Issue: January 2021

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association & Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

Articles for February FTG need to be received by the 25th January 2021. See page 14 for details

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FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR

WRAP UP...

Welcome to 2021.

We are all hoping for a better year. Lee-Anne, Abbie and myself have enjoyed producing this publication during 2020. I think it was even more important to have local news get out to the community during times of emergency. A little bit of normality amongst the



Have a safe New Year and see you all again in 2021.

Alison Bainbridge

STATS BY CHAS...

Chas will bring us a double stats for the February Fill The Gap. Good to see you walking around town recovering well from surgery.



Want to celebrate 2021 with some music? Check out two FREE gigs right here in Halls Gap.

More details on Page 2

School Holiday Program at Budja Budja Neighbourhood House

FRIDAY FUN

Friday 15th and 22nd January from 10-12noon.

Its FREE but numbers are limited bookings essential.

See page 8 for more details



ballambar

season of butterflies - early summer (mid november to late january)

Warmth, Butterflies and Wetland Plants

With the onset of summer heat, the land dries and the weather stabilises. This is the season of butterflies or ballambar. POMONAL NEW YEAR
VILLAGE MARKET
SUNDAY 3RD
JANUARY 2021
SUNDAY FROM 9-1PM

Pomonal is holding its New Year market Sunday 3rd January 2021 from 9-1pm. In the grounds of the Pomonal Community Hall.

Come along and support your local producers, artisans and sellers of new and 2nd hand goods.

Something for everyone.



Halls Gap Summer Music are running two free events in Halls Gap Park from 11am to 1pm. Bring your own food, drinks and chair/blanket. Check out Halls Gap Summer Music on Facebook for more details.



PERFORMING LIVE

3rd January Halls Gap





KAILEE O'BEIRNE

17th January Halls Gap



Of course no show this year.

I did make drive and walk notes with David's help, and revised them completely in November. Jason and his team sold them for us at the Visitors Information Centre, so at least we had some income. Grampians APS approached me about the possibility of doing something together in March however this is still in just an idea. We have some ideas for 2021 however these will be discussed in the new year.

Margo Sietsma



Well there's news I was hoping to have before the end of the year, but it's not going to come in time for this issue.

You may remember that early in the year we put in for two grants from DELWP to improve the garden. Apparently an announcement as to who got funding, and how much, is due any day now. We just have to wait. We may have got all we asked for, some of it, none of it. If we have been successful to any degree we'll let you know. Plus we will be looking for more volunteers to help us put in the changes we are looking at. And seeking top up funding. We want a garden our community can be proud of, and one where it is easy to work in.

In the meantime, the weeds continue to grow, volunteers continue to mow and weed, we get plenty of likes on our facebook page and we hope that we make a good start to 2021.

We are looking for additional Volunteers in 2021 all abilities welcome.

At time of printing we are still waiting on the Ministers announcement regarding our DELWP grant application.

Margo Sietsma



Australian Plants Society (Victoria)

Promoting the Appreciation and Preservation of Australian Plants

Australian Plants Society Grampians Group are looking for new members. The Committee is working on an interesting and informative program for 2021. For more information email: grampians@apsvic.org.au or check out our FB page.

Andrea Shelley, Secretary

HALLS GAP CFA



We are at last back into a regular training and meeting routine. We had a Brigade Management Team meeting and a full Brigade meeting

in December as well as a couple of training sessions. Volunteer firefighters have checked over the equipment on the trucks and carried out routine maintenance on hose couplings and fittings. District and Region activities are also scheduled so we our representatives have attended the Stawell Group meeting and new drivers are in training.

We plan to train on the first and third Wednesday of each month, re-commencing for the new year on 20 January. We have scheduled a revision drill for breathing apparatus operators in February and look forward to regular practice of routine operations as well as building new skills.

Activity at the fire station regularly involves Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police as well as the Fire Brigade using the facilities for training and meetings. The State Emergency Service will be storing sandbags at the station so they are readily available for flood emergencies. Our back up generator has been maintained and checked ready to ensure the station can continue to operate during a power failure. While we hope we don't need to manage an emergency, it is good to have emergency services familiar with the space and ready to work together.

As we welcome visitors over the summer, we ask the community to be aware of the potential fire danger and fire restrictions and to share this information with visitors and guests. We suggest you print, read and distribute copies of "Can I or Can't I" from the CFA website

https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/ documents/20143/80821/Can-I-or-Cant-Ibrochure.pdf/5e14373f-e64d-3676-bb7b-2685a831a5f8?t=1607056195006

and/or the campfire and barbeque brochure from Forest Fire Management Victoria

https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/ pdf_file/0030/91866/ CanlCantIcampfireandbbqbrouchure.pdf

All the best for safe and enjoyable celebrations and a happy new year.



Pomonal Men's Shed had a big month in December. First up we completed the first of 6 picnic table and seat sets for Barney's Bar & Bistro. We hope Col and Sue like them and they get many years of use.

The next exciting thing was the rapid progress on construction of the new shed. As seen in the photos we went from footings in the ground to getting the walls on in a matter of a week or so. Next to go in will be the roof then

it won't be long. Thanks to Scott and the crew at Spark Construction for getting things happening.

The last big event for the month was the draw of the Monster Raffle. Unfortunately if you did not get a call you weren't successful. The winners, in the order drawn were (winners chose the prize they wanted):

- 1 Jill Humphreys Boroka Downs Luxury Getaway
- 2 Margie Hoskin Local Produce Basket Five Ducks
- 3 Garry Middleton- Fallen Giants Wine Tasting + Bottle of wine
- 4 Hayley Ellis- Two E bike 90 min hire
- 5 Abby Mac Gilvray Halls Gap Zoo
- 6 lestyn Hosking Flame Brothers vouchers
- 7 Lisa Raymant- Absolute Adventures Australia
- 8 Jean Pritchard- Two E bike 90 min hire

Each lucky winner also received a music CD from our local muso, Russ Kellett.

We trust the winners will enjoy their prizes, and want to once again thank our generous sponsors.

Special thanks also to the raffle draw organisers: Stuart, Trevor, Michael and Rob and to Nadya at Pomonal General Store for drawing the tickets.

We will be taking a short break over Christmas and New Year and back to the shed on 7th January 2021.

As always anyone who wants to join our shed is welcome to come along around 10am on Thursday's behind the Pomonal Hall, or if you want more information please call Peter on 0447 466 435.

Wishing our members and their families a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.





Walking Track Maintenance - April through to July

Purpose: There are hundreds of kilometres of walking tracks within the National Park and over hundreds of thousands of visitors walk them per year (are you one of them?) Volunteers will assist Park Rangers maintain these tracks by walking along and trimming the vegetation that makes its way over the track.

Location: Various tracks from Halls Gap area

Activity Duration: Two hours

Campground Maintenance - All Year

Purpose: Campgrounds have assets that need to be maintained for visitors to enjoy throughout the year.

Volunteers can spend a half or full day with a Ranger to assist maintain the campgrounds we all love to enjoy

Location: Borough Huts Campground, Troopers Creek Campground, Smiths Mill Campground, Stapylton Campground

Activity Duration: Half or full day

Sallow Wattle Control - All year

Purpose: Sallow wattle is an invasive Acacia taking over vulnerable areas of the National Park. Volunteers will assist Park Rangers remove this Acacia by cutting and pulling it from the Northern Grampians region.

Location: Northern Grampians Activity Duration: Two Hours

Plan for a Safe Summer in Grampians National Park

Grampians National Park is a great place to visit during the summer months to enjoy a range of activities including bushwalking and camping. During this time however, the weather is usually very hot and dry; the forest begins to dry out and the risk of summer lightning storms increases the chance of bushfires. Hot weather also increases the chance of heat related injury or illness, so being prepared to spend time in the outdoors is vital.

This guide can help build an understanding of the fire danger rating and emergency warning systems that are place in Victoria. It can also assist you to plan your activities and stay safe while visiting Grampians National Park this summer.



Your Planning Checklist

How bad is the fire risk?

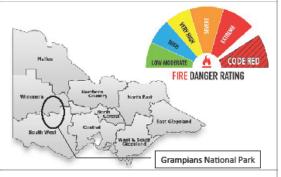
The remote and forested areas of the national park are not the safest places to be during hot and windy weather. Fires can start and spread very quickly. Fire Danger Ratings tell you how bad a fire would be if it started in your local area. The higher the rating the more dangerous the conditions.

Fire Danger Ratings are determined for each fire district on a daily basis.

Grampians National Park is spread across both the Wimmera and

Southwest fire districts.

See the table on the reverse side for further information on how to modify your planned activities in the National Park as the fire danger increases.



Be bushfire safe: Plan ahead prior to visiting the park

Go to www.emergency.vic.gov.au or the CFA website for information on how to stay bushfire safe when travelling away from home.

Learn about the Fire Danger Rating system and what this will mean for the activities you undertake in the National Park. Plan for severe, extreme and Code Red fire danger days. Prepare yourself with maps, radios, mobile phones and information to help monitor conditions during your stay.

Things to consider for your fire plan:

- · Which fire danger rating is your trigger to leave the National Park?
- Will you leave early that morning or the day before?
- · Where will you go, what route will you take?
- What will you take with you?
- What if you cannot leave? Do you know how to survive?

A PExce

Visit www.emergency.vic.gov.au

2 5km south of Halls Gap



http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/staying-safewhen-vou-travel



Source information on park closures: Go to www.parks.vic.gov.au or call 13 19 63 Visit Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre



Visit a local accredited Visitor Information Centre for regional tourism information.

While you are here: Monitor conditions and modify plans

Know how to stay informed during your stay. Phone reception is not available right throughout Grampians National Park and in an emergency you may not receive a visit from a park ranger.

- Download the Vic Emergency App to receive real time emergency updates. Set up 'Watch zones" to receive location specific information.
- Tune in your car or portable radio—listen for emergency broadcast messages
- Know where you can get phone reception, check as you go
- Monitor the Vic Emergency website
- Like Vic Emergency on Facebook or follow on Twitter
- Know when to change your plans or activate your fire plan
- If you get caught in a bushfire know how to survive

In an emergency or if you see an unattended grass or bushfire call 000 and leave the area immediately to a safer location.



Install the VicEmergency App—available from the Apple and Google Play app stores



Call the VicEmergency Hotline: 1800 226 226



ABC: 94.1FM, 89.3FM, 91.7FM or 594AM ACE: Horsham: 94.5FM, 98.5FM, 101.3FM or 1098AM Hamilton: 88.9FM, 93.7FM or 981AM

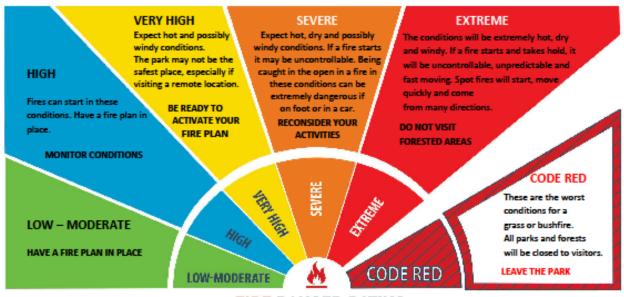


Follow the VicEmergency website or Facebook www.emergency.vic.gov.au



Follow on Twitter @vicemergency @cfa_updates

Understanding Fire Danger Ratings and Warnings When visiting Grampians National Park



FIRE DANGER RATING

What is my bushfire plan while visiting Grampians National Park

SEVERE EXTREME CODE RED NODERATE нісн MONITOR CONDITIONS AND BE READY RECONSIDER YOUR ACTIVITIES DO NOT VISIT FORESTED AREAS LEAVE THE PARK OR FOREST Avoid the heat and fire danger in fo On a Code Red day, the National Park is TO ACTIVATE YOUR FIRE PLAN Avoid the heat and extreme fire danger areas by modifying your plans. Visit a local Visitor Information Centre. by not visiting the national park or other not a safe place to be and will close If safe, only undertake short walks early in check the Vic Emergency app or listen to local radio for bushfire information in the Leave the national park the night before. forested areas. Visit Brambuk the National Plan and think about visiting a large the morning. If travelling through the Park and Cultural Centre or a local Visitor area you intend to visit. If there are no national park, stay on sealed roads and town such as Horsham, Stawell, Ararat Information Centre for a list of safer monitor conditions via radio broadcasts. bushfires near the area of the national or Hamilton. Do not rely on a visit from park you plan to visit, carefully continue phone and the internet. A local visitor information centre or staff at Brambuk the activities in the area. If you must travel park rangers to warn you when to leave. with those plans, but remain vigilant, through the national park, leave early, stay Monitor conditions via radio broadcasts, continue to monitor conditions and follow National Park and Visitor Centre, can assist on sealed roads and keep close to your with providing ideas for safer activities in phone and the internet. advice of any dosures. vehicle. Monitor conditions via radio broadcasts, phones or the internet.

Fire Warnings and Updates: Don't expect warnings in any particular order. The first warning you hear could be an Emergency Warning. Remember mobile phone service is not always available in Grampians National Park and therefore you may not receive a warning message. Monitor your local radio station and do not rely on a visit from a Park Ranger to tell you what to do.



ADVICE: There is a fire in your local area. You need to get information and monitor conditions.



WATCH AND ACT: Fire is heading towards you. Conditions are changing. Take action now to protect yourself.

EMERGENCY WARNING: You are in immediate danger and need to act now. You will be impacted by fire.



TOTAL FIRE On a day of Total Fire Ban you cannot have an open campfire or use a solid fuel barbecue in the district where a Total Fire Ban is declared. This includes kettle/weber style barbecues and camp ovens and liquid fuel barbecues BAN DAYS It is your responsibility to be aware of a Total Fire Ban. For further information visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/can











We have been planning for a busy 2021 at the Neighbourhood House. We will be reopened to the public on Thursday 7th January 2021.

We will recommence our Tai Chi on Thursday 7th January at 10am. Gentle Exercise Program on Tuesday 12th January at 1.30pm at the Centenary Hall.

Our School Holiday Program will be run on two consecutive Fridays in January and its **free.** Our numbers will be limited so

please book. Preschool children are welcome however parents/guardians need to stay with them.

As you can see we are offering six opportunities to get your First Aid/CPR check out the details below.

Alison has planned a program of Meet and Make Days for 2021 - For the crafty and want to be crafty. Watch this space for more details or check out our website or Facebook page.

The Halls Gap Book Club meet third Thursday of the month. We are looking for more members. If you would like to join the group contact us on 5356 4751 for more details. Friday Finska and other games will return in February. Looking forward to catching up in 2021. **Cheers Lee-Anne & Alison**

Summer School Holiday Program









Fun Fridays 15th and 22nd January 2021 from 10-12noon

20-22 Grampians Rd., HALLS GAP VIC 3381 px 03 53564751, option 3 m: 0491 090 456

e: neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au w: https://budjabudjaneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/

Bookings Essential as numbers limited





First Aid & CPR dates for 2021

Time: 9am to 3pm Cost: CPR HLTAID 001 \$65 First Aid HLTAID 002 \$155 BYO: Lunch

Book now to ensure your place

Dates: Monday 22nd February 2021 Monday 12th April 2021 Monday 7th June 2021 Monday 9th August 2021 Monday 4th October 2021 Monday 4th December 2021



20:22 Connymer Bit, HALLE CAP VIC 5381 pr CS 6386/25L option 3 mrD691 D90 d86 enneglitious front house@sudjubedjacoop.org



Budja Budja will be closed Friday 25th of December and will reopen Monday 4th of January

If you are in need of any help or assistance while we are away please find the following services who can support you:

Nurse on call - 1300 606 024 (open 24 hours a day)

URGENT Care Stawell - 5358 8500

URGENT Care Ararat - 5352 9300

After Hours GP Helpline - 1800 022 222

(Covering 24hours on public holidays)

Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636 (also have online chat available)

In an Emergency - 000



When visiting Victoria's forests and parks, having a campfire or barbeque for personal warmth or cooking is an enjoyable experience. However, campfires can easily escape and start a bushfire.

Restrictions are in place for public land in Victoria to ensure that escapes do not happen and our bushland is protected. It is your responsibility to ensure you understand the campfire and barbeque rules and regulations before you visit.

If you light a campfire or barbeque, you are legally responsible for ensuring that it is safe, does not escape, and is completely extinguished before you leave.

Total Fire Ban Days 🙌

Total Fire Ban Days = no campfires, and no solid or chemical fuelled barbeques

It's up to you to find out if a Total Fire Ban is in place. Ask your neighbouring camp if you don't know. You can also call the Vic Emergency Hotline on 1800 226 226, download the Vic Emergency App or visit emergency.vic.gov.au.

If it's hot or windy use common sense and don't light a campfire or barbeque.

Information sources

- . Check the long range weather forecast before you leave via bom.gov.au
- · Find out about Total Fire Bans via:
- VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226
- emergency.vic.gov.au
- Vic Emergency App

9 The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2019



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ffm.vic.gov.au parks.vic.gov.au

To report suspicious or illegal activity call 136 186



Can I? Can't I?

Campfires and Barbeques





General use

campfire or solid clear around my fuel barbeque? Do I have to

campfire or solid fuel barbeque ground perimeter around your Keep a three (3) metre air and clear of flammable material. Use a designated fireplace where provided.

What size can my campfireor

barbeque be?

barbeque must be one square Your campfire or solid fuel metre or less in size.

barbeque must be one metre your campfire or solid fuel Solid fuels placed onto or less in length.

and stores at least

3 metres away Set up camp

constructed campfire? What is a properly

30cm deep, and/or be lined with rocks Digging trenches and collecting rocks where possible you should look to use construct a campfire it needs to be in can impact on local environments, so a trench (hole) that is greater than or other non-flammable materials. existing campfire sites. If you

campfire or

Can I use a

your liquid, gaseous or chemical fuel However you must keep a 1.5 metre campfires and barbeques clear of air and ground perimeter around flammable material.

gaseous fuel or

solid fuel?

chemical

uses liquid fuel, barbeque that

Can I leave my

A responsible adult must be in

What is the best

way to extinguish correctly when my campfire

unattended?

leave?

campfire or

barbeque

attendance to supervise your solid fuel campfire or barbeque at all times.

In attendance means being within 50 metres and having line of sight from the outer perimeter of your solid fuel campfire or barbeque.

your campfire with water, not soil You must always fully extinguish

You cannot leave any hot embers

remaining in your campfire.

Remember, if your campfire is cool to touch, it is safe to leave.

ttering and subject to on the spot fines

Total Fire Ban Days

solid or chemical fuelled barbeques Total Fire Ban Days = no campfires,



campfire or solid Total Fire Ban? fuel barbeque on a day of

or barbeque on days of Total Fire

Ban, or allow one to remain alight If in doubt, don't light a campfire A barbeque that is fired by gas or barbeque. Yes

Can I use a

structure built of stone, metal concrete or another non-**Total Fire Ban?** barbeque that is fired by gas or electricity on a day of

 set in a permanently fixed or electricity and is:

alight placed in a stable positior portable barbecues), and when manufactured exclusively for designed and commercially meal preparation (including flammable material, or,

children at all times

Supervise

3 metres

Provided that:

water to put out your campfire Use plenty of

It is for the purpose of meal preparation.

- The area within a distance of three (3) metres from the outer perimeter of the barbeque is clear of flammable material.
- You have either a hose connected to a water supply or a container with at least 10 litres water for immediate use.
- who has the capacity and means to extinguish the An adult is there at all times when the fire is alight barbeque.
- The barbeque is completely extinguished before the adult leaves.

*This image relates to general use, not on a day of Total Fire Ban

metre

\$30cm

Do not put glass, aluminium, plastic ease take these home with you.

not permitted to construct their own fireplaces constructed fireplaces provided. Visitors are and barbecues may only be lit in properly In National and State Parks, campfires



Learn identification, ecological and surveying skills as part of a 10-week bird monitoring program

Parks Victoria and Nature Glenelg Trust are seeking Volunteers to survey birds in Grampians National Park (Gariwerd). Volunteers who are beginners through to relatively skilled are encouraged to apply.

Volunteers will take part in a FREE 10-week bird monitoring course by behavioural ecologist Dr Greg Kerr in your choice of Halls Gap or Dunkeld. Volunteers will then complete bird monitoring surveys at 36 long-term study sites in the Grampians National Park (Gariwerd) to measure impacts and responses to fire, foxes, feral cats and climate change. This course will help you gain the level of skills and knowledge necessary to survey birds that most people take years to nurture and develop.

Halls Gap: Every Tuesday, 5:00pm-9:00pm, from the 2nd of February to the 6th of April 2021

Dunkeld: Every Wednesday, 5:00pm-9:00pm, from the 3rd of February to the 7th of April 2021

To complete an application, visit the Parks Victoria website

https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/volunteering/great-gariwerd-bird-survey

or to find out more information contact:

Hannah Auld Community Engagement Ranger E: hannah.auld@parks.vic.gov.au M: 0498 777 615

This program will run in accordance with current COVID-19 restrictions. Further information about volunteering with Parks Victoria during COVID-19 restrictions can be found at www.parksvictoria.vic.gov.au. This project received grant funding from the Australian Government through the Australian Heritage Grants Program





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 2021 are:

Labour Day Weekend- Sunday 7th March

Easter Sunday - 4th April

Queen's Birthday Weekend - Sunday 13th June Melbourne Cup Weekend - Sunday 31st October

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





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





Halls Gap is a Cat Free Zone





Call 3 131 444 or visit police.vic.gov.au

FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

Lee-Anne, 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

Fill The Gap newsletter acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the first Australians.

We acknowledges the diversity of Indigenous Australia.

We respectfully recognise Elders past, present and emerging.

This newsletter was produced on Djab Wurrung country.









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