

Issue: September 2020

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

Articles for October FTG need to be received by the **25 September 2020**. See page 17 for details

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FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



petyan

season of wildflowers - late spring
(late august to mid november)

Wildlife and Wildflowers

In spring (season of wildflowers or petyan), the bush bursts into life. Nature's rock gardens amaze. The days are warmer, although the weather can still be tempestuous.

WRAP UP...

Hope you enjoy this edition of FTG it is full of interesting stories about our town.



What's missing in these pictures of the Halls Gap Community Garden. A scarecrow or two. Be part of the Scarecrow completion. More details on page 15



August 2020 - Rainfall by Chas

131 mm for August bringing the progressive total to 640 mm for 2020. This compares to the same period last year of 132 mm for August with a progressive total of 685 mm for 2019. As of the 26th of August Lake Bellfield is holding 50,320 ML or 64% full compared to the same period last year of 59,110 ML or 75% full. The total system is holding 186,270 ML or 33.24% full compared to the same period last year of 242,920 ML or 43.35% full.

It is interesting to note that Lake Lonsdale is holding 7,210 ML or 14% full compared to the same period last year of 20,270 ML or 38% full. Mount William received 137.8 mm for August 2020. The highest temperature of 11.9 C was recorded on the 29th of August and the lowest of - 3.8 C was recorded on the 4th of August 2020. The highest wind speed of 113 km/h was recorded on the 30th of August 2020.

Let's work together to keep everyone safe

We are implementing the following measures and providing hand sanitiser for all of our health and safety, because we are all in this together.



Maintain good hygiene



Increasing cleaning in high traffic areas



Keeping records (where essential)



Encouraging employees to stay home if sick



Maintaining physical distancing measures



Complying to maximum occupancy directions



Are you in business? Did you know that the Northern Grampians Shire council has NGSC Business E-News that comes out on a Friday. Email to business@ngshire.vic.gov.au to receive your copy.

Let's mask up together



For yours and our safety





A big thank you to those of you who responded to my plea here and on Facebook for help with the weeding. While the rain has been so good for the garden, the weeds have also loved it. So all help is appreciated.

There's some information, a record sheet and some tools in the shade shelter. There's also a sample copy of the reprinted wildflower book for you to look at and use, but please don't take it home; and please supply your own gloves and keep a sensible distance from others.

At this stage there's no news on our grant application.

Margo Seitsma



FOGGS (Friends of Grampians Gariwerd), like all volunteer organisations have put most activities on hold until restrictions clear. But, thanks to Hannah our hard working Community Engagement person at

Parks, we are exploring some volunteer help we can do online from home.

The winter newsletter is out with plenty of interesting material despite our lack of field activities. You can join FOGGS via our website and help us in our support of our great National Park.

FOGGS have donated 20 copies of the new Grampians Wildflower book by Ian McCann to the Community Association for use by volunteers in the Botanic Garden and wildflower shows etc.

Margo Seitsma

Don't forget to get your entry in for the Halls Gap Community Garden Scarecrow Competition - See details on page 15

HALLS GAP RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Due to current restrictions the upcoming HGRRRA meeting scheduled for September will **not** take place. Please be advised that, at this stage, the next meeting will be the one scheduled for **December 2nd**.

**Jen
Secretary**

HALLS GAP POLICE



Hi everyone

Firstly I would like to thank everyone for your ongoing dedication to keeping yourselves and our community safe during the stage 3 restrictions.

As the enforcement agency we understand it hasn't been easy but it's very noticeable to us that the majority of our locals are doing the right thing and for that we thank you.

We will continue to monitor compliance of the Chief Health Officer restrictions as a part of our daily duties ensuring the continued safety of our community, region and state.

If you see something that you believe may constitute a COVID-19 breach then please don't hesitate to notify us either at the station on ph. 53 564411 or 000 or Crime stoppers on 1800 333 000.

For some good news, I'd like to welcome **Senior Constable Sarah Bartorelli** as a permanent member of the Halls Gap Police station.

Sarah comes with over 13 year experience in policing and will be an asset to our town.

Stop and say g'day if you see her around.

This means there are now 3 permanent and dedicated members at the Halls Gap police station to serve our great community.

For those of you on Facebook remember you can follow your local police on the Victoria Police Eye watch page under Northern Grampians Police service area.

Take care

Sergeant Karen Bain

POMONAL MEN'S SHED

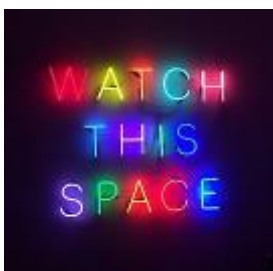
Like all men's shed in Victoria at present Pomonal Men's Shed has ceased activities while we are under Stage 3 restrictions. However we anticipate getting up and running again mid September after the restrictions are reduced; we hope.

We have a couple of projects ready to go but the main focus by late September should be commencement of works for the new shed adjacent to Pomonal Community Hall. We anticipate taking delivery of the shed in early September and our members will be assisting the main contractor, Spark Construction, in several ground work activities which were part of our 'in-kind' contribution as part of our successful grant application.



For those who have not heard the result of our recent raffle to raise funds for items needed to complete the shed, the winner was Mirinda Thorpe, and we congratulate her on the win. Great work for all those involved we were able to raise about \$650 which will go towards the fit out of our new shed.

To those who missed out we are planning a 'monster' raffle shortly after the restrictions are reduced with many great prizes donated by local businesses. This will be a raffle everyone will want to win. More news in the next FTG.



Even though we are temporarily closed we are happy to accept new members or talk to anyone wanting more information. Please call Peter on 0447 466 435 or email to pomonalmensshed@gmail.com to have a chat.

Peter Shelly

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

neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au



Just when the committee had decided on an alternate programme to this year's show, replacing it with educational walks from August to October, then that too became impossible. Similarly, the Pomonal Native Flower Show has also been cancelled for this year.

However the display out there in the bush has not been cancelled and is looking terrific. Take a drive up to the northern end of the Park to see masses of thryptomene, baeckia, grevilleas, peas, beard heaths, guinea flowers Orchids are starting and it looks like it may be an exceptional year for them too.

Our regular artist guest Lynne Stone won't of course be joining us this year, which is a real pity as she has just published a book on how to make textile flowers. You can order it on her website / www.bloomingthreads.info or look her up on facebook. She tells me she has been filmed for Gardening Australia but doesn't know when they will be presenting it.

Margo Seitsma



Every year this group organises a fascinating day somewhere in the Wimmera with interesting speakers. However this year they are replacing it with a series of online presentations on Thursday mornings in September under the title "from little things big things grow". It's free, and several almost locals are giving talks (young Matilda Venn from Pomonal on local orchids, Julie Andrews from Stawell on landcare).

Check Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wimmerabiodiversityseminar/> or email to La Vergne Lehmann <wimmerabiodiversityseminar@hotmail.com>

Margo Seitsma

HALLS GAP CFA

A couple of days of sunshine in August should remind us just how close we are to the next fire season.



Last year spring turned into summer so quickly that opportunities to clear and burn were really limited. Now is the time to be cleaning up to manage growth and reduce fuel loads.

Remember to get a permit from the Northern Grampians Shire Council [https://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/Online-Forms/](https://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/Online-Forms/Application-for-open-air-burning-permit)

Application-for-open-air-burning-permit if you are in the township or a residential area, and to register every burn with VicFire by calling 1800 668 511. See <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/contact/register-your-burn-off>. Outdoor work with a mask on could be a good activity during lock down.

The brigade has been fortunate to receive funding from a pool of donations following last summer's devastating fires. We have been allocated resources to install reversing cameras on our two tankers, and to train an additional driver for our heavy vehicles. An additional licenced truck driver will share the load on volunteers and improve our response capacity; and the reversing cameras will ensure driving is safer and easier, especially in the difficult spaces and terrains encountered when responding to emergencies.

Halls Gap volunteers have tried to get back into training, but COVID-19 has limited us to essential drills and operational activities only. Residents will see vehicles on regular maintenance drives every week and Fire Equipment Maintenance continues as an essential service.

To enquire about joining the Halls Gap CFA, or for details about the Fire Equipment Maintenance service our volunteers provide to local businesses for brigade fundraising, please call Peter on 0437 524 716.

AMBULANCE VICTORIA



Paramedics and First Responders are urging all Halls Gap community members to brush up on their health skills ahead of this year's Restart a Heart Day.

Restart a Heart Day is a global initiative that encourages everyone to learn CPR and to know where their local Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are located.

While there's been plenty of attention on stopping the spread of COVID-19, it's important not to ignore the warning signs of other life-threatening conditions, such as stroke and heart attack.

If you are experiencing chest pain, breathing difficulties, dizziness, anxiety, vomiting – don't delay calling Triple Zero (000).

Time is of the essence and the earlier paramedics or first responders can get to you, the better your chance of recovery.

Please remember you are safe to call Triple Zero (000).

Paramedics and First Responders are taking extra precautions to keep patients and themselves safe during the pandemic, including wearing Personal Protective Equipment to every case.



Restart a Heart Day will take place on 16 October- keep an eye out for more information about how to get involved.



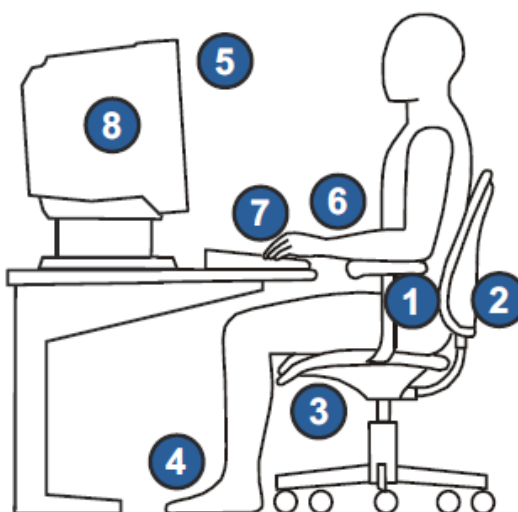
TO ALL THE DAD'S OUT THERE HAVE A GREAT FATHER'S DAY



WORKING FROM HOME—HELPFUL HINTS

Steps for Adjusting Your Workstation:

- 1 Adjust the chair height so your elbows are at about desktop level.
- 2 Adjust seat back for good support of the lower back, using a lumbar pillow if needed.
- 3 If your seat has a tilt feature, set this so you are comfortably supported.
- 4 If your feet don't comfortably reach the floor or there is pressure on the backs of your legs, use a footrest or lower the keyboard.



- 5 Locate your monitor so the top of the viewing area is at or below eye level.
- 6 With elbows at desk level, your wrists should be straight. Use a wrist rest if desired, and if you have armrests try to adjust them so they support your arms without being too high or too low. Use small pads on armrests if needed.
- 7 Locate the mouse next to the keyboard, so both elbows are by the sides while working. Use your mouse pad or another soft surface to pad edge of desk. Avoid pressing your hands or forearms against any sharp edges on desk.
- 8 Adjust screen brightness and contrast for clear comfortable viewing, and clean the screen frequently.

20-22 Grampians Road, Halls Gap 3381 PH: 03 53564751

www.budjabudjacoop.org.au



September 2020	October 2020	November 2020
<p><u>Dr Amanda Gibbons</u> 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th 28th, 29th, 30th</p> <p><u>Dr Rebecca Bassett</u> 16th, 17th, 18th 21st, 22nd, 23rd</p> <p><u>Budja Budja Clinic</u> Closed Monday 7th</p>	<p><u>Dr Amanda Gibbons</u> 1st, 2nd 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th</p> <p><u>Susan Watson</u> 14th, 15th, 16th 19th, 20th, 21st</p> <p><u>Nurse Clinic</u> Monday 5th</p>	<p><u>Dr Amanda Gibbons</u> 4th, 5th, 6th 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th</p> <p><u>Nurse Clinic</u> Monday 2nd Monday 30th</p> <p><u>Public Holiday</u> Tuesday 3rd closed</p>

Health Care Plans (GPMP)

Health Care Plans help people with chronic medical conditions by providing an organised approach to care. A GPMP is a plan of action you have agreed with your GP. This plan:

- Identifies your health and care needs;
- Sets out the services to be provided by your GP; and
- Lists the actions you can take to help manage your condition.

Book in now

5356 4751

DO NOT ATTEND if you have recently been overseas, come from a recognised Hot spot, been in contact with a known case of COVID -19 or experiencing any cold, fever or respiratory infection symptoms even if mild. Call for a Telehealth appointment

HALLS GAP PUBLIC TRANSPORT - UPDATE

On Monday, 31st August 2020 Graham Sandlant from Sandlants Bus Company, Paul Turner, President Halls Gap Residents and Ratepayers Association and Tim Walsh, a local resident and passionate Public Transport advocate had an informal meeting to discuss the future of the V Line bus service in Halls Gap and surrounding region.

The meeting was instigated by Paul who had been approached by a local resident requesting seats and shelters at the V Line bus stops in Halls Gap. The meeting resulted in the following outcomes which will be supported and promoted by the aforementioned gentlemen. Hopefully all local residents will see the benefits and also wish to support the below objectives.

1. Shelters and seats at all bus stops in Halls Gap. At present there are bus stops at the Grampians Garden Caravan Park, Tim's Place, Halls Gap HUB, Brambuk Cultural Centre, Lakeside Caravan Park and Lake Bellfield Lookout.
2. Increased number of bus stops between Grampians Gardens Caravan Park and Lake Bellfield. Extra bus stops at Borrough Huts Campground and Sheep Hills Car Park (walk to Mt William from Halls Gap - Dunkeld Road).
3. A bus stop at the Halls Gap Zoo and future site of WAMA on the Halls Gap - Pomonal Road.
4. Three bus services between Stawell and Halls Gap daily.
5. A low floor bus to service the elderly, people with movement difficulties, people in wheel chairs or parents with young children and babies.

All these goals are achievable with your support. With the opening of the Grampians Peaks Trail later this year there has never been a better time to improve the Public Transport network in our village. We need people to speak up to Local Government, State Government and Federal Government Representatives.

At present bus services are running to and from Ararat and Stawell daily. **The service is free due to the Corona virus.** Why not avail yourself to the services to see how much fun it is to travel on our local buses.

You can also use the service through Halls Gap to Bellfield and return. All free at the moment.

Irrespective of your age or position in society now may be the time to live on the wild side

Tim Walsh



For more information visit ptv.vic.gov.au or call 1800 800 007

Vline

Halls Gap Valley Bus Services - Operates 3 times each day – 7 days a week

From Grampians Garden Caravan Park, Pomonal / Ararat Road through Halls Gap Township along Grampians Road to Brambuk, Lakeside Caravan Park and Lake Bellfield.

Bus Stops	Time Table								
	Monday to Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	1 st Trip Start	2 nd Trip Start	3 rd Trip Start	1 st Trip Start	2 nd Trip Start	3 rd Trip Start	1 st Trip Start	2 nd Trip Start	3 rd Trip Start
Grampians Garden Caravan Park Pomonal Rd	8:15am	1:15pm		7:30am	12:00pm		8:45am	12:00pm	
Recreation Reserve	8:19am	1:19pm		7:34am	12:04pm		8:49am	12:04pm	
Halls Gap CBD Information Centre	8:25am	1:25pm	3:05pm	7:40am	12:10pm	2:15pm	8:55am	12:10pm	2:15pm
Brambuk	8:29am	1:29pm	3:09pm	7:44am	12:14pm	2:19pm	8:59am	12:14pm	2:19pm
Lakeside Caravan Park	8:33am	1:33pm	3:13pm	7:48am	12:18pm	2:23pm	9:03am	12:18pm	2:23pm
Lake Bellfield	8:35am	1:35pm	3:15pm	7:50am	12:20pm	2:25pm	9:05am	12:20pm	2:25pm
Brambuk	8:41am	1:41pm	3:21pm	7:56am	12:26pm	2:31pm	9:11am	12:26pm	2:31pm
Halls Gap CBD Information Centre	9:30am	1:45pm	3:25pm	8:10am	12:30pm	2:35pm	9:30am	12:30pm	2:35pm
Recreation Reserve	9:31am		3:26pm	8:11am		2:36pm	9:31am		2:36pm
Grampians Garden Caravan Park Pomonal Rd	9:35am		3:30pm	8:15am		2:40pm	9:35am		2:40pm

Where To Buy Tickets:

- VLine ticket agencies
- Halls Gap Information Centre
- On Bus from the driver

Valley Bus Service Fares:

- \$1.20 Concession fare Single ride
- \$2.40 Concession fare Day Return ride
- \$2.40 Full fare Single ride
- \$4.80 Full fare Day Return ride

For further information regarding Public Passenger Transport contact Graeme Sandlant - 0408 508 371 or - 0408 503 149

Current as 31/03/2019

HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL



FROM THE CLASSROOMS OF HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

With all students back in remote learning, life is, once again, very quiet at the school. We really did enjoy having everyone back on site and look forward to when we can all get together again. In the meantime, everyone is working hard from home. Our families pick up their learning packs every two weeks which includes all of the literacy and numeracy goodies that they need. Our students log into SeeSaw everyday to see what extra tasks have been set for them. They also get onto their daily WebEx sessions where they can see and talk to their teachers and school friends. After our first remote learning, we have made a few minor tweaks but it seems to be working very well for everyone. Only a few more weeks to go.



Our Grade 5/6 class joined in the Biggest Science Experiment which culminated in virtual displays over National Science Week. So much science was still happening within all communities and, if you go onto their Facebook page you will be able to see all of it for yourself.

Our Amazing Ants had a starring role and we were so privileged to have been able to study and look after them. One day soon they will go back to their home with Denis Crawford and we will be sad to see them go. Thanks to Denis and the team for organising the Expo and we can't wait to be involved next year.

This year is our year to do State Schools Spectacular. With Covid-19 stopping us from being able to rehearse and make the trips to Melbourne the organisers changed things so that students who wished to, could send in videos of themselves singing the songs. This is a pretty daunting thing for a young person to do but we have 5 students who are doing this and will still be part of the State Schools Spectacular. We are very much looking forward to seeing it all put together and will let everyone know via the school and community's Facebook pages when it can be viewed.

Once again, our JSC team have a fundraiser in the works. Of course, being footy season, it's Footy Colours Day which will be on the last day of term. I'm hoping to see everyone in the Magpies colours via their WebEx sessions, but I'm guessing that won't be happening! The Halls Gap community can help us by donating to our fundraiser for children who are fighting cancer. You could also spend the day wearing the colours of your footy team and message us a photo on the school's Facebook page. We'd love to see you!

SOMETHING TO GIVE YOU A LAUGH

Hungry anyone?

In the UK, some supermarkets have admitted that there is horse meat in their home cooked burgers. Even places like Burger King have had to admit that there are "small amounts" of horse meat in their burgers. Tesco is a big supermarket chain in the UK.

Within hours of the news that Tesco's 'all beef hamburgers' contained 30% horse meat, the following quips hit the Internet:

- * I'm so hungry, I could eat a horse. I guess Tesco just listened!
- * Anyone want a burger from Tesco? Yay or neigh?
- * Not entirely sure how Tesco is going to get over this hurdle.
- * Had some burgers from Tesco for supper last night.
- * I still have a bit between my teeth.
- * A woman has been taken into hospital after eating horse meat burgers from Tesco. Her condition is listed as stable.
- * Tesco are now testing all their vegetarian burgers for traces of unicorn.
- * "I've just checked the Tesco burgers in my freezer ... "AND THEY'RE OFF!"
- * Tesco is now forced to deny the presence of zebra in burgers, as shoppers confuse barcodes for serving suggestions.
- * I said to my spouse, "These Tesco burgers give me the trots..."
- * "To beef or not to beef, that is equestrian".....
- * A cow walks into a bar. Barman says, "Why the long face? Cow says "Illegal ingredients are coming over here stealing our jobs!"
- * I hear the smaller version of those Tesco burgers make great horse d'oeuvres.
- * These Tesco burger jokes are going on a bit. Talk about flogging a dead horse.
- * Since they're selling the meat wrapped in plastic, is that technically a "Trojan Horse?"
- * Instead of choosing "rare, medium or well done, it's now Win, Place or Show"
- * At first, I thought, "Oh great, I've been saddled with another email to forward, but something spurred me on."

LOCKDOWN HUMOUR

When parents start to crack during lockdown



**PRETTY WILD HOW
WE USED TO EAT
CAKE AFTER
SOMEONE HAD
BLOWN ON IT...
GOOD TIMES...**

©RhenFunWithMy3Sons.com

WILDLIFE TALK WITH NEIL - POWERFUL OWL

The Powerful Owl [*Ninox strenua*] is the largest owl in Australia at up to 65cm [2feet 1.75inches in old speak] in length, and we are lucky enough to have these sensational birds living in the Halls Gap area.

They are not particularly common and are listed as 'Threatened' on the Victorian flora and fauna guarantee act of 1988. Powerful Owls require very old large trees for nesting, usually Eucalypts with large hollows that are most likely well over 100 years of age and commonly growing in wet gullies.

A territory will be held by a breeding pair in a monogamous relationship, is most likely held for life [up to 30 years] and usually defended by the resident female keeping out other females. This territory can be as small as 300 hectares if there is an abundance of food items with an extensive understorey but is most likely to be up to 1000 hectares.

Prey consists mainly of mammals up to the size of Brush-tailed Possums but birds, rabbits and some insects are also taken. Females are most likely still in the nest hollow which is often 10+ metres above ground, they are Winter breeders and 1 to 2 eggs are laid at this time. The white fluffy downy large young will be emerging in the coming weeks. You may well have heard the 2 note 'Wooo Hooo' call of these wonderful birds on a still night. It is important to keep old large trees that have branch hollows for owls and indeed other wildlife [if they not in danger of falling]

Neil Macumber



Adult Powerful Owl - look at those talons!



Juvenile Powerful Owl

Grampians National Park Newsletter

Larneuk: Late July to Late August 2020



In local 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 Larneuk newsletter – the season of nesting birds. For more information on the Gariwerd six seasons visit brambuk.com.au/gariwerdsixseasons.htm and www.bom.gov.au/iwk/calendars/gariwerd.shtml

Larneuk: Season of nesting birds

Larneuk, depicted by Owls and Eagles, is often described as the most dynamic and unpredictable season. It is not uncommon to experience all six seasons in one day!

During this period, days begin to lengthen, wattle burst into colour and new growth can be seen on eucalypts. Many orchids are in full flower, including greenhood, donkey and spider orchids.

Rivers and creeks rush through the landscape rejuvenating the environment and providing a mode of transport for migrating Galaxias.



Mountain Galaxias (*Galaxias olidus*)

Traditionally during Larneuk, Aboriginal women within Gariwerd were digging up Murnong and other tuberous roots using long, pointed sticks. They collected them in large baskets and cooked them in underground ovens. Baskets were also frequently being made during this season.

News and updates

Park restrictions

Grampians National Park was partially closed in August as part of stage three restrictions for regional Victoria, with access remaining open for local residents for the purpose of exercise.

Visitors are reminded of the public health measures in place across regional Victoria, including physical distancing, the wearing of face masks, and that there are only four reasons for leaving home.

For the latest information on park access visit:

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/safety-in-nature/covid-19-update>

For the health advice visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Aboriginal cultural heritage rediscovered

The remarkable Aboriginal cultural landscape of the Grampians continues to be revealed, with recent rediscoveries in the national park being added to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register.

The park's values are protected by legislation, including the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* under which financial penalties apply for harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage. The recent rediscoveries of ancient cultural material, including quarry sites, stone tools and an ochre deposit, were made during park assessments with Traditional Owners, as part of the process to develop a new management plan for the Grampians landscape.

With the popular rock-climbing areas Taipan Wall/Spurt Wall and Bundaleer located within these Aboriginal cultural places, Parks Victoria has hosted a meeting with rock climbing representatives to discuss the need for immediate protections. These include protection zones and signage so that people don't inadvertently enter the areas and cause harm. The protection zones cover areas used for bushwalking and rock climbing, while other sections currently remain open to the public.

A long-term approach to protecting these places will be determined by a new management plan, a draft of which is expected to be released for further public consultation later this year.

Grampians Ark expansion

One of the longest running conservation programs in Grampians National Park is marking its 25th year with an expansion into protecting wildlife from feral cats.

Established in 1996, the Grampians Ark program is one of a family of 'Arks' in operation across Victoria that use baiting programs to control populations of foxes.

Foxes are highly efficient hunters that can kill a large number and variety of mammals, birds and reptiles, as well as preying on livestock on neighbouring properties. Large-scale baiting has proven an effective control method for foxes. The Grampians Ark program has assisted in re-establishing a population of critically endangered brush-tailed rock wallabies.

This year, Parks Victoria is aiming to expand the Grampians Ark program to include feral cats, which are being detected more frequently on the park's surveillance and monitoring cameras in remote areas.

Feral cats are a declared pest animal that exist over much of Australia and have colonised many habitats. They are skilled hunters and a threat to the survival of many native species including small mammals, birds and reptiles.

During the second half of the year, Parks Victoria is planning to bait areas that are known to be frequented by feral cats, with results monitored through a partnership with Deakin University.

To celebrate 25 years of Grampians Ark, Parks Victoria have produced a short film. Watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvxW3U9n6RQ>



Grampians Ark Project Coordinator Derek Sandow assists a volunteer to release a male brush-tailed rock wallaby into the Grampians colony.

Winter planned burning

Each year Parks Victoria undertakes planned burning within the Grampians area for ecological purposes. During winter this burning primarily focusses on heathlands and open woodlands.

Recently Park Rangers have focused on the Victoria Valley - selectively lighting small patches of vegetation to create a mosaic of different ages classes. This style of burning aims create critical habitat of for wildlife, in particular some of the parks threatened small mammals.



Victoria Valley planned burning



Ranger Team Leader Jono Almond in the Victoria Valley.



Ranger Al Stott wades through water to access planned burning sectors.

Illegal mountain bike track

Around the June long weekend, Parks Victoria staff discovered an illegally built mountain bike track in Black Range State Park. This trail was built in proximity to Mudagadjin Rock Art Shelter – a significant cultural area.

Parks Victoria staff from Halls Gap and Wail responded swiftly and undertook remediation works of the site. Physical distancing was maintained at all times.

Investigations are ongoing and anyone with information is encouraged to report it to Parks Victoria on 13 1963.



Parks Victoria crews remediating illegal mountain bike track

Park maintenance

The park operations team have been in full swing grading and undertaking essential maintenance work on the parks unsealed roads. The focus areas over the last month have been on Zumsteins Shortcut Track, Rose Creek Road and Glenelg River Road.

Rangers have been rebuilding campsite access steps at Borough Huts Campground and have replaced gates on seasonal tracks, including Bellfield Track on the south-east edge of Lake Bellfield.

Parks Victoria reminds the community and visitors to respect seasonal road closures by not driving around or damaging any gate in the park.



Bellfield Track Seasonal Gate

Welcome Marlene

We would like to welcome Marlene Rodriguez Malagon to the Halls Gap Team in the role of Environmental Project Coordinator. An experienced wildlife biologist and project manager, Marlene has worked in conservation across the world for over 10 years. Here in the Grampians she will focus on herbivore (deer, goats and rabbit) and sallow wattle (*Acacia Longifolia*) management. Welcome Marlene!



New Grampians Management Plan

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

The new management plan will underpin strategic planning for the Gariwerd 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 please visit Engage Victoria -

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/grampians-management-plan>.

GRAMPIANS PEAKS TRAIL

Currently under construction, 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.

For detailed information and the latest updates on the Grampians Peaks Trail project please visit

parks.vic.gov.au/projects/grampians-peaks-trail

Seasonal fauna species

Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenus*)

The Powerful Owl is the largest species of Owl in Australia and supreme nocturnal apex predator. Found in old growth forest in south-eastern Australia, it relies on large tree hollows for habitat. Males grow up to 67cm and females up to 58cm. They feed on arboreal mammals, with a main diet of ringtail possum. The powerful Owl is listed as Vulnerable in Victoria.



Seasonal flora species

Grampians Thryptomene (*Thryptomene calycina*)

Grampians Thryptomene is a vibrant flowering shrub that grows to up to three metres in height. It is found on sandy soils within heathlands and heathy woodlands across much of the park. When in bloom between July and November it becomes covered in small white flowers with an often pinkish bud.



Do you want help identifying species in the field?

Download Museums Victoria Field Guide App:
museums victoria.com.au/apps/field-guide-app-to-victorian-fauna/

Upcoming events and activities

Guided activities

No guided activities are currently planned. Check Parks Victoria's website for updates.

Self-Guided activities

Junior Ranger Activity Sheets

Help kids stay connected to nature by undertaking a fun Junior Ranger activity at home in your own backyard. Download an activity from www.juniorrangers.com.au and get outside.

Volunteering

Volunteering with Parks Victoria is a great way to contribute to conserving Victoria's special places and help others do the same.

Each year Volunteer Campground Hosts, Track Rangers, TrailRider Volunteers and community groups help make the Grampians National Park a better place.

To find out how you can be involved visit parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/volunteering

Employment opportunities

To find out the latest employment opportunities with Parks Victoria visit parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/careers

Report an issue

Noticed an issue such as fallen tree, damaged road or broken sign in a park or reserve you have visited?

Report it to Parks Victoria via the Snap Send Solve phone app. Visit <https://www.snapendsolve.com/> for more information.

Further information

To stay up to date with the latest park information:



Call 13 1963



Visit Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre, 2.5km south of Halls Gap. Ph: 03 8427 2258.



Go online at www.parks.vic.gov.au. Be sure to check the weekly road report and monthly park access update on the Grampians page.

Well I just reread Augusts FTG. We had so many plans that were halted when we were asked to do our bit to help reduce the spread of Covid 19 by the Government. We had so much planned, but not to worry we will be able to start our programs soon.

Lee-Anne and Alison have been working out how to open safely. Resuming programs will be gradual. We have also attended various training via zoom during this time.

We have been able to continue to walk the Neighbourhood House Networks. Neighbourhood Houses in Victoria are grouped into 16 regional networks. These Neighbourhood House Networks link houses and local communities to other houses and communities at a regional level and facilitate. Did you know there is over 400 Neighbourhood Houses in Victoria.

Part of our Move It Move It program we have our participants sending in their weekly steps. So far we have travelled around the Wimmera West Grampians Network from Halls Gap, Ararat, Stawell, St Arnaud, Warracknabeal, Murtoa, Kaniva, Rainbow, Hopetoun, Harrow, Horsham and back to Halls Gap (over 1.2million steps) We are now travelling down to Dunkeld which is part of the South West Neighbourhood House Network which covers Corangamite, shire, Glenelg Shire, Moyne Shire, Southern Grampians Shire and Warrnambool City.

The Halls Gap Book club is still receiving their monthly books even though they have not been able to meet much this year to discuss the books.

We continue to support the community by being a voice for our community on various committees, producing FTG, updating Community Noticeboard and generally being on the other end of the phone/email for those in need.

See you Soon Alison & Lee-Anne



The Halls Gap Community Garden need our creative community to help us. We need a scarecrow to help keep our veggies/herbs safe from birds.

We started the completion last month however so far we have not had any entries in our Scarecrow Competition. **Great Prizes to be won for:**

1. Best use of recycled material
2. Most popular as voted by the community
3. Scarcest Scarecrow



All you have to do is make your scarecrow. Neil, Alison and Tim will install your scarecrow in the garden so people can view. Photos of entries will be put up on Facebook. Voting will be done on via email neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au or leave a message the neighbourhood house phone on 03 5356 4751 option 3. Contact Alison on 0417 883 445 for more details or if you have any questions.

Hope to see some very creative scarecrows turning up at the Halls Gap Community Garden.

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:

Melbourne Cup Weekend – 1st November

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

At this stage due to covid restrictions it is unlikely we will have a market until 2020

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
Snatch Straps
Winch Extension Straps
Snatch Blocks
Shovel
Air Compressor
UHF Radio Ch 20
Fridge

Hi-Lift Jack
Tree Trunk Protectors
Bow Shackles
Soft Shackles
Rated Recovery Points
Chainsaw
GPS Assistance
Local Knowledge

PRUNING



Roses, fruit trees etc

Hourly rates

Removal extra

30 years experience

D Elgood

5356 4353



Halls Gap is a
Cat Free Zone



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



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



Call 131 444 or visit police.vic.gov.au

FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

Lee-Anne, Abbie, Margo and Alison

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

neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au

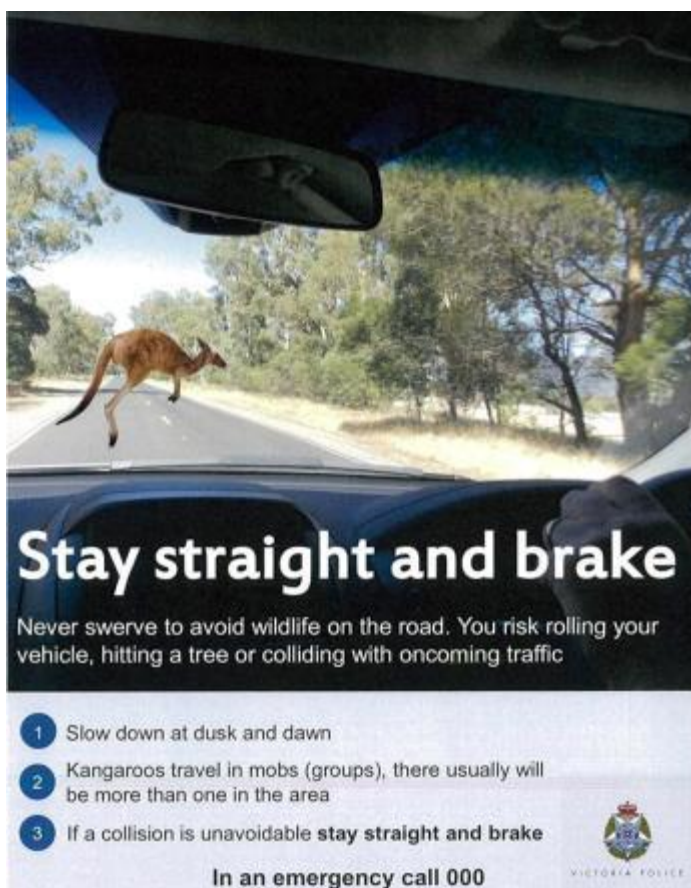
Upload your community events details to
the Community Association webpage:

www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au

Like our **Halls Gap Community Association**
Facebook Page and/or **Halls Gap Community**
Watch and Events Facebook Pages.



To keep up to date with what is happening in
Pomonal like **Pomonal Community Connections**
Facebook page and/or **Pomonal info &**
resources sharing Facebook Pages







You **must** wear a face
covering when you leave
home.

You **cannot** have visitors or
visit friends and family who
live at another household.

Except for care giving or
compassionate reasons.

There are only four reasons that you can leave home

-  To shop for food and essential goods or services
-  To provide care, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment
-  To exercise
-  For work or study, if you can't do it from home. If you can, you must work from home

Regular Events

- * **Chas Mangle** Justice of the Peace is available for witnessing documents in the Halls Gap Newsagency from 7am - 10am daily except Tuesdays Ph. 0439 837 052
- * **Peter Hilbig** is also a Justice of the Peace and can undertake JP responsibilities by appointment. Email peter@hilbig.id.au or telephone 0437 524 716.
- * Due to the Current coronavirus situation the History Room will be closed until further notice. Check out Chas's postings on Facebook
- * Budja Budja Neighbourhood House - check the program at the house and online
- * Various sport/fitness groups. Check the community website for details