

# RURAL FRINGE

*Journal of the Hall district*



VOLUME 21 ISSUE 2

April 2014

## National Sheep Dog Trial Championships

in **Hall**

by **John Carson**

*Baa-ram-ewe. Baa-ram-ewe.  
To your breed, your fleece, your clan be true.  
Sheep be true. Baa-ram-ewe.*

Do you remember those lines from the movie *Babe*? They were the secret password which Babe used to converse with the sheep and which allowed her to take out the coveted Trial Championship.

I wonder how many of the human competitors, and probably the dogs as well, wished they had a similar password to communicate with the sheep participants at the 2014 National Sheep Dog Trial Championships held at the Hall Showgrounds during March. Having said that, the skills which were on display over the period of the trials were so extraordinary that I would have readily believed that there was indeed some mystical intervention taking place.

Each year an average of 50 competitors enter approximately 250 dogs and compete for trophies and prize money. Dogs compete in three different grades: Maiden Dogs - dogs which have never won a trial  
Improver Dogs - dogs which have won a maiden trial  
Open Dogs - dogs which have won both Maiden and Improver trials

All this valuable information came from Charlie Cover, who is both President and Trial Manager for the National Sheep Dog Trials Association. Charlie has been associated with the trials for over 20 years and his knowledge on the subject is legendary. I was amazed to find out that the Canberra trials date back to 1942 when the first trial, to raise money for Legacy, was conducted at Manuka Oval. Since then it has grown from strength to strength. And it has a strong association with English royalty, which is reflected in the names of some of the trophies, such as *The Queens Trophy*, *The Duke of Gloucester Sash* and *The Governor-General's Sash*.



Photograph by Graham Brown

The Trial Course is laid out with gate, race, bridge and pen representing the obstacles the sheep dogs encounter in their daily work. Fifteen minutes are allowed to complete the course. Each competitor starts with 100 points, some of which are deducted for errors by the dog and the worker, or obstacles not negotiated. Should a dog cross between the sheep and the worker it is deemed to be out of control and is disqualified.

The winner of each trophy at the National Championships is ensured that their name as a leading Sheep Dog Trial Worker and Breeder will be preserved in the history of the National Sheep Dog Trials Association and held in the records of the National Library in Canberra. How good is that?

The Association could not have asked for better weather for the staging of the event this year, each day being blessed with sunshine and warm temperatures. Good attendances, especially on Sunday when the finals were

held, were testament to the excellent organisation that goes into the staging of the Trials. And it is not all hard yakka for the many participants. The 'Dog's Dinner' at the Hall Pavilion was again one of the highlights of the annual event and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. See inside this issue for more events around the trials.

For detailed results on the outcome of the trials refer to [www.nationalsheepdogs.webone.com.au](http://www.nationalsheepdogs.webone.com.au) However, I can tell you in advance that Murrumbateman's Laurie Slater with his dog Wondara Jewel took out first place in the Open event and second place in the Improver event – this latter event being won by Mick Hudson with dog MCH Jess. Laurie also took out first place in the Maiden event with another of his dogs Memate Storm Boy.

Everybody who I spoke to said it was the best trials ever. Look out for next year's event in March 2015!

**Out  
and about**

**Clean-up Australia  
in the Wallaroo**



Once again a small but enthusiastic group of volunteers participated in Clean up Australia 2014, collecting rubbish from Wallaroo, Southwell, Brooklands, Oakey Creek, McCarthy, Gooromon Ponds Roads and Woodgrove Close.



We are happy to report that there was less roadside rubbish than in previous years. It still does beg the question however as to why there is any rubbish on the side of the road. What do people think happens to the bottles, cans and plastics they throw from their vehicles?

**Congratulations!**



▲ Congratulations to Minto Gretel 10th, who won Supreme Galloway exhibit at the 2014 Canberra Show for Chris and Greg Stuart of Minto Galloways!



▲ Auto Italia Canberra 2014 had just over 250 vehicles on display and 12,000 spectators admiring the view outside old Parliament House. This ostentatious display of Italian automotives clearly has a passionate following. And our very own Bill Pearson (Secretary of the Hall and District Collectors Club) was awarded 'Best Vespa PX Series' at this year's event! Bill restored his prize winning Vespa from the bottom up, with serious dedication not for the faint hearted. Congratulations Bill!

**Exhibition**  
**On Our Selections – District Life of the 19th Century**

*Trick or Early Settler's Home*

Our exhibition aims to give you a glimpse of life as it was lived in the half century before Federation. Hard times and natural disasters notwithstanding, it was not all work and no play.

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JOURNEYS 1-12 APRIL 2014

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**hall**  
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Friends of the Hall School Museum invite you to their exhibition to celebrate the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival.

**WHERE:** Hall School Museum, Victoria Street Hall. Easy parking. Disability access.  
**WHEN:** Saturday 12th April 2014 and Sunday 13th April 2014 from 10am to 4pm  
Gold Coin donations will assist Friends of the Hall School Museum.  
This project was supported with funding from the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program and the Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc  
[museum.hall.act.au](http://museum.hall.act.au)



## Canberra Bell Correas

Late last year the Yarralumla Nursery kindly donated a number of Canberra Bell Correas to the Hall community. This Correa was commissioned to celebrate Canberra's 100 Year Birthday. They are very suited to Canberra's climate and produce the most beautiful small red bell flower.

We are very grateful to the Yarralumla Nursery and the ACT Government for providing us with these beautiful plants which can be seen planted throughout the village.



Carol Harrington with her uncle, Bill Pearson, loading the plants destined for Hall. Carol has worked at the Yarralumla Nursery for many years as part of the Koomarri Team who do various jobs working with establishing plants at the Nursery.

## From little things big things grow

\$339.70 has been raised to help farmers 'Buy a Bale' with help of the generous customers at Café Injoy in Gold Creek donating a gold coin to this wonderful cause and the compassion of one little boy.

Our young 10 year old grandson James decided after watching the plight of the farmers trying to feed starving cattle and sheep on Sunday 2 March to make a sign and take a bucket to the family owned café at Gold Creek.

The following night he was excited to report 'someone had put in a \$5 note and it was nearly half full'!

It would be wonderful if each school in the ACT had a little boy like James. What a difference it would make to the physical and mental well being of these farmers while teaching our children empathy and caring.

Well done James !

Lyn and John Anderson (proud grandparents)





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# Stations of the Cross

The three Hall churches will combine in the annual **Good Friday** walk, observing the Stations of the Cross. Gather at **St Xavier's church car park** at the top end of Victoria Street at **11.00am**. All welcome. Contact Marj Rule on 62302289.

The ceremony of walking the Stations is a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, meditating on the main biblical scenes leading to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. There are traditionally 14 Stations:

1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane,
2. Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested,
3. Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin,
4. Jesus is denied by Peter,
5. Jesus is judged by Pilate,
6. Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns,
7. Jesus takes up his cross,
8. Jesus is helped by Simon to carry his cross,
9. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem,
10. Jesus is crucified,
11. Jesus promises his kingdom to the repentant thief,
12. Jesus entrusts Mary and John to each other,
13. Jesus dies on the cross,
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.



Canberra bike riders the Hash House Harriers ride to Hall. The new Centenary Trail is a magnet for Canberras push bike riders.

### POET'S CORNER #1

*Goodfortune is a place called Hall.  
But who will rock the cradle, who will ring the bell  
And who will teach our children when the world has gone to hell.*

*The dwarf is dancing with the butchers son but it's ok  
Because a little rain never hurt anyone.  
War is a lesson we never learn  
There's violence in our chemistry  
But it's ok because a little rain never hurt anyone.*

-The great and powerful OZ (with a nod to Tom Waits)



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Soloist Diana Tulip backed by the Canberra Brass.  
Photos: Bob Richardson

Over 300 people gathered at the school on Sunday afternoon for a fine concert of brass band music from Canberra Brass. In perfect weather, the band performed in three ensembles – the Victoria Street Brass (the ‘development’ band’), the Canberra Brass Quintet and the main band – Canberra Brass. The latter was joined by mezzo soprano soloist Diana Tulip, who began her contribution with the signature song – *Roses of Picardy*.

A significant number of folk arrived in time to visit the Museum and associated exhibitions, while audience numbers were swollen by those seeking relaxation after the nearby public meeting on future uses of the school site. We can confidently say that after six years, the Twilight Concert is firmly entrenched on the school’s grassed play area, whatever else might come to pass!

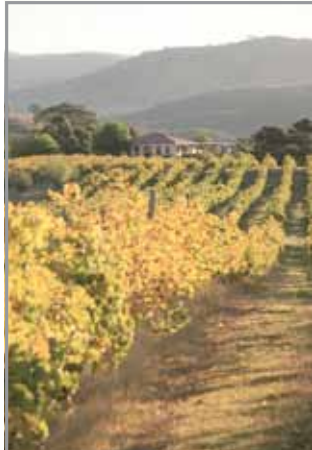
The Preschool Parents once again provided food and drinks as a fundraiser, while the Hall School Museum will benefit by the excellent total of \$1,324.50. Nearly half of this was raised by a raffle for the sponsors prize of a dozen 2009 Shiraz from Mudgee, the rest in a bucket collection.

## Big Crowd for Twilight Music

We once again very gratefully acknowledge the generous sponsorship of our main street financial planners – Stephen Barnett and Scott Lilley. As well as contributing to promotion and running the raffle, their support ensures that the Band gets properly rewarded. Also, a growing number of their clients are becoming concert-goers.

As well as *Roses of Picardy*, Diana Tulip sang *Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal* (Roger Quilter) and *Fly Me to the Moon*, made famous by Frank Sinatra. Canberra Brass treated us to a preview of some of the works they are performing at the national brass band championships in Brisbane at Easter, and other items that they will be playing on their subsequent tour of France, performing at a number of World War I Centenary commemorations.

We wish them good luck in Brisbane, and bon voyage for the big trip!



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I tell you – sometimes it doesn't pay to get out of bed. But, hell, I'm telling you stuff you already know.

Yesterday I had been complaining to anyone who would listen that it was all getting too much – I had to slow down. Did anybody listen? No. Did my wife listen? No. I tell you I am close to goddamn invisible to people these days. Do you know what time I went to bed last night? No – neither do I – but I can tell you it was the early hours. Do you know how much sleep I got before the phone rang? No – but you can do the maths – let's just say the sun hadn't yet appeared over the hay shed and the temperature outside was still showing minus freezing.

It was the editor. 'You awake' she said. 'I dunno' I replied. 'What day is it?'

'Never mind that' she countered. 'We got an incident and I want you to cover it'. She gave an address on Wallaroo Road and hung up. An incident – I laughed mirthlessly. She always called them that – incidents. The last incident I covered I ended up with a broken jaw sucking endless cooked dinners through a plastic straw. It was a tough break she had said (laughing at her own pun) when she had visited me at Calvary with a half eaten box of Cadburys and a bunch of flowers that looked like a daisy chain. We get along okay though. She is tough but fair. I like that in a woman.

The phone rang again. She said: "I forgot to add that you need to file that story by midnight – tonight – but I guess that you had already figured that". An electronic click, then silence. Yeah, right – and maybe I'll fit in breakfast sometime between Christmas and Easter.

I should have listened to my mother. Become a school teacher.

Oh, by the way, my name is John. I am a reporter for the *Fringe*.

Timing is everything in the newspaper business so I reckoned I had better get my bony ass off the mattress and make tracks. I pulled on a pair of trackie dacks and a hoodie over my PJs – no time for anything fancy – got my old tready from the toolshed, saddled up and cycled off.

Within an hour I was cycling up a gravel track towards an old rambling farmhouse with lots of charm and character - that's land agent lingo - meaning the roof looked as if it was about to cave in. I laughed; I should have been a comic. I remember my wife once saying that as she landed a punch on my nose. I guess I must have said something!

I knocked on the door but it was too solid to make any impression so I rattled a window and shouted. The lady who answered was a stocky middle-aged woman with a weathered complexion, jovial eyes and a warm

friendly face. She said her name was Gooseberry, which I thought was nice, seeing as we lived in the countryside and everything. I introduced myself and said that I was from the *Fringe* and was there to report on a certain incident that had happened overnight. Her eyes clouded over as she took me by the arm and led me up a dirt path that wound from the farmhouse up towards some wooden sheds. Next to one of the sheds was a wire enclosure with a fence about two metres high. She pointed to the enclosure and said that this was where it all happened. On the ground of the enclosure were the strewn remains of the inhabitants – a mix of duck and chicken feathers and various assembled body parts. Being, amongst other things, the crime reporter for the *Fringe* I have seen a few not so pretty things in my time – this was definitely one of those not so pretty things. Hell, in this job I have seen my fill of mayhem and murder sights but I can tell you it never gets any easier. My guts twisted and my anger boiled.

'There were a dozen ducks and chooks in that pen last night' she almost cried, her voice shaking with emotion, 'that's all that's left'. I'm not much good with words in situations like this so I just nodded my head in empathy.

One thing I knew straight off was that this had Mr Wily Fox's dabs all over it. Oh well, if not Mr Fox himself then almost certainly one of his tightly knit clan. There was no evidence of any tunnelling under the fence so the perp, or perps, would have had to have scaled the wire. No mean feat but well within the capabilities of the clan. I checked out the gate to the enclosure and noticed that it had a large wooden slide latch that you pushed one way or the other to open and close. I reckon even the chooks could have opened it.



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There was something that bothered me about the crime scene though which I couldn't readily put a finger on. Call it intuition if you will, but I've got a nose for this sort of stuff. Everything looked just a bit too pat with all the evidence pointing to the clan. I decided to poke about a bit. You never know what you might turn up. Anyway I opened the pen and breathing deeply to keep my stress levels in check I dropped to my haunches to inspect the murder scene at close quarters. Using a stick which I picked up from the ground I poked and prodded among the scattered feathers and body parts, looking for ... hell, I didn't know what I was looking for. I was playing a hunch. No big deal if it didn't pay off.

But something did catch my eye. When I turned over what appeared to be a severed chook wing something glinted in the rays of the early morning sun – something metallic. I leant closer and saw that it was a small metal plate – and it was attached to a leather collar. There was lettering on the plate – and numbers too. I rubbed my thumb along the surface to remove some of the grime. The name jumped out at me. Barney. There was a telephone number alongside. I had a bad feeling about this one. I didn't like where it was going. But I kept my thoughts to myself.

I pocketed the collar and headed back along the track to the homestead where Mrs Gooseberry had retreated after showing me the sheds. There were some questions I needed answers to. I knocked on the back door and called out to her. I could hear her shuffling towards the door and shooing something, maybe the cat, out of the way.

'Sorry to bother you again ma'am but do you own a dog.' She nodded.

'And would his name be Barney?' She nodded again and followed up with her own question. 'Why're you asking?'

'Just following a lead. Any idea where Barney is now?'

'Funny you should ask as I haven't seen him all morning. Try up by the wood shed.' she said pointing in the general direction. 'He likes hanging out round there.'

I thanked her and headed off. The day was starting to warm up thankfully and as much as I would like to have discarded a few items of clothing I was conscious of what lay underneath. Not a good look for a *Fringe* reporter to be walking around the neighbourhood in his PJs.

When I got to the woodshed it didn't take me long to find Barney. He was stretched out on the ground beside a mound of wood in a pool of sunshine. Barney the beagle. Around him was an assortment of feathers and small bones – there was also some red on his muzzle. I didn't need any DNA testing done to figure this one out. This was an inside job. As I stared at him, he lazily opened one eye and gave me the once over.



'Barney Beagle,' I said 'you're busted.'

He looked at me as if to say – 'Okay, wise guy, what are you gonna do about it'. And I gotta admit he had a point. What was I going to do about it? After all I am just a rookie reporter doing a job. But it's a job that needs to be done; it's a story that needs to be told. There are a lot of good law abiding beagles out there – one bad ass Barney shouldn't be allowed to spoil it for the rest.

In a way though my job was done – case closed. I would report my findings to Mrs Gooseberry. Let her decide Barney's fate

Me? I would file my copy before midnight. I never miss a deadline. Pulitzer Prize – no chance – maybe the editor would tell me I did a good job.

I noticed I was hungry. Hadn't eaten since yesterday. Maybe if I was lucky I could grab a hot coffee from the village store. Also a muffin – heated. My phone rang – it was the editor – she had another 'incident' for me to cover – what was I doing? 'No problem, I'm on it' I replied. I guess I'd be eating on the run.

Just another day at the *Fringe*.



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# Hall Bushrangers

by **Andy Dunbar**

## Hall Bushrangers joins Good Sports program



With summer almost over, the 2014 Hall Bushrangers are being put through their paces by the new coaching staff of Dave Kinnane, Luke Jansen and Paddy Gallagher. Whilst it's been tough, the players are shaping up nicely and starting to see the benefits of their early pre-season. All are invited to come down and train at the Hideout (Hall Oval) from 6 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The club has several upcoming pre-season matches that include an away trip to Wollongong to play several sides from the Illawarra region.

The 2014 Monaro season will kick off on 5 April, where the Bushrangers will take on defending Champions Yass Rams. The match is sure to be a great event and anyone interested should make the short drive down the Barton Highway. The following week sees the Bushrangers take on their old foe, the Goulburn Dirty Reds at Hall.

As rugby season draws near, the cricket season draws to a close. The King Brown Bushrangers have made their first ever finals appearance and are excited at the prospect of what's to come. The team has seen a marked improvement in play over the 2013-14 season and confidence is high. Heading into the finals the King Browns were aided by back to back centuries by Craig 'Red' Scott and a stunning 5/33 in the final round by the in-form Jade Thompson.

In other news, the Bushrangers have continued their association with the Hall Rotary Club heading into the 2014 season. The team assisted with the assembly and dismantling of the sheep and alpaca yards for this year's Canberra Show, alongside their Rotary Club counterparts. The club looks forward to building on this relationship, as well as developing them with other community organisations in the area.



Sports clubs such as ours play a significant role in the community and therefore have a responsibility to our members and their families. In recognition of this, the Hall Rugby Union Club has elected to participate in the Australian Drug Foundation's Good Sports program. The program is a national preventive health initiative designed to assist clubs with the responsible management of alcohol.

As a community based club we believe involvement in this program is a way for our club to promote a healthy and welcoming club culture whilst working to consistently meet our duty of care obligations in regards to alcohol consumption.

As part of our achieving Level 1 accreditation under the program, we will ensure we adhere to ACT liquor laws, provide smoke free facilities and grounds and promote the responsible consumption of alcohol to our members.

For more information about our club's involvement in the Good Sports program contact Nigel Page.

The Good Sports program is supported by ACT Health and the Australian National Preventive Health Agency.



*Cricket team prior to their first final*

Following the club's success on the cricket pitch and the appointment of a new coaching staff, optimism is high amongst the club this season. Expect to see a permanent home for the club's new electronic scoreboard and some great rugby played throughout 2014.

We look forward to seeing you down at the Hideout.



## THE SHEARING SHED

HAIR SALON

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Hall Bushrangers Rugby prepare for the 2014 season.  
photo: Bob Richardson

'Twas the weeks before Rugby Season  
The Bushrangers been training, its been pleasin'  
The boots are relaced and the jumpers all clean  
The rain has been good and the grass is green.

We have brought out the big guns  
Waitin' six months, now footy has come  
Push ups, sit ups and lots of oval laps  
Now fit, there will be no defensive gaps.

Along the Barton to Yass on April five  
Bushrangers in action 'twill be worth the drive.  
To annihilate the Yass Rams  
Will be the Hall Rugby plan.

Then back to the Hideout in Hall  
12 April, boys from Goulburn climb the wall  
Taking the Federal to meet their demise  
The men of Hall Rugby are far too wise.

## Rugby back at Hall

**Poet's Corner #2 - Pat Gallagher**

2nd Grade Coach with the Hall Bushrangers

'Now, Baxter! Now, Joely! Now, Wazza and Shetlen!  
On, Danners! On Wilko! On, Keithy and Redmen!  
To top of the comp, we must dominate them all  
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away from Hall!"

Support from Hall locals is all that we seek,  
For without it we are up that creek  
Come down for a look and feel free to cheer,  
There will Be Rugby and BBQ and even some beer.

'Twill be a long hard winter there will be no doubt  
If things go well, up to the Duck for a Shout  
Hall Renaissance Homes Rugby that be our name  
What's played in Heaven, that be the game.

We will leave the field, the ref will blow his whistle,  
Preparation for cricket will proceed without a grizzle.  
Transformation from Bushrangers to King Browns,  
It all happens in Hall, on that sacred piece of ground.

*Capimus Sed Tradimus.*

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## How to safely

## Bandage your horse

Unfortunately horses can be pretty good at injuring themselves and requiring limb bandages, but bandages can do more harm than good when applied incorrectly. Slipped bandages, uneven pressure, too little padding, starting and finishing too high or low and allowing the bandage to become wet are some of the problems we see.

Bandages are great for providing protection for the wound from environmental contamination and flies, absorption of wound discharge, reduction of limb swelling, reduce limb movement and an environment which supports wound healing. Bandaged wounds often heal faster than non-bandaged but only if there is a healthy, clean wound under the wrapping.

No matter where it's placed, a bandage should consist of three layers- the primary/contact layer, the secondary/intermediate layer and the tertiary/outer layer. Finally an adhesive is placed over the top.

First layer



The first layer is the most important layer. Dependant on the type of wound, we can choose between adherent or non-adherent and absorbent or non-absorbent dressings. Often we try to create a moist wound healing environment which allows the wound fluids and the growth factors, which help to close the wound, to remain in contact with the wound to provide a faster healing.

The second layer absorbs fluids, bacteria and dead material from the wound and should be at least 2 to 3 layers thick. This is also important to protect the wound against further trauma and to prevent excessive movement, which will delay the wound's ability to granulate and heal. For this layer, we use cotton wool or combine

Second layer (cotton)



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padding and generally wrap from the outside of the leg inward.

The third layer needs to be of a stiffer material to hold the previous layers in place and prevent sliding of the bandage on the wound. A slipping bandage disrupts the cells trying to heal across the wound. It is important to ensure there is even pressure in this layer and it also wraps from the outside of the leg inward. The bottom and the top end of the cotton are left uncovered to avoid creating pressure points. We generally use brown crepe gauze for this



Third layer - the top and the bottom part stay uncovered

layer because Vetwrap (the stretchy coloured stuff!) can constrict and tighten on the leg.

Finally you cover the uncovered ends with an adhesive layer (Elastoplast) to keep everything in place. Start on the actual bandage and work to the skin, not the other way round. This prevents shavings or dirt entering between the skin and bandage. Often we cover the entire bandage with Elastoplast.



Final adhesive layer

General principles when applying a bandage

Make sure that each round you make around the leg with your bandage material overlaps the previous one, about one third to half width. This gives the bandage more stability.

Also make sure that you go into the same direction with each layer.

Wrap the bandage clockwise from the outside to the inside around the leg.

Always take care that you follow the normal structures of the limb and that the thickness of your bandage does not vary. This could cause sore spots because the pressure isn't equal in all parts of the bandage.


Also make sure that your horse doesn't move around too much when the bandage is on because it can slip and cause pressure on prominent areas on the limb.

Work from joint to joint and never stop halfway because this may cause pressure on the underlying tissues.

If you are not sure which materials to use for the bandage, don't hesitate to ask your vet for advice.



Fixation of the top end of the bandage to the skin; remember to start on the bandage



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**Katy Gallagher MLA**

**CHIEF MINISTER**  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Mr David Hazlehurst  
President  
Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc  
[hazle35@hotmail.com](mailto:hazle35@hotmail.com)

Dear Mr Hazlehurst

Thank you for your email of 20 February 2014 about the future of the former Hall Primary School site.

I am pleased that you have engaged with the Community Services Directorate (CSD) on the future of the former Hall Primary School site. CSD is also supportive of establishing arrangements which will provide greater security for the site.

I understand that the furniture and mattresses have been removed from the site which then allows the Hall and District Progress Association to make use of that space.

The pre-school will continue to operate from the site. There are no plans to move the pre-school, and if this was to change, the community would be consulted before a decision was made.

The Hall Primary School master plan seeks to re-create the setting of the primary school within an open setting. This requires the removal of the temporary buildings, but has the consequence of removing spaces which are currently being used by the Association for exhibits and other activities. I believe it would be useful to explore this matter further at your meeting on 23 March 2014.

It is important that the Association move as quickly as possible to formalise its use of the site through a licence agreement. This will involve the Association paying rent and meeting the cost of outgoings.

CSD has also had discussions with Mr and Mrs Mason about using part of the site for a child care centre. This appears to impact on a building used by the Association for exhibits and displays. CSD would appreciate hearing the views of the Association about this proposal also at the meeting on 23 March 2014.

I am encouraged by the enthusiasm and interest of the Association in the future of the former Hall Primary School site. I hope the meeting goes well and I look forward to hearing about the outcomes from the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Katy Gallagher MLA  
Chief Minister

13 MAR 2014

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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**Hall School Site**

A large gathering of around 70 people attended the community meeting on Sunday 23 March to share information and gather views about future uses of the Hall school site. The meeting was called by the Village of Hall and District Progress Association. President David Hazlehurst got the meeting underway with an overview of recent history in relation to the site and a summary of the various issues for community discussion, including the heritage importance of the site, the need to secure the future of the preschool (currently 17 children are enrolled), and the need for security of tenure for community activities on the site. The background and issues around the future use of the school site were also outlined ahead of the meeting in a comprehensive discussion paper, including a plan of the site (see the website [www.hall.act.au](http://www.hall.act.au)). The latest communication from the ACT Government is a letter from the Chief Minister printed opposite, in response to a number of outstanding queries from the Association.

Ben and Louise Mason outlined their proposal for the establishment of a child care centre on the site, servicing Hall, Yass, Murrumbateman and north Canberra (with priority for children from Hall District) and



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## Community Discussion

three options for how this might be achieved:

- renovating one or more existing structures to make them compliant with current building and child care regulations;
- removing one or more existing structures and building new structures; or
- building new structures on a part of the site not currently occupied by buildings.

A child care centre has previously been identified as one of the options for any new development on the site, which is designated in the Territory Plan to be used for 'Community Facilities'. The 2011 'Master Plan' report on the site by Eric Martin also identified a particular area that he considered most suitable for any such development. It was clarified that the proposed centre would have a capacity for 60 to 100 children and be open to 6pm Monday to Friday.



Honorary Curator of the Hall School Museum, Phil Robson, outlined the history and development of the Museum and the work of the 'Friends of Hall School Museum' – many of whom were in attendance. Since adopting the orphaned 1911 school and its collection (the Laurie Copping Heritage Centre) the Friends have been successful with grant applications and very productive in the mounting of exhibitions and enhancement of the collection. With great support from the Hall Men's Shed, which is also using buildings on the site, a good deal of work has been done on refurbishing and maintenance of the buildings now occupied, and their furniture and fittings. Ralph Southwell from the Rotary Club of Hall also spoke to reinforce their request for a place on the site to consolidate their equipment, books and records.

A number of views were expressed during the 'open forum' discussion, including:

- To secure a long term permanent building for the preschool (which is currently in a demountable building). It would be preferred that any new development for a child care centre should include provision for the preschool. The childcare centre would complement the preschool by acting as a 'feeder' for it.
  - Parking, traffic control and security lighting all need to be addressed in the forward plan, recalling that Hall Primary School accommodated 128 children when it was closed without any traffic dramas.
- In summary, there was broad support for the establishment of a child care centre, but not for

the Mason's first option which would displace the Museum or other existing activities. There was also strong support for the preschool, and the suggestion that any new development should include future provision for it. Lastly the need to secure some form

of legal agreement for community activities is paramount along with an assurance that the lease arrangements for any form of commercial activity (such as the child care centre) are single purpose and cannot be on sold for alternative activities.

Comments are welcome until 11 April, after which time the Association Committee will meet and use the feedback to convert the Discussion Paper into a Position Paper

for further discussion with the ACT Government.



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## Is inflammation

## making you sick and sore?

We all know what acute inflammation looks like – red, hot, swollen, and really sore. You see and feel it after you cut yourself, when an insect's bitten you, or you've broken out in a rash or with pimples. We experience it when we have allergies, asthma, digestive problems, and muscle and joint aches and pains. Inflammation can also be happening inside you without you being aware of it. Common conditions such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic fatigue syndrome, and autoimmune conditions are chronic inflammatory conditions. If left untreated, inflammation can cause significant damage to cells and tissues, which can lead to a loss of function, increased pain, infections and other more serious health risks.

Whilst taking anti-inflammatory medications (such as aspirin or Ibuprofen) can provide relief, they don't fix the problem, so you need to keep taking them. What causes inflammation? Many conditions have a genetic component or are a complex interaction of factors, making them difficult to treat. However, there is a lot we can do to reduce systemic inflammation.

What we eat can dramatically impact the level of inflammation throughout the body. The standard diet in Western countries now contains high levels of Omega 6 fats. Omega 6 fats promote the production of inflammation stimulating components. Every cell membrane in our body is composed of fats and when there are too many Omega 6 fats in proportion to Omega 3 fats, the cell is stimulated to produce excessive amounts of inflammation producing mediators. This happens in every cell in the body! When you have an inflammation reaction to infection or injury it may keep going for too long, or you may have an inflammation response to something that shouldn't normally cause a reaction.

Anita Kilby

This is why people often take an Omega 3 supplement in the form of fish oils. It helps to rebalance the fat ratios and reduce inflammation. Better yet would be to also reduce the amount of Omega 6 fats you consume (we do need to consume some Omega 6 fats because our bodies can't make them). The oils commonly used in cooking and in packaged foods that are high in Omega 6 fats are sunflower, corn, soybean and peanut oils. Use olive oil or coconut oil instead. Butter is also low in Omega 6 fats. Make sure to read the ingredients on all packaged foods and find out what sort of oil is being used.

You can also increase foods that contain high amounts of Omega 3 fats, such as oily fish like salmon, sardines, tuna, pilchards. Choose grass-fed meat over grain-fed, as the food the animal eats will alter the fat composition of the meat as well (grains used are often high in Omega 6 fats). You can also get Omega 3 enriched eggs, and again free-range is better than grain-fed.

For a great source of information about Omega 3 and 6 fats visit Authority Nutrition's website:  
<http://authoritynutrition.com/optimize-omega-6-omega-3-ratio/>



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# ABC Breakfast

## In Hall

Yes it was early (5.00am ) and cold at Hall Premier Store on 21 March as the 666 ABC breakfast show experienced a Hall welcome with Gavin and the crew providing coffee and breakfast all round. Many residents (including some alpacas) called by over the course of the morning to chat about life in Hall and the surrounding district.



John and Craig Starr from Gold Creek Station reflect on farm life in Hall with presenter Philip Clark and rural reporter Lucy Barbour. The Starrs farm sheep and cattle, but as Canberra's development has consumed much of the grazing land they have included tourism on their farm to showcase working dogs, sheep shearing and rural life.

Village of Hall and District Progress Association President David Hazlehurst discusses community activities and aspirations



Below, Friends of the Hall School Museum Phil Robson and Judy Roberts get down and dirty for their cause.



Owen Pigeon bearing local produce from Loriendale Orchard with Philip Clark.



Phil discussed Hall's long history as a thriving village since 1882 and some of the extensive work that the Friends are doing on the school site.

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## Bees and Bugs

### in the garden

by **Lisa Walmsley**

Recently I had a client who wanted to start beekeeping. So she spoke to the appropriate people and voila, a hive arrived! I'd love to have a hive in my garden but wasn't sure where or how to site it.

My grandfather had beehives and sold the honey he produced, but for me, I just love the idea of having thousands of busy pollinators residing in my garden. Bees are known to travel for miles to forage, but it is easy to attract them by planting a wide range of bee-friendly plants. There are so many benefits to having an insect friendly garden, including the fact that ladybirds have a voracious appetite for aphids.



#### Tricks to increase the bug and bee life in your garden:

- Minimise or avoid pesticides (including organic ones) as much as possible. I particularly avoid all of the chemical neonicotinoid insecticides (eg *Confidor* bug sprays) because of the effect they have on bees. Many of these insecticides are systemic - that is they circulate through the plant and then the pollen. Insecticides are partly responsible for the rapid reduction in bees in the United States.
- Sometimes, with massive infestations of bugs, pesticides seem like the only solution and many of you have probably tried some of the eco friendly types such as pyrethrum, but this is also highly toxic and broad spectrum and can have a very disruptive effect on your ecosystem. Try to target a direct spray. The least toxic, somewhat friendly solution I know to this point is garlic and water. Add a few cloves of garlic to a one litre spray bottle and let it soak for a few days, so the water becomes infused with garlic. Still only use this for target spraying as it can also take out the good bugs.
- Plant insect-attracting species. Of course they'll visit your tomatoes, capsicums and zucchinis as well, but provide flowers throughout with overlapping blooming times, extending early and late into the season so bees have a food

source from the moment they emerge in spring, to when they are ready to hibernate for winter. There is a wide range of herbs, veggies and flowering trees and shrubs. Many plants from the *Umbelliferae* family are attractive to bees and they have a long flowering season. Plants include coriander, flat leafed parsley, fennel and dill. Native and locally grown plants are also beneficial to your bugs and bees.

- Let a few of your vegies go to seed, rather than pulling them out the moment they have passed their use by date. Many of these plants support the larvae of good pests.
- Water: make sure there is an easily accessed water source and preferably with some aquatic plants growing in it as a landing point for bugs and bees.
- Some weeds are okay; many of our good bugs (and some not so good) overwinter on weeds such as milk thistle and nettles. Tolerate a few.

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The Museum has been incredibly busy since the beginning of the year with a number of projects on the go. Some of these are:

- Exhibition: *On Our Selections – District Life in the late 19th Century*, to be opened during the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival on 12 April by Minister Simon Corbell
- on-going assessment of the Museum and its collection by Professor Edwin Braggett for National Significance endorsement
- oral History project which is recording the memories and stories of older district residents
- working with the Australian Education Union in developing a travelling exhibition of early ACT education to primary schools throughout the ACT. This project is to promote the history element of the National Curriculum and will encourage school groups and history teachers to visit the Hall School Museum to experience first hand an early ACT school
- finalisation of a computer based accessioning system to record the collection
- purchase of additional display furniture and conservation material
- construction of a disability access ramp to the old school building
- continued development of the Museum website with additional photos and records
- on-going requests for funding grants to continue the work at the Museum
- encouraging interested people to join the 'Friends of the Museum'
- further promotion of the Museum to encourage more visitors.

### Visitors

As well as all this work, the Friends of the Museum have been donning their Volunteer Guide badges and escorting the large number of group and independent visitors that have come to the Museum so far this year.

There have been school groups, Probus Clubs and Walking Groups. These include members of the National Trust who took a walk around the village, ably led by our own Tony Morris and then enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea at the cottage before a trip around the Museum displays. More group visits are already in the calendar for future months.



### School Administration Building

The old school administration building has been cleared of the old furniture and set up for the 2014 Canberra and Region Heritage Exhibition. This has taken a lot of hard work by the Friends with the co-operation of the Community Services Directorate.

### School Site Options & Heritage Centre Vision

This article was written before the community meeting on 23 March, when the Village of Hall and District Progress Association discussed options for the Hall School site. The options include a vision for a more permanent Hall Heritage Centre, (available on the Museum website: [museum.hall.act.au](http://museum.hall.act.au)). The vision has been prepared in response to the increase in popularity and interest in the Museum from the wider ACT community and nationally. It is envisaged that if this rate of growth continues there will be greater number of visitors to the village and the Hall Heritage Centre will be on the Canberra tourist map.

### Other matters

The number of 'Friends of the Hall School Museum' is continuing to grow, not just from Hall and the surrounding district, but also from the larger ACT. With the regular Thursday gatherings, together with the Men's Shed activities, the school site has really become a community hub. We need more chairs in the staff room for our morning tea break!

Dont forget to visit the Museum website [museum.hall.act.au](http://museum.hall.act.au) for the latest news and photos.

One of the recent visitors and 'Friend' of the Museum, Garry Reynolds, who is a grandson of Claude Brown (one of the original pupils of Hall School in 1911), has lent the Museum a collection of Claude's papers and photographs. One of the 'gems' in the collection is this photograph of Hall School after the extension was completed in the 1920's that we had not seen before. Maybe someone can date it for us? Please contact [museum@hall.act.au](mailto:museum@hall.act.au) if you can.

It has been said that 'a friend in need, is a friend indeed' and you are never more reminded of this as a volunteer firefighter when you are responding to help a neighbour. As the 2013-14 Fire Season draws to a close, Hall Brigade can reflect on this summer knowing we have helped both our immediate friends as well as our NSW colleagues across the border with a response to a local fire as well as an interstate deployment.

On Friday 31 January a lightning strike started a fire near the corner of Shannons Flat Road and Billilingra Road, some 20 kilometres north of Cooma, and rapidly burnt out several thousand hectares. Known as the Murrumbucca fire, there was a danger that if left unchecked it could spread into the Namadgi National Park and Hall Brigade was requested to provide a medium tanker to support NSW firefighting efforts.

Crewing HALL 30, Tony Hazelton and Adrian Ranse spent a busy night that Friday assisting with containment. Returning to the Shed the following morning, they handed the truck over to day crews to complete Stand Up at the Shed for the Total Fire Ban that had been declared for the day.

That afternoon a second request came through and HALL 30 again answered, crewed by Steve Reynolds and Isaac Manuel. Due to the relatively high humidity that night the fire was quiet. Watching bulldozers complete containment lines and towing MOLONGLO 30 out of trouble when their battery went flat kept the crew alert.

For the next few days low humidity and dry winds saw the fire jump containment lines and double in size. ACT RFS provided a task force, although Hall was not called upon.

By Thursday 6 February the fire had once again been contained, but needed to be controlled. HALL 30 was again asked to step up for a three day task force with Hall Brigade also asked to provide an Incident Controller. With Michelle Michie as crew leader, Chris Puschak and Steve Reynolds, Matt 'Lenny' Lenson lead the Taskforce in Hall Command. The Taskforce included two Parks light units (PARKS 22 and 23), a Jerrabomberra light unit (JERRA 20), a Tidbinbilla medium tanker (TID 30) and HALL 30.



Upon arrival at the staging point the crews were briefed and allocated a section of the fire, about the size of Belconnen, burning in hilly bushland. Working along the Amaroo Fire Trail, crews contained hotspots and with warmer weather expected for the upcoming weekend all efforts had to be made to 'black out' the area and reduce the chance of the fire once more breaking out and gaining a foothold in to the Namadgi National Park.

All access tracks had been cut by bulldozers, were steep and only wide enough for one way traffic. The Parks units acted in a RAFT (remote area fire team) role. That is, they left the vehicle and proceeded on foot into the fire ground carrying their own equipment, including rake hoes and chainsaws. The RFS crews stayed mainly with their vehicles and were tasked to black out an area up to one hose length, or 30 metres, from the track. Three helicopters also worked the area, supporting the ground crews below.

The next two days of the deployment brought similar tasks for the crew as they sought to locate and black out hot spots. The final day saw a small breakout in an unburnt area of scrub and HALL 30 welcomed the assistance of a helicopter to contain the flare up. The helicopter had to dump five buckets on the fire and the crew gained valuable experience calling it in and guiding it via radio. The break out was soon extinguished.

Finally the task force was dismissed that afternoon but not before the NSW RFS Divisional Commander thanked the crews for their hard work, professionalism and dedication. The crews then had to drive an hour and a half back to Canberra and Hall. While the fire was a long way from Hall it was a valuable experience for the crews, that was tested just a day later when Hall responded to the Poacher's Pantry fire.

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## Fire at Poachers!

by **Anna Jamieson-Williams**

Sunday 9 February began as a total fire ban, with temperatures expected to peak at 39 degrees.

By chance, two tanker crews were at the Shed that morning, having helped a Chinese film crew document the story of members of the Brigade after the 2003 Firestorm. Just as everyone was packing up, the call came in, 'Fire at Poachers!!' That was enough to get crews bolting for the trucks and on their way. Hall's two tankers HALL 11 driven by Richard Fulton and crewed by Kate Betts and Tanesha Lenson and HALL 10, driven by Matt Bolton supported by a crew of Alex Dryiw, Anna Jamieson-Williams, Adam Cashmere and Phoebe Burgoyne-Scutts, were already half way down Victoria Street by the time the official fire page came in.



The results of a fast moving grass fire



Kate Betts and  
Tanesha Lenson

Phoebe Burgoyne-Scutts  
and Anna Jamieson-Williams



As we approached the fire down Nanima Road, the sight of two growing columns of smoke, one black and one brown was not a good sign.

The fire had started in the vineyard due to a spark from a faulty appliance and, fuelled by a north westerly wind and rising temperatures, it raced down the front paddock towards the road. HALL 10 was first on the scene and was greeted with a 300 metre front of flames that was spreading quickly and looked to jump Nanima Road before crews began their attack. Both tankers set to work.

Joined shortly after by Andy Fulton, Shaun O'Connor and Chris Puschak in HALL 30 and Tony Hazelton and Ben Sherman in HALL 31 and crews from neighbouring NSW brigades, some 20 trucks worked to contain this fast moving grass fire.

It took about 45 minutes to bring it under control and several more hours work to mop up and black out the scene and it is clear that the prompt and effective response prevented a dangerous grass fire from impacting more properties in the area.

The team effort and camaraderie between Hall, Wallaroo, Springfield, Back Creek and Murrumbateman RFS brigades and ACT Fire and Rescue showed just what friends can do for friends, minimising the loss to the Poacher's property. In total, around 42 hectares was burnt out.



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# National

On the fringe of the National Sheepdog Trails in Hall a very active group of Hall ladies organise a number of community activities that make the most of this event on our doorstep as well as making the trialers feel very welcome in our village. A morning tea with scones and cream at the Pavilion is one such event. Another involves the Hall preschool children who draw pictures of the sheepdog trials which are exhibited at the Pavilion. My personal favourite was cotton wool sheep on a volcano escaping the molten lava. Over morning tea, each child receives a medal for their contribution.

# Sheep Dog Trial



Hall preschoolers display their medals received for outstanding art works, which were on display during the National Sheepdog Trials.



Hall preschoolers arrive at the National Sheepdog Trials

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Hall preschoolers meet trial puppies Stomper and Jazz. They are also preschoolers and one day may be champion trial dogs.



# Fringe

The Annual Dog's Dinner has become a serious fixture in the annual calendar of life at Hall. Sharing fine food and company down at the Pavilion, community members and dog trailers come together for a festive evening of drinks, dinner and dance. A special series of local wines entertainingly labelled for the dinner are hot favourites at auction.



Gus the celebrity dog who appears on the famous Dogs Dinner wine labels checks out this year's best dogs.



Hall Rural Fire Brigade assist the National Sheep Dog trials at Hall Show Ground. Young firies supply the muscle to set up the course for the 2014 trials. Charlie Cover explains the mysteries of trialing to Hall's multi-skilled fire volunteers.  
photo: Bob Richardson

# Festival



Sheepdogs waiting their 15 minutes of glory



Munich comes to Hall. In a slightly bizarre Oktoberfest event in March, sheep dog trialers and locals were invited to taste German beer at Hall Premier Store during the week of dog trials at Hall.

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**Rotary Club of Hall  
extends a helping hand**

The Capital Region Framer's Market at EPIC runs every Saturday morning and celebrate 10 years on 1 March. The markets were established by the Rotary Club of Hall, to create an outlet where local producers could sell their produce direct to the public. Proceeds from the market's stallholder fees go to the Rotary Club of Hall who feeds these back into projects chosen by the Club.



for children with limited mobility.

Dr Luc, from the Mission in Health Care in Development, deeply appreciates the assistance. 'We have been able to assist many women in different projects through microfinance, distributing birthing kits, bags, clothes and many other things' he said.

A special visitor at the market's 10th birthday celebrations was Dr Mulimbalimba Masururu Luc, a doctor from the Democratic Republic of Congo who has set up hospitals and other aid programs in his community. Over the past few years the Rotary Club of Hall has assisted Dr Luc by donating \$2,000 to assist women in the Congo to establish small-scale farming activities, a further \$1,000 last year to assist with healthcare, and early this year another \$1,000 to help with the costs of a shipment of 166 wheelchairs



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## Unmade Edges: A Centenary Legacy Exhibition

4 — 17 April 2014 » in the Gallery

The exhibition will be opened at 5:30pm on Friday 4 April by Dr. Chris Bourke MLA



*Portrait of a Nation: Unmade Edges* supported artists in Uriarra, Tharwa, Hall, Pialligo, Stromlo Settlement and Oaks Estate, 'villages' in Canberra, to conceive, develop and present a creative response to the exploration of the place naming and the history of their village. The Legacy exhibition brings the artists and works together to review the impact of the project and to celebrate their achievements. This exhibition is part of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival.

- Meet the artists: 3:00pm Sunday 13 April
- Gallery hours: 10:00am–4:00pm Tuesday–Sunday
- RSVP: [info@belconnenartscentre.com.au](mailto:info@belconnenartscentre.com.au)
- [www.belconnenartscentre.com.au](http://www.belconnenartscentre.com.au)
- Belconnen Arts Centre, 118 Emu Bank, Belconnen

> Images (clockwork from top left): Marily Cintra, *Still Life with Felt Flower*, 2013; byrd and Hanna Hoyne, *Unfinished Chair*, 2013; Heike Qualitz, *Hall School House Museum Installation*, 2013; Sui Jackson, *Chime Installation*, 2013  
> Reverse: Dan Stewart-Moore, *Loop Maquette*, 2013 (detail)



Belconnen Arts Centre is supported by the ACT Government



from

the Editor

I am half way into six month's long service leave and as I quietly reflect back on why I haven't even begun anything on my long list of projects, I'm finding it quite surprising how so many of the things I have been doing relate to Hall and the remarkable people who live here. Last Saturday night for example I found myself able to go to a wonderful performance of Indian classical dance created by Jennifer White and Mahesh Radhakrishnan – none other than my next door neighbours. It turns out Jeni is an extraordinarily expressive and talented dancer and while I knew Mahesh was quite a musician, there was a depth to his creativity and poetry that took my breath away. Joined by the Fringe's very own Andrew Purdam (our frequent layout artist as well as being long time excellent neighbour. In fact 16 years ago Andrew minded our then young son while Robert and I went off to the birthing centre the night I was in labour with our daughter), Hall musicians made up half of the Tapestries of Sound ensemble. Congratulations to Jeni, Mahesh and Andrew on a magnificent performance. It was a rare treat for me to watch something I would not ordinarily go and see.

### The Rural Fringe – ISSN: 1329-3893

The Rural Fringe is a community newspaper published in 600 copies every second month by the Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc (VHDPA) and distributed free to mailboxes of the 2618 postcode. It is also available online at [www.hall.act.au](http://www.hall.act.au) This publication is funded by the advertisements so readers are encouraged to support the businesses advertised.

#### Contributions

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to contribute to this publication, particularly local community groups, however it is at the discretion of the Editor as to whether submitted articles are published or not.

These deadlines ensure publication by the 10th of every second month.

February issue deadline is 10 January

April issue deadline is 10 March

June issue deadline is 10 May

August issue deadline is 10 July

October issue deadline is 10 September

December issue deadline is 10 November

It is the policy of the VHDPA that articles which are predominantly about the profit making activity of any group or individual can only be accepted for publication if the same issue carrying the article has a paying advertisement of similar size.

Contributions to [ruralfringe@hotmail.com](mailto:ruralfringe@hotmail.com) or PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618.

#### Advertising rates (per issue)

large (quarter page) \$80

medium (eighth page) \$40

small (three sixteenth page) \$30

#### Other information

Editor: Jo Hall

Sub-editor: Bob Richardson

Enquiries to the Sub-editor on 0407 071 245 or [ruralfringe@hotmail.com](mailto:ruralfringe@hotmail.com)

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I have also had the pleasure of going to Pilates every Tuesday morning at the Pavilion, when a dozen or so of us are put through increasingly grueling exercises by our excellent trainer Kirsty. But liberating and strengthening muscles I really never knew I had, this extra exercise complements my daily walks around the Hall Walk or the Centenary Trail. Then there is the regular work of putting together the Fringe and making sure the advertising and accounts are up to date. Our merry band of volunteers was joined last month by Wallaroo Road resident, John Carson (pictured below). John has been contributing to the Fringe for the last few editions and has now taken on the additional role of roving reporter. Recently retired, John is a very welcome addition to the eclectic team (myself, Gail Condy, Andrew Purdam, Bob Richardson and Kevin Stone) who scramble every two months to deliver this fine publication.



Then of course there were the National Sheepdog Trials, the morning tea and the Dog's Dinner, all important events to attend. I've also found myself very much involved in discussions around the future of the Hall school site, being part of the little task force that pulled together the discussion paper for the community consultations. It was extremely refreshing to have some of the issues around the school site openly thrashed out in the community meeting, happily followed by the tuneful Canberra Brass twilight concert when I was pleased to catch up with people I haven't seen for ages.

So while I have managed to do a few other things this last few months there is a diversity in Hall itself to happily and constructively occupy me. The kitchen renovation may never happen.

Until next time.

Jo Hall



# Extreme Sport at Gold Creek Station

by Craig Starr



Castrol Australia was holding their conference in Canberra and on Tuesday 4 March had their annual welcoming dinner at Gold Creek Station. The 190 Castrol employees came in four Murrays coaches. On arrival they were split into three groups, with each group taking turns at three separate displays: A sheep shearing demonstration by Dave Cathie; a working dog demonstration by Digger and Craig Starr; and a Harley Davidson display put on by some local Harley owners. From here everyone moved to the front of the building to watch the boys from FMX do some amazing motorcycle stunts. Jumping from one ramp to another

at a distance of 72 feet and it seemed like they were 72 feet in the air as well. It was such a treat to have these world class entertainers performing at Gold Creek Station. With the crowd only metres from where they

were jumping it was truly amazing to watch. Most of the time FMX would be performing at big shows like the Sydney Royal and the Top Gear Show. After all the action it was time to head inside for a hearty BBQ dinner magnificently prepared by locals Kate Parker, Bill Pearson, Dennis Greenwood and Mick DeBritt. After the three course dinner the crowd was entertained by a trivia contest. At 10.00pm everyone was back on the coaches and ready for three days of conference in Canberra.

