

Issue: October 2021

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association
& Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

Articles for November FTG need to be received by the 25th October 2021. See page 13 for details

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FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



petyan

season of wildflowers - late spring
(late august to mid november)

Wildlife and Wildflowers

In spring (season of wildflowers or petyan), the bush bursts into life. Nature's rock gardens amaze. The days are warmer, although the weather can still be tempestuous.

WRAP UP...

Here is your October must read.

Check out what is happening at Budja Budja Neighbourhood House. There are a couple of new activities we would like to try - Meditation and a Writing group see page 6

Neil has written an interesting article on Jewel Beetles - page 9

Your chance to vote in the WAMA works on paper peoples choice awards. Refer to page 11 on how to vote.

A number of festivals and social events have been postponed or cancelled. Check out pages 3 and 4.

Want to be more involved in your community of Halls Gap. Check out how you can contribute via Community Association of Halls Gap - page 2.

Keep safe everyone.

STATS BY CHAS...

September 2021 - Rainfall by Chas:

68.5 mm for September bringing the progressive total for 2021 to 924.5 mm

This compares to the same period last year of 127.5 mm for September with a progressive total of 781.5 mm for 2020.

As of the 29th of September 2021 Lake Bellfield is holding 58,460 ML or 74% full compared to the same period last year of 51,110 ML or 65% full.

The total system is holding 238,970 ML or 42.65% full. This compares to the same period last year of 195,060 ML or 34.81% full.

Mount William received 120.0 mm for September 2021. The highest temperature of 19.1 C was recorded on the 2nd of September and the lowest of -2.4 C was recorded on the 21st of September. The highest wind speed of 115 km/h was recorded on the 2nd of September 2021.



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.

Wednesday 27 October 2021

Centenary Hall, 117 Grampians Road, Halls Gap



When a white woman is murdered in 1920s Australia, a police officer (Gary Sweet) ventures into the outback with a small crew in search of the aboriginal fugitive (Noel Wilton) accused of the crime. In his group are a newcomer to the country (Damon Gameau), an old sage (Grant Page) and an indigenous tracker (David Gulpilil) who is not fully trusted by the racially prejudiced officer. As the pursuit through this dangerous territory drags on, tensions begin to rise between the crew members.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HALLS GAP

Who are we? What do we do?

CAHG has been around for many years, but most people only know parts of what it does. It's actually an umbrella organisation covering various community groups, saving them from the cost and paperwork of being separately incorporated.

Currently the groups covered are the Botanic Garden group, the Wildflower Show, the Walking Track Support Group, the Grampians Film Society, Hall Gap Landcare. The Halls Gap Historical Society is about to also come under the umbrella.

In addition the group is responsible for quite a few publications, mainly the small wildflower books by Ken Woodcock, and before Covid it had representatives on the Run the Gap committee and organised and volunteered for the group breakfast.

We had our quarterly meeting on Sept 13 and had a general discussion of where we are and where we are heading.

Looking back there is much to be proud of. We've raised a lot of money and spent it to enhance this community. One example is the Walking track support Group. They have donation boxes across the national park, and spend money on helping upgrade walking tracks, the most recent one being Golton Gorge.

But looking forward is much less certain. Who knows how long Covid will make some of our activities difficult to manage? We would like to help our businesses, as well as the community spirit. Quite a few of our members are over 80 years old and would like to hand over to the next generation. We need new blood, new ideas. We only meet four times a year so it is not onerous.



It's up to you Halls gappers. Do give serious thought as to how you can help us move forward and continue to serve this community. Our next meeting is on Monday, 6th December, so you have plenty of time to think about it. Our president is David Witham, our secretary Tammy Schoo.

Margo S

HALLS GAP RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Ratepayers meeting with the Mayor had to be postponed due to Covid restrictions. Date to be advised.

Paul T



G'day from Halls Gap police,

It's great to finally see some caravans rolling into our town, now we just need a bit more warmer weather. I'd like to say a big thanks to all those businesses, groups and even local residents for doing such a fantastic job in just 'doing the right thing' during these ever so changing and challenging times. I know how hard it has been for a lot of you and we're all hoping that things will improve from here. Also I just want to let you all know that our Sergeant Kaz Bain has taken some extended personal leave so can I ask you all if you have any issues or feel to need to chat to one of us, can you please come and see either myself, Acting Sergeant Kellie HARRIS or my off sider, Leading Senior Constable Sarah BARTORELLI (we're really not that scary!!!)

And last but not least, like always. if you or someone else have an emergency please call 000. If it's not an emergency but you still want to report something, I encourage you to call our Non-Urgent hotline of **131 444** (It's written on the side of our vehicle). Like I constantly say, if we don't know what's going on around your town, it makes it hard to help you out.

Looking forward in see you all out and about.

Cheers Acting Sergeant Kellie HARRIS

WILDFLOWERS

For the second year in a row there was no flower show last weekend, and there won't be a Pomonal Native Flower show either this weekend. It's just too hard to make them safe and legal.

But what we are still doing is selling guides to tourists of where to see some of our wildflowers safely and easily. We have put a display of some of our Grampians Gariwerd flowers plus leaflets describing a selection of easy drives and short easy walks in the VIC on sale for just \$2 each. Proceeds go towards the Botanic Garden. The leaflets have all been updated in the last two weeks and will be revised again at the end of the month.

So if you are providing accommodation to tourists, do make sure you let them know about the display and the guides. We also have small leaflets about our Grampians Gariwerd Botanic Garden at the VIC which you are welcome to take to display in your accommodation places.

Margo S



POMONAL CHURCH

We are now allowed twenty people inside so we are back to meeting in person. If lockdowns return (we really hope not!), you are very welcome to join the Pomonal congregation's zoom service at 10 am each locked down Sunday. Contact Peter Greenberger on 0400 164 062 for the link. All denominations welcome.

Margo S



Our volunteers have been hard at work over the last few weeks, weeding and now mowing. If we are not in lockdown we continue to have working bees on the second and fourth Fridays each month. Start at 9.30 ish, come when you wish, leave when you have had enough. Anyone welcome. But last Friday's one was in appalling weather so we plan another one this coming Friday October 1. In addition, some of us will be there on any sunny days so you can give me a call if you feel like coming down to help. 0429 201 139. Or if you want to just pull up some of the rampant clover we have left some trowels near the shed for you to use, but you will need to supply your own gloves. The shire delivered some mulch last week which will help us protect the beds after we've removed the weeds. Thank you, Northern Grampians Shire!

Building of the new shed has started with the frame for the concrete floor now in place. Upgrading the watering system, and the new signage on indigenous use of plants have not yet started, but should not be too far off.

The new Grampians Peaks Trail comes through the garden, entering through the gate on the North side behind the school and leaving over the bridge on the South side. Work on it is now complete and we are pleased at their care not to damage our other paths.

We have quite a bit in flower at the moment so do come down and have a look. And check out our facebook page.

Margo S.



HALLS GAP CFA



No report for this edition however this is the perfect time to prepare your property for the coming fire season. The following is an extract from the Northern Grampians Shire website: ngshire.vic.gov.au

Reduce the fuel load on your property by:

- * Mowing or slashing grass and weeds to less than 10cm high
- * Raking up leaves and bark in the immediate area around buildings
- * Pruning low branches from around buildings and fences
- * Removing rubbish and garden waste

You may be able to burn off in some areas but be sure to check permit requirements first.



Thanks for your support of this event – Please note these events have been postponed to February 25 & 26 2022

All other details remain the same – all current ticket holders have been advised of the change of date. We hope this means more time for people to plan to be a part of making music and performing with us next year.

- * Lever (Celtic) Harp – with Frances Thiele – a very experienced musician and teacher
- * Singing – with Polly Christie – a really engaging group singing leader from Macedon ranges.
- * Ukulele – with Nicki Thompson and Craig Barrie – from Melbourne who have lots of experience and are a part of the with one voice live streams.

Although these are being run in Stawell they are open to anyone to attend – they are for all ages and abilities – Harp workshop is not recommended for under 9 years.

This is a covid safe event being run to the guidelines and restrictions – the venue is very large so we can accommodate the spacing required. We are hoping that restriction settings will allow the event to go ahead, but if it does not tickets will be refunded.

If you can help out to get this information to people



September has been a very productive month at the shed to spite more covid lockdowns. We had to close for a little while, but not as much as those in the city.

We have had to postpone the official opening of the shed due to covid restrictions and hope to announce the new date soon.

The workshop is looking fantastic with all the donated machinery in it to be sorted out as to what we keep and use. Rae Griffiths and Danny Brunskill have donated more equipment than we could possibly use, so it's great to have choices as we sort it all out.

The meeting room is almost completed with just a little paint still to go up and the kitchen is fully functional.

We had a BBQ donated to us and have had a sausage sizzle for the members which was a great time enjoyed by all. The socialization and mental health needs of our members are being met in a fun, safe and non-threatening way.

The gardens have been completed and looking great, really setting off the ambiance of the shed well. We have a couple of projects starting next month that will bring in some funds and will also start to make items that we can sell for funds, so the shed will become a hive of activity we expect.

We are still receiving new members which is fantastic and looking forward to the future.

We have been taking photos of the construction of the shed and will put them on a computer stick once the shed is fitted out, there are about 500 so far.

Russ Kellett, Secretary

who would be interested I would really appreciate it. We are hoping for about 60 participants throughout the day. This is the link to [purchase tickets Stawell Performing Arts Fest](#)

Dianne S



BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC

20-22 Grampians road, Halls Gap 3381

PH: 03 5356 4751 WEBSITE: www.budjabudjacoop.org.au

October

Dr Tim Lowe

4th-8th

Dr Clare Roczniok

11th-22nd

Dr Sophia Samuel

25th - 29th

Dr Lori Cameron

27th - 28th

November

Dr Sophia Samuel

1st-5th

Dr Clare Roczniok

8th - 19th

Dr Susan Watson

22nd - 30th

Dr Lori Cameron

24th - 25th

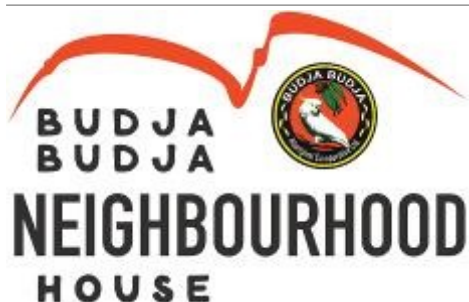
1st October was a big day at Budja Budja.

We said "Happy Birthday" "Farewell" and "Happy Baby Shower" to Chelsea. With so much to celebrate its hard to know whether to laugh or cry, all we know is that we are super excited for the new arrival to be here, we have been eagerly awaiting 'Baby' to arrive and can't wait to hear if its a boy or a girl. And on the other hand we are sad to say goodbye for a little while, while you begin you new role as Mum.



Go to Page 10 for all the detail of our colouring completion.





BBNH receives food from Foodbank once a month. If you or someone you know is in need of some vegies and fruit contact Lee-Anne or Alison on 5356 4751 and press option 3.

Thanks to new mangers of HG YHA Bernhard (BJ) and Tara for supporting our footy colours day. Not sure about the team though BJ? Alison (go tigers). We have raised over \$130.



I know the footy season is over however its not too late to donate at If you would like to donate please follow the link: <https://footy-colours-day-2021.raisely.com/budjabudjaneig...>

What's happening at Budja Budja Neighbourhood House in October



First Aid/CPR— Tuesday 12th October and Monday 6th December 2021. To book your place please call on 5356 4751 option 3 or email neighbourhood.house@budjajacoop.org.au

Mon 7pm—Meditation (from 18th October) - Community Room BBNH
Tues 1.30pm—Gentle Exercise—Either via Zoom or at the Halls Gap Centenary Hall
Thurs 10am—Tai Chi— Either via Zoom or community Room BBNH
Thurs 1pm—Meet and Make—either via Zoom and/or Art and Craft Room
Thurs 21st Halls Gap Bookclub
Friday 1pm—Finska Bowls—outside BBNH.

What's New

Meditation:

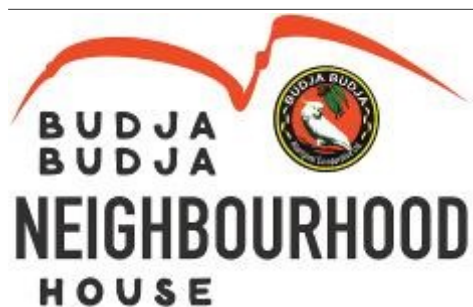
You are welcome to join us in meditation sessions that are starting at the Budja Budja Neighbourhood House on Monday October 18th. These will be run by Rowena Witham who has been teaching meditation for 6 years and meditating herself since her early twenties. Sessions are casual and open to everyone. No previous experience needed ... only a curious mind and willing heart ☺ Sessions will initially begin at 7pm on Monday evenings but this time is flexible if there are a number of interested people for whom another time suits better.

Classes are free with donations gratefully accepted, and proceeds going to Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

If you are interested and have questions, or would just like a chat, please call Rowena on 0422 465 207. Otherwise ring the Community House to register your interest and we'll see you in October.

Writing Group:

Is anyone interested in becoming part of a local writing group? Writing is something that I have always loved and done for pleasure, self-discovery and healing. For those of us wired that way, it is a wonderful form of self-expression and a great way to get to know others. I am keen to get this going because I have been part of writing groups in other places I have lived and would really like to be part of one again in my local community. Don't worry if you haven't done much (or any) creative writing before, all that's needed is a desire to share stories and open our imaginations. If you want to know more please contact me, Rowena Witham, on 0422 465 207 or rowenawitham@gmail.com, or leave your details at the Community House and I will contact you. Looking forward to hearing from you ☺



SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN



Chalk Art

Pig Party by Wilari, Marissa and Sarah



Giant Games

Wilari, Malaki and Sarah playing Giant Jenga

Special Thanks

To our wonderful volunteers Pam, Chris, Sarah and Neil. Thanks also to Lisa from the Northern Grampians Shire who shared their giant games with us.



PARKS VICTORIA UPDATE

<http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/grampians-national-park>



We have a contractor who will be delivering goat control work using firearms over the next few weeks/ months – see attached map for the work areas.

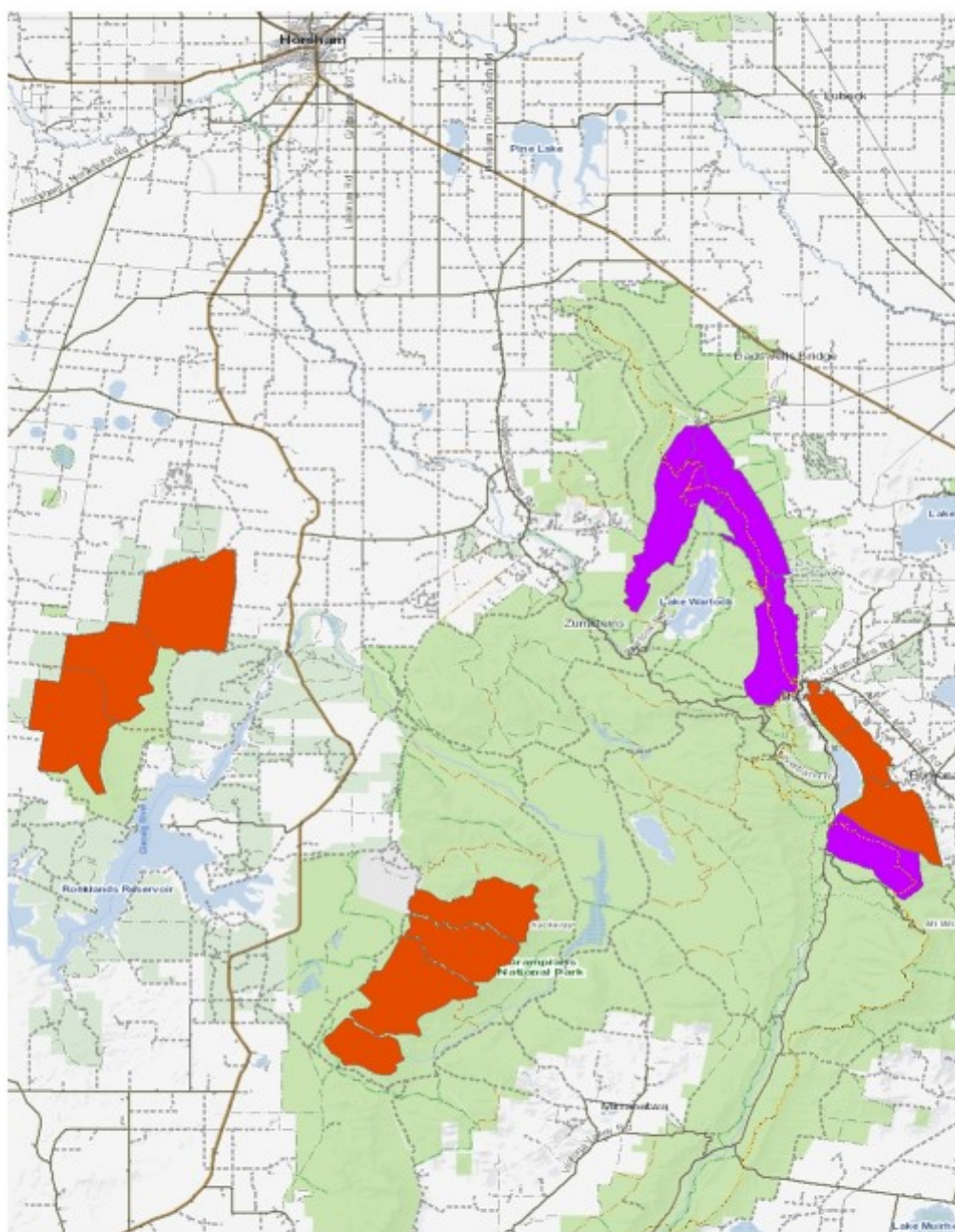
Closures will not be required as the work will be conducted away from visitor areas – however signage will be in place.

This week Daryl will be working in the Black Range and PV staff will join him throughout the program to assist where required.

This work is funded by the BRP014 for goat control and was meant to be in collaboration with volunteer programs which we have unfortunately had to cancel due to Covid-19.

Kailee Savoia

Environmental
Project Coordinator



Grampians Introduced Herbivore Control (BRP014)

Feral goat control sectors

Grampians NP & Black Range SP

09/08/2021



Coordinate System: GCS 2011 UTM

Text

Legend

- goat dispersion
- boundary and administrative areas
- Control shooting areas

Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this document is free of any error and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information. This is not a legal document. It is a Digital Map. The data is provided by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

WILDLIFE BY NEIL MACUMBER

Jewel Beetles – Family Buprestidae

They belong to the 8th largest family of insects in the world with 14,700 known species Worldwide. There are approximately 1200 species of these beautiful beetles occurring in Australia from 6 families and 77 different Genera, with one – *Stigmodera* restricted to Australia.



Most adults are nectar feeders but some survive exclusively on foliage. Jewel Beetles in Australia range in size from 2mm up to 75mm for *Julodimorpha bakewelli* a honey coloured beetle whose female does not fly. It was this Jewel Beetle that had scientists request beer manufacturing companies change the colour of their stubbie bottles from brown to clear glass. This was because Keith Carnaby an avid amateur entomologist (1920's to 1980's) found male Jewel Beetles trying to mate with discarded brown stubbie bottles along many roadsides in his home state of Western Australia. His sad but funny record was 26 males trying to mate with one stubbie bottle, of course all those males would soon die or be taken by crows or foxes, without mating and there was a chance they could become extinct. The females of this species are scarce and Keith only found 21 females in two days of searching against 1400 males, without counting males flying past. When Keith Carnaby passed away his massive collection of insects including Jewel Beetles was split up with most going to the Western Australian Museum and a substantial amount is housed at the Boyup Brook visitor information centre South of Perth.

The Larvae are usually woodborers, typically feeding on sapwood just under the bark and spend anything from 7 to 17 years as larvae. The preferred food for larvae to feed on are - *Leptospermum*, *Melaleuca*, *Casuarina* and many *Eucalypts*. As adults they only live for a short time and after mating the females disperse to find suitable places to lay their eggs, usually round the boles of trees.

The larger sized flower frequenting species (eg. *Temognatha*, *Calodema*, *Stigmodera*, *Curis* and *Castiarina*) undertake relatively long, for an insect, interplant flights. And so can serve not simply as pollinators but as agents of pollen transfer between widely separated plant populations; this being important for the survival of disjunct or isolated plant populations.

The 2 species in this article were found on *Leptospermum myrsinoides* (Tea-tree) flowering in Pomonal on 29th September, and are about 10mm-12mm long and most likely from the Genus – *Stigmodera* or *Castiarina*. Lots of species tend to like white flowered native plants like *Leptospermum*, *Melaleuca*, *Eucalyptus* etc. but could be on any flowering native plant and are found throughout Australia.



Please note Insects including Jewel Beetles are protected so please enjoy, photograph them and leave them where they are.

Tackling Indigenous Smoking Colouring Activity

Hey, everyone!

Choose designs from some of our deadly TIS artists and colour up as storm, so that we can display your work in the foyer at Budja Budja.



Put your name, age and contact details on the back of your pictures.

For every entry you complete, you go into the draw to win a great art supply hamper.

Entries are open from September 22nd-October 12th.

Winners will be drawn out and announced live on our Facebook page on October 14th at 4.00pm and notified by phone.

Contact Kim to obtain a copy of the designs by our deadly TIS artists by calling Budja Budja Medical Centre on 5356 4751



WAMA Art Prize Online Exhibition

WAMA has announced the winners of the inaugural WAMA Art Prize with an online exhibition of finalists.

The major acquisitive prize of \$15,000 was awarded to Tasmanian artist Melissa Smith for her work *Listen Deeply – Lake Sorell*.

Three awards of excellence were awarded to Diane Fogwell for her work *The Dead Tree Scroll – Silent Extinction*, Janet Matthews' *"Just flying through" – Red-Tailed Black cockatoos*, and Juanita McLauchlan's *Found*.

The online exhibition of finalists showcases 40 artworks highlighting a multi-disciplinary range of talented artists from across the nation engaged in the theme of art and nature.

"I am thrilled with the chosen winning artworks, the judges did a remarkable job of selecting some wonderful artworks that I believe the public are really going to enjoy." said Glenda Lewin Patron, WAMA Foundation.

"The exhibition of finalists clearly demonstrates the quality and diversity of work entered was simply outstanding and this is a fantastic result given this is the first year of the prize."

There is the opportunity to vote for your favourite artwork in the exhibition for the winning artist to receive \$2500 in the People's Choice Award. Voting is open now till October 22nd.

The exhibition of finalists and winners are available to view, vote and purchase at www.wama.net.au

WAMA Building Murals complete

The building murals inspired by the natural surroundings of the Grampians is now complete.

Gunnai and Waradjurie Indigenous artist Robert Young recently visited WAMA to complete the building murals and the story of Bunjil, together with mural and street artist Mike Maka. Robert is the great great grandson of the late John Connolly of the Jardwadjali people who spoke of the figure of Bunjil in a cave to ethnologist Alfred Howitt in 1884. Connolly was fundamental in the discovery of Bunjil's Shelter.

Some of you might also recognise Robert from the recent hit show *Making It* on Channel 10.

If you haven't yet seen the murals head down to the WAMA site and view from the corner of Neal Rd and the Ararat-Halls Gap Rd.



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 2021:

Melbourne Cup Weekend - Sunday 31st October

Market Dates for 2022:

Labour Day Weekend- Sunday 13th March

Easter Sunday - 17th April

Queen's Birthday Weekend - Sunday 12th June

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 |

POMONAL VILLAGE MARKET

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

2021

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

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



Halls Gap is a Cat Free Zone

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 bicycles, property taken from cars or other items

Report personal property lost in Victoria

Report damage to your property, including graffiti

Register your party

Inform police when you are away from your home

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

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

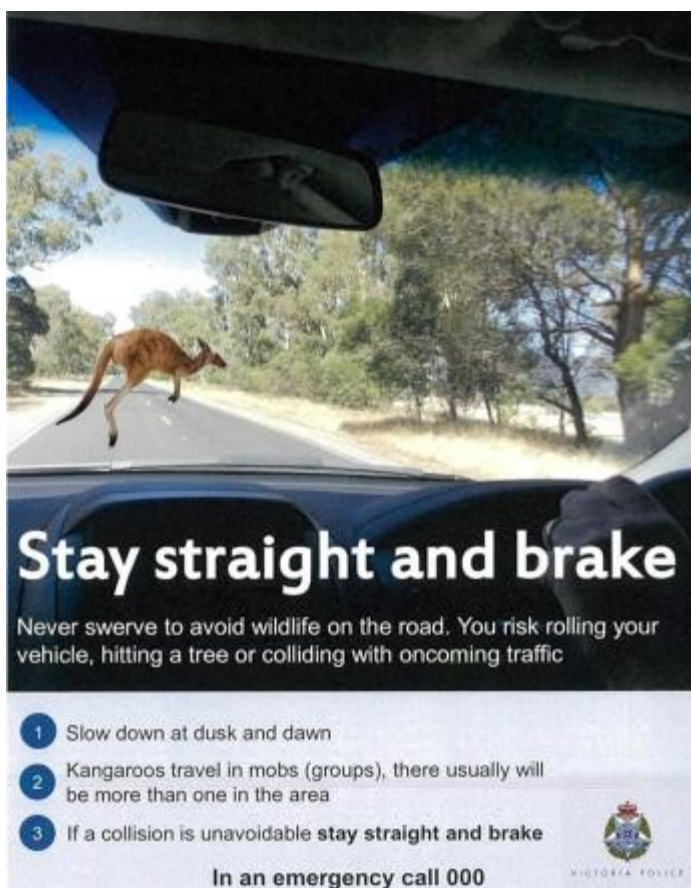
Upload your community events details to
the Community Association webpage:

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
- * Various sport/fitness groups. Check the community website for details