

Issue: April 2022

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

Articles for April FTG need to be received by the 25th April 2022 See page 18 for details

In This Edition:

Stats by Chas	Page 1
CAGH	Page 2
HG LandCare	
Memoriam	Page 3
CFA	Page 4
Pomonal Men's Shed	
Gatherings 2022	Page 5
BBNH	Page 6
BBNH	Page 7
BB Medical	Page 8
Run the Gap	Page 9
Whats on April	Page 10
WAMA	Page 11
Golton Gorge	Pages 12 & 13
Parks Vic	Pages 14 & 15
Job opportunity	Page 16
Kids Voucher Program	
Markets	Page 17
Ads	Page 18

FROM THE GARIWERD



gwangal moronn

season of honey bees - autumn
(late march to june)

Sunrises, Bees and Flocking Birds
Autumn (the season of native
honey bees or gwangal moronn) is
when the country starts to cool
down after the summer heat.

SIX SEASONS CALENDAR

WRAP UP...

April already. This edition is fully of news and activities for everyone.

Interested in joining the new Halls Gap Resilience Group or Halls Gap Landcare group. See page 2 for more details.

Budja Budja Neighbourhood House has moved into their new home. They are running a fun School Holiday Program. There is also a Connecting to Community textile workshops. Further details on page 6.

Congratulations to The Grampians Walking Track Support Group and Parks Victoria who celebrated the long awaited re-opening of the Golton Gorge Picnic area and walking track.—pages 10 and 11.

Don't forget to support the Halls Gap Primary School and visit the Market on Easter Sunday 17th April.

A happy and safe Easter to all.

MARCH 2022 - RAINFALL BY CHAS:

12 mm for March 2022 with a progressive total of 121.5 mm. This compares to the same period last year of 76.5 mm with a progressive total of 249.5 mm.

As of the 30th of March Lake Bellfield is holding 53,250ML or 68% full compared to the same period last year of 46,620ML or 59% full.

The total system is holding 178,660ML or 31.89% full compared to the same period last year of 171,830ML or 30.67% full.

Mount William received 42 mm for March 2022. The highest temperature of 24.7 C was recorded on the 3rd of March and the lowest temperature of

3.5 C was recorded on the 31st of March. The highest wind speed of 91 km/h was recorded on 6th & 8th of March 2022.



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HALLS GAP

Grampians Walking Tracks Support Group

After 10 months since our last attempt and 27 months since our first, we are at last going to open the new track and the rebuilt picnic area at Golton Gorge on Friday, 1st April. It will be a real cause for celebration for the 19 volunteers and a number of Parks Victoria staff who put their labour into this worthy project over a period of some 18 months. It has created a further attractive destination in the National Park both for the local community and for visiting tourists, with a simple picnic area and an interesting walk to the waterfalls. These are spectacular when in flood but well worth a visit at other times.

Formation of Halls Gap Resilience Group



At its March 7th meeting the Community Association accepted Rod Lambert as a

member and also accepted his proposal to form the Halls Gap Resilience Group under our auspices. Rod has been in our community for about 5 years. He has a strong background in risk management and last year produced a comprehensive document "Halls Gap Threat and Risk Assessment", partly in response to moves by NG Shire to improve the management of emergencies in Halls Gap.

The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience requires local government and COMMUNITIES THEMSELVES to plan and prepare for emergencies. In some regards communities are in the best position to do so but some time, energy and enthusiasm are needed to realise this. The Resilience Group is an attempt to make this happen.

If participation in this Group would interest you then please contact Rod Lambert on 0407 992 447 or email him at

secretary@resiliencegroup.org.au

HALLS GAP LANDCARE GROUP



Landcare News April 2022. Halls Gap has a new Landcare Group, formalizing the landcare activities that have been

carried out in the township over the years. Our small and passionate group will be focussed on protecting native fauna habitat and addressing the threats to the township's environmental values, especially the occurrence and spread of pest plants.

The new group will look at all possible pest plant issues within the township and develop a priority program. The new group will be keen to attract funding that will support control works. The group will also be monitoring pest plant occurrences and recording control activities. The group will be much stronger and effective with additional members and anyone who is interested to contribute will be most welcome.

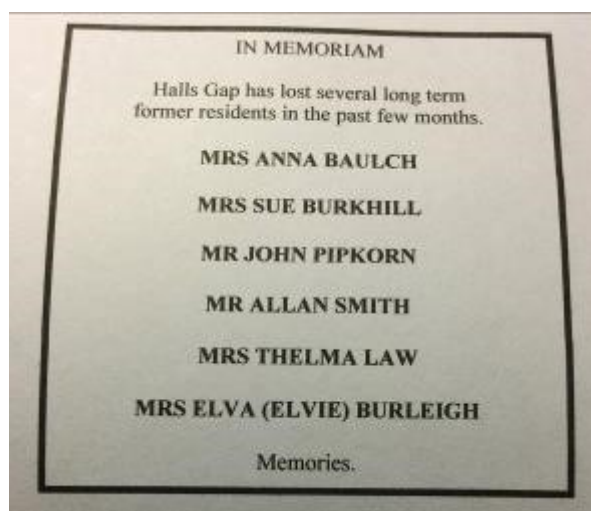
Halls Gap Landcare Group Purpose is to support the protection, maintenance and understanding of natural environments and landscapes, natural values and native fauna habitat within the Halls Gap township and surrounds.

Our focus:

- * Identify and monitor threats to natural environments, natural values and native fauna habitat within the Halls Gap township.
- * Support, develop and implement programs that will protect and enhance native fauna habitat and contain, and where possible, eliminate invasive and pest plants.
- * Support and implement works that assist with the protection of the adjoining Grampians-Gariwerd National Park.
- * Provide information to Halls Gap residents about the importance of and threats to natural environments, natural values and native fauna habitat within the township.

Graham Parkes





Do you need to be in contact with your Council?

Do you have a problem /question/ concern with your Northern Grampians Shire? You can contact them via:

- * Online
- * In writing
- * In person or via telephone
- * National Relay Service (NRS)
- * Talking with your Councillors
- * Snap Send Solve

What is Snap Send Solve?

An App you can download Snap Send Solve from the App Store or Google Play, or online at www.snapsendsolve.com to your mobile device to report local issues you come across within the shire. These issues range from fallen trees, potholes and dumped rubbish to cracked pavements, graffiti and more and you just have to take a photo and input any notes before sending directly to council for it to be actioned within our systems.

Snap Send Solve automatically recognises where you are situated so you do not need to know how or where to report incidents on the spot. There is no automatic acknowledgement capability with this program; if you want a response please add that detail into the comments section of your report.

For more details on how to contact NGSC check the website at:

<https://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/Council/Contact-us>



Congratulations to Marion and her Team for a wonderful Grampians Textures.



EMU RUNNER

Wednesday 27th April 2022

Centenary Hall, 117 Grampians Road, Halls Gap

A spirited 8-year-old girl deals with the grief of her mother's death by forging a bond with a wild emu. This spiritual dreaming is a bond she will do anything to keep, but one that puts her at odds with the new social worker.

The Grampians Film Society evenings are held from January to November in either Halls Gap, Pomonal or Stawell.

The doors open at 7pm and screenings commence at 7.30pm. Drinks and nibbles are served prior to the film and a light supper is served afterwards.

Membership is only \$45 annually or \$25 half-year.

For more information contact Alison Bainbridge 0417 883 445

Come along and enjoy viewing, being entertained and discussing the merits of films we screen. We endeavour to cater for a variety of tastes as well as have a fun social night.

HALLS GAP CFA



Autumn has arrived and the fire restriction period for the Northern Grampians Shire (which includes Halls Gap) concluded on 4 April. Even though the fire restriction period is over, fires within the township require a permit from Northern Grampians Shire, see <https://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au/Residents/Community-safety/Open-air-permit>. Also, a notification must be provided for every fire through <https://firepermits.vic.gov.au/> or by calling **1800 668 511**.

As we approach Easter please remember, and remind visitors and guests, that there is always a fire risk, and all fires, including campfires, should be carefully managed and supervised at all times. If it is any more than a campfire for cooking and heating, it should be registered as a burn so the CFA are not called to respond to what appears to be an emergency.

Every two years each CFA brigade elects its Brigade Management Team. On May 18 we will conduct our elections for a new management team to commence of 1 July 2022. Our succession plan ensures a changeover of officers so responsibilities are shared and members can gain experience in various roles.

We continue to recruit new members and to add training sessions to our regular Wednesday evenings. We also have some volunteers moving away from the area, so we are always welcoming new starters to improve our capacity to respond to emergencies. If you are interested in brigade activities, please contact Peter on 0437 524 716.

Q. What do you get if you pour hot water down a rabbit hole?

A. Hot cross bunnies!



Activities Update – 31st March 2022

March has been another busy month down at the shed with our members being involved in many various activities. We continue to increase our membership numbers with over 40 members.

The patchwork group are enjoying using our meeting room weekly and the mixed bunch art group will be doing the same next month.

We are now having a monthly session called "Shed Talk" on the first Tuesday of each month. March saw Crystal the community nurse come a talk to us about chronic pain and medications, and she also gave everybody a basic health check which she will do bi-monthly.

Monday's social day has been going very well with all attending enjoying tall stories, hot cuppa and of course something sweet to eat.

Thursday's project days have been bust too as we work through many different projects for different businesses and locals. We have found that we have need for another project day each week so starting next month we will also meet on Fridays.

The all-inclusive sessions have begun on the forth Tuesday of each month and we had a great turn out of keen men and women to participate.

We also raised some funds helping out at the Little Vic Bike Ride over the last weekend of the month.

As usual we did our regular sausage sizzle at the market which is always load of fun and raises some fund for us too.

The shed is open on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9-30am as is very welcoming to new members or anyone interested, for any information contact Russ on 0438 024 929.

Russ Kellett



A celebration of **ARTS, CULTURE and COMMUNITY.**

GATHERINGS 2022

A Northern Grampians visual and sensory treat. A journey of projections, light, movement, sound and imagery. A trail of discovery.

Be **excited**, be **curious**,
visit **one**, visit **all**.

THE
Grampians
Way

ACT NATIMUK

NORTHERN
Grampians
SHELTER COUNCIL

VICTORIA
State Government

14 MAY - 18 JUNE

Visit

grampiansgatherings.com.au
for more details.

Gatherings 2022 GREAT WESTERN

"New Vintage" A fresh, outdoor, big-screen event, launching photos of local characters in the wine industry followed by the just released, award-winning film *Blind Ambition*.

DATE Sat 14th May **WHEN** 5-8:30pm **WHERE** Best's Winery



David Johnson -
owner of Best's Winery
Photo: Marcus Thomson



Salisbury Winery Photo: Sam Roberts

Gatherings 2022 STAWELL

"Out of the Box" A streetscape of live action, performance, music, art, installations and sound.

DATE Friday 27th May 2022 **WHEN** 5pm - 9pm **WHERE** Main Street

Gatherings 2022 HALLS GAP

"The Moth Trail" An outdoor light and projection trail developed with Artists and the Halls Gap community. Like moths in the night, Drawn to the light... Around the art, We gather.

DATE Sat 11th June. Wet Weather Plan for Sun 12th June **WHEN** After Dark
WHERE Throughout Halls Gap Business Area and Creekside



Face Off by Transience
Photo: Dave Jones

Ducks - Photo: Mary French

Gatherings 2022 ST ARNAUD

"Lights On" Friday 17th - During the day: Check out the evocative, interactive augmented reality celebrating some of St Arnaud's iconic murals. Saturday 18th - After dark in the Town Hall precinct: Discover images, animation, colours and sounds breathing life into unexpected places.

DATE Friday 17th & Saturday 18th June **WHEN** During the day & After dark
WHERE St Arnaud Town hall area (Napier Street)



more info >

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians on all the lands we live, work and recreate. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.



Well It has finally happened. We have moved to our new home. You will catch Alison and Lee-Anne at 42 Grampians Road (formerly Ned's Beds next to Tim's Place). There are a few more items to move however we have commenced programs in the new space.

We would like to thank our volunteers who assisted in the move including Neil M, Chris C, Pam R, Alison I and Robert I. There is still lots of work to make it a friendly welcoming place however that will happen over the next 6-12 months.

Alison and Lee-Anne are working on a plan and would love help of our wonderful community in designing our garden space. If you are interested give us a call on our NEW number 5356 4485.

Connecting to Community

Join us at Budja Budja Neighbourhood House and be part of our Connecting to Community Textile Workshops.

We have six wonderful textile artists who will share their passion and skills Call us to book your place. We have been able to keep the cost low due to a Community Grant through the NGSC.

- Thursday 5th May, 10am-2pm Lodi Lovett - Eco Dying
- Saturday 7th May, 10am-2pm Lodi Lovett - Eco Dying
- Saturday 21st May, 10am-1pm Shelley Husband - Crochet-beyond beginners
- Saturday 4th June, 10am-2pm Emma Stenhouse - Coil Weaving
- Wednesday 22 June, 10am-2pm Jodi Matthew - Tie Dying
- Saturday 30th July, 10am-2pm Glenda Nicholls - Pine Needle Weaving
- Saturday 13th August, 10am-2pm Judith Burke - Felting

**Bookings
Essential**

**Cost: \$40 per
workshop**



Budja Budja Neighbourhood House
42 Grampians Road, Halls Gap



Budja Budja Neighbourhood House Easter School Holiday Program 2022

**Numbers limited so
bookings essential**

Tuesday 12th April
10am-12noon



Puppets from Nature



Thursday 21st April
10am-12noon



Friday 22nd April
10am-12noon

Games Day

Creative Drawing/Painting



42 Grampians Rd, HALLS GAP VIC 3388
p: 03 5364 4751 option 3
m: 0491 090 456
e: neighbourhoodhouse@budjabudja.org.au
w: <https://budjabudjaneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/>

Gold Coin Donation
Activities suitable for 5-13 years

BBNH Halls Gap Writers Group

We've had a great start to our writing group, which has been running now for almost 2 months. It's been a pretty organic process; really we've just been following our noses towards what we enjoy doing the most.

Mostly we follow a similar pattern every week:

In the first hour we share short pieces of writing that we've loved over the years, or that reflect what we have recently been reading. We also share a bit of what we might have written during the week, whether it was from exercises that were suggested at the end of each session, or from pieces that we have been writing independently of the group. Generally what happens at this point is we have a great discussion about what we've shared and how it related to us and our lives.

Then we have a little break, tea and coffee etc, but we don't seem to stop talking!

In the second hour we try our hand at a bit of spontaneous writing, with a few warm up exercises to begin with, and then a few short pieces (5-10mins each) that we share with each other. We have explored all sorts of different writing so far, including acrostic poems, limericks, collaborative writing and various writing prompts.

At the end, some writing exercises are suggested to try at home. This is so that we can do some writing that doesn't have the pressure of time limits that is there when we meet every week. In the coming months we hope to share some short pieces that we have written with Fill the Gap to give a taste of what we have been doing.

I am so grateful to everyone that has come together to create our little group. They are as supportive and encouraging of each other as I had hoped we would be. If you want to come, you would be so welcome. There is absolutely no pressure to do any or all of what I have described above, it's just that that happens to be how we roll at the moment :) Similarly if every week is too often for your schedule, just come when you can. If you want to just dip your toe in, or dive right in, either way we would love you to join us.

You can let Alison or Lee-Anne know at the Neighbourhood House, call Rowena on 0422 465 207 or just turn up at the Neighbourhood House on Wednesdays at 10am with pen and paper all ready to go. **Rowena**



What's on in April at the house



We are open Tuesday to Friday 9am to 3.15pm

- **Mondays** 7-8pm Meditation with Rowena
- **Tuesday 12th April** 10-12noon School Holiday Program - Puppets from Nature
- **Tuesdays** 10am-12noon Craft mornings with Alison. Come along and share your skills or learn a new one.
- **Tuesdays** 1.30-2pm Gentle Exercise with Jo
- **Wednesdays** 10-12 Writers Group
- **Thursday 21st April** 10-12noon School Holiday Program - Creative Drawing/Painting
- **Thursday 21st April** HG Book Club
- **Thursdays** 10-11am Tai Chi with Neil
- **Friday 22nd April** 10-12noon School Holiday Program Games Day
- **Fridays** 9.30-11.30am Playgroup - including story time with Alison
- **Fridays** 1.30-3pm Finska



Tuesday to Friday 9am-3.15pm

- Computers available
- Printing available
- Internet access
- Come in for a cuppa and yarn



We had to postpone our Crochet Workshop with Shelley Husband on Saturday 2nd April. It has been rescheduled for Saturday 21st May. Call Alison or Lee-Anne to book your spot.

Budja Budja Health Van ‘Tulku Wan Winnin’

Book you and the Kids to have your Annual Health Check this school holidays.

Abbie and Dee will be in Stawell and Ararat on Thursday 21 of April.

Thursday 21 April

STAWELL

9.30 - 12.30 pm

ARARAT

1 pm - 3.30 pm



Then you will need to book with a GP to complete Health Check at Budja Budja Medical centre or with Dr Lori Cameron on Wednesday 27 or Thursday 28 on the Health Van.

Wednesday 27 April

ARARAT

9.40 - 3.30 pm



Thursday 28 April

STAWELL

1 pm – 4 pm

\$30 Woolworths vouchers on completion of Annual Health Check.



Run the Gap 10th Anniversary

Sunday 22nd May



That's right! We will be celebrating the 10th event and it's coming up soon. Halls Gap will be buzzing with runners, walkers and the family and friends. See the image bottom left for where it all begins.

Join the run

We love seeing locals joining in the fun. The 21km course is a great introduction to competitive trail running with new and experienced runners finding the variety and diversity of the course a rewarding and worthy challenge. The 12km run takes in a lap of the wall at the magnificent Lake Bellfield, and the 6km run or 6km walk takes you along the scenic Fyans Creek trail. There are great prizes up for grabs including cash and vouchers for place getters and generous spot prizes. Early Bird discounts available until 22nd April. To enter, go to www.runthegap.com.au

Something for the little kids

One of the highlights that we all love watching is the "Mini Run the Gap" for the little ones. It's held in the central park in town and each child receives a participation medal.



Where does the money go?

It's used for community projects to enhance walk and bike paths. Plus \$1 from each registration is donated to the "Grampians Walking Track Support Group" to work with Parks Victoria to improve and maintain walking tracks in our national park. The most recent Run the Gap contribution assisted with asphalt works to the walk / bike paths along School Rd and along Grampians Rd to Lake Bellfield (see image above right).

Thanks to our sponsors

A huge thankyou to our sponsors to date including LiveFast Lifestyle Café, Absolute Outdoors, Halls Gap Lakeside Tourist Park, MIXFM, Halls Gap Bakery, Rayners Fruit & Vegetables, Flame Brothers, Halls Gap Zoo, the Kookaburra Hotel, Coolas Ice Creamery, Halls Gap Hotel and Grampians Walks.

Do you want to get involved?

Such a hugely successful event only occurs due to the generous support we receive from the local community. We appreciate and welcome all new and return sponsors and volunteers; if you can volunteer, there are jobs such as registering runners, taking photographs or being a marshall assisting people along the route. If you can help in this area contact Joshua Brown on 0401 966 846. Or you could help with the cooked breakfast provided to all Run the Gap participants and volunteers. Contact Neil McIntosh on 0417 554 619. Or email us at support@runthegap.com.au



These FREE activities are suitable for all ages. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Please wear enclosed shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather and terrain. Bring a hat, sunscreen and water. **Bookings essential.**

Free Ranger Guided Activities - Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park

Benefits of coming along to a ranger-guided walk:

These free, all-ages activities are running throughout the month of April. You'll be exercising without realising it because you'll be having so much fun, and you'll learn about the history, flora and fauna of the Grampians (Gariwerd) from a local Parks Victoria ranger!

***Bookings essential.** To book an activity, scan the QR code or call Brambuk on (03) 8427 2058.



When & Where	Details
Thursday 14 April 10am-12pm Meet at Venus Baths trailhead	Very Big Bush Walk (Victoria-wide event) (2km circuit) Join a ranger to explore Venus Baths, on one of many family-friendly bushwalks held around Victoria simultaneously.
Friday 15 April 9am-10:30am Meet at Brambuk	Mindfulness Walk along Fyans Creek (Barri Yalug) Loop (2.5km circuit) Practise mindfulness and tuning into your senses on a guided mindfulness walk. Take some time to recharge in nature and clear your mind of clutter.
Monday 18 April 11am-12:30pm Meet at Heatherlie Quarry Carpark, Mt Zero Rd (unsealed)	Heatherlie Quarry – A Walk Through Time (2km) <i>**World Heritage Day**</i> Join a ranger to explore the historic site of Heatherlie Quarry and learn about the European history. Home to a diverse range of plants, this ranger guided walk will also satisfy those with a keen interest in plant identification.
Tuesday 19 April 9am-11:30am Meet at Halls Gap Recreation Reserve Carpark, Mt Victory Rd	Chatauqua Peak Loop (5.6km circuit) Join a ranger for a walk to Chatauqua Peak to learn about the surrounding landscape including town history and the story behind the Chatauqua movement. Recommended age 12+ years.
Tuesday 19 April 2pm-3:30pm Meet at Venus Baths trailhead	Climate Watch Workshop (2km) <i>**to celebrate Citizen Science Day**</i> Learn how to become a citizen scientist and collect monitoring data of local flora and fauna species along our local Climate Watch trail on the Venus Baths walk. Download the ClimateWatch app prior to arrival.
Friday 22 April 5pm-7pm Meet at Borough Huts	Campfire Night <i>**Earth Day**</i> Join Parks Victoria rangers at our family-friendly campfire night, with games and stories to share. BYO chairs/picnic rug and torch.
Saturday 23 April 9:30am-11am Meet at Heatherlie Quarry Carpark, Mt Zero Rd (unsealed)	Heatherlie Quarry – A Walk Through Time (2km) Join a ranger to explore the historic site of Heatherlie Quarry and learn about the European history. Home to a diverse range of plants, this ranger guided walk will also satisfy those with a keen interest in plant identification.

***Bookings essential.** Activities have limited spaces available and require a minimum of 3 participants to run. Activities may be rescheduled, changed or cancelled due to adverse weather or for emergency response.



Parks Victoria are also running free Junior Ranger activities during the April school holidays, suitable for children aged 6-12 years old. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

For more details and to book, go to www.juniorrangers.com.au. Bookings essential.

Parks Victoria
Phone 13 1963
www.parks.vic.gov.au



Healthy Parks
Healthy People





NATURE PLAY DAY

Explore, create, play and be inspired by nature

**SATURDAY APRIL 9TH
11.00AM - 3.00PM**

**WAMA SITE, CNR NEAL ROAD & HALLS
GAP-ARARAT ROAD, HALLS GAP**

Meet at the automatic gate on Neal Road

ALL AGES WELCOME

BYO Picnic Lunch
or BBQ food to cook on our
campfire BBQ grill

- Clay and sand art
- Water play and science
- Natural fibre weaving
- Kite flying
- Movement and dance
- Smoking ceremony

For more information please contact Glenda
E: glenda.lewin@wama.net.au M: 0409423827



NATURE PLAY DAY

Saturday 9th April, 11.00 – 3.00pm
Bring your family along to get out in
nature and create, make and connect
with nature.

WAMA PROJECT POP-UP

Friday 15th & 16th April, 2022
Shop 108, Main Street Stawell
Building Design reveal and infor-
mation

GRAMPIANS GRAPE ES- CAPE

Friday 29th April – Sunday 1st May,
2022
Artist demonstrations, building design
display and WAMA Art Prize cata-
logue sales

*What's the best
way to make
Easter easier?*

*Put an "i" where
the "t" is.*



Opening of Golton Gorge Picnic area and walking track

Friday April 1st, 2022

The Grampians Walking Track Support Group and Parks Victoria have ‘finally’ celebrated the long awaited re-opening of the Golton Gorge Picnic area and walking track in Grampians National Park (Gariwerd) this week, after heatwaves and COVID impacts cancelled multiple celebration dates throughout the past two years.

Golton Gorge is an impressive seasonal waterfall located 28km north of Halls Gap on the Mt Difficult Range. An old walking track used to pass up the northern side of the gorge and return on the south, crossing the creek in a number of places and climbing through the gorge to the top of the range. Sadly, the walking track and picnic area were badly damaged in the 2014 Northern Grampians bushfire and were closed shortly after. Challenges with the reinstatement of the northern alignment through the steep sections of the gorge and the need to protect newly discovered cultural heritage, meant a new alignment was required, which at the time was unachievable.

However, community members from both sides of the Grampians ranges rallied together to ensure the popular visitor site was not closed permanently. Passionate locals worked closely with Parks Victoria to design a return walk on the southern side of the gorge.

A proposal was readily accepted by Parks Victoria in late 2016 and planning and approvals were sought for the project to proceed. The Walking Track Support Group attracted the interest of locals and a few bushwalkers from elsewhere, and the project began on ground in June 2018.

After 18 months and 21 working bees of enthusiastic “pick and shovel” work the task was finished. A contractor was engaged to remodel the entrance road and car park, and Parks Victoria had put finishing touches with fencing and signage.

Members of the Grampians Walking Track Support Group, local bushwalking clubs and Parks Victoria Celebrated on Friday with a BBQ lunch, ribbon cutting, plaque unveiling and cake. Members of the group also took a stroll along the walk to revisit the works they had completed over 18 months ago.

This walk is an attractive addition to the many great experiences to be had in our National Park, at any time of year, but especially so when there is a good flow of water over the falls. Golton Gorge is located 28 km north of Halls Gap on Mt Zero Rd.

David Witham, President Grampians Walking Track Support Group said “it is a real cause for celebration that a number of motivated members of the community can come together to achieve such a worthy objective. They have forged a new 350m track, largely along a steep hillside then up beside a series of three waterfalls, to a platform with a magnificent outlook at the base of a fourth one.”

Tammy Schoo, Ranger Team Leader, Parks Victoria said “After multiple cancellations due to hot weather and COVID restrictions, it is fantastic to finally come together with community to celebrate the passion for this project and reflect on the hard work and many volunteer hours that went into its reconstruction. The walking track group members should feel proud of their efforts and we thank them for their patience in waiting for this special celebration to occur”.

Protecting Gariwerd's biodiversity

Summary of conservation achievements for 2021

These projects have been funded by the Victorian Government's Biodiversity Response Planning program and are helping to ensure that Victoria's biodiversity is healthy, valued and actively cared for. They are aligned with the implementation of *Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037*.

Sallow Wattle control

Although native to Australia, Sallow Wattle or *Acacia longifolia*, has extended outside of its native range of New South Wales, Queensland and parts of eastern Victoria, and has become an invasive and competitive weed. This weed arrived to Gariwerd - Grampians National Park with early settlers and now presents a major threat to the biodiversity as it creates dense monocultures, outcompeting native and endemic species. Since Gariwerd is home to one third of Victoria's floral diversity, including over 75 orchid species, it is imperative that action is taken to reduce the spread of Sallow Wattle.

Funded with the support of the Victorian Government, this project has enabled control action to be taken throughout 2021. Multiple techniques including mulching, hand cutting, and herbicide treatment have been implemented. Mulching has been deemed the most effective and efficient method of treating heavily infested areas of Sallow Wattle. Care has been exercised to complete mulching works outside of the seeding period and precautions have been taken to ensure machinery is cleaned to eliminate the risk of the movement of seeds and pathogens. Two positrak skid steer mulchers worked over twenty-four days, resulting in the treatment of 384 hectares of Sallow Wattle infestation. PV staff worked alongside these machines ensuring the protection of aboriginal cultural heritage and adherence to biosecurity protocols. Staff also hand cut Sallow Wattle within the mulching sites, in areas that were inaccessible to machinery.

Another eight days of mulching efforts were completed by a Spider Mulcher which was able to work along the more rugged terrain of Golton Creekline. Although slower moving, this machine ensured safety to the operator and enabled mulching to occur in the more sensitive terrain of the creekline with minimal disturbance.



With the help of community and university volunteers, LandMate programs, and Parks Victoria staff, efforts have been made to hand cut Sallow Wattle in low-medium infested areas as well as the removal of some satellite populations that exist outside of the heavily infested areas in the Northern Grampians. Increased focus and awareness of weed invasions has also seen the development of a weed reporting tool to enable staff to report and treat other emerging weeds within Gariwerd - Grampians National Park. A total of 93 hectares has been treated by hand crew and has included works on Vic Roads, GWM and Council land to reduce the risk of spread into the park.

Alongside the control efforts, research is also being conducted by Parks Victoria and other collaborating universities. Questions regarding dispersal rate, seed longevity and mulching effectiveness are all being researched to continue to improve management techniques.

The funding has also enabled the development of an identification brochure to assist with distinguishing Sallow Wattle from other wattle species that may be found in the area. The aim of increasing awareness in the community is hoped to achieve the removal of Sallow Wattle from backyards and private properties and an increase in the reporting of emerging outbreaks of Sallow Wattle within the national park.

Rabbit control

Rabbit population densities in the park are generally low. However they are having an impact on canopy species seedling recruitment, especially small trees such as Silver Banksia and woody shrubs such as Slaty Sheoak and Oyster Bay Pine. They also reduce the diversity and regeneration of plants, particularly in Herb Forests and Woodlands.

Parks Victoria recruited a field officer to deliver rabbit control works for 17 weeks. Much of this time consisted of walking transects through pre-determined search areas to collect data on the density of rabbit warrens within each area. The search areas were determined through the results of previous survey work conducted during Autumn 2021. The total search area was 1513 hectares and the results from the data collected has helped to better inform future control efforts, specifically site and control method selection.

Control works resulted in the treatment of 53 warrens that were treated with a combination of fumigation techniques, hand ripping and physical blockage. Very persistent rabbits led up to seven retreatments at a number of warrens. 190 hectares of park and reserve have been positively impacted by this control.

Deer control

Deer browse on small trees and woody shrubs within Herb Forest and Woodland, reducing the diversity and regeneration of the shrub layer.

During 2021, five deer control operations were delivered using contractors with highly specialised equipment. Operations have taken place overnight and have delivered 40 nights of control efforts and a further 17 nights of monitoring and data collection.

Monitoring transects have continued to highlight the population density in the Halls Gap township area and outskirts of the park, highlighting the importance of landscape scale, cross-tenure control efforts. Transects were also placed strategically and monitored to encompass previously burnt areas where deer are likely to invade and cause significant damage to regenerating bushland.

A total of 57 deer were removed from the Grampians National Park and Black Range State Park throughout 2021. While numbers controlled this year are lower than that of previous years, it is believed that this could be a symptom of the initial population knock-down achieved by the control efforts to date. In addition, high rainfall and extreme weather events also resulted in many areas becoming inaccessible for contractors.

Cat control

Long-term landscape scale fox control has been occurring in the Gariwerd landscape for over 20 years. Research that monitors the effectiveness of the fox control has found that feral cats are now as prevalent as foxes across the Gariwerd landscape. Feral cats are excellent hunters and pose a threat to many native species, but particularly those that sit within what's known as the 'critical weight range' - Species that weigh between 35 grams and five kilograms are classified as critical weight range (CWR). Many of these species have seen significant decline since the arrival of cats and foxes. Species such as the Southern Brown Bandicoot and Long-nosed Potoroo have become threatened and are in danger of disappearing from the landscape without intervention. They play vital roles in the ecosystem and their loss is only just beginning to be understood.

Control of feral cats is new to Victoria and the processes to undertake control measures are still developing. While risk assessments and permits processes are undertaken, volunteers generously donated their time to help provide baseline data on birds in the Great Gariwerd Bird Survey. Using the site locations from the long term mammal monitoring program (a research partnership with Deakin University) bird surveys were completed in Autumn, Winter and Spring in 2021. The program engaged 40 volunteers and involved the commitment to and completion of a 10 week bird course run by Greg Kerr from the Nature Glenelg Trust. The program was a great success in terms of volunteer enjoyment and the quality of data was impressive and comparable with that of a professional researcher. Once permits and risk assessments have been completed, follow up data collection on birds will hopefully enable a comparison between pre and post cat control.

Goat control

Over-grazing and over-browsing by herbivores poses a high risk to a range of assets across the Grampians National Park and Black Range State Park. Feral goats tend to occur in Rocky Knoll areas affecting endemic montane shrublands, key habitat for Smoky mouse, Southern Brown bandicoot and the endangered Grampians Pincushion-lily.

During 2021, four volunteer activities were planned where highly skilled members of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia participated in a two day operation targeting goats in closed off sectors of the park. Unfortunately, as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions only one volunteer event was held and no goats were seen. The low productivity of the operation highlighted the difficulty of ground shooting in the local terrain.

Between July and December, a contractor was engaged to help deliver the annual goat monitoring program as well as conduct trapping in order to collar and under permit, re-release these goats into specific areas. The concept is called the Judas goat technique and works under the pretense that goats are gregarious species and tend to exist in groups. Using a collar that enables both GPS and radio tracking, the mobs of goats are more easily able to be located – greatly improving the efficiency of goat control efforts. Six goats were collared and re-released within the park and more than 20 days of shooting efforts were made resulting in the removal of 26 goats from both the Grampians National Park and Black Range State Park.



Feral goats – *Capra hircus* photographed by contractor Daryl Panther during annual goat monitoring in the Grampians National Park.



100,000 temporary jobs

**Register
your interest
to work at the 2022
federal election.**



Earn extra money



Training is provided,
no experience required

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, Canberra

aec.gov.au/electionjobs



GET ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHER PROGRAM



**Apply for up to \$200 to support your child
in sport and active recreation activities.**

To be eligible your child must be:

- aged 0 to 18 years
- a resident in Victoria
- named on a valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card and Medicare Card.

Visit getactive.vic.gov.au



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: - <https://www.hallsgapmarkets.com.au/>

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



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

Pomonal Village Market

Last Sunday every month - 9am - 1pm
Pomonal Community Hall
Ararat-Halls Gap Road, Pomonal

2022 Market Calendar

2nd January	31st July
30th January	28th August
27th February	25th September
27th March	1st & 2nd October
24th April	30th October
29th May	27th November
26th June	18th December

All site enquiries:
Alison Bainbridge
Market Coordinator
M: 0417 883 445

All proceeds to Pomonal Community



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 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 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 - <https://budjabudjaneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/>
- * Various sport/fitness groups. Check the community website for details—
www.hallsgapcommunity.org.au