Issue: November 2022

FILL THE GAP

Produced by the Community Association & Budja Budja Neighbourhood House.

Articles for December FTG need to be received by the 25th November 2022 See page 14 for details

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WRAP UP...

Well this has been a very wet spring so far. Check out Beat the Bite 2022 information on precautions to help protect your community against mosquitoes and the diseases they may carry. (pages 8-9)

The weather has affected a number of regular events however there is still lots happening locally.

Want to be involved with the Garage Sale Trail this year. Budja Budja Neighbourhood House will be running a garage sale at the Grampians Gariwerd Botanical Gardens on Saturday 19th November 2022 from 9am to 2pm. Its free to come along and sell items from your boot. The sale will be outside weather permitting. Call Alison Bainbridge on 0417 883 445 to book your free site.

Enjoy the last of the flowers of petyan and hopefully the sun will come out for ballambar—season of butterflies.

Ring Alison 0417 883 445 to book your FREE site

OCTOBER 2022 - RAINFALL BY CHAS:

342.5 mm for October (this is the highest rainfall for October since "official records" for Halls Gap started in 1958). This brings the progressive total for 2022 to 1228.0 mm.

As of the 28th October 2022 Lake Bellfield is holding 79,570 ML or 101% full compared to the same period last year of 59,930 ML or 76% full.

The total system is holding 371,380 ML or 66.28% full. This compares to the same period last year of 244,190 ML or 43.58% full.

Mount William received 229.0 mm for October 2022. The highest temperature of 19.9 C was recorded on the 20th of October and the lowest of -0.3 C was recorded on the 9th of October 2022. The highest wind speed of 111 km/h was recorded on the 5th October 2022.

FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



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

Wildlife and Wildflowers

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





I do hope many of you got to Pomonal to see the Australian Plant Society show and saw our table with flowers from the Botanic Garden. Plus some

local orchids lent to us by Wendy Bedggood from Horsham. The whole show was stunning.

The last few weeks have continued to see so many tourists exploring the garden., and so many children enjoying the kids'area. Lovely to watch and listen to

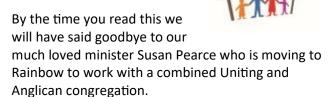
So many weeds still! The weeds have loved the weather and the rain has made gardening difficult. But most Fridays you can find some of us there and we love help. If you can't make Fridays but would like to help, just let me know and I can arrange access to our sheds, so we can have a record of who has been in to help and you can use our tools and gloves.

The signs we have ordered to place next to plants significant to people of the First Nations. still need to go in. This weather hasn't helped. We hope to show them off next newsletter.

We are still selling guides of where to see wildflowers out in the Park and close to Stawell. They are available from Brambuk and the VIC at the HG hall or I can supply them to holiday houses.. There are four different walks now, and a couple more may come later. They sell for \$2 and the proceeds go to our HG Botanic Garden.

Margo S

POMONAL CHURCH NEWS



Until we get a replacement minister we will have Rev Peter Cook looking after us and Stawell for two days a week. His contact details are:ph 0488 724 882. Email: revpeterbc@gmail.com,

But Pomonal will have services every Sunday at 10 a.m., mostly led by our members, and we love visitors.

And don't forget our Christmas carols at The Pomonal Community Hall on December 11.

Margo S

Stawell Cancer And Prostate Support Group

Contact

John Bradley

0429 163 744

Or

Stawell Neighbourhood House

5358 3500

Strength Unity and Courage



My Junk, Your Treasure Sarage Sales

Pomonal Community Hall

Ararat-Halls Gap Road Pomo

Ararat-Halls Gap Road, Pomonal Ring Andrea 0405 993 763 to book your FREE site

More info at

https://www.garagesaletrail.com.au/sale/my-junk-your-treasure



Outdoor Carols

at the Pomonal Community Hall 7.30PM

SUNDAY DEC 11TH

Everyone welcome!
Bring a chair

WILDLIFE WITH NEIL - SNAKES

Hi everyone, just a friendly reminder that with the weather starting to warm up, snakes will be emerging from Winter hibernation and can be encountered. The people most likely

to get bitten are males and especially teenage boys. This can happen when someone tries to catch or kill one, it is best to observe from a distance and watch where it goes, I have used the garden hose to squirt them and see them off. If by a slim chance you are bitten don't walk around, sit down (DON'T WASH THE BITE – the medicos can identify the snake species from the excess venom around the bite) and get someone to put a tight tourniquet around the bite and up the arm or leg and immobilise that limb. Get to hospital ASAP. When out in the bush and you need to step over a log or fallen tree make sure there are no snakes on the other side before stepping over.

There are 4 venomous snakes in the Grampians region plus Little Whip Snake that needs to also be treated with caution. These are in the Elapid or Front Fanged Venomous Land Snakes group which comprises 109 known species in Australia

Eastern Brown Snake – Pseudonaja textilis DANGEROUSLY VENOMOUS Second most venomous land snake.

Description: - Up to 2 metres. Variable: shades of brown to almost black. Patterning is mostly absent on adults though some have dark and or pale flecking or mottling or rarely prominent dark bands. Juveniles have a black blotch on the head, a black band across the neck, and sometimes prominent black bands on the body. The under surfaces are marked with scattered orange or brown blotches.

Notes: - Widespread through drier parts of Eastern Australia. Extremely swift, alert, nervous and quick to retaliate if provoked, rearing head and forebody into an 'S' shape. Eats mice and rats and lizards up to the size of Stumpy -tails.





Red-bellied Black Snake – Pseudechis porphyriacus DANGEROUSLY VENOMOUSLY

Description: - 1.5 to 2 metres. Glossy black with red to cream belly, the red ventral pigment extending well up onto the lower flanks.

Notes: - Associated with moist areas such as swamps, river banks and/or wet eucalypt forest and rain forest. One of Australia's most familiar and attractive snakes, often seen basking beside water. Active during daylight hours, feeds mainly on frogs but other vertebrates can also be taken.

Eastern Tiger Snake – Notechis scutatus DANGEROUSLY VENOMOUS

Description: - 900mm to 2 metres, usually around 1 metre. Colouration extremely variable, body robust and colour ranges from, grey, olive, brown and reddish to blackish-brown, usually with light crossbands. Belly cream, yellow, olive or grey. Flattens neck broadly when alarmed.



Notes: - Favours cool moist areas such as swamp edges and creek banks. Produces large live litters up to 64 recorded in Tasmania. Active during daylight but can be active on very warm nights. Feeds mainly on frogs.

Lowlands Copperhead – Austrelaps superbus DANGEROUSLY VENOMOUS

Description: - 1.2 to 1.8 metres. Weak barring on lips. Colour ranges through shades of brown, reddish brown, grey to almost black, sometimes with dark or pale band across the nape of the neck and narrow vertebral stripe.

Notes: - Closely associated with fresh water or moist low-lying areas in dry eucalypt forest, woodlands or heaths, especially where tussock grasses occur. Feeds mainly on frogs. Active day and night even at very low temperatures. Usually inoffensive, bites are uncommon.

With all of these snakes even tiny babies need to be treated with caution as their venom is as potent as the adults.



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

Like all places. Halls Gap Primary School's activities have been affected by the weather. But in true resilience we have adapted. Children have been working together building great constructions during lunch indoor activities. The jump Rope for Heart Jump Off was put off until the weather cleared the following week and the District Cricket has been rescheduled for early November. Also the Market was cancelled due to the very wet oval and impending wet weather.

With the rescheduled Jump Rope For Heart Jump Off completed, the children raised over \$800.00 for the Heart Foundation. Well done everyone.

Grade 5 and 6 ventured to Stawell Secondary College as part of their transitioning to secondary school. The children participating in Math Olympics with other students from 5 and 6 in the district.

Part of the Kidpreneur project, students from Grade 5 and 6 formed 'Companies'. Created names for their company, made, priced and marketed their products. The school community was invited to come and buy their lovely products ranging from soaps, plants, cupcakes and homemade lemonade.

The school has purchased some banners for the front of the school. If you have not seen them yet, please come pass and have a look.

From the Staff & Students at Halls Gap PS









If you have enrolment forms for Prep 2023, please complete them and return them to school A.S.A.P. If there are any families who may be interested in their children attending Halls Gap Primary, we

would encourage you to give us a call to arrange enrolment forms.

Please contact the school on 5356 4235 or email halls.gap.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Our first Transition Day is on Wednesday 23rd November



Activities Update – 31st October 2022

October has been another busy month down at the shed with quite a variety on offer for our members.

We ran a sausage sizzle at the beginning of the month as part of the Pomonal Flower Show which proved to be a great fundraiser for the shed and social time for all the members who attended.

This month for our Shed Talk time (1st Tuesday of the month 11am - 1pm) we combined with the Budja Budja Neighbourhood house for a gentle exercise session in the hall which was enjoyed by all attendees followed be a lunch together.

Monday's social sessions (9-30am – 3pm) have been running very well with members enjoying the social side of shedding over a hot cuppa, biscuit and solving of all the major problems this world can offer.

Wednesday's patchwork sessions (1pm-4pm) have been running very well with all members attending keeping very busy with their personal projects. We thank them also for sewing our logos on our new aprons.

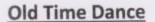
Thursday's project sessions (9-30am - 3pm) have been running very well with shed projects continuing at a shed pace of course, and a variety of members personal projects. We also had a two demonstrations on how to use a plasma cutter and one on how to use the lathe. We had our usual sausage sizzle lunch on their $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$ Thursday of the month.

The school sessions every second Wednesday have been running very well with only one group let to build bird boxes, then we plan on starting to make insect hotels together

Frances ran a session this month on helping members to make their own home made Christmas puddings for the season.

As usual we enjoyed a good social time as we raised funds for the shed doing our usual sausage sizzle at the Market.

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 Old Time Dance is held at the Seniors Hall at 8pm on the 4th and 5th Fridays of the month.

Raffles, door and spot prizes on the night.

Supper is served.

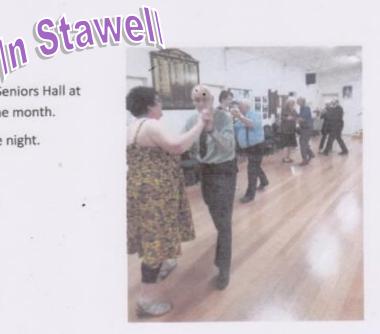
Cost: \$8.00 per person.

Dance contact

4th Friday - Frank 5358 1091 or

Jenny 0408 345 387

5th Friday - Alan 5358 3624



Prepare

Act

Survive

Lake Bellfield Dam Safety Factsheet

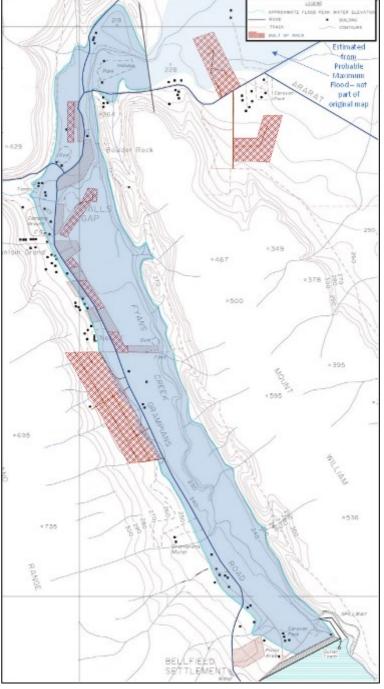
The Halls Gap Resilience Group, with assistance from GWMWater, has developed a *Lake Bellfield Dam Safety Factsheet*, which **you should download and read**. It is available from the Resilience Group web page on the community web site at https://hallsgapcommunity.org.au/directory/halls-gap-resilience-group/. Some important extracts from the factsheet are:

- The chance of a dam failure is any year is extremely low. It is estimated to be 1 in 590,000!
- If it did happen, it could take more than 1.5 hours for the water to reach the highest level shown in the map, at which time Grampians Road will be covered by flood water, and evacuation will be difficult or impossible.
- However, flood travel time to the lower parts of the valley, and particularly the houses/ camp sites located immediately below the dam wall, could be very short. Warning these residents may be performed by GWMWater rather than the SES, given the short timeframe available.
- If your property is in or near the map's blue zone:
- Identify higher ground outside the blue zone which you can get to easily.
- Make sure that the evacuation route is clear of potential hazards including creeks and gullies.
- Practise walking this route.
- If a dam safety alert is issued,
- stay away from the dam wall, spillway, and Fyans Creek, and
- comply with any instructions from emergency agencies or GWMWater officers.

If you are in or near the blue zone, and receive an EVACUATE NOW message in the absence of any prior dam safety alerts or warnings, or are advised to evacuate immediately by any emergency agency or GWMWater officer, don't take time to prepare for the evacuation, just leave.

If evacuation by vehicle is not practical for whatever reason, walk quickly to the higher ground that you have already identified.

Rod Lambert, Halls Gap Resilience Group





Free Legal Assistance in Ararat

Ballarat & Grampians Community Legal Service will be visiting Ararat to provide free and confidential legal services to people in Ararat & surrounds.

All legal services will be by appointment only and subject to a conflict of Interest check.

For more information or to make a booking please call us on 03 5331 5999 or Free call: 1800 466 488

Legal Matters we can provide advice on:

- Family Violence
 Family Law
- Elder Abuse
- Infringements/Fines
- Credit & Debt matters
- Powers of Attorney
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Neighbourhood Disputes
- Personal Safety Intervention Orders
- Victims of Crime
- Summary Crime matters
- Consumer Complaints
- Centrelink matters
- Employment Issues
- Tenancy
- Police Matters

WHEN:

Outreach services will currently be available on these dates:

- 21 September
- 16 November

WHERE:

Ararat Neighbourhood House 56 Campbell Street, Ararat.

www.bgcls.org.au

Beat the Bite 2022

The recent floods in Victoria pose a risk of increased mosquito breeding.

Mosquitos can carry a number of diseases that can make people very ill and, in severe cases, can even cause death.

But simple precautions can help protect your community against mosquitoes and the diseases they may carry.

The social media messages below support your community to understand why it's important to avoid mosquito bites and how to protect themselves from mosquito borne diseases.

For more information about go to www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/beat-the-bite.



Mozzie alert 4



With the recent floods in many areas across Victoria, the risk of mosquito breeding is high. By following a few simple steps you can reduce your risk of being bitten and getting sick:

Cover up – wear long, loose-fitting clothing. Mozzies can bite through tight clothing.



Use mosquito nets or insect screens.

Use 'knockdown' fly spray, mosquito coils or plug-in repellent where you gather to sit or eat.

Limit activity outdoors and move indoors if possible.

Mozzie repellents are your best defence against mosquito bites. Learn more about how to protect yourself and your family at www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/beat-the-bite



Mosquitoes can breed in even the tiniest amount of stagnant water. With the recent floods, there is a high possibility that you could be at risk of mosquito bites.

If you can't avoid being around stagnant water, make sure you wear long, lose fitting clothes and use repellents that contain picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin.

More ideas to keep yourself and your family protected: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/mosquitoes-protect-yourhome-checklist



🐣 Japanese encephalitis virus alert 🐣



Japanese encephalitis (JE) virus can cause a rare but potentially serious infection of the brain and is spread to humans by infected mosquitoes.

JE virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There is no evidence of transmission from person to person.

The simplest and best way to prevent JE virus infection during mosquito season is to avoid mosquito bites.

Learn about simple steps to beat the bite: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/beat-the-bite #BeattheBite





Children are vulnerable to mosquito bites. The recent floods and stagnant water will increase the risk of more mosquitos breeding and spreading disease.



To protect children from mozzies:



- Make sure they wear long, loose-fitting clothing outdoors.
- Apply a thin, even layer of mosquito repellent to all exposed skin, avoiding hands, eyes and mouth. Choose a lower strength repellent for young children and babies (no more than 20% picaridin or DEET).
- If your child has sensitive skin (or is bothered by the smell of DEET) use picaridin or apply repellent to their clothes instead.
- Drape a mosquito net over the pram, stroller or infant carrier (make sure there are no gaps).

Find out how you can protect yourself from possible injury, illness, or disease after floods and storms, visit: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/ health/healthyliving/After-a-flood-returning-home-safely

#BeattheBite

The recent floods will increase the presence of stagnant water. These are the perfect conditions for mosquito breeding.

The good news is, by following a few simple steps you can avoid getting bitten.

Where you can, stay away from places where there is stagnant water.



If you are in a place where there is stagnant water (taking part in recovery efforts and clean up), make sure you wear long, lose fitting clothes and use repellents that contain picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin

Find out how you can protect yourself from possible injury, illness, or disease after floods and storms, visit: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/After-a-flood-returning-home-safely

#BeattheBite

Beat the Bite resources

English and multilingual resources are available for download and use by councils and community organisations to raise awareness of mosquito season at www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/beat-the-bite.

If you would like to **order printed resources**, please visit our order page at http://ewfds.wfds.com.au/ewfds/? th=CD1&n1=CD001&n2=CD001

The 'Beat the bite! Protect yourself and your family' video may be embedded on your website using the YouTube embed code. View it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvLOxiigKdc



Survey: Have you completed the Budja Budja Neighbourhood House Survey 2022. There are two ways you can have your say about your neighbourhood house. Pick up a hard copy from the House during opening hours 9am-3:15pm Tues-Friday or complete it on line at https:// www.surveymonkey.com/r/HFDFQ6D



Saturday 19th November 2022 9am to 2pm

Grampians/Gariwerd Flora Botanical Gardens

School Road, Halls Gap Ring Alison 0417 883 445 to book your FREE site



Wearable Art

Thanks to Judith Burke for a fabulous 4 hour felting workshop. Amazing work by all participants.



What's on in November













- . Monday 7th & 21st 11am-1pm Writers
- · Mondays 7.00pm Meditation
- Tuesdays 1.30-2pm Gentle Exercise
- · Wednesdays10am-12noon Craft mornings Come along and share your skills or learn a
- Thursday 17th 7.30pm HG Book Club
- Thursdays 10am-10.30am Qi Gong
- Thursdays 1pm-3pm iPad course
- Thursday 17th & 24th 10.30-1130am Bird Walk
- · Fridays 10am-11.30am Storytime
- · Fridays 1.30-3pm Friday Fun Finska
- Saturday 19th My Junk Your Treasure Garage Sale



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

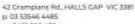












e: neighbourhood hause@budisbudiscoap.arg.au w: https://budjabudjaneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/



BUDJA BUDJA MEDICAL CLINIC

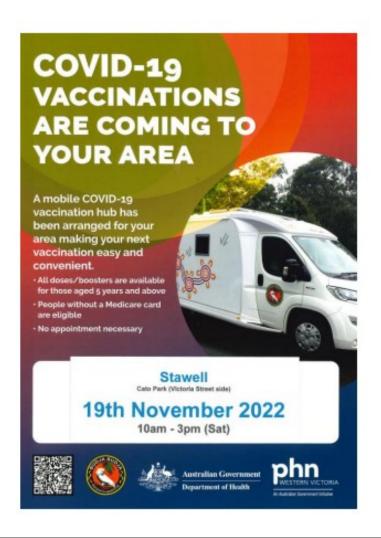


20-22 Grampians Road, Halls Gap 3381

PH: 03 53 564751

WEBSITE: www.budjabudjacoop.org.au

| NOVEMBER 2022 | | DECEMBER 2022 |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1-4 | Dr Ruth Sutherland | 1-2 Dr Christine Harvey |
| 7-11 | Dr Katrlona Ross | 5-23 Dr Jennifer Parsons |
| 14-18 | Dr Katrlona Ross | |
| 21-25 | Dr Christine Harvey | |
| 28-30 | Dr Christine Harvey | |









My Iunk, Your Treasure Garage Sales

Saturday 19th November 2022 9am to 2pm

Grampians/Gariwerd Flora Botanical Gardens

School Road, Halls Gap Ring Alison 0417 883 445 to book your FREE site



The Tail of Two Towns



Pomonal Community Hall

Ararat-Halls Gap Road, Pomonal Ring Andrea 0405 993 763 to book your FREE site

More info at

https://www.garagesaletrail.com.au/sale/my-junk-your-treasure

Bought to you by: Pomonal Hall & Recreation Committee

and



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



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

2022 Market Calendar

2nd January
30th January
27th February
27th March
24th April
29th May
26th June

3Ist July
28th August
25th September
Ist & 2nd October
30th October
27th November
18th 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 Snatch Straps Winch Extension Straps Snatch Blocks Shovel Air Compressor UHF Radio Ch 20 Fridge Hi-Lift Jack
Tree Trunk Protectors
Bow Shackles
Soft Shackles
Rated Recovery Points
Chainsaw
GPS Assistance
Local Knowledge



There are more ways to contact police with the new Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting platform.





Halls Gap is a Cat Free Zone



FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

David, Pam, 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