress,  
games, information  
& displays on  
men's health  
issues**

**Contact Dee**

**Budja Budja Medical Centre**

**P: 03 5356 4751**

**e: [dee@budjabudjacoop.org.au](mailto:dee@budjabudjacoop.org.au)**

**20-22 Grampians Road Halls Gap**



## Cheese and Vegemite scrolls

For more healthy lunchbox options check out <https://healthylunchbox.com.au>



**Makes: 10**

**Preparation time: 20 minutes**

**Cooking time: 20 minutes**

### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups self-raising flour
- 1/2 cup wholemeal plain flour
- 80 g butter
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon (tbs) Vegemite
- 1 tbs milk

### Equipment needed

- Knife
- Grater
- Measuring cups
- spoons
- Cooling rack
- Mixing Bowl
- Rolling pin
- Brush

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 200°C
2. In a medium bowl, combine both flours and butter.
3. Using your fingertips, rub the butter through the flours until you have a breadcrumb consistency, then add ¾ of the cheese combination and milk and work into a dough ball with your hands.
4. When these ingredients are combined, lightly flour your kitchen bench and gently push the dough out into a rectangle, approx 1 cm thick.
5. Spread Vegemite evenly over the top of the dough and sprinkle with remaining cheese.
6. Roll the dough into a long rope shape, rolling it away from you. When you have a rope of dough, cut it into eight equal rounds and place them on a lined baking tray.
7. Brush with milk.
8. Bake for 20 minutes then remove from oven and cool on wire rack.

### Notes

If you don't have wholemeal flour then use all white, just pour the milk in gradually as you might not need it all.  
With any dough, try and be as gentle as possible and knead it only as much as it needs to prevent the dough being tough.  
These freeze really well and will hold up in a lunch box rain, hail, and shine.

**Eat and enjoy. Great for the lunch box or after school treat.**

Summer School Holiday Program 2020



## Zucchini brownies

For more healthy lunchbox options check out [www.kidspot.com.au](http://www.kidspot.com.au)

**Makes: 12**

**Preparation time: 15 minutes**

**Cooking time: 30 minutes**



These zucchini brownies are chocolatey, moist and devoid of any zucchini flavour.

### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups raw sugar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoon (tsp) vanilla extract
- 2 cups self-raising flour
- 1/4 cup cocoa (sifted)
- 2 eggs (lightly beaten)
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 zucchini (finely grated)
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips
- 3 tbs pure icing sugar

### Equipment needed

- Knife
- Grater
- Measuring cups
- spoons
- Cooling rack
- Mixing Bowl
- Brush
- Sieve
- Fork

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced). Line a 20cm x 20cm cake tin with baking paper and set aside. In a bowl, combine sugar, oil, vanilla, flour, cocoa, eggs and salt.
2. Stir in the zucchini and chocolate chips until well combined.
3. Pour mixture into prepared tin.
4. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until cooked through. Cool and sift icing sugar over the top. Cut into squares.

### Notes

- This mixture is really dry before you add the zucchini. Stir in the zucchini and chocolate chips until well combined.
- You don't need to squeeze moisture out of the grated zucchini.
- If you don't have chocolate chips, you can add 200g of melted chocolate in its place

**Eat and enjoy**

Summer School Holiday Program 2020





## BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC

20-22 Grampians Road, Halls Gap 3381

**PH: 03 53564751**

[www.budjabudjacoop.org.au](http://www.budjabudjacoop.org.au)

FEBURARY 2020	MARCH 2020	APRIL
<u><b>Dr Amanda Gibbons</b></u> 3,4,5,6,7 11,12,13,14 17,18,19,20,21 25,26,27,28	<u><b>Dr Amanda Gibbons</b></u> 2,3,4,5,6 10,11,12,13 16,17,18,19,20 24,25,26,27 30,31  <u><b>DR Partridge</b></u> 18,19,20 23,24,25  <u><b>Closed</b></u> 9 public holiday	<u><b>Dr Amanda Gibbons</b></u> 1,2,3 6,7,8,9 14,15,16,17 21,22,23,24 27,28,29,30  <u><b>Dr Paula Ferguson</b></u> 15,16,17 20,21,22 <u><b>Closed</b></u> 10,13 public holiday

## Students Placements

Budja Budja is proud to be able to provide placements for Doctors and Nurses in training giving them the opportunity to apply the theory and skills they learned while studying in a professional workplace. Placements allow students to gain the skills they need to transition successfully from study to work, while giving industry the opportunity to enrich student learning experiences and increase the number of work-ready graduates. Patient will always be told if a student will be present prior to consultation and be given the opportunity to refuse. This will not affect your care in anyway. If you have any questions or concerns please speak to a member of the practice team





**JOIN US FOR  
ABORIGINAL &  
TORRES  
STRAIT ISLAND  
MEN'S HEALTH  
DAY**

**ABORIGINAL &  
TORRES  
STRAIT ISLAND MEN'S  
GATHERING  
THURSDAY 27TH  
FEBRUARY 2020  
AT BUDJA BUDJA  
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE  
10AM-1PM**

**GLEN FROM  
ABORIGINAL QUITLINE  
WILL HOST  
THE GATHERING  
COME YARN ABOUT YOUR  
HEALTH**

**LUNCH & CULTURAL  
ACTIVITIES  
AT  
BRAMBUK  
1PM-3.30PM**

Contact Dee or Ryan  
Budja Budja Medical Centre  
P: 03 5356 4751  
e: ryan@budjabudjacoop.org.au  
20-22 Grampians Road Halls Gap



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 or \$25 half-year.

For more information

Contact Janet Witham 03 5356 4300 or Alison Bainbridge 0417 883 445

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.

**Wednesday 26 February 2019**

Pomonal Community Hall, Ararat/Halls Gap Road Pomonal

Inspired by real-life events.

A champion fencer on the run from the Soviet secret service finds himself inspiring Estonian schoolchildren to take up the sport.



FOR SALE


## Boardroom Table & 8 Director Chairs:


\$550 OR NEAREST OFFER



TABLE MEASUREMENTS: 0.6MTS HIGH, 3MTS LONG & 1.1MTS WIDE

CONTACT: BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CENTRE ON 5356 4751






Denis Crawford and the

**The importance of  
INSECTS  
in the environment**

Friday 7th February  
6.00 pm  
Mural Room, Brambuk (Halls Gap)

Dinner afterwards at the Halls Gap Pub  
RSVP dinner by 4th Feb so we can book an appropriate table  
[secretary@friendsofgrampiansgariwerd.org.au](mailto:secretary@friendsofgrampiansgariwerd.org.au)  
0428399441





**Clean Up Australia Day**  
**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

At Grampians National Park – meet at  
Halls Gap Park – opposite the Visitor  
Information Centre at 8am

Join local volunteer group FOGG to assist with  
the clean up of the Grampians National Park.  
Safety gear and rubbish equipment will be  
provided.

**To become a volunteer, register with  
ParkConnect: -**

<https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/>

What to bring – hat, safety boots,  
gloves, safety glasses, wet weather gear,  
food, drink bottle, sunscreen

**LOCAL? Interested in AIKIDO?**

**WANTED:** Training partner/s for AIKIDO.

I am an old bloke who has done quite a lot of aikido (2<sup>nd</sup> dan), and I'd like to find a partner or two to train with about twice a week in Halls Gap, mainly because I want to maintain and improve my flexibility, fitness and skill.

Aikido is a relatively gentle (but still highly effective) Japanese martial art that can be practised by people of any age or sex. It involves locks and throws, and is non-competitive.

No previous martial arts experience necessary; you would learn while practising. A certain amount of flexibility would be good.

Contact GLENN

[swampgums@gmail.com](mailto:swampgums@gmail.com)

0419 366 143

合気道 The Way of Harmony



# Grampians National Park Newsletter

Kooyang Edition: Late January to Late March 2020



In Aboriginal culture, Grampians National Park and the surrounding landscape is known as Gariwerd. Within this landscape, six distinct weather periods are recognised. This is the Kooyang period – season of Eels. For more information on the Gariwerd six seasons visit [brambuk.com.au/gariwerdsixseasons.htm](http://brambuk.com.au/gariwerdsixseasons.htm) and [www.bom.gov.au/iwk/calendars/gariwerd.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/calendars/gariwerd.shtml)

## Kooyang season: Hot and dry

Kooyang is the hottest and driest time of year. Surface water is scarce and the risk of bushfires is high. Eel trapping was common and a favourite food of the Gariwerd people. Clear nights allowed navigation by the stars and the sharing of creation stories.

Tree frogs can be heard squeaking, insects begin to hatch, kangaroos are seen boxing, snakes bask in the sun and young birds begin emerging.

## Park news and updates

### Victorian Bushfires

It has been a dramatic and challenging fire season across Australia. Dry and hot conditions along with summer storms have resulted in fires in Victoria covering an area of more than 1.5 million hectares.

To assist firefighting operations in Eastern Victoria, Parks Victoria staff from the Grampians have been on continuous rotating taskforces. To date almost 20 staff members have been deployed, providing much needed support to impacted communities.

### Seasonal Rangers

This summer we are lucky to have three fantastic Seasonal Rangers (Kailee, Liz and Stef) join us in the Grampians to help deliver an action-packed program of Junior Ranger kids activities, ranger guided walks, assist at the Halls Gap Visitor Information Centre and provide support across the Parks Victoria team. If you see them out and about, make sure to say G'day!

## Summer Education and Interpretation Program

During January a successful program of education and interpretation activities was delivered to almost 150 kids and adults by the parks Seasonal Rangers.

Through 12 individual Junior Ranger activities, kids between the ages of 6 and 12 learnt all about the parks Flora and Fauna, how to use a compass, monitor bird populations, control pests and be skilled up as Junior Ranger firefighters.

Two guided walks for adults and families were undertaken at Heatherlie Quarry and the Balconies, with Rangers sharing stories about the parks cultural heritage, European history, ecology and park management.

Education and interpretation programs run in Grampians National Park and surrounding reserves every Summer, Autumn and Spring School Holidays. Make sure you keep an eye out for future programs!



## Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies

Recent scat analysis from areas around the main Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby population has revealed that four of the colonies offspring have 'grown-up' and moved into their own territories. Additionally, two new males have been introduced into the colony to diversify the breeding gene pool. This exciting news provides clarification that young are surviving and predator control is being effective.



### New Environmental Field Service Officers

The park would like to welcome two new Field Service Officers (FSOs) to the environment and heritage team.

Mike Hanson, a local predator control contractor who has been involved in the Brush-Tailed Rock Wallaby reintroduction program from its inception is joining the ranks; along with Dylan Sortino, an ecology field technician from Weipa, QLD, who has experience undertaking fauna and flora survey work, and Crazy Ant and Feral Cat Eradication with Parks Australia on Christmas Island.

### Increase in Graffiti

Unfortunately, there has been a steep rise in paint and scratch graffiti within the park.

Park signs and rock surfaces have all been subject to this vandalism.

In response, rangers have been removing graffiti and compiling information for follow up compliance in accordance with the National Parks Regulations 2013.

Please report any people undertaking graffiti to Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre in Halls Gap on (03) 8427 2258.

### New Grampians Management Plan

In partnership with Traditional Owner groups, Parks Victoria is preparing a new management plan for the Grampians landscape, an area that covers the Grampians National Park and adjacent parks and reserves.

The new management plan will underpin strategic planning for the Grampians landscape over the next 15 years to ensure that precious environmental and cultural values of this iconic landscape are preserved for future generations to enjoy.

If you are interested in learning more about the project you can visit Engage Victoria - <https://engage.vic.gov.au/grampians-management-plan>.

On the website you can see a video of the workshop presentations, read the discussion papers and register for updates. There will be further opportunities to provide feedback on the draft Plan in 2020.

## GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

Making the fourth and longest walk in the Walk Victoria's Icons series, the Grampians Peaks Trail will provide a world-class walking experience of 160kms that can be experienced in sections, or as one 13-day journey.



### Key project updates:

- Trail construction works continue in all sections – north, central and south of the Grampians.
- Campsite construction commenced in November 2019 and will continue throughout 2020.
- Some trails may appear finished but there are more elements to be added for example, signage for wayfinding, safety and emergencies. Trails will remain closed for safety of park visitors, workers and staff, until ready to be used. There are trail closure signs installed at all access points and all park users are requested to comply with the closures.
- The Grampians Peaks Trail will be completed by 2020.

For more detailed information on the Grampians Peaks Trail please visit [parks.vic.gov.au/projects/grampians-peaks-trail](https://parks.vic.gov.au/projects/grampians-peaks-trail)

## Seasonal Fauna Species

### Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons*)

An exquisite blend of colour, Rufous Fantail's are found inhabiting the dense and shady undergrowth of gullies – singly or occasionally in twos. Small and active, they are seen foraging in the air – diving, twisting and looping to catch their insect prey.



## Seasonal Flora Species

### Box Mistletoe (*Amyema miquelii*)

Growing mostly on Eucalypts, you may easily mistake this native species as an introduced parasite. Found 'hanging out' throughout the park, this species has foliage that resembles a Eucalypt, however generally a dull yellow colour. It flowers between December and June, and its seed are dispersed by birds – particularly the Mistletoebird.



## Upcoming Events and Activities

### Guided Activities

#### 2020 TrailRider Program

People with limited mobility are invited to join a Ranger on a TrailRider Adventure.

When	Details
Wed, 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2020 10am – 12pm	<b>Fyans Creek Loop</b> Meet at Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre
Fri, 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 10am – 12pm	<b>Zumsteins Historic Walk and Mackenzie River Walk</b> Meet at Zumsteins Picnic Area
Sat, 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2020 1pm – 3pm	<b>Gulgurn Manja Shelter</b> Meet at Hollow Mt Carpark
Wed, 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 10am – 12pm	<b>Heatherlie Quarry</b> Meet at Heatherlie Quarry Carpark
Fri, 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 10am – 12pm	<b>Reed Lookout and the Balconies</b> Meet at Reed Lookout



Each activity will have two TrailRiders with Volunteers or a Ranger to facilitate. To confirm your attendance at this activity or to find out more about using the TrailRider and the TrailRider Volunteers program please email Ranger Hannah Auld - [Hannah.auld@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:Hannah.auld@parks.vic.gov.au)

### Self-Guided Activities

#### Venus Bath ClimateWatch Trail

Be a citizen scientist - visit [climatewatch.org.au/trails/grampians-national-park-venus-baths](https://climatewatch.org.au/trails/grampians-national-park-venus-baths) for more information.

#### Junior Ranger Activity Sheets

The Junior Ranger stand at Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre has a range of family activities – grab a sheet and learn about the park.



## HALLS GAP MARKET



The **Halls Gap Market** was established in 1997 and is proudly brought to you by the Halls Gap Primary School. Located at the base of the Wonderland Range (Grampians) in the magical Halls Gap Primary School

grounds, this truly unique market is a must.

The **Halls Gap Market** is an outdoor market and boasts a range of high quality stalls offering arts, crafts, fresh produce, plants, fine food, coffee and more. School parents serve hot and cold refreshments along with a barbecue featuring delicious egg and bacon rolls. All proceeds go to the Halls Gap Primary School. Check the website for information on becoming a stall holder: - <http://www.hgps.vic.edu.au/craft.html>

### The Market Dates for 2020 are:

Labour Day – 8th March

Easter Sunday – 12th April

Queen's Birthday – 7th June

Melbourne Cup Weekend – 1st November



Halls Gap is a Cat Free Zone



## POMONAL VILLAGE MARKET

### Pomonal Village Market

on the last Sunday or every month from 9am—1pm at the Pomonal Community Hall. Run by



volunteers of the Pomonal Progress Association to raise money for the community of Pomonal. Site enquiries: call the Market Coordinator on 0417 883 445.

### Market Dates for 2020

23rd February, 29th March, 26th April, 31st May, 28th June, 26th July, 30th August, 27th September, 3rd & 4th October, 25th October, 29th November, 27th December.

## Are You Stuck in the Bush?

Call Glenn on **0419 802 846**

Or 0424 619 355...Leave a message if no answer.



Take a photo of this flyer.



### On-Board Recovery Equipment

Winches – Front and Rear	Hi-Lift Jack
Snatch Straps	Tree Trunk Protectors
Winch Extension Straps	Bow Shackles
Snatch Blocks	Soft Shackles
Shovel	Rated Recovery Points
Air Compressor	Chainsaw
UHF Radio Ch 20	GPS Assistance
Fridge	Local Knowledge

There are more ways to contact police with the new Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting platform.



VICTORIA POLICE

You can report non-urgent crimes and events anytime, anywhere



Call 131 444 or visit [police.vic.gov.au](http://police.vic.gov.au)



## FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

Lee-Anne, Margo, Alison

Please email your articles and photos to us  
by the 25th of each month to:

[neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au](mailto:neighbourhood.house@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



**What did the left eye say to the right eye?**

Between us, something smells!



## 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
- Budja Budja Neighbourhood House - check the program at the house and online
- 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.