

# RURAL FRINGE

*Journal of the Hall district*



VOLUME 20 ISSUE 4

August 2013

## Hall Ball, 2013

It was a packed house on 29 June at the Pavilion when David Kilby did another splendid job as master of ceremonies for the annual Hall Ball – A Celebration of Community. A fabulous evening of fine food and company glittering with bling was punctuated with outrageous bidding on auction items, a superb raffle, and dancing through the night to the strains of our very own band West Texas Crude. The Pavilion was transformed into a fairy-lit wonderland - each table adorned with incredible artworks by our Hall Preschoolers, honouring Canberra's centenary with dioramas of Canberra landmarks.

The Ball has previously been run by the Hall Bushrangers football club. However, due to recent changes in the club, responsibility for the Ball has been passed to the Village of Hall and District Progress Association. Each year a charity will be chosen to receive a donation from the proceeds of the Ball. This year, the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia will receive our support. They are a worthy cause, and provide an excellent reminder for men to receive regular testing for their prostates and for their women partners to support and encourage them to do this. The Hall Preschool will also receive a donation.



more photos on back page



Organised beautifully for the first time by a community committee - with thanks to Shaun, Rowena, Anna, Angie, Trudy and Bob – this was an event that truly celebrated Hall. An event like this is only possible with local businesses and members of the community working together. The continued generosity of these businesses, many of whom are small in size but large in their spirit of giving, is what made this night so successful. The items donated for both the silent and live auctions were in hot demand with the amazing auctioneering skills of our very own Craig Sheargold entertaining the audience. Over \$7,500 was raised during the night, testament to the wonderful Hall community.

Another highlight was the live entertainment by LEMVIS, with the ladies swooned over by Elvis (yes, he is alive and well!), followed by an equally popular appearance by Johnny Cash.

Be sure to get your tickets early next year so you don't miss this popular annual event.

## Alert for female residents of NSW with 2618 post code

In May this year we discovered there had been some recent changes to delivery of the National Breast Screening Program, such that as NSW residents we are no longer eligible to access these services through ACT Health.

The main issues were:

- we should have been notified of these changes and it seems we were not. Our ACT postcode could be the reason for this lack of notification
- we are now required to access services through NSW Health in Yass, Queanbeyan or Goulburn
- since the middle of 2011 when we believe these changes occurred, it seems we have not been receiving our reminders for mammograms
- we are concerned that many women in our area of NSW may have slipped under the radar with possible serious health consequences.
- are our General Practitioners aware of these changes and the potential health risk to their NSW patients?
- it begs the question whether there have been similar changes to other health services provided by the ACT for NSW residents.

In order to find out more about our situation we have contacted the offices of Katrina Hodgkinson (NSW Member for Burrinjuck), Tanya Plibersek (Federal Health Minister), State Minister and Shadow Minister for Health and Yass Valley Council.

There has been a considerable amount of interest in this cross border issue and to date there has been an interview on WIN News on Friday 28 June and an article in the *Yass Tribune*, Friday 5 July (available online).

Councillor Jasmin Jones (Yass Valley Council Health Advisory Committee Chair) is currently engaging with Steve Toms, NSW Cross Board Commissioner, Jillian Skinner, NSW Minister for Health & Medical Research and Katy Gallagher, ACT Chief Minister and Minister for Health.

At this stage we do not have a complete picture of the emerging situation, but feel it important to ensure that NSW residents accustomed to receiving Breast Screening Services through ACT Health are aware of the current state of play. The NSW service is still free while it is our understanding any appointments made with the ACT service will attract the full cost of \$300 for NSW residents who want the convenience of the ACT service. There is no reimbursement available at the moment for this.

Please pass this information on to other women in NSW who may be affected by these changes.

(note: If you dial 13 20 50 from a telephone in NSW to make an appointment, your call will automatically be transferred to NSW Health.

If you dial from a telephone located in the ACT you will probably be asked if you are a resident of the ACT.)

Val Wiseman and Judy Roberts

### Walloo Rural Fire Brigade

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Farewell to some of our

# Memorial Grove Trees



Removal of diseased trees from the Memorial Grove took place in the first week of April, following a community meeting at The Cottage on 7 March.

Alastair Crombie has uncovered an amazing article from a 1919 edition of the Queanbeyan Age, describing the day these trees were planted in honour of each soldier enlisted from Hall and district.

We have reproduced that article in full, on the following pages ...

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## Peace Day at Hall

from our correspondent

Peace Day was celebrated at Hall with a vim and unanimity which characterised the union of the people and their whole-hearted sympathy in the sentiment of the day, and their earnest desire to impress upon the minds of young Australia the paramount importance of the event. Hall, Weetangara, Wantagong, Mulligan's Flat and Gungahleen schools united in a combined picnic for the occasion and representatives from all these centres were in full force. The cold day and unfortunate recent accident in the district were largely responsible for absence of many well known faces. Fully three hundred were present, and old and young joined whole-heartedly in making the function the 'day of days.' The committee had arranged for the planting of a tree in the Hall Park in honour of each soldier who enlisted from this neighbourhood. The idea is beautifully expressive of the esteem and honor in which these noble lads are held here and will ever be a living monument to their heroism and self-sacrifice, each year succeeding in beauty and size the previous one, until at last they will intermingle and stand as a noble symbol of strength and beauty as did the flower of Australia's army on the battlefields of the west.

The trees were provided and selected by Mr C. Weston, of the Yarralumla nursery and who, in conjunction with Mr S. Kilby, planted the trees. The kindness of these gentlemen is highly appreciated by the relatives of the soldiers and also by the committee. Three of the soldiers have paid the supreme sacrifice, viz., Privates Clyde Hollingsworth, Morley Brown and Mack Southwell. The latter soldier was on the staff of the Yarralumla nursery, and a tree was planted to his memory at the request of Mr Weston. The refreshments were under the able supervision of Mrs C. W. Thompson, who was greatly assisted by Mesdames A. McDonald, C. Southwell, E. Brown, W. Munday, J. K. Kilby, G. Kinlyside, J. C. Tickner, J. Moore, E. Cameron, Misses Blake and G. Brown. The viands delighted the hearts of the juveniles, and the lady attendants had more than a busy time in supplying the wants of the youngsters. Mr. Kinlyside with his usual thoughtfulness and kindness, handed over the spacious hall to the ladies in charge of refreshment.

Mr C. W. Southwell, JP, President of the Presentation Committee, addressing the gathering said he knew they were all well aware of the purpose for which they had assembled. The day had been proclaimed a public holiday, but it was more than a holiday, it was the day upon which they had met to celebrate Peace. He felt certain they were all fully impressed with the importance of the day, and therefore he would not unduly stress its greatness, but would content himself by asking them to contrast it with what might have been had we been defeated. Their freedom would have been most unceremoniously filched from them and their power as an Empire crumbled to dust. During the

long years of the war they held in suspense and for a time things looked 'blue.' Belgium was outraged, France trampled in the dust; then it was that our men with the spirit and fire of the Greeks of old, pressed forward into the ranks of the great opposing army and stood shoulder to shoulder with the allies from other climes and proved themselves as soldiers and fighters second to none in the universe. It is to such men they owed their liberty, freedom and peace that day. The trees they were planting that day were in honor of their own men who fought so gloriously. These trees would ever remind them of the part played by their soldiers, and in a great measure would resemble them, standing so nobly and grand, facing the elements as their lads faced the awful horrors of war that the right might prevail. They would ever be an object lesson to the rising generation of what their brothers and fathers did for them, that their freedom might be retained. In conclusion he felt he was re-echoing the sentiment of every heart present when he said they sincerely and gratefully thanked God for Peace.

Captain Sam Southwell said it was essentially a children's day and he would like to confine his remarks to the little ones. He said the thing that would count with them as they went through life was character. It was easy to mar their whole life by contracting bad habits at a very early age and therefore he would like to impress upon them the necessity of careful observation of the truth. Own up when you do wrong, although the easier way would point to denying the truth. Be obedient to all those placed over you and in that respect resemble the soldiers whom we have met

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to honour today. Love your country, for God in His goodness has given you the finest land on God's earth and should necessity arise stand up nobly and bravely and fight for it as the men did in whose honour we are planting these trees. Look upon these trees as a monument erected to celebrate the deeds of great and good men and let each of you consider that it is your bounden duty to foster and care for them.

Mr C.W.Thompson read Captain Bean's address and the planting of the trees was commenced. It is interesting to note that these trees have been placed under the care of the Hall school children who have undertaken to visit them monthly, water and care for them and when leaving school to hand their charge to another pupil. Surely a beautiful practical lesson in civics which should bear fruit in patriotism as the years roll by. At the conclusion of the planting, Capt. Sam Southwell moved a hearty vote of thanks to Messrs Weston and Kilby for the services rendered during the day. He said they were particularly grateful to Mr Weston for supplying the trees and then at much inconvenience to himself coming along to plant them. The vote was carried with three hearty cheers. Mr Weston thanked Mr Southwell for his kind remarks, but said he did not expect any thanks as it was a labour of love to perpetuate the memory of those who had sacrificed so much for our benefit. He extended a cordial invitation to all to visit the Yarralumla nursery and see what was being done.

A programme of sports occupied the remainder of the afternoon. The following are the results of the juvenile portion of the programme:

*Boys' race 5 years and under.* Archie Southwell 1, E. Gozzard 2, E. Hall 3  
*Boys under 6,* H. Reilly 1, C. Kevans 2, K Crace 3  
*Boys under 7,* A Hildred 1, S Cameron 2, A McDonald 3  
*Boys under 8,* N Burton 1, A McClung 2, J Hall 3  
*Boys under 9,* E Southwell 1, A Gozzard 2  
*Boys under 10,* T Southwell 1, D McDonald 2, R Shumack 3  
*Boys under 11,* B. Shumack 1, F. Hall 2, A Southwell 3  
*Boys under 12,* Bruce Kilby 1, O Southwell 2  
*Boys under 13,* O. Southwell 1, J Hall 2  
*Three-legged race,* F Hall and B Kilby 1, K Thompson and K Southwell 2  
*Sack race,* F Hall 1, B Kilby 2  
*Beheading the Kaiser,* E Hall 1, O Southwell 2  
*Boy and dog race,* J Hall 1, B Kilby 2  
*Medley race,* T Lucas 1, F Hall 2  
*Ticket race,* K Thompson 1, R Crace 2  
*Kicking the football,* J Hall 1, O Southwell 2  
*Relay race team of five,* J Hall, B Kilby, A Southwell, T Southwell and K Thompson  
*Potato Race,* B Kilby 1, T Lucas 2  
*Pushing contest,* K Thompson 1, A Southwell 2  
*Hurdle race,* E Lucas and B Kilby  
*Girls 5 and under,* Elsie George 1, Hilda George 2, Hazel Crace 3  
*Girls under 7,* Iris Kinlyside 1, Hilda Gozzard 2  
*Girls under 8,* Ivy Lucas 1, Ruby Munday 2, May Coleman 3  
*Girls under 9,* Dulcie Southwell 1, Pearl Gozzard and

Kathleen Thompson 2  
*Girls 10 years and under,* Grace Kilby 1, Thelma Tickner 2, Annie Cavanagh 3  
*Girls 11 and under,* Freda Cameron, Merle Gribble and Gwen Tickner tied for 1st, Thelma Cameron and Frena Crace tied for 2nd  
*Girls 12 and under,* Zeta Gribble 1, Helen Crace and Edna Gozzard tied for 2nd  
*Girls 13 and under,* Eliza Gozzard 1, Doris Lucas 2, Mollie Buckmaster 3  
*Girls 14 and under,* Edith Webber 1, Beryl Kilby 2, Mary Cavanagh 3  
*Three-legged race,* Merle Gribble and Grace Kilby 1, Iris Kinlyside and Connie Bradley 2  
*Potato Race,* Thelma Tickner 1, Doris Lucas 2  
*Ticket-race,* Doris Lucas 1, Gwen Tickner 2  
*Skipping contest,* Zeta Gozzard 1, Thelma Tickner 2  
*Relay race,* Beryl Kilby, Crace Kilby, Merle Gribble, Gweneth Tickner, Zeta Gribble, Zeta Gozzard  
*Medley race,* Edith Webber 1, Mollie Buckmaster 2  
*Beheading the Kaiser,* Edith Webber, Freda Cameron, Thelma Cameron and Edna Gozzard each beheaded him  
*Sack race,* Zeta Gribble 1, Edna Gozzard 2  
*Hopping contest,* Freda Cameron, Heather Cameron and Thelma Cameron tied.

The stewards of the adult portion of the programme neglected to hand in results and consequently they are not available for publication. A Peace Ball terminated the proceedings and the day will long be remembered as one of the most successful functions held in the neighbourhood.



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## Weather and Climate: Clearing the air

1:30–4:00pm Saturday 17 August  
Yass Soldiers Club, 86 Meehan St, Yass

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*Listen to three experts in their fields talking about different aspects of climate change and its relevance to local communities.*

### The art and science of weather forecasting

Mr Clem Davis: Retired meteorologist from the Bureau of Meteorology and Visiting Fellow at the Fenner School of Environment and Society. Clem worked for the Bureau for 33 years and was OIC of the Canberra Meteorological Office for nine years.

### Droughts, fires and flooding rains

Associate Professor Janette Lindesay, Fenner School of Environment and Society: Associate Professor Lindesay is a climatologist who has carried out extensive research into climate drivers such as ENSO and into seasonal climate prediction. She is deputy director of the Fenner School of Environment and Society and acting director of the ANU Climate Change Institute.

### What we know about climate change

Professor Will Steffen: Former director of the ANU Climate Change Institute and an Australian Government Climate Change Commissioner. Professor Steffen has an international reputation in climate change and its impacts.

*These talks are specifically orientated to a non-scientific audience; a Q & A session will follow the talks. Light refreshments will be served.*

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## FireBall !

**Saturday 24th August, 7.00 pm**

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our well known local band.  
There will be a live auction during the evening.  
A great night guaranteed!



\$70.00 per head, booking essential. Dress casual.

Bookings and payment to Poachers Pantry, phone 62302487.

All proceeds from this event will go to the local  
Hall volunteer Rural Fire Brigade.

We would welcome support from our local residents.  
Book a table of 10, or come as a single and meet new friends.

We would welcome as many donations as possible  
for the auction on the night,  
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In the past we have supported our local brigades Wallaroo  
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# Celebrations and sadness at St Michaels

by **Angie Hazlehurst**



On Sunday 30th June, the parish of St Michael and All Angels celebrated the blessing of the newly constructed ramp at the front of the Church. It was a gloriously sunny morning that saw Rev Trish Stuart-Smith bless the ramp and all that would use it in the years to come. Heartfelt thanks were extended to everyone in the Parish, the Hall and wider community and our Diocese who were involved in the planning, organising, developing and constructing of the ramp. The vision that was born some 30 years ago has finally come to fruition! Now everyone requiring any manner of 'wheeled assistance' can easily get to the Church entrance.

Please come along and have a look, try out the ramp, and maybe even stay for the Sunday service (I am every Sunday) . . . the morning tea afterwards is becoming legendary!



However, it was with much sadness, and the odd tear in the eye, that the Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Hall, and St Barnabas, Charnwood, has farewelled our Priest-in-Charge, the Rev Trish Stuart-Smith. On Sunday 7 July, the combined congregations gathered to farewell Trish in a very heartfelt and moving service. As a parting gift and as testament to her loving care of the Parish, Trish honoured all present with an individual blessing. It was a truly wonderful experience.

Trish has been with the Parish for the last 3 years and during this time has committed herself to growing and guiding us, nurturing and supporting us, teaching and leading us. Many wonderful ministries have begun during this time and existing ministries continue with refreshed energy. (see the website for more information on activities in the Parish at [www.saint-barnabas.org](http://www.saint-barnabas.org).)

Trish and her husband, Peter, are moving to Tasmania where Trish will be leading a new prayer ministry. We wish Trish and Peter all the very best in this next phase of their lives. We also embrace the Rev Helen Dean (our assistant priest for a number of years), as she leads the Parish until Trish's replacement is announced.

## 2013 Master Builders and CBUS Excellence in Building Awards Winner for Outstanding Craftmanship

Select Custom Joinery's passion for creating high quality, furniture style sustainable kitchens and interior fit-outs has paid off yet again in 2013. The business has been awarded for their Craftmanship – an award they have won for the past three years.



The kitchen was quite a challenge as part of the kitchen was designed to be on an angle, which then went 'through' the wall. The bulkhead was also angled to work with the angle of the wall. There was also the distance from Select Custom Joinery's workshop in rural Hall to the Central Tilba location of the clients' house. 'The secret to our success with this kitchen was good planning', explains Gino Monteleone, Select Custom Joinery's Manager. 'The planning put into each stage, ensured a good outcome in all areas.'

Several years ago, the business created a unique niche in the industry when they decided to ban MDF, laminate and particle board products from their workshop; concentrating solely on producing high quality kitchens and interior fit-outs using only timber and sustainable materials, such as bamboo. The planning paid off and clients now seek out Select Custom Joinery for the unique materials they work with and their attention to detail.

For more information visit: [www.selectcustomjoinery.com.au](http://www.selectcustomjoinery.com.au)

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# from the President

Gavin Mansfield



'Calling all residents!' to the VHDP annual general meeting to be held at the Pavilion on the evening of Wednesday 21 August 2013. There are two options really:

**ONE:** Come along. See and hear what is happening in the village and the region. Listen to the ideas and suggestions of others and offer some yourself. There is bound to be an area of interest that you have. Be it the preservation or progress of our region, the involvement in or commencement of a community group or endeavour, or simply to meet up with known or as yet unknown neighbours. There is absolutely nothing to lose.

**TWO:** Don't come. Don't bother. Let whatever will be come to pass and complain about it later. Leave it all up to others or the government.

'But I don't have the time'!?! Really, truly? Who does? I urge you to reconsider if this really is the case. If it is, send money instead as it too is useful.

## VHDP Annual General Meeting

7:30 pm

Wednesday 21 August 2013

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# Rotary news



by **Brian Goldstraw**

The Rotary Club of Hall held its changeover dinner at The Abbey on Tuesday 25 June. At this annual event the “old team” handover the reins to the “new team”. To celebrate the evening the Hall Club was joined by Rotarians from several other Canberra Rotary clubs. Guests included the Past District Governor Rob Woolley (2011-12) and his wife Beth. This year the Hall Club was very pleased to be also joined by guests from the Hall community. During the evening the club was pleased to induct a new member, Graeme Finney and presented a number of awards within the club and in recognition of community work by members of the Hall community.

Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) awards were presented to Past Presidents Barbara Baikie and Adrienne Moss recognising their contribution to the club and service to the community and in particular the contribution by both to the District Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) program. This year the club also recognised the contribution of the wives of several charter members who made a major contribution to the community service work of the club over many years, including the Australia Day Breakfasts and many of the club’s projects in the early days. The wives being recognised are Mary Helen Hodson, Cynthia Southwell, Nanette Howard, Caroline O’Clery and Velma Spencer (some may say this recognition was long overdue!). Unfortunately not all were present to receive their awards but they will be presented with their awards on a suitable occasion.

In presenting the PHF awards the club recognises both the contribution of service of the individuals being awarded but also the financial contribution made by the club to The Rotary Foundation. This is Rotary’s own foundation which supports many humanitarian projects around the world. Its most significant project is currently the eradication of polio worldwide.

The club also presented three Community Service awards recognising service by members of the Hall

community. Phil Robson was presented with this award for his many years work researching and recording the history of the Hall district and his part in coordinating the Schools Exhibition in the Hall Public School last year and the exhibition at the same venue in April this year for the ACT Heritage week and marking Canberra’s centenary celebrations. A Community Service award was presented for the work of the “Organising Committee” of the 2013 Hall Centenary Street Party. As the key organisers were not present this award was accepted on their behalf by Gavin Mansfield. The Hall Club also wished to recognise Garie Greenwood for her long and dedicated contribution and voluntary service to the Hall community. Unfortunately Garie was not present to receive her award but will be presented with it on a suitable occasion.



President Ralph Southwell (centre) with the 2013-14 Board (left to right) Chris Edwards, Janine Linklater, Brian Goldstraw, President Ralph Southwell, Tony Tucker, Paul Tyrrell, Yvonne Robson and Vic Gibbons



Bill Pearson and Jo Hall admire Phil Robson’s community service award for his heritage work at Hall school



# Wet weather creates Issues for horses' hooves

Dr. Natasha Hovanessian Canberra Equine Hospital

Although our pastures and gardens love the recent rains, unfortunately our horses' hooves don't cope well with being wet for days on end. Problems such as hoof abscesses, thrush, seedy toe and stressed, cracked hoof walls can result. This article will discuss these problems and suggest how to prevent and manage these issues when the rains come.

**Hoof Abscesses** are common in wet weather conditions and will often make a horse very lame to the point they won't put the foot down on the ground. This is because there is not much room in the hoof and the extra fluid of the abscess creates pressure which is extremely painful. Hoof abscesses can come on quickly and usually be localised with hoof testers and then the site opened up and drained. To many people's surprise, the pus that comes out of a hoof abscess is actually black. A poultice is usually applied for a few days to encourage further drainage and the foot can be soaked in warm Epsom salt water. Hoof abscesses can advance to involve the coronary band and become very serious with the risk of the hoof sloughing off, so should be addressed promptly.



Hoof abscess on right side of foot

**Thrush** is a bacterial infection of the sole of the foot and easily detected by the characteristic foul-smelling black material that collects on and around the frog, as well as migrating out toward the hoof wall. It can spread to involve structures deeper within the foot, becoming a serious problem. Standing in wet, muddy ground or on soiled bedding, where the foot is constantly moist, is a typical cause for the infection. Horses with deep sulci around the frog may be more prone to thrush. Horses are rarely lame with thrush unless it is severe and has migrated into the deeper hoof structures. Affected animals should be moved into a clean, dry environment and the hooves picked out twice daily. Your veterinarian can advise on the best product to apply



Mild case of thrush on sole

to the sole of the foot, but dilute iodine (Betadine), sprayed on daily is appropriate in mild cases. Hoof trimming may be required to remove the affected tissues. The best treatment for thrush is prevention by providing the horse with a clean, dry environment.

**Seedy Toe** (also known as White Line Disease) is caused by separation of the hoof wall from its laminar attachment and can be seen externally at the junction of the hoof wall and sole. Separation or openings along the white line allows bacteria and fungal organisms to invade the foot and produces cavities between the laminae and outer hoof wall. The white line may be filled with white crumbly material. Environmental conditions of continually wet, but also very dry pastures, predispose to development of cracks in the white line. Horses with chronic laminitis, causing a stretched and widened white line, or a poor quality hoof wall that develops cracks, are particularly prone. Lameness may result but it is important to rule out other causes before assuming the lameness is due to seedy toe. Treatment may be simple with application of iodine swabs, or require

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therapeutic farrier care by removal of the separated outer hoof wall to prevent crevices that can harbor bacteria. Large defects in the hoof wall may require protection and application of a prosthetic hoof wall repair with plastic acrylic. Your veterinarian will be able to recommend a course of action if your horse has seedy toe. Horses with poor quality hoof wall or laminitis are prone to recurrence, but again, providing an area of dry footing in wet conditions is the key to prevention.



*White line disease showing invasion into hoof*

**Poor hoof wall quality and hoof wall cracks** are other frustrating, common conditions that are exacerbated by wet weather. Excessive moisture weakens the hoof wall, causing it to flatten or collapse with normal weight bearing, particularly at the heel which causes corns and heel bruising. A weakened hoof wall may not hold nails and will separate in a manner comparable to wet plywood. Regular farrier attention, applying hoof oil and again, keeping the feet dry will help with these problems.

In relation to our previous month's article on Strangles and Hendra Vaccination, now is a great time to vaccinate for Hendra because it the peak time of year for horses to get Hendra infections (most recently in early July on the NSW mid north coast).

If we can assist with providing further information about managing your horse's feet this winter, or to receive your first Hendra vaccine, please contact Canberra Equine Hospital at:  
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# Gardening

## The Great Unlevelling

by Lisa Walmsley

As I wander around gardens in the district, it has become alarmingly apparent that garden folk are scared of working with levels and don't know how to deal with the varying levels in their gardens.

I personally love levels in gardens, probably because many of my own gardens have been flat, but mainly because they broaden your gardening horizons and provide a wider scope of opportunity to create different spaces. Gardens without levels require extra effort to create a feel of level change to provide a vertical element.

Yes, levels can be expensive to rectify and if too steep can become problems of their own accord.

Levels can cause problems with movement and rest, steep slopes are difficult to maneuver around and can be treacherous when wet. Levels can also create big problems with drainage, and if handled badly can make it worse. (I have a client who put in a wonderful pool in a cut below the house, but after the first massive downpour, the pool filled with mud, which naturally snow-balled into more issues.)

Lawn on slopes can also be difficult with both mowing and irrigation.

Many levels can be dealt with by terracing the slope which creates level 'steps' across the slope. This is a way of moving minimal soil and therefore less expense.

When creating multiple levels across a slope, you can create a series of unique micro-climates, each with its own character and usage. This can create a rich experience with each level providing a stage setting.

Paths can weave their way through the series of terraces, water looks wonderful cascading down in a series of waterfalls. Walls and terraces tend to capture warmth, pergolas provide shade and different plant material adds a stunning dimension to your slope.

Walls add a sense of space that flat land cannot, with an immersion in the three dimensional space created from many layers.

When it comes to practicality and \$\$, level gardens are preferred. Soil and mulch can wash away in heavy rain, and the runoff doesn't soak in to the soil as it should, leaving plants thirsty.



When it comes to the look you want to achieve with your terracing it may be worth thinking outside the square, the traditional sleeper or brick retaining walls may prove to be a little dated when you could have a more contemporary look with gabion baskets or large stones, both look amazing and are sustainable. Another wonderful effect is using soil in 'mounds' in interesting shapes such as those created in *The Garden of Cosmic Speculation*, created by Charles Jencks.

Don't be frightened of your levels, embrace them, get creative and your garden will be stunning.

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# Museum

## Musings



**Phil Robson** Honorary Curator

We are now at the start of a new financial year and it now timely to suggest to those interested in becoming a 'Friend of the Hall School Museum' to join now or if already a 'Friend' that you may like to renew your membership and continue to support our wonderful Museum. The cost is \$20 per annum which also includes membership to the Village of Hall and District Progress Association. The 'Friends' form appears at the end of this article.

Word about the fabulous displays at the Museum is spreading. There have been regular groups of visitors to the Hall School Museum since the 'Hall and District 1913' in April. With the variety of the displays now in place, the museum is becoming more of a heritage centre for the district. This evolution is great as not only has there been more visitors but the number of Friends of the Museum has also grown.

Among the many recent visitors to the Museum were ex-Hall Village long term residents Nancy Tingey, who ran the Hall Village historical society and Mandy and Brenton Perry. Mandy was responsible for the School Museum for a time when the Hall Primary School was in operation.

I was recently overwhelmed by being presented with a 'Community Services Award' by the Rotary Club of Hall for the work done at the Museum with the preservation and display of the collection and engaging with other organisations in the village to develop a communal spirit. I greatly appreciate this award but it is important to recognise that none of this fabulous work would have been done without the dedicated team of volunteers who come along to the Museum every Thursday morning and other times when necessary, and who volunteer to be guides for our visitors. I therefore share this award with all of them.

The 'Early Schools of the ACT' Project is well under way. A team went to the State Archives in Sydney recently and spent two days going through numerous old school files and indexes gathering material to research and present as part of the exhibition in October this year.

The 'Early Schools' Project Co-ordinator, Alastair Crombie, and I also visited Neil Gillespie, who is the custodian of his father Lyall's extensive collection of early Canberra and region history to examine material relevant to these early schools. We were rewarded with the loan of old photographs and information on these schools. To our surprise and delight Neil also donated a few of Lyall's old school books that he used when a pupil at Hall School for inclusion in the Hall School collection.

One of the loaned photos (below) shows the Cotter River tent school erected in 1914 when the Cotter River dam was being constructed. It closed in 1917 when the dam was completed. This is just one of the many photos and stories that will be featured in the October exhibition.



Cotter River Tent School Lyall Gillespie Collection

Thursday mornings is the time to meet with our team of conservation volunteers and the Hall Men's Shedders. If you would like to join us, we meet at the Hall Primary School from 9am until 12noon. There is tea and coffee each week and a BBQ every month! These mornings have become a regular community gathering. Come along and meet the gang!

See the Hall School Museum's Annual Report for 2012-13 at: <http://museum.hall.act.au/read/1103/hall-school-museum-annual-report.html>



### MEMBERSHIP FORM

#### Friends of Hall School Museum

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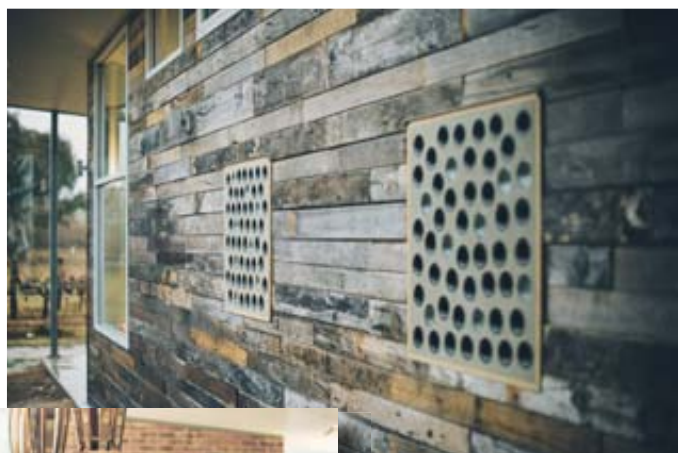
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note: this subscription also gives membership of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc, the parent body.



# Four Winds Cellar Door

**Bill Crowe** Winemaker



Four Winds Vineyard is very excited to have opened their new cellar door on the 1st of June. The opening saw around 400 people in attendance, including Senator Ursula Stephens and a great Reggae band from Sydney. The cellar door utilises an array of repurposed materials from around the farm, including old wooden picking bins to clad the building, old barrels for tables, lights and the bar top, wine bottle windows and a shipping container has been converted into offices. The team at Four Winds Vineyard is offering fantastic wines from their vineyard located in the heart of the Murrumbateman wine country, including Riesling, Sangiovese, Merlot, Cabernet Merlot, Shiraz and Dessert Riesling. They are also offering gourmet wood fired pizzas from 12- 4pm on weekends and public holidays.


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# Hall Karate students excel in grading

by **John (Sam) Steggal**

Congratulations to the Hall Karate Club students who successfully completed their grading in June. Here are the grading results:

*7th kyu:* Marjorie Crombie, Natalie Carroll, Zanthe Sheargold and Willoughby Mansfield

*8th kyu:* Sid Sheargold, Ruby Sheargold and Darcy Mansfield

*9th kyu:* Layla O'Connor, Kevin Shaw and Atticus Mansfield



We believe in celebrating our successes, and with the help of Gavin and Trudy Mansfield the karate club took over the Hall Premier Store one Tuesday night for a fantastic dinner of pasta, salads and garlic bread. Family and friends came along and 30 of us squeezed in for a fun night. Thanks to Gavin, Trudy and all the helpers.



The dinner was preceded by a special training session at the Hall pavilion, dojo taken by 5th dan guest instructor sensei Paul Parlett from Goulburn. Other senior Canberra black belts Rob, TJ, Bill and Larisa from the Miali dojo attended this special training session and joined us for the dinner afterwards. The grading certificates had been presented to the Hall students in the dojo, so sensei Paul took the opportunity to present Rob with his 3rd dan certificate at the dinner. It takes a lot of work to gain a grading; congratulations again to those who were successful. The next grading for Hall students will be in November, so keep training and the results will come.

*New members are always welcome; contact John (Sam) Steggall on 0430 153 375*




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# Outfoxing the fox

by **Glynda Bluhm**

Alpaca Magic – Llama Magic – Donkey Magic

So you've heard about llamas being great fox chasers? But if they are, how good are they? How do they do it? How many llamas do you need to achieve that purpose?

What do they eat? How much care does a llama need? Will your fences keep them in? How long does a llama live?

How much does a llama cost? How does that price equate with other fox control methods – like human fox patrol and shooting, baiting, Maremma dogs, alpacas etc?

Yes, llamas are elite fox chasers. They bond with sheep, alpacas, goats, deer and even poultry, guarding them from predators. Once they establish a paddock as 'their territory' it is instinctive for them to rid their paddock of foxes. They bond with the sheep flock, which is not all that obvious until the lambs begin to drop, when the llamas become addicted to their "lamb-sitting" duties. There are a multitude of stories about the incredible dedication of llamas caring for each member of their flock.

Several years ago, the foxes at my Sutton property enjoyed regular chicken takeaways. Thirty chicken dinners (the fox's dinners) later we decided that if we were ever to see an egg again, we had better do something – so we pursued a shooting regime to reduce the foxes – but the respite was short lived – new foxes moved in.

Then my llamas arrived. Now I scarcely see a fox, or if I do it is in full flight pursued by the llamas. They just won't tolerate the intrusion of a fox or unknown dog on their turf.

When a llama spots danger, he makes a shrill neighing sound (the alarm call) and begins to 'eye-ball' his opponent. Often this is sufficient to intimidate a fox, but if not the llama won't hesitate to harass, chase and stomp on the fox – if the fox's retreat isn't fast enough. Any fox surviving a llama attack, is sure to seek a 'llama free' paddock in which to find his take-away dinner!

A NSW Southern Tablelands sheep farmer said his lamb losses to fox predation dropped to nil with the addition of two llamas. I asked him how he made that assessment, and he said that twice daily he counted the lambs. He also said that a few new-born lambs died during a very cold snap and the carcasses weren't

even touched! He had to help a ewe deliver her lamb and said that the llamas stood nearby protesting and sometimes, when their instinct got the better of them, even pushing the farmer away. Presumably, even though they knew the farmer, they were concerned that he was 'attacking' their lamb.

Another farmer, noticing the absence of his llama, spotted him away from the flock at the far end of the paddock. On inspection it was found that one ewe had strayed into an adjacent paddock and was unable to rejoin the flock. The llama guarded her until the farmer could help return her to the flock. Other reports of llamas guarding sick and orphaned lambs are common and one farmer says that one day his llama was so distressed that the farmer followed the llama to the dam where several ewes were bogged in the mud.

Certainly conventional farmers are understandably skeptical about such anecdotes but American studies bear out these claims.



Prof. William Franklin of Iowa State University researched the benefits of guardian llamas used by 145 US sheep farmers. The llamas guarded flocks between four to 2,100 sheep, the usual average being between 250 - 300 sheep in paddocks averaging 250 - 300 acres. Prior to the introduction of llamas the farmer's losses to predation averaged 11% and after the introduction of llamas farmers reported 1% losses. Over 50% of these farmers said their losses had dropped to zero!

Of the farmers surveyed, about 50% saw their llamas interact with potential predators – coyote, dog, fox and bear (presumably brown bear, but Koalas Beware!). A variety of responses were noted including: alarm call (32%); run at predator (62%); pursue fleeing predator (58%); kick/strike predator (21%); round up sheep and protect (34%); or position himself between predator and sheep (8%). Many llamas exhibited several of the above strategies and some llamas killed coyotes and other predators.

Franklin's research suggests that one llama will bond better with his ovine charges than having two or more llamas. I have spoken to many people who believe two llamas are better. Obviously a llama can only be in one place at a time and depending on the size of the lambing mob(s), the topography and the size of the

paddock, more than one llama may be a better option. Once lambing is complete in one mob of ewes, llamas will readily accept responsibility for a new flock. A llama's lifespan is 20+ years, so you can expect 24 hour a day fox surveillance 365 days a year for around 20 years or so.

Llamas eat much the same as sheep, but they also enjoy coarse feed – rushes, brambles etc in their diet. If your sheep don't require supplementary feeding, neither should your llama. Llamas are very easy on fences – fences that keep sheep in will keep llamas in.

Llamas are remarkably hardy, but they do require maintenance – Clostridial disease vaccination (eg 5/1 vaccine) preferably twice per year, and regular drenching. Llamas don't suffer from flystrike or footrot and lice infestation is rare. Most llamas are shorn annually or bi-annually with an electric hand-piece. Depending on the type of country, llamas may require the occasional trimming of their toenails (this is an easy task) if they are to remain fleet of foot.

Are llamas cost effective?

How many lambs do you think you lose to foxes per annum? (How many more might you be losing to foxes?) What is the value of a weaning lamb? Multiply your cost of lamb losses per annum by 20 years and you'll have an idea of how much it costs not to have a llama guardian. There are unseen costs too, such as slower growth rates due to stress by intruders.

For 20+ years protection, a llama costs from around \$1,500 (ie under \$100 per annum) for a guardian. Pet, show or performance geldings or males as well as breeding females are of course considerably more expensive.

What about other guardians?

Alpacas will also act as guardians. The alpaca is a cheaper alternative, but not as effective as the llama. (In the US many alpaca farmers keep a llama to protect their alpacas from coyotes!). The llama is the ultimate fox chaser.

The llama's large ears, together with his wool-less head allow both excellent vision and hearing. His height of around two metres makes him an ideal fox-sighting sentry. At 160 – 200 kg, he is two or three times heavier than the alpaca thus posing a much greater threat to a fox. The more athletic llama has greater speed and stamina, which he uses to great advantage to relentlessly pursue invaders.

Maremma guardian dogs cost around \$ 500 to buy and about the same

amount to maintain each year. They must be trained and handled correctly if they are to guard lambs. A Maremma who fails to do his duty, or isn't sufficiently well fed, may even decide to eat his charges! The working life of a Maremma is less than half that of a llama. Prof. Franklin's research suggests that 50% of US guard dogs die (due to disease, accident or culling before three years of age).

Baiting is considered by many to be a two edged sword - get rid of the fox and maybe lose the sheepdog, or the house dog to a fox bait too. Those who lean towards organic farming and permaculture may have environmental concerns about baiting too. Both shooting and baiting require ongoing labour.

What do you look for in buying a guardian llama?

Obviously a large, alert, athletic llama is an advantage. If you want him to work now a mature llama of two years or more has developed a sense of 'territory'. Naturally some llamas are more territorial than others. If you want the llama as a guardian next year, you may chose to buy a weanling and put him in with the sheep immediately. It is necessary to castrate males intended for guardian duties as some entire males find their female charges quite enticing and their amorous attentions have been know to injure ewes and their lambs.

Llamas are happy to 'mind' all sorts of livestock – especially babies. They need no special feed, and for 20+ years fox protection they are both effective and cost effective. It is no surprise that those innovative farmers using llamas for 24 hour fox chasers are delighted with their new 'weapon'. The best ideas are often the simplest ones.

For more information contact: Glynda Bluhm

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email: [glynda@alpacamagic.com.au](mailto:glynda@alpacamagic.com.au)

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### Barton Highway delegation meets Minister Duncan Gay

The Mayor of Yass Valley, Rowena Abbey, recently led a delegation that presented the Barton Highway petition containing 6,500 signatures, along with a study showing a substantial rise in traffic volumes on the road, to the NSW Minister for Roads and Ports, The Hon. Duncan Gay. The delegation comprised the Mayor of Harden, Chris Manchester, Mayor of Goulburn Mulwaree, Geoff Kettle and the coalition candidate for the Federal seat of Hume, Angus Taylor. The petition and study have also been presented to both the Prime Minister and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The delegation expressed its concern to the Minister about ongoing safety issues on the Barton Highway which recently resulted in yet another fatality. The Minister outlined his support for Yass Valley's endeavours to have the Federal Government provide funding for improvements and ultimate duplication of the highway as well as Council's proposal for the State Government to develop

a strategic plan for the upgrading of the Barton Highway. Mayor Rowena Abbey said that 'Council is looking forward to the development of the strategic plan and that such a document will provide a stronger basis for lobbying the Federal Government for funding and hopefully outline an improvement program to the local community'.

### Minister 'signs off' on the Yass Valley LEP 2013

Yass Valley Council has received confirmation that the Hon. Brad Hazzard, NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has formally 'signed off' the Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013. The LEP came into effect as of 19 July 2013, and repeals the Yass LEP 1987, Gunning LEP 1997 and Yarrawlumla LEP 2002 as they applied to the Yass Valley Local Government Area.

The new LEP provides for the expansion of Yass and its supporting towns and villages and has been underpinned by solid strategic planning, namely the Industrial Lands and Commercial Precinct Studies and the Yass Valley Town and Villages Study.

The Yass Valley LEP and maps can now be viewed online at: [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au)



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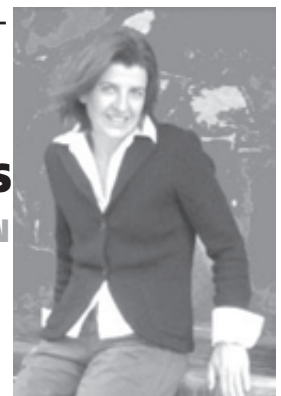
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## from the Editor . . .

So two big elections coming up. One for the Village of Hall and District Progress Association and one for the country. I've been contemplating the big issues for each.

For Hall, in my mind the biggest issue we have is the future use of the school site. Securing the future of the Preschool by moving it to a permanent building that will meet the 2015 requirements, including new toilets. Developing a consensus around the long term use of the remainder of the site. Working out a budget and lobbying for funds before the next ACT election. In my view this work is urgent. But I'm not hearing much by way of debate or plans.

For Australia, I have been pretty saddened by the standard of debate. I would think the major issues are to do with making sure we have decent education and health care. Making sure our country can protect and care for its environment. And how we create a society that respects our most disadvantaged people and enables them a life of dignity and opportunity. This extends to our Indigenous people, people with disabilities or a mental illness and our elderly. It also extends to a basic humanity with respect to people seeking asylum, rather than promoting xenophobia (please explain?) and demonising those who are most vulnerable.



Jordan is hosting about half a million Syrian refugees. The Zaatari Refugee Camp opened in 2012 at Mafraq houses between 120–140,000 people, half children. This makes it Jordan's fourth largest city.

Forty-five million people have been forcibly displaced by war and other crises worldwide, the highest level for almost two decades. Who is supporting refugees? Eighty seven percent of the world's refugees are protected by developing countries. Pakistan remained the world's top host nation in 2012, with 1.6 million refugees mostly from Afghanistan, followed by Iran, with 868,200, and Germany, with 589,700. Last year saw 2.1 million internally-displaced people and

526,000 refugees return home. Only 88,600 were resettled in rich nations in 2012. Of these 88,600 refugees, Australia took 5,900 (and 16,000 asylum claims). The United States accepted 66,300 people. Refugees are dying on perilous boat journeys and we need to prevent these deaths. But surely the debate could rise above demonising asylum seekers and deliberately obfuscating the simple fact that they are all people like you and I. Surely too we could notice that the size of the global issue is massive and Australia's part is extremely small. Yet both sides of politics seem unable to show leadership or humanity in handling it.

Whether we're choosing the President of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association or whether we are choosing our Prime Minister I'd encourage us all to raise the issues we care about.

Until next time  
Jo Hall

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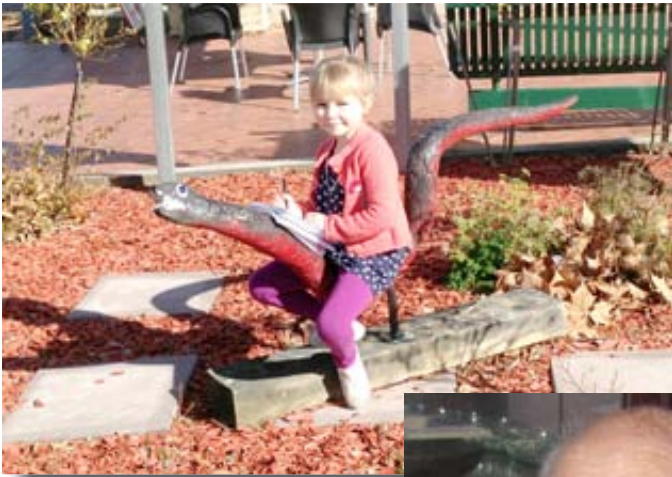
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# Out & About . . .



Madeline Macfarlane of Hoskins St enjoys the community sculpture. Madeline understands the functionality of the sculpture. There are plans to enrich the Village with more works of art in our centenary year.

Happy Birthday! Jim Rochford turns 100 this August.



Men's Shed president Mike Fitzpatrick greets Greg Rule at the Hall shed.



Hall Rugby Club's new trailer



at the Hall Ball



at the Hall Ball



Your Rural Fringe reporter, Bob Richardson, inspects progress on the 12 kilometre dual carriage-way connecting the Monaro and Federal Highways. What was a 20 minute drive is reduced to seven minutes and diverts highway traffic away from Canberra central. Due for completion in 2016, costing nearly \$300 million, the major contractor, Fulton Hogan, rarely has more than 300 workers on the site. Foundations for two bridges have been prepared. The piers for the raised bridge across the Molonglo river are of a unique design for Canberra. Work health and safety management is written into every process on the site.

