

Issue: March 2021

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

Articles for April FTG need to be received by the 25th March 2021. See page 17 for details

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FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



kooyang

season of eels - late summer
(late January to late March)

A Parched Landscape

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

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

WRAP UP...

Well it has been so busy this month and we took a little longer to get this edition out.

Remember to have your say by responding to the Victoria Police are community survey - see page 3 for all the details.

The Grampians Film Society will be starting up again after 12 months on March 31st from 7pm at the Halls Gap Centenary Hall. Come along and see Sink or Swim.



This weekend is Parks Victoria are holding a Clean Up Gariwerd Day event on Saturday 13 March 2021 -See page 9

STATS BY CHAS...

February 2021 - Rainfall by Chas:

8 mm for February bringing the progressive total to 173 mm for 2021. This compares to the same period last year of 75 mm for February with a progressive total of 111 mm for 2020.

As of the 24th February Lake Bellfield is holding 49,650 ML or 63% full compared to the same period last year of 51,950 ML or 66% full.

The total system is holding 180,910 ML or 32.29% full compared to the same period last year of 184,710 ML or 32.97% full.

Mount William received 19.2 mm for February. The highest temperature of 27.9 C was recorded on the 10th of February and the lowest of 3.1 C was recorded on the 8, 23, and 24th of February. The highest wind speed of 91 km/h was recorded on the 5th of February 2021.



Halls Gap Primary School and Budja Budja Neighbourhood House are putting in for a Community Grant from the Northern Grampians Shire to help upgrade our Halls Gap Community Garden.

We are looking for people who would be interested in participating in this exciting development of our Community Garden.

At this stage we are just wanting to hear from anyone who has an interest by contacting Alison or Lee-Anne at Budja Budja Neighbourhood House on 5356 4751 option 3.



Halls Gap's Botanic Garden News March 2021

Last month we reported that we have received quite a bit of grant money from DELWP for improvements to the garden. That money has now arrived safely in the bank account of the Recreation Reserve to look after it for us, so we can now prepare to spend it. We have measured where the new shed is to go and are having discussions with two potential suppliers. We have ordered a toilet on a trailer and have prepared its parking site.

On Thursday 25 February we were very happy to host the first of the regular Auslan classes in our shelter shed. It is most rewarding to see groups like this using our facilities. Some photos will be going up on our Facebook page.

Don't forget that we have working bees on the second and fourth Friday mornings each month. All welcome. We can provide gloves, hats and tools.

Margo



Unfortunately the Grampians Textures have had to be cancelled for 2020. Marion and her team are working hard to make Grampians Brushes 2020 a reality. A program for Brushes should be out in April all going well.

HALLS GAP RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Dates and times for the Halls Gap Residents and Ratepayers Association meetings for 2021, to be held in the Centenary Hall, Supper room at 7.30pm are:

Wednesday - 3rd March IT IS ALSO THE AGM.

Wednesday - 2nd June

Wednesday - 1st September

Wednesday -1st December

Refreshments supplied after the meeting
Committee meets at 7.00pm

Paul Turner
President HGRRA



2021 Grampians Grape Escape has been cancelled.

2022 dates for the wine, food and music festival in the Grampians are the 30th April and 1st May 2022.

Greetings all,

Gardening Australia had a brilliant session with Lynne Stone our regular guest artist at the Grampians Wildflower Show. If you missed it, do watch it on Iview.

The committee of the Grampians Wildflower show are working on providing a mini show for 2021. Watch this space for more information.

In the meantime do enjoy the time with Lynne on Iview.

Margo





HALLS GAP POLICE

G'day everyone,

As a part of our Engage Vic Strategy, Victoria Police are running a community survey in the Ararat, Northern Grampians and Yarriambiack Police service areas. The survey is open from Monday 1st of February, 2021 until Monday the 15th of March, 2021.

We really value community feedback on what you see are our local issues or safety concerns and welcome any ideas of how your local police can better support our great community.

The survey can be accessed via the QR code in the attached flier and will only take a few minutes to complete.

If you wish to complete a paper copy of the survey please email me karen.bain@police.vic.gov.au and I'll forward you a copy.

You'll notice the fliers have been placed in shop windows around town and outside the police station for your use.

We strongly encourage you to take the time to complete the survey. It'll give our community the chance to have your voices heard and assist your local police in providing the best service possible regarding public safety issues.

Thanks very much

Sergeant Kaz Bain

Giving residents a greater voice.



Victoria Police is providing an opportunity for residents and business owners of the Ararat, Northern Grampians and Yarriambiack communities to advise police about any safety concerns or ideas, and provide feedback in regards to trust and confidence in local police.

The survey will only take a few minutes of your time to complete and is designed to help police address concerns and better support the community.



SURVEY OPENS:
1 FEBRUARY, 2021
SURVEY CLOSES:
15 MARCH, 2021

Visit the below link or scan the QR code to complete the survey:

 engage.vic.gov.au/victoria-police-northern-grampians-safety-survey



VICTORIA POLICE



You can also help police solve crime and keep up to date with the latest news by following our Eyewatch page: facebook.com/eyewatchnortherngrampians



Please do not report crime via the survey. If you would like to report a non-urgent crime, please contact the Police Assistance Line on 131 444. For immediate police attendance, call Triple Zero (000).

HALLS GAP CFA



The Halls Gap Fire Brigade training and meeting routine has been interrupted again by COVID restrictions, but we did manage to get breathing apparatus operators through their regular practice drill. A trailer load of equipment was brought from the CFA training centre at Longerenong and the district instructor took us through some scenarios requiring breathing apparatus, pumping, connection to a fire hydrant along with the use and safety of fire fighting equipment.

The summer continues quietly for the brigade in Halls Gap but we remain on alert, particularly on hotter days and when wind speeds increase. As Western Australia and South Australia experience severe fires we continue to monitor the risk and prepare to respond when necessary.

We are pleased to have two additional volunteers qualified to drive heavy vehicles and another to complete the license training shortly. This greatly improves our call out capacity as well as adding to our roster for regular driving of all vehicles. Every vehicle undergoes a comprehensive check every week to ensure they are operational in an emergency. This includes a 30 kilometre drive, activating warning lights and sirens, operating pumps and safety devices, refuelling and topping up water when required.

As we transition from summer to autumn, the fire risk remains high, so we encourage everyone to monitor the Wimmera fire restrictions web page <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/wimmera-fire-district> and maintain fire readiness. Fire restrictions still apply across the Northern Grampians Shire, so please be sure to follow regulations at <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can>

We always welcome volunteers, and not everyone needs to be a firefighter. Communications, maintenance, and logistics provide opportunities to engage with the brigade. Call or SMS Peter if interested, 0437 524 716.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HALLS GAP

The Community Association of Halls Gap is the modern name of the former Progress Association, whose origins date back to the 1920's. As such it continues a proud tradition of contributing to the well-being of the local community in a variety of ways.

Since it is an incorporated, not-for-profit association, its primary role these days is to act as an umbrella organisation for various groups and activities in which its members are involved. The major ones are:

- * Continuing maintenance and development of the Botanic Garden, which is devoted to the Grampians flora
- * Running the annual Wildflower Walkabout (previously known as the Wildflower Show)
- * The Grampians Film Society
- * The Halls Gap community noticeboard website and Fill The Gap newsletter
- * Grampians Walking Tracks Support Group

Meetings are held in the Supper Room at the Centenary Hall. From 4.30 - 6pm.

Meeting Dates for 2021

1 March, 7 June, 30 August and 6 December



When: Wednesday 31st March 2021

Time: 7pm

Where: Halls Gap Centenary Hall

Internal Arts Academy for Mind, Body & Spirit

ABN 56 373 502 389

Halls Gap Stillness in Movement Tai Chi & Qigong Group

Instructor Bruce Jordan 0408 839730 brucejordantaiji@gmail.com

Tai Chi & Qigong Halls Gap Eight Week Beginner's Course

With

Instructor Bruce Jordan

Course details (Where & When)

Halls Gap Centenary Hall, Grampians Road Halls Gap

Wednesday's 10am – 11.00am (Starting 31/3/21)

\$75 per person

Learn in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

What you will be learning

Qigong practices for health & wellbeing

Introduction to Tai Chi & Basic principles (Foundations)

Yang style traditional Tai Chi long form*

*Ideal preparation for ongoing courses & advanced training.

(Private tuition and bridging classes available)

For more information & bookings

Contact: Bruce Jordan 0408 839730 brucejordantaiji@gmail.com

Tim Walsh 0431 093815

Qigong, Tai Chi, Baguazhang Short Courses & Continuing Classes, Holiday Classes, Workshops

Bruce Jordan 30 years Tai Chi practitioner, 25 years Tai Chi teaching experience

International Certification (SOMA, WTBA)

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



March 2021	April 2021	May 2021
<u>Dr Amanda Gibbons</u> 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th 9 th , 10 th , 11 th , 12 th 15 th , 16 th , 17 th , 18 th , 19 th 23 rd , 24 th , 25 th , 26 th 29 th , 30 th , 31 st <u>Dr Rachelle Bassett</u> 10 th , 11 th , 12 th 15 th 25 th , 26 th <u>Public Holiday</u> Monday 8 th Closed <u>Clinic closed</u> Monday 22 nd	<u>Dr Amanda Gibbons</u> 1 st 6 th , 7 th , 8 th , 9 th 12 th , 13 th , 14 th , 15 th , 16 th 20 th , 21 st , 22 nd , 23 rd <u>Dr Rachelle Bassett</u> 7 th , 8 th , 9 th 12 th , 13 th , 14 th <u>GP TO BE ADVISED</u> 26 th , 27 th , 28 th , 29 th , 30 th <u>Public Holiday</u> Friday 2 nd Closed Monday 5 th Closed <u>Clinic closed</u> Monday 19 th	<u>Dr Phillip Barraclough</u> 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th <u>Dr Greg Malcher</u> 10 th , 11 th , 12 th , 13 th , 14 th 17 th , 18 th , 19 th , 20 th , 21 st <u>GP TO BE ADVISED</u> 24 th , 25 th , 26 th , 27 th , 28 th

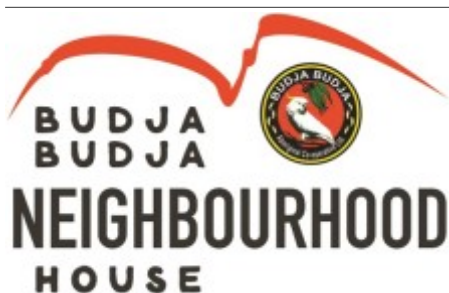


We Say Goodbye...

We would like to say a very sad goodbye to our GP, Dr Amanda Gibbons. We would all like to wish you all the best on your next adventure over in Western Australia and we thank-you for all the hard work and support you have given to our community while you have been with us. You will be missed by us all.

Amanda's last day at Budja Budja will be April the 23rd. We will still have GP's available for you to see in our clinic.

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



Easter School Holiday Program will be out soon. Check our website <https://budjabudjaneighbourhoodhouse.org>

STOP PRESS:

The monthly Meet & Make on Saturday in March will be held on **Saturday 27th March**

March Meet & Make is knitting or crochet so come along to the Halls Gap Centenary Hall Supper Room between 1:30 to 3:30pm. Bring along your own projects or Alison will there to teach you something new or help you with your project.

Well February has been a busy month with some programs restarting such as Playgroup, Friday Fun and Meet and Make it afternoons on Thursday. Reengagement has been slow however we are open and look forward to welcoming you back to the House.

We ran a very successful First Aid in February. If you missed out and need to update your First Aid/CPR our next session is Monday April 12. We have good interest in this course so contact Alison or Lee-Anne to book your space. Can't make 12 April don't worry will be running another session on 7th June.

We celebrate International Women's Day with a Luncheon on the 5th with guest speaker Tanisha Lovett.



Big news **Food Bank comes to Halls Gap.** Food Bank redistributes fresh fruit and vegetables that would otherwise go to landfill. Once a month Stawell Neighbourhood House will receive a delivery from Food Bank. Victoria Police will then deliver the food to schools and to us! Budja Budja Neighbourhood House will receive two boxes of about 12 kilos of fresh produce. We will repackage and deliver to families/households in need of a little extra help and we plan to make meals and use it for community events as well. If you or someone you know is in need of a little help please contact Alison or Lee-Anne on 5356 4751 option 3.

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
First Aid/CPR 9-3pm 22nd February 12th April 7th June	Computers & Internet available during opening hours bookings essential		Tai Chi 10-11am	Pomonal/Halls Gap Playgroup 9:30-11am every second Friday during school terms check website or FB for dates	Meet & Make Saturday 3rd Saturday of the month 1:30-3:30pm Check events section of this brochure, website or FB for more details
	Gentle Exercise 1:30-2pm		Meet & Make 1-3pm		
			Book Club 7:30pm 3rd Thursday of the month		
			School Holiday Program Tue & Wed of School holidays 10-12noon Check website or FB for more details	Friday Fun 1:30-3:30pm	

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AND FB FOR MORE
DETAILS ON WHAT IS HAPPENING AT YOUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE



HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL

STEM Classes

During the 3/4 STEM class, students were given a challenge to drop an egg without cracking when it hit the ground. Students were supplied materials to design and build a contraption to hold and protect the egg.



During the 5/6 STEM class, students were given the challenge to make a pair of shoes using newspapers and tape.



Science class in the junior room, learning about space.

Clean Up Gariwerd Day

To support the 'Clean Up Australia Day' initiative, join Parks Victoria and Volunteers to collect wind blown and dumped rubbish from around the National Park

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park



Assist Rangers and Volunteers clean up areas within The National Park and surrounds that have been effected by windblown and dumped rubbish

Parks Victoria are seeking Volunteers to assist clean up visitor sites, walking tracks and trail heads around Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park that have been effected by rubbish. If you enjoy getting 'Into Nature' why not join us and lend a hand for a few hours whilst out In Nature! This short morning activity will be delivered within COVID-19 Restrictions

When: Saturday March 13th 8:30am -12:00pm

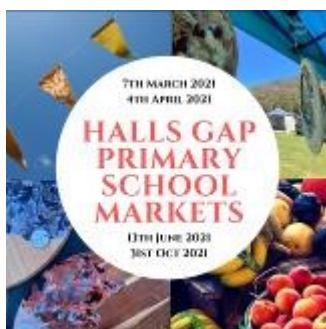
Where: Meet at Halls Gap Park (opposite the pool) to be given bags/tongs and your location of where to go

For more information and to sign up, please visit the ParkConnect website [here](#)

This activity will run in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions and may be cancelled at any time.



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

POMONAL VILLAGE MARKET

The Pomonal Village Markets are normally held on the Last Sunday of every month (see below for other dates) from 9am til 1pm at the Pomonal Community Hall
Ararat-Halls Gap Road, Pomonal

2021

3rd January	25th July
31st January	29th August
28th February	26th September
28th March	2nd & 3rd October
18th April	31st October
30th May	28th November
27th June	19th December

All site enquiries: Alison Bainbridge
Market Coordinator on 0417 883 445
All proceeds to Pomonal Community



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



Report Motor vehicles, property taken from car or other items



Report personal property lost in Victoria



Report damage to your property, including graffiti



Register your party



Inform police when you are away from your home

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



Halls Gap is a Cat Free Zone

FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

Abbie, 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

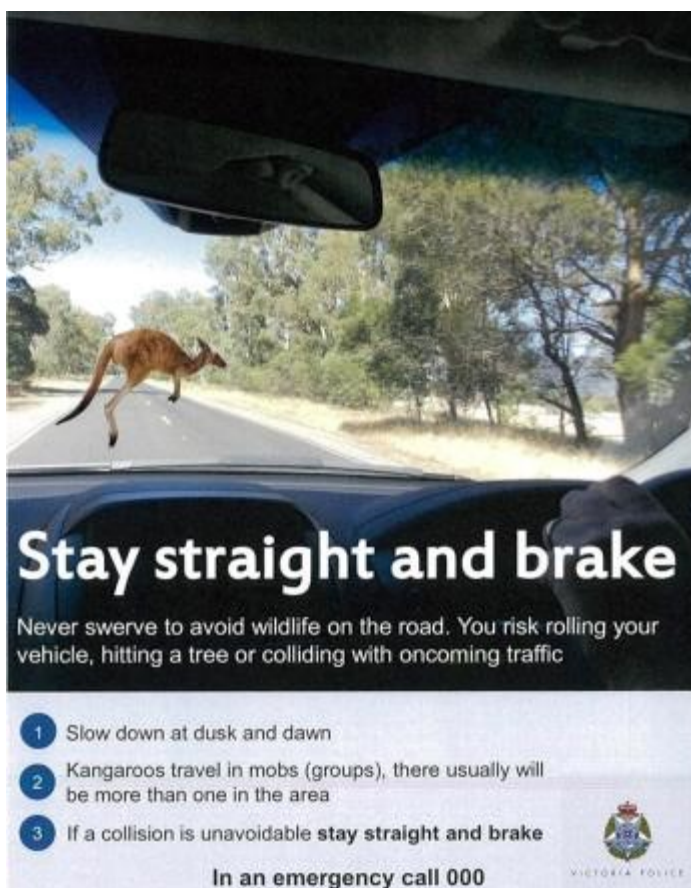
Upload your community events details to
the Community Association webpage:

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