

Issue: March 2024

FILL THE GAP

Produced by Halls Gap Community Association
& Halls Gap Neighbourhood House

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

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FROM THE GARIWERD SIX SEASONS CALENDAR



gwangal moronn

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

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

WRAP UP...

It has been a very busy month with the hot weather, fires and the recovery effort.

A big, big, **big** thankyou to all our emergency services who has put their lives on the line for us and especially those communities directly impacted by the fires in Dadswell Bridge, Pomonal and the Beaufort areas.

It will be a long road to recovery however after only a short time we have communities working together to get everyone housed, provided with assistance from government agencies, counselling form Grampians Community Health and local groups.

I need help with producing the Fill The Gap. If you think you have a some time once a month to help put this publication together give me a call on 0471 883 445.

Alison, ED



STATS BY CHAS...

February 2024 - Rainfall by Chas: 0 mm for February 2024 bringing the progressive total to 102.5 mm. This is the driest February since 2004. This compares to the same period last year of 41.5 mm and a progressive total of 51 mm.

As of the 28th February 2024 Lake Bellfield is holding 72,140 ML or 92% full compared to the same period last year of 74,680 ML or 95% full. The total system is holding 350,600 ML or 62.57% full compared to the same period last year of 380,080 ML or 67.83% full.

Mount William received 4 mm for February 2024. The highest temperature of 30.7 C was recorded on the 4th of February and the lowest of 3.2 C was recorded on the 15th February. The highest wind speed of 98km/h was recorded on the 22nd of February 2024.



Invites you to our very first



Date: Thursday 11th April 2024

Time: 11.30am followed by a light lunch

Venue: Halls Gap Recreation Reserve Pavilion

RSVP: 2nd April for catering purposes ring/text 0417 883 445



Halls Gap Primary School

Resilience Excellence Compassion



Halls Gap PS is off to a great start for 2024! We have 38 children enrolled across three classrooms. Mrs Lucy Stott and Mrs Karina Henderson are continuing in Prep and Year 1, with Karina returning from maternity leave in Term 2. Mr Reuben Tierney is continuing with grades 4/5/6 and Miss Grace Jeffrey with grades 2/3.

We are well supported through Education Support staff member Caren McIntosh (classroom) and Helen Fisher (office). We welcome back Ms Caitlyn Fisher with the MARC Van, offering our students library once a fortnight. This year we are fortunate to have specialist Art teacher Mrs Lauren Sharp onboard and to provide Chinese as our additional language taught by Mr Joe Reilly. They both join us weekly.

We recently completed our swimming program with great enjoyment and success by all. We are extremely grateful to Ange and Sandra for their exceptional teaching and we can't wait to put what we have learned into practice when we head to Warrnambool next week for our Beach Day Excursion!

Don't forget the first market of the year is on Sunday 10th March at Recreation Reserve.

Nickie Peters (Principal), all the staff & students at Halls Gap Primary



New ENROLMENTS 2024

Halls Gap Primary School is a unique educational setting for children to learn and grow. With small class sizes and close working relationships with families, the staff at Halls Gap focus on individual student needs.

We invite you to book an individual school tour or contact us to discuss the 2024 school year for your child.



5356 4235 / 0409 4370 555



halls.gap.ps@education.vic.gov.au



GRAMPIANS

16-21 MARCH

THE GRAMPIANS VIC

TEXTURE 2024



Grampians Texture is an annual workshop program for fibre artists in the Grampians. The program provides an opportunity to participate in two, four or six days workshops with some of Australia's best artists and tutors for introduction level to experienced artists.



Everyone welcome!

Twilight Makers Market

4:30-6:30pm Saturday 16 March

The market will be held at the GrampianArts Market Place at the Halls Gap HUB.

There will be a wide range of quality hand craft, made by the tutors and students participating in Grampians Texture. Expect to find clothing, jewellery, paper, books and more all handmade and hand created, recycled and upcycled!!! Buy direct from the artist.

Workshop Show & Tell

4pm SHARP!
Sunday 17 March

All two day workshops will display their artworks at the Halls Gap HUB (Hall) for 30 minutes

3:30pm SHARP!
Thursday 21 March

All four and six day workshops will display their artworks at the Halls Gap HUB (Hall) for 30 minutes

Market Place

8:00am-5:00pm | 16 - 20 March

Call into the Halls Gap HUB (Hall) to buy at GrampianArts Market Place.

Expect to find delicious products for textile and other artists to create with: fibre, yarns, books, fabrics, hand-made papers, vintage kimonos. Exotic, beautiful, unusual, and delightful.

Not all traders/sellers will be there for the whole time, but all will be there for the weekend.

Market Place Traders night - OPEN late!

4:30-6:30pm Tuesday 19 March

Grampians Brushes is a project of GrampianArts, a not-for-profit organisation that strives to provide opportunities for artists to extend their skills and showcase their work. Grampians Brushes is supported by the Northern Grampians Shire Council.

W | www.grampianarts.com.au

E | textures@grampianarts.com.au

P | 0493 430 312



HALLS GAP CFA

Hi Halls Gap,

It has been a long summer and it appeared early in November that it would stay that way after large grass fires took hold in the Bellellen area. However, with the rain in early January things had calmed down and it was a fairly quiet month for the Brigade.

Some stats for you to ponder last fire season we attended a total of 12 fire calls, This season we have attended 45 fire calls for the same period between the 1st of November and 1st of March.

Unfortunately, a lack of rain and increased high temperatures without any rain, resulted in high levels of fuel loads in the surrounding environment. This combined with fire weather that resulted in extreme and catastrophic fire conditions which ultimately lead to the devastating fire in Pomonal and Buangor.

Our brigade supported and responded to the fire in Pomonal and the large bushfire in the Mount Cole area. The Fire in Pomonal was significantly confronting for our members. This is right on our door step and the brigade is well integrated in the Pomonal area with many of our members having friends, family and homes in the area. We often turn out with the Pomonal Fire Brigade working together in our communities and it was hard at times to come to terms with the devastation.

On a Brigade level we would like to acknowledge our new fire fighters who attended the fires in Pomonal and Buangor. This would be the first major call out and first attendance at a large bushfire. Courage and dedication by these members make us proud of our brigade. Without volunteers with a passion for community we simply could not do what we do.

We would also like to acknowledge another firefighter from our brigade, on the day of the Pomonal fire went above and beyond what is expected. Responding to multiple callouts during this day. The efforts and self-sacrifice of this member is truly extraordinary. Even after suffering personal loss continued to fight the fires day and night, assist neighbours with the defence of their properties homes and then continued to turn out on a fire truck in the days after.

Our brigade would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Statewide CFA response to the area which saw Fire Fighters from all over Victoria support local crews who were exhausted after long stints on the fire ground. Combine this with the efforts of Forest Fire Management crews who did an extraordinary job deep in the bush and the local Pilots from Stawell Airbase.

Finally we truly thank the community and those that visit. The messages of support and offers of assistance to the brigade have been wonderful. Multiple businesses have assisted with supplies and meals in support of the CFA including a Forklift and a Bobcat. One of the odder requests we have made but as always someone in the community stepped up.

Rob BARTORELLI | Community Safety Officer | **Halls GAP CFA.**

HALLS GAP Fire Station | 78 Grampians Road Halls Gap 3381

Phone: (03) 5356-4451

Email: robert.bartorelli@members.cfa.vic.gov.au

www.facebook.com/HallsGapCFA/



**Halls Gap is
a Cat Free
Zone**



Pomonal Men's Shed
 3360 Ararat Hall Gap Road,
 Pomonal, Victoria 3381
pomonalmensshed@gmail.com
www.pomonalmensshed.au

Activities Update – 31 st 29 th February 2024

February has been a very challenging time for both the shed and our entire community as we have had to deal with the impact of the catastrophic bushfires of Tuesday 13 th . The shed was being used in the first week after the fires for counselling by local and red cross services and opened the following week to resume normal hours for our members not locked out by the closed roads. We then assisted Ararat Rural City Council distribute donated wheelbarrows and tools to community members, which lead to us also distributing more tools being donated by other men's sheds and the wider communities.

We have members who lost everything in the bushfires, and it was pleasing to see that the normality of shed times and fellowship of our members was in some way a help in the mental health of our members and our greater community.

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 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 girl time over a hot cuppa and good humour.

The all inclusive sessions to include our female members every 2 nd Tuesday evening form 7pm – 9pm are running very well with good attendances. We have also seen members making extra time for more nightly sessions as required with the shed being used a lot more.

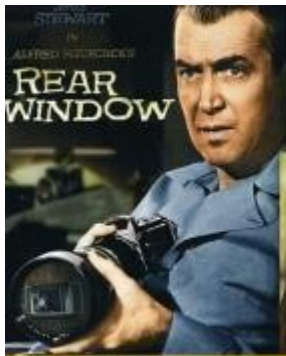
We are pleased that the Mixed bunch Art Group are enjoying using our meeting room for their sessions. The last Sunday of each month we ran our (now quite famous) sausage sizzle at the Pomonal market. This helps us raise some much-needed funds as well as being a great social time for all involved. It 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.

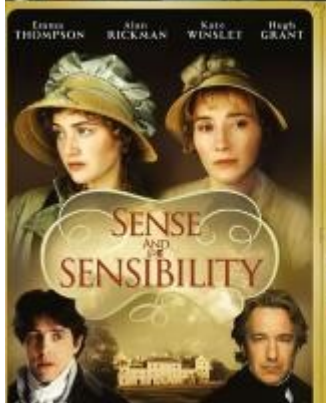
GRAMPIANS WALKING TRACKS SUPPORT GROUP

An on-site meeting was held last December with Parks Victoria staff to resolve the problem of walkers going astray when coming down the Boroka Track at a rock step. We had raised the possibility of installing aluminium steps but the problems this raised for staff were considerable. It was decided that the best answer is to build up the track at the base of the step to reduce its height, which will also help to block the way to the false track developing below the step.

Material was gathered to block this track and the building up will be undertaken by a group of volunteers at the beginning of May. Two more working bees have been organised, one to give the annual spruce up to the Heatherlie Quarry area prior to its use by Ozact at Easter, and the other on the Mt. Abrupt track later in May. All these are open to other volunteers so anyone locally who wants a walk and some exercise can join. Contact David Witham on 5356 4300.



Rear Window Scored: 4.2/5
Wednesday 24th January 2024



Sense & Sensibility
Wednesday 27th March 2024



The Quiet Girl Scored: 4/5
Wednesday 13th March 2024 - postponed due to fire

Centenary Hall, 117 Grampians Road, Halls Gap

Check The Grampians Film Society website on membership details and full program.
<https://grampians.filmsociety.org.au/>



Clean Up Australia Day

FOGG will be holding their Clean Up Australia Day on
Saturday 16th March 2024.

Meet at 9.30am - Silverband Fall Carpark

If you can't make the clean up join us for lunch at Lake Bellfield picnic ground to celebrate Margo Sietsma's contribution to FOGG prior to her heading off to Canberra in April 2024.

WHERE: SILVERBAND FALLS & THEN LUNCH AT LAKE BELLFIELD PICNIC GROUND

WHEN: SATURDAY MARCH 16TH

TIME: 9:30AM TO 11:30, MEET FOR LUNCH 12NOON

BYO: LUNCH, WATER, HAT, SUNSCREEN ETC

REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://WWW.PARKCONNECT.VIC.GOV.AU/](https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/)

Are You Stuck in the Bush?

Call Glenn on 0419 802 846

Or 0424 619 355...Leave a message if no answer.

Take a photo of this flyer.



On-Board Recovery Equipment

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Winches – Front and Rear | Hi-Lift Jack |
| Snatch Straps | Tree Trunk Protectors |
| Winch Extension Straps | Bow Shackles |
| Snatch Blocks | Soft Shackles |
| Shovel | Rated Recovery Points |
| Air Compressor | Chainsaw |
| UHF Radio Ch 20 | GPS Assistance |
| Fridge | Local Knowledge |



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



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

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------|--|
| | | | | |
| Report stolen bicycles, property from your car 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

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.
- **Thursday 28th** 6pm Halls Gap Book Club
- **Thursdays** 1.30-3pm Finska Fun
- **Fridays** 10am-10.30am Qi Gong
- **Fridays** 10.30am-11.30am Coffee Catch up

Tuesday to Friday 9am-3.15pm

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

117-119 Gramscians Rd., HALLS GAP VIC 3381
m: 0417 883 445
e: info@hallsgapnh.org.au



LIDS 4 KIDS

WHAT LIDS CAN WE COLLECT?

YES

MILK WATER SOFT DRINK

Check for recycle codes 2 and 4 under the lid.
We cannot accept numbers 1, 3, 5 or 7.
If there is NO number, still collect it.

LIDS 4 KIDS

WHAT LIDS CAN'T WE COLLECT?

NO

COFFEE LIDS OR PODS WINE POP TOPS SPREADS SAUCE

Please only collect plastic lids with recycle code 2 or 4.
All lids must also be the same size as a milk lid or greater so that they fit into the shredding machines.

Did you know that Halls Gap Neighbourhood House is a collection point for Lids4Kids. Please bring along your cleaned milk, water and soft drink lids to the us and we will arrange for collection by Horsham Rotary Club to deliver on our behalf.



A beautiful picture drawn on our whiteboard by a visitor to Halls Gap.



Creative crochet items done by our crafty ladies on a Wednesday. Join us in learning a new skill or share your craft passion.



A little bit of what's been quietly happening in the community garden of late, some weeding, composting, a little seed sowing (okay maybe a lot of seed sowing!) and hanging out with the very friendly resident chickens . There are plans to reactivate this area so if you are interest check out the latest happenings at your Halls Gap Community Garden on the Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/498381053576791>

Angie Redman



Local Markets



Pomonal Village Market
2024 Market Calendar

28th January
25th February
No Market in March
28th April
26th May
30th June
28th July
25th August
21st & 22nd Sept
29th September
27th October
24th November
29th December

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



Stawell Market
1st Sunday of the Month
Stawell Harness Race
Track
78 Patrick Street Stawell
3380

Halls Gap Market dates



Sunday 10th March
Sunday 31st March
Sunday 9th June
Sunday 29 September
Sunday 3rd Nov

Mark the dates in your calendar. The only market which supports the small school of Halls Gap and it vital to their fundraising. Over 70 stalls - Local Products - Local Produce - Food & drinks - Crafts & Giftwares - Homewares & clothing - Music & more
www.hallsgapmarkets.com.au



Moyston Easter Market

9-2pm Easter Saturday

March 30, 2024

Moyston Oval, Ararat-Halls Gap Rd



- ▶ Over 50 Market Stalls of local artisan goods, pre-loved items, and handcrafted gifts.
- ▶ Vintage/Classic Car and Motorbike Display.
- ▶ John Vanderwaal Long Kick Competition @ 11am.
- ▶ Live Music.
- ▶ Community BBQ.
- ▶ Country Kitchen Devonshire Tea.
- ▶ Coffee Vans.
- ▶ Kids Activities including FREE Easter Egg Trail.
- ▶ CFA Firewood Raffle.
- ▶ Doggo Refreshment Stations.
- ▶ Ample Free Onsite Parking.
- ▶ Giant Pumpkin Competition.
- Gold Coin Donation goes towards Moyston Community Improvement.

Our sponsors



Ararat Rural City



Email: moystoneastermarket@gmail.com

Look us up on Facebook  moyston easter market

FILL THE GAP COMMITTEE

David, Pam, Margo and Alison

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.



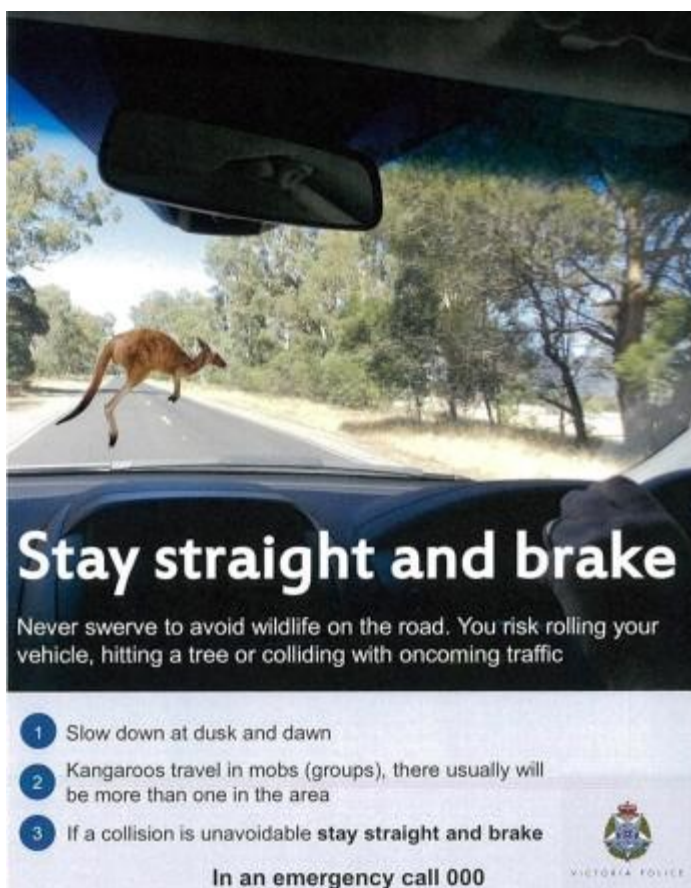
To keep up to date with what is happening in
Pomonal like **Pomonal Community Connections**
Facebook page and/or **Pomonal info &**
resources sharing Facebook Pages

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.



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

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**
- * **Halls Gap Neighbourhood House** - check the program at the house and online <https://hallsgapnhe.org.au/>
- * Various sport/fitness groups. Check the community website for details—