

# FILL THE GAP

Produced by Halls Gap Community Association  
& Halls Gap Neighbourhood House

Hey everyone Fill The Gap is back!

Thanks to my volunteer Angel we have been able to get Fill the Gap back on track.

This addition includes what's been happening from November 2024 through to March 2025 with lots of new events and activities happening this month. Fill The Gap will be back monthly, if you have any events and news to share please email [hallsgapcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:hallsgapcommunity@gmail.com)

Articles for April 2025 FTG need to be received by the 25th of March.

Halls Gap Kitchen Cabinet is a Community-led recovery initiative focusing on beginning community recovery activities, facilitating meaningful connections and evolving together. See page 6. For getting involved and more information you can email [HGKitchenCabinet@gmail.com](mailto:HGKitchenCabinet@gmail.com)

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## THE SIX SEASONS OF GARIWERD

**Kooyang**  
The Season of Eels. A Parched Landscape  
Kooyang is the hottest and driest time of the year. The risk of bushfire is high and streams dry up. Gariwerd is on the lands of the Barengi Gadjin, Eastern Maar and gunditj Mirring peoples and we acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners.

## STATS BY CHAS:

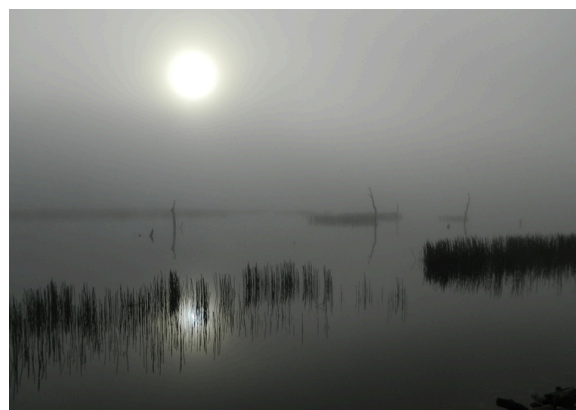
It has been a few busy months for everyone lately so we have compiled the last 4 months of STATS by CHAS.

### November 2024, Rainfall by Chas:

30.5mm for November bringing the progressive total to 710 mm for 2024. This compares to the same period last year of 73.5 mm for November 2023 with a progressive total of 873.5 mm. As of the 27th of November 2024 Lake Bellfield is holding 65,980ML or 84% full compared to the same period last year of 74,590ML or 95% full. The total system is holding 296,750ML or 52.96% full compared to the same period last year of 397,990ML or 71.03% full. Mount William received 39.2mm for November 2024. The highest temperature of 29 C was recorded on the 22nd of November and the lowest of 1.5 C was recorded on the 9th of November 2024. The highest wind speed of 119 km/h was recorded on the 3rd of November 2024.

### December 2024, Rainfall by Chas:

52.5 mm for December 2024 bringing the progressive total to 762.5 mm. This compares to the same period last year of 90 mm for December with a progressive total of 963.5 mm. As of the 24th December Lake Bellfield is holding 64,440 ML or 82% full. Compared to the same period last year of 73,690 ML or 94% full. The total system is holding 281,290 ML or 50.20% compared to the same period last year of 384,800 ML or 68.68% full. Mount William received 59.2 mm for December 2024. The highest temperature of 19.1 C was recorded on the 6th December 2024 and the lowest temperature of 3.9 C. was recorded on the 11th December 2024. The highest wind speed of 93 km/h was recorded on the 16th December 2024. (Note: The system on Mount William was not operating from Thursday 26th of December to Tuesday 31st December 2024)



Moora Moora, 2020, Wildlife by Neil

### January 2025 Rainfall by Chas:

21 mm for January 2025 compared to last year of 102.5 mm, ( yes, 102.5 mm ). As of the 29th of January 2025 Lake Bellfield is holding 61,900 ML or 79% full compared to the same period last year of 74,170 ML or 94% full. The total system is holding 259,260 ML or 46.27% full compared to the same period last year of 372,890 ML or 66.55% full. Unfortunately no Mount William statistics due to the damage caused by the fire.

### February 2025 Rainfall by Chas:

42 mm for February 2025 bringing the progressive total to 63 mm for 2025. This compares to the same period last year of 0 mm for February with a progressive total of 102.5 mm for 2024. Lake Bellfield is holding 59,760 ML or 76% full compared to the same period last year of 72,140 ML or 92% full. The total system is holding 239,320 ML or 42.71% compared to the same period last year of 350,600 ML or 62.57 % full. Unfortunately still no statistics from Mount William due to the damage caused by the 2024/2025 fire.

### MONDAYS

03- COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HALLS GAP MEETING, CENTENARY HALL- 4:30-6:30PM  
03, 10, 17, 24 & 31-THE HISTORY ROOM, CENTENARY HALL FROM 2PM – 4:30PM  
03, 10, 17, 24 & 31- POMONAL MEN'S SHED SOCIAL MORNINGS FROM 9:30AM  
10-DJ POOL PARTY, HALLS GAP POOL, 1PM-5PM  
17- GRAMPIANS TEXTURE 2025  
31- COMMUNITY BBQ, REC RESERVE- 6PM- 8PM

### TUESDAYS

04, 11, 18 & 25- GENTLE EXERCISE AT HALLS GAP NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE (HGNH) 1:30PM  
04, 11, 18 & 25- PETANQUE IN THE PARK @ 4PM  
18- GRAMPIANS TEXTURE 2025

### WEDNESDAYS

05, 12, 19 & 26- CRAFT AND CHAT, HGNH -10AM-12NOON  
05, 12, 19 & 26- THE HISTORY ROOM, CENTENARY HALL FROM 2PM – 4:30PM  
26- GRAMPIANS FILM SOCIETY, CENTENARY HALL DOORS OPEN 7PM  
05, 12, 19 & 26- POMONAL MEN'S SHED SOCIAL MORNINGS- 1PM  
19- GRAMPIANS TEXTURE 2025

### THURSDAYS

06 & 13- WATER AEROBICS, HALLS GAP POOL- 6:15PM-7PM  
06 & 20- THE HISTORY ROOM, CENTENARY HALL FROM 2PM – 4:30PM  
06, 13, 20 & 27- POMONAL MEN'S SHED SOCIAL MORNINGS FROM 9.30AM  
06, 13, 20 & 27- HALLS GAP KITCHEN CABINET MEETING, CENTENARY HALL- 9AM  
20- GRAMPIANS TEXTURE SHOW, CENTENARY HALL, HALLS GAP @ 3.30PM  
27- HALLS GAP BOOK CLUB @ 6PM, MEETING ROOM, CENTENARY HALL

### FRIDAYS

07, 14, 21 & 28- TAI CHI/QI GONG, HALLS GAP NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE- 10AM-10:30AM  
07, 14, 21 & 28- THE HISTORY ROOM, CENTENARY HALL FROM 2PM – 4:30PM  
14 & 28- GARIWERD GRAMPIANS BOTANIC GARDEN WORKING BEES 9AM-11AM

### SATURDAYS

01- TAKAYNA- THE HEART OF LUTROWITA, HALLS GAP CENTENARY HALL- 7PM  
01, 08, 15, 22, 29 PETANQUE IN THE PARK @ 2PM  
8- MINI POP-UP ARTISAN MARKET, HEATH STREET SHOPS 11AM-3PM  
15- GRAMPIANS TEXTURE MAKERS MARKET - 4.30PM-6PM

### SUNDAYS

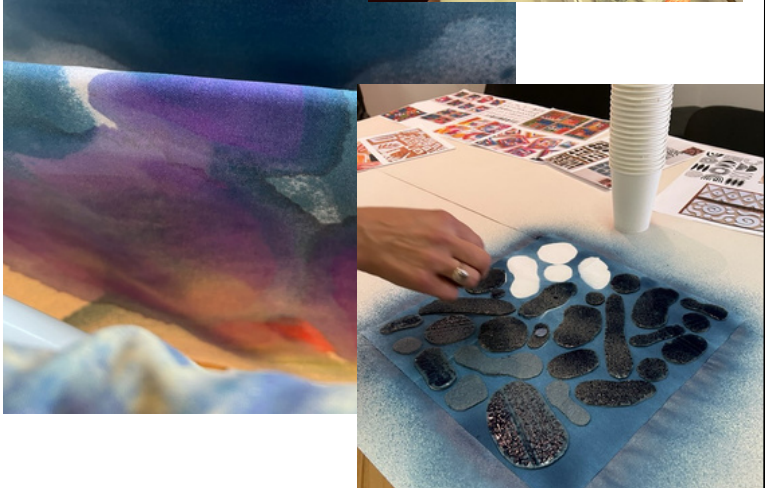
16- POMONAL GROWERS & PRODUCERS MARKET, POMONAL COMMUNITY HALL 9AM-12:30PM  
16-GRAMPIANS TEXTURES SHOW, CENTENARY HALL, HALLS GAP @ 4PM  
30 POMONAL VILLAGE MARKET, POMONAL COMMUNITY HALL- 9AM- 1PM

Halls Gap Neighbourhood House along with Snappy Gappians Sally Goldsmith was successful in a NGSC Arts Grant. We will be delivering four different art projects during 2025.

The first project is to create community bunting. Ash our artist is leading these workshops along with Jodi and her excellent textile skills, Renata and Del for their sewing skills.

We have had one Saturday Morning workshop followed by a Wednesday morning workshop. We then had the whole Halls Gap Primary School in the afternoon. It was bedlam however the children created some amazing designs whilst having a lot of fun.

Here are some photos from our last couple of weeks!!



## What's on in March at your Neighbourhood House

**We are open Tuesday to Friday 9am to 3.15pm**

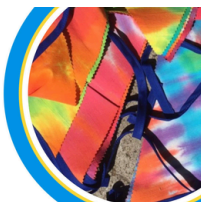
- **Tuesdays** 1.30-2pm Gentle Exercise
- **Tuesdays** 2pm to 3pm Coffee Catch up
- **Wednesdays** 10am-12noon Craft & Chat Come along and share your skills or learn a new one.
- **Thursdays** 1.30-3pm Finska
- **Thursday 27th** Halls Gap Book Club @ 6pm
- **Fridays** 10am-10.30am Qi Gong
- **Fridays** 10.30am-11.30am Coffee Catch up
- **Saturday 29th** Community Bunting Art workshop 11.30am to 3.30pm



Run by Ashley van Dyck

The fabric will be used to create community bunting to decorate our tiny town for Easter.

BYO LUNCH. Tea & coffee supplied



**Tuesday to Friday 9am-3.15pm**

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





Want to learn how to build a balanced plate and cook healthy meals on a budget?

You can sign up for a free, eight-week Healthy Food Program, designed by Grampians Health Stawell dieticians. The program will be delivered at Stawell Neighbourhood House and includes practical advice about eating well on a budget.

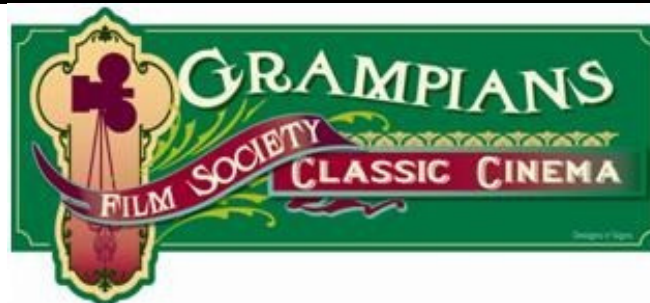
For more information:

Stawell Neighbourhood House

535803500

5358 0510

[coordinator@snhlc.org.au](mailto:coordinator@snhlc.org.au)



The Grampians Film Society evenings are held from January to November in Halls Gap. The aim of the Grampians Film Society is to bring back to the big screen some classic films, as well as those which are lesser known but regarded in the cinema world as meritorious.

**The Community Association of Halls Gap works for our community and has offered to pay the 2025 membership of Grampians Film Society.**

So don't miss this golden opportunity so come along and enjoy movies on the big screen for a great social night out.

**This month:**

## Angela's Ashes

When: Wednesday the 26th of March 7:00pm.

Where: Halls Gap Centenary Hall.

drinks and nibbles are serviced prior and a light supper afterwards.

More information: [grampians.filmsociety.org.au](http://grampians.filmsociety.org.au)



A community- focused food and produce market. We aim to provide high-quality, locally made and grown products prioritising seasonal, and where possible, chemical-free options.

When: Sunday the 16th of March, 9:00am - 12:30pm

Where: Pomonal Community Hall, Ararat-Halls Gap Road, Pomonal

When: Sunday the 30th of March  
9:00am- 1:00pm

Where: Pomonal Community Hall, Ararat-Halls Gap Road, Pomonal



The Pomonal Village Market is held on the last Sunday of every month. It is a vibrant local market where local growers sell fresh seasonal produce, artisan bakers offer homemade bread, and nearby craftspeople showcase their handmade goods. Dog friendly

# Halls Gap Kitchen Cabinet



Newsletter vol. #1/ February 2025

## A community led recovery initiative

*Community-led recovery is an approach that gives communities greater opportunity to be involved in decisions and processes that contribute to reshaping and rebuilding their lives in ways that work for them.*

- Beginning community recovery activities
- Facilitating meaningful connections
- Evolving together



- Graham Parkes  
President, Community Association of Halls Gap
- Blanche Leithhead  
Facilitator, Snappy Gappians
- Sally Goldstraw  
Facilitator, Snappy Gappians
- Joy Robson  
President, Halls Gap Residents and Ratepayers Association
- Justine Hide  
President, Halls Gap Caravan Park & Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
- Nicki Van Veen  
Convenor, Snappy Gappians, Halls Gap CFA, MEMPC rep
- Luke Baker  
Facilitator, Snappy Gappians
- Rowena Witham  
Chair, Halls Gap Neighbourhood House
- Alison Bainbridge  
Manager, Halls Gap Neighbourhood House

## Resources

### Psychological & Emotional Support

Halls Gap residents can self-refer or be referred to Grampians Community Health's Recovery team by contacting 5359 7400. share that you are a resident of Halls Gap and have been impacted by the bushfires. You can be seen in Halls Gap at a location you feel conformable with or visit the centre in Stawell.

### NGSC Bushfire Office

Representatives from Council are based at the Halls Gap Hub between 8.30am - 5pm from Monday to Friday to provide a number of support services to the local community. Head into the Halls Gap Hub located at 117-119 Grampians Road for a chat during business hours.

### Halls Gap Neighbourhood House

Neighbourhood House is open Tuesday to Friday 9am to 3.15pm in the Halls Gap Hub. Closed on Mondays. Everyone is welcome to stop in, have a cuppa, share activity ideas, and socialise with other community members.



# Halls Gap Kitchen Cabinet

## Supporting our business community

Let's get behind our business community. We have heard that 'the friends and family' market makes up about 25% of tourism market. So we can support businesses by posting an invitation to come and visit us on Facebook, Instagram or email - whatever your family and friends read. Follow up with a phonecall if you can.

*Feel free to write your own invite or cut and paste the following text:*

We love Halls Gap and know you do too. We need your help now to bounce back from the fires. Please consider coming to visit us soon. Book some accommodation for a weekend with a group of friends. Visit a winery for a lazy lunch. Go out for dinner. Visit the zoo, the pool or Adventure Golf. Buy a beer, a vanilla slice, coffee or an ice cream. Just come and enjoy our beautiful tiny town. There are lots of walks still open from Halls Gap and we are here to welcome you back.



## Upcoming Dates

- *Meetings every Thursday at 9am in the Centenary Hall*
- *Business Community chat Monday March 3rd 6:30 - 7:30 in the Centenary Hall*
- *Community wellbeing session & Community Recovery Committee ideas session Dates TBC*

## Write Letters

We have included two letter templates to help you contact local and state level representatives, please email us and we will send you a digital version you can edit and send.

HGKitchenCabinet@gmail.com



# THE FIRE IS OUT!!

Let's celebrate our strong & resilient community

Community BBQ  
Monday 31st March 6-8pm



Halls Gap  
ZZ

Halls Gap Rec Reserve  
Meat supplied Drinks at bar prices  
Please BYO salad or dessert  
Details to come  
Volunteers needed on the night from 5.30

Resources will be available for our  
road to recovery



Pomonal Men's Shed  
3360 Ararat Hall Gap Road, Pomonal.  
Victoria 3381



[pomonalmensshed@gmail.com](mailto:pomonalmensshed@gmail.com)

Activities Update – 28th February 2025

February has been a busy time at the shed as we welcome new members to shed life and enjoy the comradery and mateship we are now quite famous for. We have been working on many projects for sale in both the metalwork and woodwork areas of the shed. We are also pleased to be involved in some projects for the wider community which are moving along quite well. The main thing we have been enjoying at the shed is the hot cuppas, snacks and high level on bull-crap that solves all manner world problems as we support each other through the challenges life can throw at us some times. Monday's from 9-30am we meet for our weekly social session where we usually solve a variety of the worlds problems over a hot cuppa and snack. Every Monday morning, we are running a woodwork session with students from Pomonal Primary school, which is a great time for the students and our members alike. Thursday's from 9-30am we have had busy Project sessions with lots of different projects on the go in the workshop. We are slowly producing some items for sale at the monthly markets.

We also have a BBQ lunch at least one of these sessions per month.

Wednesday's from 1pm in the meeting room we have had our Patchwork session with our female members doing a variety of patchwork and sewing projects enjoying some time over a hot cuppa and good humour. We are pleased that the Mixed bunch Art Group are enjoying using our meeting room for their sessions. The last Sunday of each month we ran our (now quite famous) sausage sizzle at the Pomonal market. This helps us raise some much-needed funds as well as being a great social time for all involved. It is also a great way of showing potential new members through the shed and explaining some of our various activities.

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.

## Wildlife with Neil



Here is a shot of the beautiful 'Bassian Thrush' AKA Australian Ground Thrush (which I think is nicer) *Zoothera lunulata* 25-29cm They feed mainly on earthworms, also other small invertebrates, including insects, molluscs and fruit. These birds having been displaced by the recent bushfire are now turning up in peoples gardens in Pomonal and mainly Halls Gap, scratching around in gardens amongst leaf litter and mulch in search of food. There were 6 in the Halls Gap Botanic Gardens the other day, they are very cryptic and not easily seen, but quite tame.



If people get stung by a European Honey Bee and are not having an anaphylactic reaction get the sting off without squeezing it (otherwise you may get more poison) try putting honey on the sting – it is a good remedy. Likewise if stung by a Bull Ant (dark pincers and legs) or a Jumping Jack Ant (orange pincers and legs) try the juice/sap of a young bracken frond – it also works. Call 000 if having a bad reaction or breathing difficulties. I got strung by a Jumping Jack Ant last Tuesday and bracken Juice worked almost immediately. (neither of these remedies are recognised as a first aid advise but they both work for me)



# Community Workshop

## Basic Poster and Graphic Creation using Canva

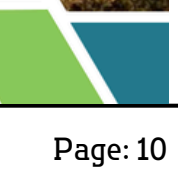
*A FREE workshop  
for all community groups and clubs*

Covering KEY BASIC SKILLS of using CANVA for  
your group promotions and events:

- Understand the basics of creating posters or flyers
- How to insert images & photos
- Different templates for use.
- How to create social media posts

**Tuesday, March 18**  
**6pm to 7.30pm**  
**Stawell Library**  
**Sloane Street, Stawell**

**Please RSVP:**  
**[community@ngshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:community@ngshire.vic.gov.au)**  
**(03) 5358 0512**





**FILL THE GAP HELPERS**

We are always looking for new helpers  
Please email your articles and photos to us  
by the 25th of each month to:

hallsgapcommunity@gmail.com

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.



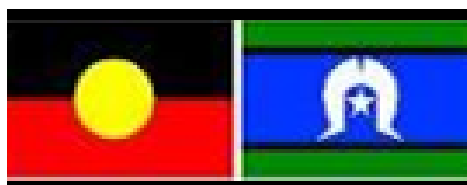
To keep up to date with what is happening in  
Pomonal like Pomonal Community Connections  
Facebook page and/or Pomonal info & resources  
sharing Facebook Pages

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.



There is a new Facebook page for local business in the area  
it is a private group by invite or request only, please search  
Halls Gap Business and Workforce Communication  
on Facebook to join.

**Wildlife Rescue**

- Wildwood Wildlife Shelter – Gariwerd
- Close to Halls Gap call Ian on 0413 921 171
- Wildlife Victoria: 03 8400 7300
- Help for Wildlife: 5356 4749
- WRIN: 0419 356 433
- BADGAR: 1300 223 427
- RACV Wildlife Connect: 13 11 11



Just a reminder  
Halls Gap is a  
cat free zone.  
Help protect  
local wildlife



Halls Gap and The  
Grampians is still in  
a fire danger  
period. No fires  
until advised.