

Issue: February 2023

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

Articles for April FTG need to be received by the 25th March 2023 See page 11 for details

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FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



WRAP UP...

Welcome to the new year. So much is happening in Halls Gap and surrounds, its hard to keep up with it all.

Check out the community events and workshops coming up in February and March in this edition.



Looking for something to do with your pre-schoolers and primary age children pages 6 and 7 will give you some ideas.

Halls Gap Resilience Group is looking for your feedback. Check out pages 4 and 5 for more details.

STATS BY CHAS...

December 2022

38.5 mm for December bringing the progressive total for 2022 to 1424 mm.

This compares to the same period last year of 9 mm for December with a progressive total of 1096.5 mm. 2022 recordings are the highest since 1992 when we received a total of 1456.5 mm.

As of the 21st of December 2022 Lake Bellfield is holding 78,460 ML or 100% full compared to the same period last year of 58,050 ML or 74% full.

The total system is holding 436,430 ML or 77.89% compared to the same period last year of 219,150 ML or 39.11 % full.

Mount William received 24.6 mm for December 2022. The highest temperature of 29.4 C was recorded on the 27th of December and the lowest of 0.1 C was recorded on the 14th of December 2022. The highest wind speed of 102 km/h was recorded on the 28th December 2022.



January 2023

10.5 mm for January 2023, this compares to the same period last year of 99 mm for January 2022.

As of the 25th January 2023 Lake Bellfield is holding 76,600ML or 98% full compared to the same period last year of 57,000ML or 73% full.

The total system is holding 407,040ML or 75.65% full compared to the same period last year of 206,440ML or 36.84% full.

Mount William received 7.6mm for January 2023. The highest temperature of 29.1 C was recorded on the 14th of January and the lowest of 2.4 C was recorded on the 19th January 2023. The highest wind speed of 81 km/h was recorded on the 15th January 2023.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HALLS GAP

Community Association of Halls Gap meets 4 times a year. **Everyone is welcome.**

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

We meet 4.30pm at Supper Room, Halls Gap Centenary Hall.

Dates 2023

6th March
5th June
4th September
4th December



HALLS GAP RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

The Association usually meets on the first Wednesday in March, July, September and December. Check the Calendar

All Residents and Ratepayers are invited to attend.

If you are wanting more information on HGRRA and/or to receive the full minutes please contact Paul Turner on 0418 992 510.

We meet 4.30pm at Supper Room, Halls Gap Centenary Hall.

Dates 2023

8th March
5th July
5th September
6th December



Situated in Halls Gap near the start of the walk to Venus Baths, this small but picturesque garden displays our local plants. It is a community garden, with no paid staff. It is wheelchair and child friendly. It is totally funded and maintained by volunteers.

There are different ways you can help:

- * Join in our working bees on the 2nd and 4th Fridays from 9.30am, contact Margo for more details
- * Adopt a bed and look after it at a time that suits you
- * Donate in cash or in kind
- * Like our facebook page
- * Or just visit and enjoy



The Fire Danger Period is now in force for the Northern Grampians. This means there is legislation and both state and Local Governments Regulations that apply when you wish to light a fire. It is important that all residents and visitors adhere to the guidelines, regulations and laws that are in place. Visit the CFA website and check fire restrictions and the "Can i Or Cant I" tab and for local laws visit the Northern Grampians Shire website. You can also get in contact with Rob the local community safety officer via the FB page and we can arrange for a hard copy of the document and other helpful information.

We currently have information about the new Fire Danger Rating system and Plan and Prepare information available. Both will help with making decisions if you are deciding on whether to stay and defend your property or triggers on when to leave early this bushfire season. Again get in touch with Rob.

FYI - Last year and early this year camp-fires left unattended and fires lit during a total fire ban day accounted for the majority of our call outs for last Fire Season. Please be aware that Fines and Possible Jail Sentences can be imposed by the Court if a person is found guilty of an offence. We do report suspicious and reckless acts where fire is concerned to Victoria Police. It is also important that members of the public report any suspicious behaviour to 000 or crime stoppers 1800 333 000

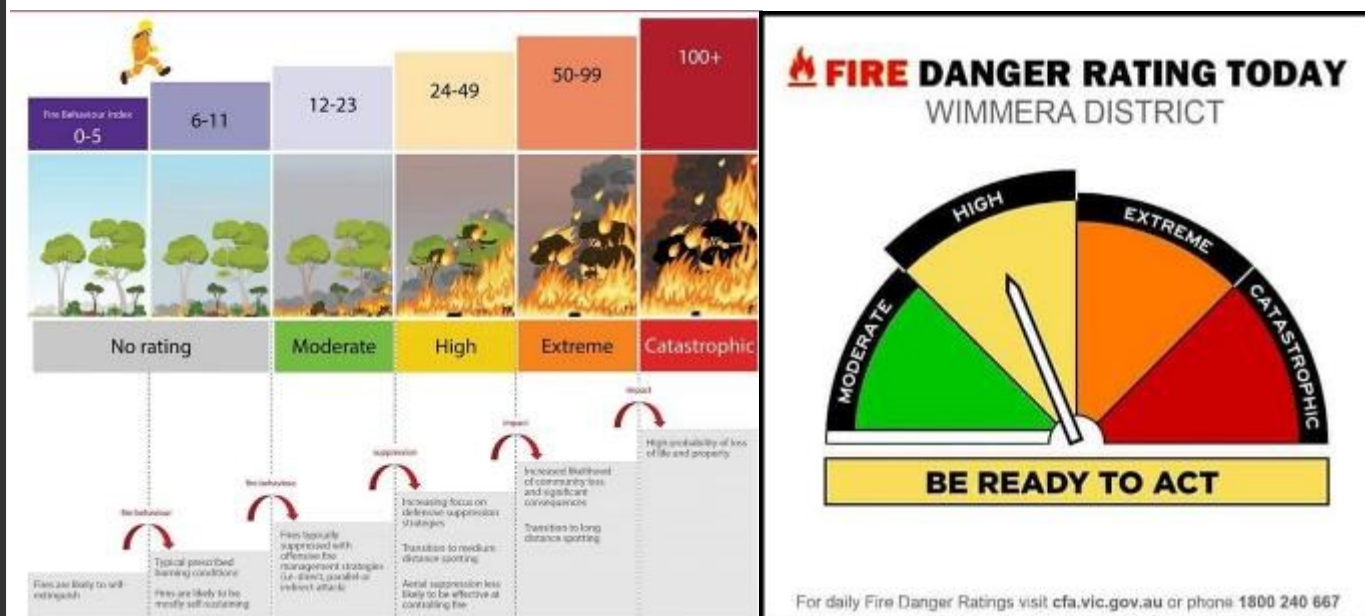
Rob Bartorelli
Community Safety Officer

The below table is the FDI explained in minor detail. Basically this helps fire fighters and control agencies decide on what action to take and what resources maybe be required should a fire take place.

These ratings take into account the type of environment and vegetation in a fire district as well as weather information.

The fire danger rating can help you make an informed decision on what action you will take, should a fire start and provides information on it's potential to impact the area you live in.

For more information visit <https://afdrs.com.au/>



Prepare

Act

Survive



Possible Halls Gap Sandbag Facility

Due to the steep sides of the Fyans Creek valley, flash flooding occurs very quickly in Halls Gap, with little warning. An effective response by the SES or council is not possible as time is too short, and access to Halls Gap along Grampians Road can be quickly cut by fast flowing water. Because of this,

the initial flood response needs to be self-managed by the Halls Gap community. However, to date there has been no formal arrangements to support this, and there is no local SES sub-unit in the town. Responsibilities have not been allocated, and basic resources such as sandbags, sand, sandbag filling frames, etc., are not in place.

To address this, the SES has proposed that we establish a Halls Gap Sandbag Facility. This would involve the purchase of a 20ft shipping container, and its transport to Halls Gap. Parks Victoria have agreed to store the container at a depot on behalf of the community (see photos of a similar facility in Skipton.)

The container would be stocked with Sandbags and rolls of plastic (provided free by SES) Pallets to stack filled sandbags (provided free by SES)

A Bag Trolley for shifting sandbag bundles

Shovels and Brooms

Safety Bollards and SES Barrier Tape

Rope

Bottled Water

SES signage giving instructions on how to fill sandbags

Sandbag filling stands

A response team would need to be established, drawn from community volunteers, and trained by the SES. Volunteers would only be required when a flood event occurs, and they would only need to operate the facility until the SES arrives on-site i.e. it would be a very limited commitment.

We all have a vested interest in managing the impact of flash flooding on homes and businesses in the community. If you are prepared to volunteer, or just want to tell us you support establishing such a facility, let us know.



So far, we have had little response. If we get sufficient support, we'll take the project further. If not, we'll drop it, so let us know your thoughts!

Send an email with 'Sandbag Facility' as the subject, and include your name and contact details, to the Resilience Group at secretary@resiliencgroup.org.au.

Prepare

Act

Survive



Community Alert Sirens

In the event of an emergency, warnings need to be issued for the purpose of protecting life and property. One option for such warnings is to use community alert sirens.

Any sirens must comply with the Emergency Management Victoria *Policy and Guidelines*. In particular the need for sirens must be identified and supported by the community, and assessed and approved, before being installed.

The Resilience Group has developed a document entitled *The Pros and Cons of Sirens*. It is available from <https://hallsgapcommunity.org.au/directory/halls-gap-resilience-group/>. Please read it and tell us whether or not you support installing sirens.



So far, we have had little response. If we get sufficient support, we'll take the project further. If not, we'll drop it, so let us know your thoughts!

Send an email with 'Sirens' as the subject, and include your name and contact details, to the Resilience Group at secretary@resiliencegroup.org.au.



History Group

If you have an interest in preserving the history of our town you are welcome to join us on the **first Thursday of each month in the History room**, located in Centenary Hall. We are starting these working sessions after a hiatus of a few years with the aim of continuing to catalogue, photograph and sort our collection. **The working bee will take place between 2- 4.30pm.**

No skill is necessary and you are welcome to attend as often or as infrequently as you would like! **Jen O'Donoghue**



Actives For the Young



Pomonal and Halls Gap playgroup meets weekly on a FRIDAY morning from 9:30-11am.

Timing doesn't matter too much to us so please arrive when best suits your family, unless specified timing for outdoor activities.

Bring along water, snacks and a sense of adventure.

See Facebook Group for further details of each week.

Term 1 2023

February 3 - Venus Baths adventure

February 10 - Grampians Flora Botanical Gardens

February 17 - Brambuk adventure

February 24 - Grampians Flora Botanical Gardens

March 3 - Halls Gap Primary school

March 10- Pomonal Primary

March 17 - Brambuk adventure

March 24 - Grampians Flora Botanical Gardens

March 31 - Halls Gap community Garden

WEDNESDAY April 5 - Venus Baths Easter adventure

For further information please see
Pomonal and Halls Gap playgroup
on FB

Or, contact Cass 0418375199
casshebbard@gmail.com



Little Ones

Singing and Creative Movement

Now open for enrolments

A program for young learners aged 4-8 years
with a focus on building foundation skills in
music and drama

Wednesdays 3.45-4.15pm

Grampians Community Health Diamond Room Patrick St Stawell

Spaces limited—registration essential—Call Dianne on 0427850278

Or email spaci@outlook.com or visit our facebook page

NATURE PLAY DAY

SATURDAY APRIL 15TH
11.00AM - 3.00PM



Activities include.....

Working with clay
String weaving
Water play
Nature Science
and more...

[MORE INFO](#)

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

BYO Picnic Lunch
or BBQ food to cook on our campfire

[ALL AGES WELCOME](#)





We have had a busy start to the year.

Lots of planning for the future. A few changes to our regular program. Including:

- * Writers Group now meets once per month on a Monday
- * Starting up Story time again on Tuesdays
- * Book Club will now commence at 6pm on the third Thursday - we still have places for new members
- * Qi Gong has moved to Fridays
- * Bird Walk has also moved to Fridays

We will have some new opportunities to get outside, get active and connect with your community. Check out our website <https://budjabudjaneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/>, Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/budjabudjaneighbourhoodhouse/> or give me a call/visit for updates.

Cheers

Alison



What's on in Febraury at your Neighbourhood House

We are open Tuesday to Friday 9am to 3.15pm

- **Monday 13th** 11am-1pm Writers Group
- **Mondays** 7.00pm Meditation
- **Tuesday** 10am-11.30am Storytime
- **Tuesdays** 1.30-2pm Gentle Exercise
- **Wednesdays** 10am-12noon Craft & Chat
Come along and share your skills or learn a new one.
- **Thursday 16th** 6pm HG Book Club
- **Fridays** 10am-10.30am Qi Gong
- **Fridays** 10.30-1130am Bird Walk
- **Fridays** 1.30-3pm Friday Fun - Finska

Tuesday to Friday 9am-3.15pm

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

42 Crampians Rd., HALLS GAP VIC 3381
p: 03 5356 4485
m: 0491 090 456
e: neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au
w: <https://budjabudjaneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/>

Birdwatching Walk



Every Friday 10:30am - 11:30am

Gold Coin Donation

42 Crampians Rd., HALLS GAP VIC 3381
p: 03 5356 4485
m: 0491 090 456
e: neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au
w: <https://budjabudjaneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/>



New day for our
popular Bird
Walk with Neil



Halls Gap Primary School

RESILIENCE Have strength, character and a positive outlook

EXCELLENCE Strive to be the best we can

COMPASSION Give care and compassion to others

Halls Gap PS is off to a great start for 2023! We have 45 children enrolled across three classrooms. Mrs Karina Henderson is continuing in Prep and Year 1. We welcome Mr Reuben Tierney and Miss Grace Jeffery to our teaching staff. Mr Tierney is in the Year 5/6 class with Miss Jeffery in the Year 2/3/4 room.

We are well supported through Education Support staff member Caren McIntosh (classroom) and Helen Fisher (office). Tutor is Mrs Lucy Stott funded through the Tutoring Program. We are once again offering Chinese as our additional language. This year we will be welcoming specialist teachers in the areas of art and circus, and the continuation of MARC Van

We have already started our swimming program with Athletics Sports Day to be held later in the term as well as school photos and Book Fair.

From the Nickie Peters, Staff & Students at Halls Gap PS



Classroom teachers of 2023



2023 preps settling in

BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC



20-22 Grampians Road
Halls Gap 3381
PH: 03 53 564751

February 2023	March 2023
1 st – 3 rd Dr Beth Quin	1 st – 3 rd Dr Ruth Sutherland
6 th – 10 th Dr Beth Quin	6 th – 10 th Dr Luhong Min
6 th – 10 th Dr Luhong Min	14 th – 17 th Dr Luhong Min
13 th – 17 th Dr Luhong Min	20 th – 24 th Dr Luhong Min
20 th – 24 th Dr Luhong Min	27 th – 31 st Dr Luhong Min
27 th 28 th Dr Ruth Sutherland	CLOSED 13 TH



Deadly ideas for a healthy lunchbox

- A tub of yoghurt
- Grapes
- An orange
- Wholegrain roll with chicken breast, reduced fat cheese, avocado and salad
- Tap water



Healthy Deadly Lunchbox Week



Deadly ideas for a healthy lunchbox

- A banana
- Carrot sticks
- Beetroot dip
- Plain milk
- A boiled egg
- Raisin bread
- Tap water



Healthy Deadly Lunchbox Week



Deadly ideas for a healthy lunchbox

- Small tin of baked beans
- Small corn cob
- A small amount of dried fruit
- A tub of yoghurt
- Corn thins
- Grapes
- Tap water



Healthy Deadly Lunchbox Week

CONNECTING BETTER WORKING TOGETHER

Halls Gap Community Response Planning Workshop

Are you ready to continue the discussion around community emergency planning? Following on from *What's The Plan*, the community bushfire planning session held in Halls Gap on Tuesday 24 January, we are pleased to announce a second workshop **Connecting Better, Working Together**.

This FREE workshop will include:

- Clarification of agency roles and responsibilities
- Key issues identified for Halls Gap and possible solutions
- How to develop a community response plan
- Connecting with others in your community

When: Tuesday 21 Feb 2023

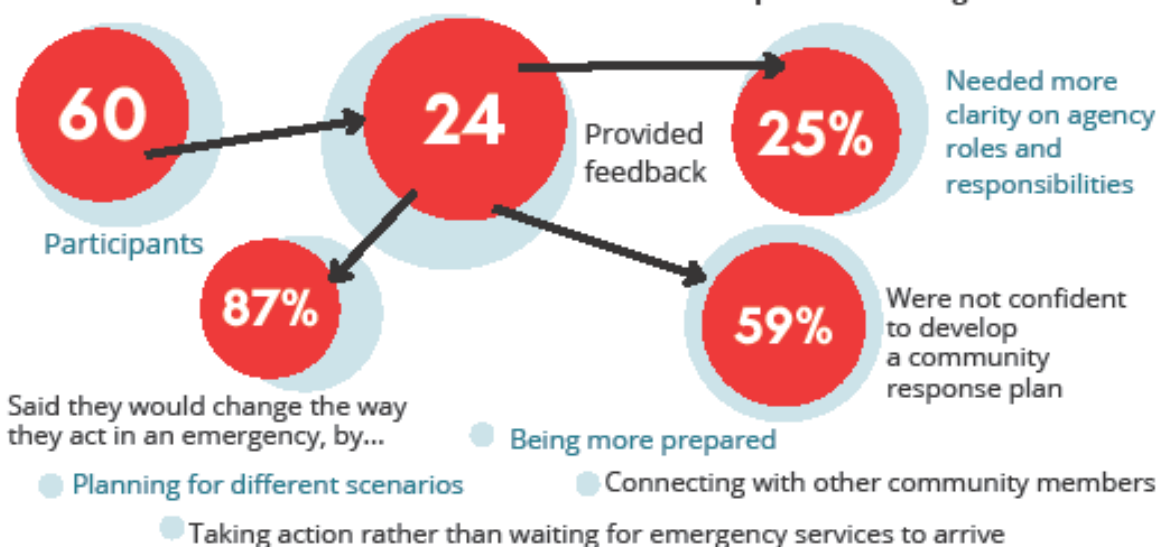
Time: 7-9pm

Join us from 6.30pm for a light dinner. **ALL WELCOME!**

Centenary Hall

119 Grampians Rd, Halls Gap

This session will build on themes introduced at the first workshop *What's the Plan*. You don't need to have attended the first workshop to come along to this one.





Activities Update – 31 January 2023

January was a bit of a slow month at the shed with more of our usual activities starting in February.

Mondays social sessions 9-30am – 3pm have been running well with great attendances and a fun time being had by all.

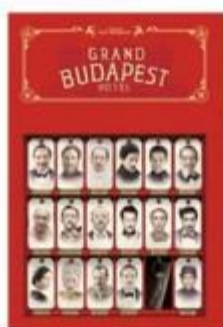
Thursdays Project sessions 9-30am – 3pm have also been well attended with members making good use of the workshop and machinery within.

Members also had a sausage sizzle together as usual.

As usual we did our sausage sizzle at the market raising some funds and enjoying the time together.

As we look to February we will recommence with our shed talk, computer/smart phone education, patchwork, mixed bunch, all-inclusive and primary school sessions happening at the shed.

The shed is very welcoming to new members or anyone interested. Feel free to drop in and have a look at what we are up to or for any information contact Russ Kellett on 0438 024 929.



The Grand Budapest Hotel

Wednesday 22nd February 2023

Centenary Hall, 117 Grampians Road, Halls Gap

2014 Comedy - Gustave H, a concierge, is wrongly framed for murder at the Grand Budapest Hotel. In the process of proving his innocence, he befriends a lobby boy.

The Grampians Film Society evenings are held from January to November in Halls Gap.

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.





JOIN THE GRAMPIANS REGION CLIMATE ADAPTATION GROUP



WHO WE ARE?

A diverse group of passionate individuals living and working across the Grampians region. We are working together to adapt to the changing climate

WHAT DO WE DO?

The Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Group was formed in 2019. We developed the Grampians Region Climate Adaptation Strategy 2021-2025 (the strategy) which was released in 2021. We have, and continue to, support community climate adaptation projects, promote the strategy and encourage climate adaptation action throughout the region.

GOT QUESTIONS?



mail@adaptgrampians.com.au

- Are you aged between 18 and 25?
- Are you passionate about preparing for - and helping others in the region to prepare for - the changing climate?
- Do you want to help implement exciting projects, have your voice heard and make a difference in your community?
- If you answered yes, scan the QR code below or go to <https://forms.office.com/r/JQQgTCDHMr> to express your interest by Feb 7 2023



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO

www.adaptgrampians.com.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) on the Halls Gap Recreation Oval, Grampians Road, 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 families volunteer to run the website, booking system, set-up and general organisation of the day. The students make and sell products, learning customer service, organisation and marketing skills along the way. There is also a fantastic raffle each market with great prizes. All proceeds go to the Halls Gap Primary School to purchase resources and engage relevant programs.

Please check the website for information on becoming a stall holder:

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

Market Dates for 2023:

Labour Day Weekend- Sunday 12th March

Easter Sunday - Sunday 9th April

King's Birthday Weekend - Sunday 11th June

Melbourne Cup Weekend - Sunday 5th November

Pomonal Village Market

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

2023 Market Calendar

1st January	30th July
29th January	28th August
26th February	24th September
26th March	30th Sept/1st Oct
30th April	29th October
28th May	26th November
25th June	31st December

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

All proceeds to Pomonal Community

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.



VICTORIA POLICE

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



Report stolen bicycles, property taken from your car or other vehicle



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

David, Pam, Rod, Margo and Alison

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

neighbourhood.house@budjabudjacoop.org.au

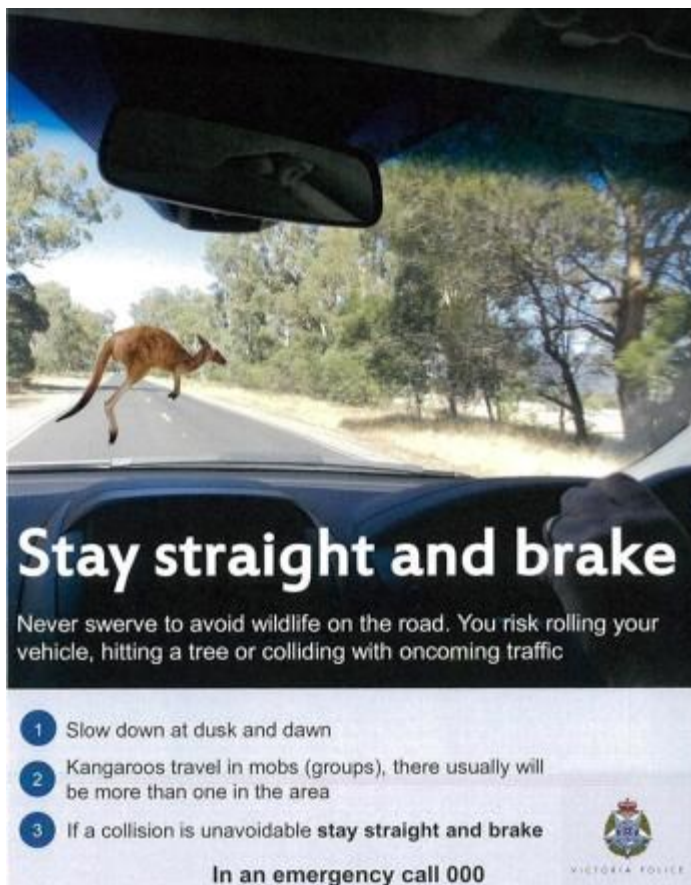
Upload your community events details to
the Community Association webpage:

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 acknowledge the diversity of Indigenous
Australia.

We respectfully recognise Elders past, present
and emerging.

This newsletter was produced on Djab Wurrung
country.



Wildlife Rescue

- [Wildwood Wildlife Shelter – Gariwerd](#)
- Close to Halls Gap call Ian on 0413 921 171
- Wildlife Victoria: 13000 WILDLIFE (1300 094 535)
- Help for Wildlife: 5356 4749
- WRIN: 0419 356 433

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