

Issue: December 2021

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

Articles for January FTG need to be received by the 21st December 2021. See page 17 for details

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FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



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.

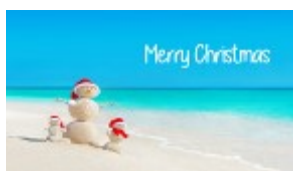
WRAP UP...

Well we are coming to the end of 2021. Not quite the year we had hoped for however our community is resilient and we are looking for better times in 2022.

Some fun community events that you can join in - Christmas Carols in Pomonal on Sunday 12th December and the Christmas Pomonal Market on Sunday 19th December from 9am to 1pm

There is still lots to do to get our properties ready for the fire season as well as the party season. Please travel safe whilst visiting friends and family during this time. And remember be kind to each other and a smile costs nothing but gives so much to the both the receiver and also to the giver.

Lee-Anne,
Abbie & Alison



STATS BY CHAS: November 2021

70.5 mm for November bringing the progressive total for 2021 to 1087.5 mm.

This compares to the same period last year of 48.5 mm for November with a progressive total of 952.5 mm for 2020.

As of the 24th of November 2021 Lake Bellfield is holding 60,390ML or 77% full compared to the same period last year of 54,260ML or 69% full.

The total system is holding 241.620ML or 43.12 % full. This compares to the same period last year of 222,530ML or 39.72% full.

Mount William received 110.0 mm for November 2021. The highest temperature of 23.1 C was recorded on the 29th of November and the lowest of - 0.2 C was recorded on the 16th of November 2021. The highest wind speed of 102 km/h was recorded on the 18th November 2021.



Outdoor Carols at the Pomonal Hall

7.30PM

SUNDAY DEC 12TH

Everyone welcome!

Bring a chair

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HALLS GAP

The next meeting is at **4.30 on December 6**. The CAHG is an umbrella organisation for several important local groups (Botanic Garden, History Association, Walking Track Support Group, HG Landcare, Wildflower Show, Film Society and FTG). It very much needs new members, especially younger ones, so why not come along to this meeting and see if you could assist. It only meets four times a year so it is not onerous.

Margo S



As promised, the Minister for the Environment, Lily D'Ambrosio came to our garden on November 12th to meet up with the team from BREAZE who are going to help us with the best way to get electricity to our buildings using solar panels. There were encouraging words, but no cash for us, and I don't think for BREAZE either. However it was not a waste of time, we had good conversations with the experts in the BREAZE team, our photos appeared in the local press, and we gave her a guide to Grampians wildflowers. Unfortunately we didn't get to show her around the garden as the rain started – we were grateful that we had our shelter and were even able to have a cosy fire in place.

Our new office shed is finished and we are starting to set up bookshelves, filing cabinets etc. it is going to be very useful.

The new watering system will be installed in January, and we hope the new signage about indigenous use of plants will be able to be installed in February.

Our last working bee for the year will be on December 10th. Once again, we hope we get a good number as the weeds are still beating us. And we have a wedding coming up in January.

Margo S



G'Day Halls Gap Community

I hope this edition of FTG finds you well! We are aware that sometimes we are hard to track down, if you do need to catch up with someone at the station please phone and leave a message, name and number, and we will contact you ASAP.

Many community members would be aware of the past issues in relation to tacks being left on the bike path between the town and Lake Bellfield. Several e-bikes from our local E-bike Hire business picked up a tack towards the end of last month/beginning of this month.

If anyone has come across tacks on the path themselves when walking/riding or been unlucky enough to step on/ride over one, could you please give us a call at the station on 5356 4411. Please leave a message if the station is unmanned (unwomaned ☹). If any suspicious behaviour is sighted or you know who the person is, please contact us directly or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The tacks are also of a huge concern to the safety of our local wildlife.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!



Cheers Halls Gap Police





I'm sure that readers of this newsletter have walked past the History Room in the front of the Centenary Hall many times. But have you been inside to see of what our history was made, or how the vast number of photographs came



to be there? Well, as there has just been a change made in the Society's management, I thought it would be timely to tell you how it all began. Heatherlie Quarry was the catalyst. Back in 1982 the stone cottages had lost their roofs and the windows and doors were beginning to crumble.

With the surrounds in a sad state, a small group of locals decided something had to be done. So the Society was formed and in our first year almost \$1,000 was donated through fund raising activities. Then our aim to restore the stone cottages came to a sudden halt for much of the Grampians was declared a national park and the Quarry fell within its boundary.

Meanwhile, as the old log cabin in the caravan park was no longer in use, we were given permission to use it as our headquarters. Apart from sorting out old photographs which were donated by many visitors who had once been honeymooners in Halls Gap, we repainted the two old campers' lounge rooms and installed security grills on the windows. Alas, our new home was not for long as new lessees of the caravan park wanted the log cabin back! So we packed up the collection and set up a new home in one of the change rooms at the back of the Hall.

With the establishment of the Grampians National Park, we set to work consulting with their staff and obtaining grants for a number of projects. The stone cottages were restored and a series of interpretive signs were installed to help visitors better understand the significance of the area. After years of the signs fading - in some cases stolen - a new set of signs have recently been installed. Another project was titled 'Signs of the Past' with other widespread interpretive signs at places of significance. We also held a number of celebratory events out in the Park - 120th anniversary of the commencement of the Stawell Water Supply System, the 100th anniversary of the Mafeking Gold Rush and, closer to home, the centenary of a school in Halls Gap with the children dressed in the fashion of the day. Another big achievement was the 2006 publication of 'Victoria's Wonderland', a history of the Grampians, which has proved very popular. We recently had a 3rd reprint of the book.



When the Hall was enlarged early this century, the Hall Committee of Management gave the Society a new home. We were even able to consult with the builder to ensure the History Room could accommodate the original lounge from the Mountain Grand Guesthouse. Transporting the long lounge was quite a feat with one end supported on the back of a ute while six strong men supported the other end and "walked" the lounge down the street to the Hall! At last we had somewhere to set up our displays and welcome visitors to learn more about the Grampians since Major Mitchell climbed Mt William

in July 1836. In the couple of years before Covid's many lockdowns, Chas Mangle would open the History Room to the public most afternoons, (a service much appreciated by the general public if the donations box is anything to go by.) However, times change and our original membership of 38 in 1983 has now dropped to just eight members. (The good news is that we now have four volunteers, who with Chas, open the History Room daily for the public.) With more work now being done by fewer people, we decided to cease being a separate incorporated body. We have now moved under the umbrella of the Community Association of Halls Gap Inc., just like the Grampians Film Society and our Botanic Garden group; one big happy family, but do come and join us if you would like to be involved. Website - <https://www.grampianshistory.org.au/>

HALLS GAP CFA

CFA and Northern Grampians Shire have declared the fire restriction period this season will run from 6 December 2021 to 1 May 2022. Be sure to check CAN I OR CAN'T I before lighting any fire, and please share this information with visitors and guests. <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-and-ratings/can-i-or-cant-i>

The Northern Grampians Resilience Project is seeking participants to discuss community needs and perspectives on bushfire preparedness. Researchers from the University of Melbourne are conducting a workshop via Zoom on 8 December from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Please email andrea.rawluk@unimelb.edu.au to express interest in participating

The Brigade Management Team met on 1 December to schedule summer activities. We will continue training on the first and third Wednesday of each month, commencing at 7:00 pm. We also propose a special session on Monday 20 December at 7:00 pm to ensure all available volunteers have completed their entrapment drill before Christmas. This is a vital safety procedure to protect firefighters in vehicles using insulated curtains and overhead sprays.

Other summer activities will include locating and checking fire hydrants. In Halls Gap these are embedded in the ground and are identified by blue reflectors in the road surface and red and white pickets on the roadside or close to the outlet. Most outlets are concealed by a metal cover. In the event of fire, brigade members attach a stand-pipe in order to connect firefighting hoses. If you notice a fire hydrant buried under soil or vegetation, or a damaged reflector or marker, please let us know by telephone, SMS so we can arrange to have it checked or cleared. (0437 524 716).

In addition to our regular training schedule the brigade is planning two important meetings during the first half of next year. On Wednesday 16 February at 7:00 pm we'll have a general meeting to discuss succession and leadership, then on Wednesday 18 May at 7:00 pm we will meet to elect a new brigade management team for 2022 to 2024.



Now we are meeting face to face, and can train together, it would be great to be introducing new volunteers. We welcome potential firefighters as well as other supporters for logistics, maintenance and communications. Please call Peter if interested - 0437 524 716.



MEDITATION IN GARIWERD/GRAMPIANS



Hi everyone

We've had some lovely meditation classes since we started a couple of months ago. Thanks to everyone who have joined us. Last week we enjoyed a balmy evening listening to all the birds. And what more perfect place to do it than here in Halls Gap? We are blessed.

If you would like to join us, we meet at the Budja Budja Neighbourhood House at 7pm on Monday with our last class for this year on Monday 6th December. Then there's always next year if December's not the right time for you. We're back Monday 17th January 2022. Hope to see you then.

Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year

Rowena





Seasons Greetings from Lee-Anne & Alison



Budja Budja Neighbourhood House
will be closed from

3.15pm on Thursday 23rd December 2021 &
re-open 9am on Tuesday 18th January 2022



2022 program will be out end of December/early January
Check out website <https://budjabudjaneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/>
and our FB page for more details

Come and join us for some Summer Fun in January

Budja Budja Neighbourhood House Summer School Holiday Program 2022

Numbers limited so
bookings essential

Wednesday 19th January
10am-12noon

Plaster Animals



Friday 21st January
10am-12noon

Sand Art

Tuesday 25th January
10am-12noon

Scratch Art



Friday 28th January
10am-12noon

Tie Dying

20-22 Cromplane Rd, HALLS GAP VIC 3381
p: 03 53566751, option 3
m: 0491 090 495
e: neighbourhoodhouse@budjabudjacoop.org.au
w: <https://budjabudjaneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/>

Gold Coin Donation
Activities suitable for 5-13 years





Activities Update – 30th November 2021

November has been a busy month at the shed with our membership still growing and attendances being very good.

We now have our meeting room fully functional and are enjoying using it for much solving of all the worlds problems and much comradery. Our workshop is now fictional and we are still sorting things out as we settle in to some projects.

We have started taking on projects for different folk within the community and are beginning to make items for sale on an ongoing basis.

We will be doing our sausage sizzle at the Pomonal market as usual each month and also begin selling items there. This is always a great social time as well as a fundraising opportunity.

We are pleased that the Mixed Bunch Arts Group have a home on Saturday mornings in our meeting room, as has the Pomonal Patchwork Group on Wednesday afternoons.

We are currently running on Mondays from 9-30am for a day of social activities and on Thursdays from 9-30am for our project sessions in the workshop.

We will be starting some all-inclusive sessions for our female members to attend with us within the new year.

Pomonal Men's Shed is growing steadily and offers a safe accepting environment for men to meet the ongoing needs of its members. It is always there to accept new members. For any information feel free to call me on 0438 204 929.

Russ Kellett
Secretary



Here's Looking At You

Paintings by Kylie Outhbertson

November 25th - January 2nd
Opening night
Friday November 26th 6pm

MOCO Gallery
grampiansadventuregolf.com.au/moco-gallery
481 Grampians Road Halls Gap Vic 3381

"Who is Santa's favourite singer? Elf-is Presley!"

POMONAL CHRISTMAS VILLAGE MARKET
SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2021
SUNDAY FROM 9-1PM

Wildlife with Neil Macumber:- White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphos*)

Previously known as Black Jays or Black Magpies. Aboriginals in NSW called them Waybung.

Size:- 430-470mm (very similar in size to a Magpie)

Description:- Male and Female are similar. The body is black with large white wing patches that are not seen until the birds take flight. The bill is pointed but decurved, and is black as are the legs. The eye is red with an orange inner ring and seems to be more prominent when aroused or threatened by a magpie, currawong etc.



Voice:- Mellow whistles and piping. Aggressive throaty clicks. Alarm call is a loud grating scream.

Habitat:- Open forest with leaf litter and little understorey, such as scrublands, tall mallee and mulga and Eucalyptus woodlands. Also farmland, road sides, road verges and pine plantations. They are often seen on road edges and take flight as car approach.

Food:- Consists of mainly insects and their larvae, those of scarab beetles are a favourite. Some small vertebrates including frogs and mice. Also seeds and some vegetable matter.

Habits:- Communal living in family groups of 5 – 20 that share all aspects of daily life. They are sedentary and groups rarely wander far from the home range, and are largely terrestrial. In Autumn/Winter they can join up into communal flocks of over 100 birds. Some groups will steal babies from adjacent groups and raise them as their own.



Breeding:- is between August and December, sometimes earlier after rain in arid regions. One brood per female, large groups may produce 2 -3 broods per season. All group members contribute to nest building and incubation.

Nest:- is a large bowl-shaped structure, made from mud reinforced with fibre, in dry seasons mud may be substituted with cattle or emu dung: plastered to a horizontal branch, from 2mtrs to 13mtr above ground.

Eggs:- 3 – 5 sometimes 6 – 10 if more than one female lay. Many of the babies get taken by predators.

Distribution:- Confined to Eastern and Southern Australia from around Ingham in QLD, down

the coast and includes most of NSW, all of Victoria and across the Nullabor to slightly west of Eucla SA.





Halls Gap Primary School

With school returning to a better sense of normal, there have been many activities filling our calendar and many more to come in the remaining three weeks of school. Here is a glimpse of

what we have been up to in the past few weeks . . .



Some of Grade 6 students lead us through the Remembrance Day Ceremony. We laid poppies as a mark of respect.



Mr J's Prep, 1 & 2 class had a book inspired day, complete with a dress-up!



Three split systems were installed in our gym areas thanks to the generosity of the Variety Club. They get a big thumbs up!



We welcomed our 2022 Prep students back to the classroom for another day of transition.

And we finished last week off with a family sausage sizzle in the park. A great afternoon was had by all.



From Students and Staff, Halls Gap Primary School, we wish you a very happy festive season and summer break.

If there are any families who may be interested in their children attending Halls Gap Primary, we would encourage you to give us a call to arrange a meeting and tour. Please contact the school on 5356 4235 or email halls.gap.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

You can pick up a copy at the Halls Gap Visitor Centre or at the Pomonal Market on the 19th December 2021. They make great Christmas presents.



Australian GEOGRAPHIC

Art Calendar 2022
ARTWORK BY JAMES HOUGH

\$35

SUPPORT THE WAMA FOUNDATION

**AUSTRALIAN
GEOGRAPHIC
ART CALENDAR 2022**

Featuring 13 artworks of Australian wildlife
Great Christmas gift
All proceeds from sales goes to the WAMA Project

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WAMA.NET.AU

Useful links

Victorian Department of Health: <https://www.facebook.com/VicGovDH/posts/274563668049317>

Know what type of contact you are, and follow the steps in your COVID Checklist:

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist-contacts>

Get tested if you're a contact or at the first sign of symptoms:

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19>



Where can I get the free COVID-19 vaccination in Northern Grampians Shire?

Stawell Regional Health

5358 6550 www.srh.org.au

Patrick Street Family Practice Stawell

5358 7555 www.psfamprac.com.au

East Wimmera Health Service pop up clinics

5477 2100 www.ewhs.org.au

St Arnaud Medical Centre

5495 1766

St Arnaud Pharmacy

5495 1911 book via [Facebook page](#)

Victorian Government Home Vaccination Service

1800 675 398. For people with disability and their carers

Call your preferred provider directly to make a booking. Call the Victorian vaccination hotline for more information on 1800 675 398 or visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Everyone aged 12 and over is now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Information subject to change. Updated 19th October 2021



Where in Northern Grampians Shire can I get tested for COVID-19?

Stawell Regional Health Respiratory Clinic

5358 8630, 27 Sloane st Stawell

- Drive through tests may available, possibly off site. Call to check location or make an appointment.

East Wimmera Health Service

5477 2102 or 5477 2100

52 North Western Road St Arnaud

- 2.30pm every day including weekend

Victorian Government Call-to-Test at home service

For people with disability or illness who can't get to testing sites. A nurse can come to your home anywhere in NGS

1800 675 398, option 4 then option 5

For more information or help call 1800 675 398

Information subject to change. Updated 30th November 2021



Home isolating? You're not alone.

COVID-19
(Coronavirus)

If you or someone you know is self isolating we can help you.

Contact Grampians Community Health for assistance.

Call: 5358 7400 or 5358 7599 (after hours)

Email: home.isolation@gch.org.au

Availability: Northern Grampians Shire
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Grampians
Community Health 

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

www.budjabudjacoop.org.au



December 2021	January 2022	February 2022
<p><u>DR Susan Watson:</u> Wednesday 1st –Friday 3rd</p> <p><u>Dr Rachel Bassett</u> Wednesday 1st –Friday 3rd</p> <p><u>Dr Clare Roczniok</u> Monday 6th –Friday 10th Monday 13th – Friday 17th</p> <p><u>Dr Paul Jenkins</u> Monday 20th-Friday 24th</p> <p>CLOSED MONDAY 27TH–JANUARY 3RD</p>	<p><u>Dr Ruth Sutherland</u> Tuesday 4th- Friday 7th Monday 10th –Friday 14th</p> <p><u>Dr Rachel Bassett</u> Wednesday 5th –Friday 7th</p> <p><u>Dr Prashanti Godakumburra</u> Monday 17th –Friday 21st Monday 24th – Friday 28th</p> <p>CLOSED WEDNESDAY 26TH AUSTRALIA DAY</p>	<p><u>Dr Prashanti Godakumburra</u> Monday 31st January – Friday February 4th</p> <p><u>Dr Luhong Min</u> Monday 7th – Friday 11th Monday 14th – Friday 18th Monday 21st – Friday 25th</p>



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 of respiratory infection symptoms even if mild. Call for reception 53564751 for a Telehealth appointment.

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>

Market Dates for 2022:

Labour Day Weekend- Sunday 13th March

Easter Sunday - Sunday 17th April

Queen's Birthday Weekend - Sunday 12th June

Melbourne Cup Weekend - Sunday 30th 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	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.



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



Report stolen vehicles, property, 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

Lee-Anne, Margo, Abbie 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 acknowledge 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 8am - 10am daily except Tuesday 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.
- * **History Room** is open 2pm-4.30pm on **MOST** days. **CLOSED Tuesday**
- * **Budja Budja Neighbourhood House** - check the program at the house and online
- * Various sport/fitness groups. Check the community website for details

