



## Polocrosse

**Australia is currently ranked the number one team in the world!**

The Board of the Australian Polocrosse Association is pleased to announce the Australian Under 16 Junior Polocrosse Team is to compete in South Africa in July this year.

The players have been selected from all over Australia and represent our finest and most talented junior players. The team will be managed by Toni Davidge and coached by Arch Anderson, a very experienced player and coach.

The U16 Junior team, Grace Halsted, Merriwa NSW, Jim Grills, Holbrook NSW, Mitchell Whitely, Geurie NSW, Farann Mathie, Bodalla NSW, Hilary Beech, Tenterden WA, Sarah Gilbert, Clifton Qld, Matt Davison, Pittsworth Qld, and Jack Cooper, NT, came together at the Hall Carnival on the weekend of 29-30 May.



Teams competing came from Southern Highlands, Yass, Eurocoast, Lake George, and surrounding areas for an exciting 2 days of polocrosse. A uniquely Australian made and internationally played sport.



HALL Polocrosse 29th May. The Board of the Australian Polocrosse Association announced the Australian Under 16 Junior Polocrosse team will compete in South Africa in July this year. The team was presented with gifts by Odette Neumann PAA Director during a lull in the tournament at Hall.

Australian junior polocrosse team at Hall for a work out before they head off to South Africa. Pictures Bob Richardson



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Polocrosse is both an exciting and skilful sport that involves athleticism, speed, stamina and lightning quick reflexes from both horse and rider. Polocrosse has embraced participants throughout the world and is the most magnificent and highly exciting spectator sport.

The Polocrosse Association of Australia wish the team, coach and manager all the very best and are proud of their personal achievement and performance.

For further information, please contact Gill Mathie, President, Polocrosse Association of Australia, 0414 767 171 or Fiona Nixon, National Promotions, 0418 764 456

# Hall School Centenary

## The Centenary of Hall Primary School will be celebrated over the weekend of April 16-17th 2011.

Everyone who has had some involvement with the school over the years – pupils, teachers and other staff, parents, and others – is invited 'back to Hall' for the Centenary. Although the school was closed in 2006, it has been at the centre of village and district life for nearly a hundred years, and this will be an occasion to recognize and give thanks to all those who fought to establish the school, and have given it life and purpose.

It will also be a great opportunity for reunions. If you are interested in the Centenary celebrations, and want to be kept informed, please Register your interest by visiting the Hall community website, and let others know about it.

<http://www.hall.act.au/register.html>

The website will carry up to date information about the Centenary weekend, and stories and information about the school and its members.

We plan to have the school site and buildings open for visiting on the Saturday afternoon. There will be a number of activities including opening of the school's Time Capsule, as prescribed at the time of it's sealing.

The original 1911 one teacher school, now the Hall School Museum (the Laurie Copping Heritage Centre), will be open over the weekend. We are currently undertaking a Conservation Management Plan for the Museum, and producing a Handbook for volunteer guides.

On Saturday 16th April there will be a Centenary Dinner in the (newly renovated) Hall Pavilion, featuring entertainment, special guests, and celebration of a century of schooling at Hall. If you register your interest now, then later on you will receive an invitation to attend to the Dinner.

Subject to interest from those attending, we will organize group bookings on Sunday morning at a number of the fine local wineries and cafes.

Please register your interest so that we can keep you posted, and tell others you were at school with about the Centenary. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions about the weekend

### Hall school beginnings

Primary School was closed by the ACT Government at the end of the 2006 school year, five years short of it's Centenary. The same Hall Progress Association that lobbied the NSW government to get the school established in 1911 worked hard with the P & C Association to defend the school from closure, but to no avail. An earlier campaign to save the school from closure in 1959 was much more successful, resulting in new school buildings and a new Principal's residence.

Hall village was proclaimed in 1882, and the village plan including substantial space for 'public buildings'. At the turn of the century there were schools quite close by at both Ginninderra and at Bedellick; Ginninderra was the closer option for children from Hall. In 1903 the Bedellick school (Spring Range Road) was destroyed by fire, requiring those pupils to make the six mile journey to Ginninderra, some walking.



The building was 20 feet by 20 feet with two outside toilets on the eastern side.

By December the building was completed and furniture supplied. The furniture consisted of:

- Six long cedar desks
- Six forms
- Two blackboards and easels
- Two book presses
- One table, 3 feet by 2 feet
- One Austrian chair

An 800 gallon tank supplied drinking water. On the verandah was a wash basin stand and 30 hat and coat hooks. The building was painted in standard government colour with the name 'Hall Public School 1911' on the wall to the right of the chimney. [Copping: 1986: 4-5]

Petitioning for a new school in Hall began immediately, and persisted for the next seven years. In 1906 Charles Thompson, then teacher at Ginninderra "spoke in glowing terms of the fine stone building at Ginninderra, built at a cost of 1400 pounds, and of the well-established trees and shrubs" [Copping: 1986:2]. He also pointed out that if Ginninderra were to be replaced, then some pupils would have to walk five miles or more to get to Hall.



## Hall School – Timeline

- 1903** Bedellick school destroyed by fire
- 1910** Application for a school at Hall approved; tenders called
- 1911** Hall School opened. Teacher in charge – Charles W. Thompson
- 1912** First 'Empire Day picnic'
- 1915** Arbor Day; pines planted along Victoria Street side of the school
- 1919** 'Peace Tree' and thirty pines planted at the school by Red Cross Society
- 1933** Charles Thompson retired; farewell ceremony at Kinlyside Hall.
- 1933** Ray Harris appointed teacher in charge
- 1937** Ray Harris succeeded by Richard O'Sullivan
- 1957** Richard O'Sullivan succeeded by Keith Brew.
- 1957** Proposal to close Hall School. Resisted
- 1959** Weather shed enclosed as temporary classroom
- 1960** Hall upgraded to a Class 3 school, new residence and classrooms added
- 1960** Laurie Copping appointed Principal
- 1962** Water bore sunk; new toilet block built
- 1968** Further additional classrooms added
- 1971** Hall School Diamond Jubilee celebrations
- 1974** Federal Government takes over ACT education from NSW
- 1981** Laurie Copping retired
- 1981** Enrolments peak at 189
- 1986** 75th Anniversary. Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen opened the Hall School Museum
- 1997** Time capsule sealed. To be opened on the Centenary
- 2004** Governor-General Michael Jeffery dedicates the Museum to Laurie Copping
- 2006** Government announces closure of Hall Primary School
- 2010** Hall School Centenary

In 1909, leading advocate for a Hall school James Kilby pointed out that twenty of the forty-five children at Ginninderra came from the Hall area. A parental petition argued that frequent flooding of Halls Creek endangered their children. More importantly Ginninderra school, which had operated since 1880, was surrounded by a few very large land holdings, while Hall was a public township with a growing population and 'two stores, one hotel, one accommodation house, a Post Office, one saddlers shop, one blacksmith and wheelwright.....'

In January 1910 approval was given to the District Schools Inspector to call tenders, and approval of the new school was formally announced in the Public Instruction Gazette of 31 January 1910.



Within two years of the school opening Charles Thompson was requested by the NSW Department of Education to supply a 'history of the school'! His letter of reply says, in part:

"The school was opened on 30th January 1911 by C.W. Thompson with an enrolment of 37 pupils. The area of the school ground is 4 ac & care was taken in clearing the same to leave a number of native trees in the ground. This school was the first public building erected in Federal Territory after proclamation (emphasis added). The present enrolment is 30 and I am still in charge of the school. A photo of the building will be forwarded when procured.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant.  
Chas.W Thompson"



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# Fifty years living in Hall • Wolfgang Wanjura

It was in the so-called 'holy town' of Cologne in Germany that we saw a poster on our church door. It read 'Australia needs tradesmen and professionals for the land of the future!' Passage would be paid, and a two year stay suggested.

As a forcefully thrown out East German citizen from Silesia (now Poland) in 1946, West Germany was not really our home any more. With the spirit of adventure, like the millions of foreigners in every country of the globe, Ursula, my young wife of one year, and I decided to give this idea a go.

From Hamburg, through Rome, Beirut, Karachi, Delhi, Singapore, Darwin and Melbourne, our plane landed in Australia on November 4th 1959. The Bonegilla Migrant Camp at Wodonga was our next stay for ten days. The German camp priest suggested that we go to the capital, Canberra. For the first six months there we stayed in Yarralumla.



↑ Andrea and Wolfgang Wanjura, Terry Libbes & Caroline Kleefisch, Alexandra Street, around 1965



↑ Penders new house, corner of Hoskins and Alexandra, 1952

As a trained brick-layer with a German master course certificate in the building trades, it was not difficult to get a job. While working on the American Embassy extension I met Frank Pustavrh who lived in Gibbes Street at Hall. Frank, who came from Serbia, and his Austrian wife, tried to talk to me with the German that he knew from his early years. He did not know that I had three years of English lessons at high school. When I asked Frank about where he lived, he described Hall as a bit remote, but with biggish blocks. There was no water supply at that time, and no sewerage, but it was a lovely place. Of course there was no Belconnen, and the closest suburb at that time was Lyneham, ten kilometers away.

When I asked Frank how much he had to pay for his block, he said "nothing – you just pay for the legal papers". "Wonderful" I said, and went with my wife for an inspection. In Alexandra Street where I built our place there were just four houses in those days – ours was the fifth. At the recent celebration of the Centenary of St Francis Xavier's church I met Tom Penders, an early citizen of Hall. (Tom and his family came to Hall in 1952 and built the home that the Crombies now live in in Hoskins Street). Tom told me that Alexandra Street was not created until 1953-54.

So, in 1960 I went to the Department of the Interior to inquire about obtaining a block of land in Hall. The Department sold me a block with pleasure – for the paperwork fee of two pounds and ten shillings. The wages in those times were around sixteen to eighteen pounds a week. So for the pittance of about one days work, we were the proud owners of a block of land. Nowadays it would cost in the hundreds of thousands. Ten shillings per quarter was payable for the Crown lease. Firstly a 25 year, then 50, and later a 99 years lease was issued. A government loan of three thousand five hundred pounds over twenty years was available in those days.

So on the 1st May 1960, my wife and I moved to the village of Hall. We were able to rent two rooms with a Dutch family

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named Daamen, in the house where our good Vet Jan Spate now lives. From there it was a stone's throw to our block in Alexandra Street.

Before building a live-in garage, or the house, some sweaty activities had to be performed. About fifteen gum trees had to be felled; the virgin bush had to be sent to the heavens.



Coming from a country where the decimal system was the rule, measurement had to be adjusted to inches and feet. However there seemed to be some wrong measures on my plans when they came from the Department. The building would not fit properly on the block. Why not, was the question. Reluctantly, and hoping not to make a fool of myself, I went back to the Building Section and asked for the plan measurements to be checked. After a long wait he came back and apologized. "Yes" he told me, "you are right. Your measurements are in 'links' " – an old English surveying measure of about five and a half inches! With new figures I went happily home. Now things could go ahead as planned.

Jim Rochford, then in his prime, operated the Hall Service Station and looked after our cars. He was always a nice person, and very active. He also had some work for a builder! He wanted the shearing shed on his farm extended, and a house to be built there. Some block work at the Garage, some stone and brick work at St Xavier's, and a toilet for the church-goers. Later his residence on Gibbes Street had to be built. For his 80th birthday I wrote him a little poem, in which I referred to him as the 'Mayor of Hall'.

I must mention too the Southwells – Ursula and Max. Ursula Southwell took my wife – also Ursula, but a newcomer to the village – under her wing. They went to outings and parties, and helped us make friends with the locals. Ursula remembers that the Daamens, the Penders, and the Edwards family were very friendly and helpful, and she enjoyed her regular talks about the problems of the world with Marion Ward.

Let me mention four locations in Hall – all close together – that were of some importance in the early days.

The first is the Hall showground. Some people might not know that the – now huge – Canberra Show used to be held here. I remember that one year my good wife received a prize for a piece of needlework. The wood chopping was held in the Hall school yard. Most of the judges for the different events were from the Hall area.

Secondly, where the Wood Duck Inn and other parts of Hall Village Court are now found, we once had a second garage and service station operating. One must remember that the Barton

Highway was running through the village at this time. Some entrepreneur was hoping to outdo the established service station. My eldest son earned some pocket money there when going to high school. When the Hall bypass was opened there was no room for two and the new one said 'goodbye'.

Thirdly, the post office used to stand next to Kinlyside Hall, now occupied by the Hall Attic. It was a small wooden building, where Mr Murphy, a resident of Victoria Street, was the postmaster. Later the post office was located for a time in the small office next door to (then) Allan Golding Real Estate.

Fourthly, the Hall village 'cinema' used to operate at Kinlyside Hall, then owned by Jim Rochford. I went a few times on Saturdays to see the 'pictures'. In winter time a pot belly stove tried to warm the spectators, but people also brought their own blankets to keep warm. Young people especially seemed to enjoy this!

Before Hall got the sewerage system installed the 'poo-man' came once a week to pick up our digested food from the outside loo. Our little village was well perfumed by the collection truck. Getting connected to the sewerage system was well worth the \$1,100 cost. After years of dusty streets they were finally sealed with tar one day, despite some opposition to this development.

Our four children – Andrea, Wolfgang, Markus, and Martina – all went to Hall Primary, where Mr Laurie Copping was the head master for a long time.

Wolfgang Wanjura

May 2010

# Jon Murphy

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# From the President

Apologies to all anxious readers for the recent delay in getting your Fringe to you. Good to be back on track – with the bonus of being able to download the **Rural Fringe** from the Hall website. Just select 'Documents' on the home page, then scroll to the bottom of that page.

There are two major road developments which we affect Hall and district residents in the near future. Design has been completed for a traffic light controlled interchange on the Barton Highway where the new **Clarrie Hermes Drive** will cross (at Kuringa Drive – below). A previous design for a roundabout has been dropped.



NSW RTA meanwhile are moving ahead with duplication of the **Barton Highway**, and are holding public information sessions at the end of May. Landholders with frontage to the highway will be keen to know details of the proposed 200 metre wide corridor. We will all benefit from the eventual dual highway link to Yass and the Hume Highway.

Interest in the **Hall School Museum** continues to grow. The Museum is open every Hall Markets day, 10.00 – 4.00 pm. Most recently, grandchildren of Charles Thompson, the legendary teacher in charge from the opening of the school until 1933, visited. We now have the draft Conservation Management Plan for the Museum, and work is progressing well with the creation of a Volunteer Guide's Handbook. Please let me know if you are interested in the idea of being a Volunteer Guide.

Readers are reminded that plans are under way for the **Hall School Centenary** next year. There will be a Centenary Dinner on April 16<sup>th</sup>, and other activities over that weekend. You are encouraged to Register interest on the special Centenary pages of the Hall website, at:

<http://www.hall.act.au/centenary.html>

You will also find some interesting historical items about the school, and old photos there.

At the request of Sandy Newbery who teaches there, the **Mens Shed** group have undertaken to maintain the bicycles used by children at the Cranleigh School in Holt. This 'bokes group' presently meets every Thursday morning from 10.30 am at the Cottage, and have the adjoining garage available as a workshop. The group is operating on a 'drop-in' basis – all welcome to call by for a cuppa and a yarn.

Alastair Crombie

25 May 2010

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# The Hall Common

The Hall Common is an area of about 24 hectares or 58 acres on the western side of Hall between the village and the Barton Highway. It was gazetted on 20 March 1882 when the survey of Hall Village was gazetted. It is now known as the Hall Horse Paddocks and is managed along with other ACT horse paddocks by a contractor working for the ACT Government.

While similar commons in nearby NSW are still managed by the community through local trustees, the conversion of all ACT land to leasehold during the creation of the ACT early last century resulted in the gradual loss of our sense of ownership and responsibility for the Common - not least because of the perception in the ACT that seems to be that the "Government is responsible for everything".



However the Hall Common is a major part of the landscape setting of the village and is still regularly used by walkers and horse riders who are probably unaware that if Hall had remained in NSW then they would still have the right to agist a milking cow in the paddocks!

The original concept of a "common" for use of village residents was brought with our legal system from England and established in the Commons Regulation Act 1898. For NSW residents it was confirmed as recently as 1989 in the NSW Commoners Act which described a common as a parcel of land set aside "for pasturage for the use of the inhabitants of a specified locality".

While the Hall Common has been continually grazed for more than 100 years, it has also been used as a dump, for firewood collection, to house bee hives and to provide fill



and roading material. Despite this history of exploitation it remains one of the high value grassy woodlands in the ACT. It features in the listing of Hall as one of the five areas in the ACT for priority protection for grassy woodland values. After a good spring season, anyone walking in the Common can see an impressive display of orchids like the yellow Donkey Orchid, blue *Thysinotas*, the rare *Gompholobium* and a sea of native grasses waving in the wind like Kangaroo Grass and Spear Grass.

While the horses were removed from the Common in Spring 2005 due to the damage they were doing in ringbarking the large trees, they have now been put back in and will assist in reducing the fire hazard which is an important consideration as Hall is at most threat from a fire approaching across these paddocks from the north west.

At least 84 different bird species have been recorded as present in the Hall Common. Over Christmas I also saw an Azure Kingfisher, an infrequent visitor to the region, with its beautiful blue, purple and green colours brightening an otherwise oppressively hot day.

The Common is a valuable asset for Hall. It plays a vital role in protecting us from fires, it gives us space to walk the dog and ride horses, to appreciate our native plants and animals and in contributing to the landscape setting that Hall is known for. It is just a pity that we have lost the right to manage it ourselves!

Greg Hayes

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# Hall Preschool

Welcome to the Hall Preschool news. Our numbers have grown since the last issue, and we are now full with 15 children accessing the program. The children are all working well as a team, sharing and learning together almost like a very large family. It is lovely to see all the different personalities developing and many friendships forming and firming.

overwhelming for some, but on the whole it was an enjoyable morning. We are hoping to participate in more such events as they arise.

At Easter time we made rabbit ears to wear and we went on an Easter egg hunt in our playground. Then suddenly it was Mothers Day! The children did a wonderful job painting



We have been very busy this term, doing and learning lots of things. Walking down to watch the sheepdog trials was very exciting, as was getting a medallion for our art works – we were all very proud.

In mid March we had a morning at Gold Creek Primary School joining in the cross-country. We ran a 100m race, did an obstacle course, had an egg and spoon race, then had our morning tea before heading back to Hall Preschool. It was our first experience of the “big school” and was a little

their “fill-me-up pots” for their mums. Lots of great ideas were shared about what could be put in the pots. I wonder how many of them are actually filled with “mummy’s toys” or “lollies for sharing”?

At the start of Term 2 we did a 5-week program with “DanceKids” where we learnt about camouflage through dance and movement. It was a great program and all the children were very enthusiastic participants. On the last day all the parents were invited to watch as the children dressed up and moved about like Bogong moths, leaf tail geckos, birds and decorator crabs. We all learnt so much through having so much fun.

We also joined with Nicholls Preschool and went on an excursion to the Belconnen Bus Wash. It was very exciting to see the broken buses at the “bus hospital”, the huge big petrol tanks at the bus petrol station, and to call out loud “wake up buses” to all the sleeping buses. Going through the actual bus wash was the highlight of the trip, as evidenced by the squeals of delight as the water sprays hit the bus, and we put our hands on the windows to feel the vibrations as the huge brushes came along the side of the bus.

So as you can see, we have been very busy at preschool. We have done so much at it is only just the middle of the year! Currently we are starting a unit of work on our senses, and next term will be looking at the different systems in our body. So much to learn, so little time! If you feel you have some level of expertise in any of these areas, please contact the preschool. We love to have “guest speakers/demonstrators” visit us.



# Wattle Park Uniting Church

Well, not a lot to say this month. The congregation is growing albeit very slowly, but progress is progress. We had an excellent Girl's Brigade/Boy's Brigade parade service where the young people joined with a family to celebrate a baptism. Our Girl's Brigade assistant leader Kate was the Elder and the baby was very well behaved (not so sure about the minister!!).



Although we seem to be in a pleasant state of mind at Wattle Park with "things" ticking along nicely and in our comfort zone; it is important to remember God during the good times, not just when we want to ask for something. I often say to avid sports fans that if they ask God to help their team win; then every game would finish in a draw.

I do hope that you are all escaping the winter woes and that the coughs and colds treat you mildly. Just a reminder that we meet every Sunday at 10.30 am and that you are all very welcome.

Many Blessings

Pastor Bernie

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TUESDAY 6th July, 2010 - 6:15 PM  
Exercise Rooms, Swiss School Area, Gold Creek Country Club, Curran Drive, Nicholls

THURSDAY 8th July, 2010 - 10:00 AM  
Exercise Rooms, Swiss School Area, Gold Creek Country Club, Curran Drive, Nicholls

THURSDAY 8th July, 2010 - 6:30 PM  
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# Hall Bushrangers RFC

*Capimus Sed Tradimus*

*(What We Receive, We Pass On)*



## From the Hall Bushrangers President Shaun O'Connor

18 years ago this great club of ours kicked off and every year becomes more exciting with growth, player talent and supporter base. It is hard to believe that we now have players who were born the same year we started the Bushrangers in 1992!

This year is already proving to be a cracker, with one of our favourite sons and a terrific player Adam (Adsy) Gladman as our new head coach. Adam brings to the club a higher level of management, respect and mateship, hence giving the team the right attitude to be successful. The Club's coaching staff is also experienced in team management which is already making a perfect team in 2010.

2010 will also bring many exciting social events such as the Hall Ball on June 26<sup>th</sup> and a Golf day on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June at Belconnen G.C. that our new social coordinator Kate Betts is managing. The Golden Oldies (The Hall Bushed rangers) will be featuring in the curtain raiser at the 'hideout' (The Hall oval) on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> with a combined League/Union game against the West Belconnen Warriors.

Our supporters this year will have the chance to become members for the first time and benefit from our wide range of discounted merchandise and social events.

Again we will continue to support Camp Quality and the Hall community such as the Hall Pre-school and the business community through the Hall Ball on June 26.

Finally, a big thank you to our sponsors, coaching staff, players and supporters for your commitment and diligence in building our clubs continuous improvement program.

Yours in Rugby


Shaun O'Connor

President



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## Hall Rugby - 1<sup>st</sup> Division Draw- 2010

Date	Opponent	Venue
1 May	Queanbeyan / Royals Molonglo	Hall
8 May	Goulburn	Hall
15 May	Wests	Aranda
22 May	Queanbeyan / Royals Molonglo	Phillip
29 May	Cooma	Cooma
17 Jun (Thur)	ADFA	ADFA
26 Jun	Easts	Hall
3 Jul	Uni-Norths	ANU
10 Jul	Goulburn	Goulburn
24 Jul	Wests	Hall
31 Jul	Royals	Hall
7 Aug	Tuggeranong	Hall
14 Aug	Gungahlin	Nicholls
21 Aug	Cooma	Hall
28 Aug	Semi Finals	TBA
4 Sep	Preliminary Final	TBA
11 Sep	Grand Final	TBA

### Kick-Off Times

Time	Grade
1pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade.
2:30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade

## Hall Rugby Club

Have you seen our new website?

[www.hallbushrangers.com.au](http://www.hallbushrangers.com.au) (very easy to remember!).  
Keep up to date with the latest news, scores and upcoming events!



ABC Beer Club at Jim Murphy's Cellars in May.

### ABC Beer Club

Founded by Shaun O'Connor in November 2009 the Australian Brew Club has become a very popular social gathering with over 30 participants attending a meeting every 8 weeks. The concept is to introduce 4 local and internationally renowned beers ranging from ales, lagers, pilseners and stouts. A presentation is made about the characteristics of the beer and it is accompanied by a

*go to page 14 ▶*



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# Hall Bushrangers RFC (continued from page 13)

delicious tapas. Some of the venues that we have been to include All Bar Nun, Debaclé Bar, Wig & Pen, Wood Duck Inn and Jim Murphy Cellars. For more information contact Shaun on 0427 363 747.

## Family Day at the Hideout - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June

Mark down this day as this is the biggest day on the calendar!

- Jumping Castle and Face Painting for the kids;
- Golden Oldies – League/Union Challenge – Bused Bushrangers vs. West Belconnen Warriors
- Hall Bushrangers vs. Easts (Reserves – 1 pm; Firsts — 2.30 pm)
- The Hall Ball 6:30pm

## Meat Raffle

Every Friday Night at the Wood Duck from 6 pm to 7 pm. Get behind **your** Club and be in the running for a meat tray!

Hall Rugby would like to thank the following businesses for their financial support:

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# Henry and Mary Hall of 'Charnwood'

It is not well known that the village of Hall is named after one of Canberra's earliest pioneers, and Ginninderra's first resident landholder, Henry Hall Esq. of 'Charnwood'.

The 3472 acre property of 'Charnwood', in the Parish of Wallaroo, Ginninderra District, was settled by the Hall's only seven years after the first explorers moved through the area, and 45 years after the first fleet. Henry and his wife Mary (nee Fisher) occupied the property for 40 years from 1833 to 1873, raising eleven children, before moving to Yass, where they are buried.

The 'Charnwood' homestead site itself can be located between Shakespeare Crescent and Hall's Creek, opposite Rogers Street, in today's suburb of Fraser. It was demolished in the 1970's due to poor condition and problems with squatters and vandalism. Nothing visible remains of the main homestead, but a number of large trees remain to mark the spot, including conifers, quinces, two huge olives (which still bear fruit), and other trees including a very unusual species from North America. Some 100 metres or so west, off Binns Street, there are the foundations of an out-building and conifer trees. Today it is a popular area for local residents to walk in and children to play in, but, most likely, without a knowledge of it's history.

Henry Hall was born in Loughborough, England, in 1803, to John Hall of Loughborough and Mary (nee Middleton). He arrived in Port Jackson, NSW, from England, in 1823 aboard

the Brig 'Francis', stopping in Hobart Town in August of that year (Sydney Gazette 4/9/1823). He carried with him a letter of introduction from British Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel.

Soon after, Henry accepted the position as overseer of 'St Heliers', a 1000 acre property at Lake Bathurst, south of Goulburn, granted to his cousin, Edward Smith Hall, by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1821. Edward Smith was well known at the time for founding The Monitor (later the Sydney Monitor) newspaper in 1826, published in a lane off George St., Sydney. Edward's editorials caused controversy in a number of ways including criticizing the government. He was jailed at one stage, and while there continued to write his editorials, earning himself more jail time! The paper closed in 1842. Edward Smith was also the first Secretary of the Bank of New South Wales.

From 1830-1835 Henry was employed by the Australian Agricultural Company (AACo) as Superintendent of cattle, stud and agriculture. Following him in these positions in 1841 was Philip Gidley King. The AACo is still operating.

After a complex dispute with his cousin involving land at 'St Heliers', Henry was granted 3472 acres of land in compensation (authorised by Sir Richard Bourke), in the Parish of Ginninderra, County of Murray. He named it 'Charnwood' after the forest of Charnwood in Leicestershire, England, location of the Hall family residence. To imagine the property today, it ranged from two kilometres north of Wallaroo road, south to almost Kippax, west to the Hall's Creek/Gooromon Pond junction, east to Mt Rogers.

Henry was married to Mary Fisher in St Philip's church, York Street, Sydney, by Chaplain William Cowper on 22 March 1837. Mary, born in London in 1816, was the daughter of Lieutenant CW Fisher, employee of the East India Company and later HM Customs Service.

Henry and wife Mary spent 40 years successfully running their property 'Charnwood'. They also leased 'The Mullion', a sheep station across the Murrumbidgee River, north-west of 'Charnwood' and a station at Yaouk, where he ran cattle. Yaouk was a long way south - around 75 kilometres as the crow flies from 'Charnwood', just outside today's Namadgi National Park, adjacent to the Murrumbidgee River.

The couple had eleven children - four daughters and seven sons - the first born in 1838. The children were Mary Elizabeth, Henry Fisher, Charles Middleton and Edmund Wingate (twins), Lucy, Anne Jane, John Francis, Thomas Turner, William Sydney, Robert Leicester, and Eleanor. All, except possibly the first, were born at 'Charnwood' and were baptised in Queanbeyan then at St John's the Baptist Anglican church, Canberra (now Reid, Canberra).

Stock kept by the Hall's at 'Charnwood' included 3-4000 sheep, cattle, dairy cows, angora goats, donkeys, fox-hounds and horses, including, as it was stated at the time '...the best Arab that ever came to NSW, 'Abdula'...' (Queanbeyan Age). Hall bred high class Arabian horses, not so much for racing, but as utility horses with pace and endurance.

Henry and his family were well involved in the community, which at that time however, was sparsely scattered. They held one of the first pews at St John the Baptist Anglican

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church in 1845, the year the building was consecrated, along with Charles Campbell, George T. Palmer and others, and was no doubt involved in some way with its establishment. Henry was one of the first church Wardens, from 1854-55 and in 1857-61. It was noted only last year that, most, if not all, early Wardens are remembered with a plaque on the wall inside the church - but as far as we can see, not Henry. Henry was involved with opening and running of new schools in the district, such as Ginninderra, and was on the board of Glebe school in 1869.

The Hall's became well known for their hospitality with Mary described as a gentle, refined and gracious lady and Henry a good, all-round, rough and ready farmer. Henry may have had repairs done at the blacksmiths shop (est. 1860), still standing on the southern carriageway of the Barton highway near Gold Creek, or enjoyed a beer at the Cricketers Arms Hotel (also known as One Tree Hotel), licensed in 1864. We know he was a regular guest at George Palmer Snr's 'Palmerville' (alongside Ginninderra Creek at Giralang) attending the numerous functions held there such as fundraising balls, dances and sporting events. He is thought to have played cricket with Ginninderra Cricket Club along with George Harcourt and others.

Henry was also known to be a hard master. There are a number of descriptions of his assigned convicts appearing before the police magistrate in Queanbeyan on what would seem today to be trivial infractions. These included poor Robert Wright who received 50 lashes for refusing an order and 25 lashes for mis-placing or not producing his boots. The census of 1841 lists about 32 persons residing at 'Charnwood', including assigned convicts.

The Hall family is remembered by the naming of a suburb - Charnwood - after their property; Hall Village; Hall's Creek (that runs through Hall Village, past Hall homestead to Gooromon Creek) and by Mary Hall Circuit in Dunlop.

*By Mark Stockall*

Great-Great-Great Grandson of  
Henry Hall of "Charnwood"

11 April 2010

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# Running with the bulls (or Cows With Guns!)

You would think that an event like the one I am about to relate would stick firmly in my mind but I actually can't recall the month that it happened to me.

In July each year probably the most famous Running of the Bulls is held in San Fermin, Pamplona, Spain. This is when young men test their luck against a herd of 6 bulls and 6 steers that are released from a corral to run to the bullring. The runners are dressed in the traditional clothing of white shirt and trousers with a red waistband and neckerchief. In one hand they hold the day's newspaper rolled to draw the bulls attention from them if necessary.

So in a month I can't remember, the dog and I set off on our early morning walk, the biggest decision at that point was which route to take, bush or bitumen. We decided to go with our first preference of the bush, infinitely more interesting to the dog and his owner. We walked up the gravel path towards the water tanks, turned right and followed the Hall Walking Trail, which took us over the fence (me), under the fence (the dog) and into the bush. Once there we went to an open grassy area and did our usual throwing of the stick (me) and fetching of the stick (the dog). It was at this point I noticed three cows standing under the gum trees off to my right, a little frozen tableau watching our game. I called the dog to come to me, which immediately alerted him to the fact that there was something very interesting that I didn't want him to see, so he also froze and stared around him. However, being the big game hunting dog breed that he is (not), he overlooked the three cows and one random rabbit that took the opportunity to run to safety in the other direction and eventually came back to me.

Not wanting him to run after the cows and cause them any distress, I put the dog on the lead and we proceeded in the opposite direction down the walking trail. Further down the track and no other cows to be seen, I let him off again. He ran ahead sniffing and exploring and I walked along happily behind, enjoying the peace and quiet of the bush. The sound of twigs snapping startled me and caused me to turn around and to my horror I found myself staring into the faces of quite a number of cows who had managed to tiptoe up and were starting to funnel onto the track behind me. A four lettered word escaped my mouth.... "gosh" I said, "where did you come from"? Not one of them answered. So I told them "off you go" with, what I hoped was a nonchalant

wave of my arm and turned my back on them and continued walking down the track. With my heart beating a bit faster I increased my pace and without looking back I could hear branches crashing and the pounding of many hooves gathering pace.

The dog turned round to check out what was happening, took one look and increased his pace away from the cows and me. "Where are you going you chicken dog"? I yelled, starting to lose my composure, as my hand checked my pocket for my mobile phone. I stopped again and turned around to face the increasing numbers that were now trying to file onto the track behind me. I had a flashback to Crocodile Dundee and tried to remember that thing he did with his hand to the bull but felt a bit silly so just said "go away" in a firm voice. Well that worked. It was pretty much at this point that I panicked, totally lost it and started running. I can't say with any honesty that my life flashed before my eyes but newspaper headlines did. 'Women trampled by stampeding cows while walking dog in Hall' or 'Woman stuck up a gum tree for 3 days to escape stampeding cows'. The faster I went, so did the cows. They were making this sort of whimpering sound, then I realised it was me. Glancing over my shoulder I noticed the cows now had a manic expression on their faces, huge horns and guns drawn. I increased my pace. The dog, the coward, was long gone. Then suddenly a fence was in front of me and equally suddenly I found myself on the other side of it, with absolutely no recollection of how I got over it. I stood hunched over with my hands resting on my thighs, legs like jelly and trying to catch my breath, thinking if my body survives this I will donate it to science. I glanced over my shoulder and pressing up against the fence were many, many cows, also breathing heavily and eyes staring wildly.

I heard a voice say "Oh my goodness Julie, where did you come from"? Still hunched over I gestured behind me. "Really"? said the other person; "I didn't take the dogs in there today as I noticed there was a herd of cattle and they looked a bit frightening". No kidding!!

The moral of the story – always take rolled up newspaper with you when out walking, you never know how many huge horned, gun toting cows you may encounter.

*Julie Welsh*

John Starr, owner of the cows told me (with a little smirk on his face) there were 60-80 of them and that they were in fact heifers. He provided me with the following interesting bovine facts:

**BULL** The big fellow with the large dangling bits of tackle

**COW** A female over 2 years old

**HEIFER** Up to 2 year old female

**STEER** Desexed male

**WEANER** Calf still with its mother

**HERD** A number of any of the above

**NEAT** One of any of the above on its own

**CATTLE** From Collins dictionary – beasts of pasture, oxen or cows



# Dressage



Hall equestrian centre hosted international standard classical dressage on the weekend of 28th May. Riders and spectators came to HALL from all over Australia to be tutored by Sylvia Stoessel in the technique of Philippe Karl. The school of LEGERETE (LIGHTNESS), has the unique ability to teach feel for both horse and rider.

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Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc

## Annual General Meeting

The Pavilion

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The exciting month of events will include everything from degustation dinners, cooking classes, wine tastings, performances, special exhibitions and relaxing B&B packages all with a winter theme – and of course there will be endless hot chocolates, gluhwein and hearty winter food on offer.

**Further information:** visit [www.firesidefestival.com.au](http://www.firesidefestival.com.au) for event details and register online to receive regular event updates.

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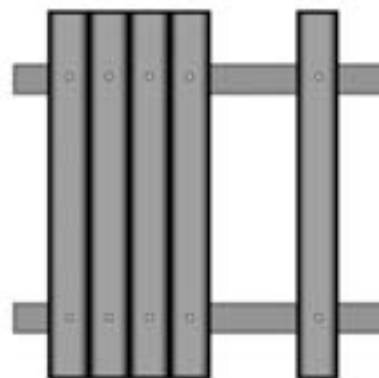
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# Stiff and sore?

Is your old dog a bit slow out of bed these frosty mornings? My old Labrador Ned is not as keen on walks as usual, and is having quite a bit of trouble climbing the steps onto the verandah.

The muscles over Ned's hips are wasting away and when I extend his legs he cries. Like many other old dogs he has arthritis of the hips.

Healthy joints have a protective covering of cartilage over the adjoining bones. Fluid in the joint lubricates and together with the cartilage cushions the ends of the bones.

In an arthritic joint the cartilage is eroded and the joint fluid thinned. Sometimes extra bone grows in the joint causing further erosion of the cartilage. These changes cause pain and decrease the range of movement in the joint.

Arthritis has no cure, but I can make Ned more comfortable and much happier. Treatment is tailored to the individual and often a number of treatment options are combined.

Extra kilograms put unnecessary pressure on joints. Old Ned is on a diet now to improve his mobility and relieve some of the joint pain.

I've built a ramp up onto the verandah so that he can come and go without help. When he wants to survey his kingdom we back the four wheel drive up to the verandah and he walks into the cabin.

Warmth eases stiff joints. Ned sleeps inside on cold nights on a sheep skin covered foam mattress. I wrap on a cosy coat for early morning walks.

Moderate exercise is important for his physical and mental health. Too much exercise strains the joints but too little results in muscle wastage and more pressure on the joints.

Ned is keen on his glucosamine and Omega 3 fatty acid joint supplements. We add them to his breakfast.

I've started Ned on arthritis or Pentosan injections, too. They protect and repair joint cartilage, and stimulate the production of joint fluid. About 75% of arthritic dogs show an improvement in activity and general well being by the third or fourth injection.

If Ned doesn't respond adequately to Pentosan, I will probably prescribe anti-inflammatory pain relief. Anti-inflammatories are strong pain killers that give most arthritic pets a new lease of life.

Each species responds to anti-inflammatories differently. Never try your own arthritis drugs on your pet as some cause irreversible damage to pets' kidneys and livers.

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# Garden Visitors *Southern Boobook Owl and Little Corella*

## By Watchful Eyes

The other night we had a Southern Boobook Owl mournfully hoot all night, 'mo-poke', 'mo-poke', hence also being referred to as the Mopoke Owl. The BookooK Owl (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) is the smallest of the owls in our area but a lovely one with huge yellow eyes, dark chocolate feathers on top and rufous-brown feathers on its chest which are heavily streaked and spotted with white. They like to live in wooded habitats but are generally found right throughout the Canberra region.

They, like so many of the hunters in our garden prey on mice, lizards, geckos, frogs, insects and just about anything that is small and moves. I often wonder how everyone that lives around our garden gets fed. Boobooks are great little night hunters and pounce or swoop on their unsuspecting prey. Their soft, leading edge, feathers effectively eliminate any noise they make when flying allowing them silently swoop around at night. They are also agile and swift flyers, allowing them to manoeuvre rapidly when pursuing insects or other flying prey and their strong talons grip and securely hold their prey once caught.

The Boobook Owl, like all owls, not only has excellent night vision but also very acute hearing which allows them to hunt in complete darkness. Their ears are set at different levels, to maximise hearing. Because their left and right ears are placed at different levels on their heads there is a slight difference in the time taken for a particular sound to reach each ear. This time-lag enables the owl to pinpoint the source of the sound more accurately. The owl can also change the shape of its ear opening to allow it to focus its hearing further. Pretty amazing! In addition to excellent hearing, owls also have great night vision. Their eyes have rod cells which are sensitive to low light levels and their large pupils mean that an image is about two and a half times brighter to an owl than to a human.

Once they catch their prey they generally tear it up before eating it but even so they end up eating large amounts of fur, feathers, bones etc. and they regurgitate this indigestible material as tightly packed pellets. It's these pellets, found at the base of their nests, which gives scientists an indication of what Boobooks eat.

I haven't seen courting Boobooks but I'm told courtship involves the owls setting up a nesting territory and sitting side by side

on a branch, chirping, purring, nibbling and preening each other. After courtship they set up a nest in the hollow of a dead tree; line it with leaves, small twigs and then the female lays between 2 to 3 eggs which she incubates for around 26-33 days. Her mate brings food to her whilst she is sitting but once the babies' hatch both owls take on parenting duties. The baby birds stay in the nest until they are five or six weeks old but even when they fledge they stay with, and are fed by their parents for another 2 – 3 months.

An amazing fact I uncovered about birds is that they have to keep their brains as small as possible in order to stay aerodynamically streamlined. But at the same time they need a complex brain in order to survive and do the things that birds do. To overcome this dilemma birds evolved a special way of making new nerve cells in the brain as and when they are needed them, and ability unique to birds. Birds can generate new nerve cells in adulthood and this means they can increase the number of nerve cells in the brain when they are needed and decrease them when not needed. Song birds that sing only in the breeding season have larger and more nerve cells than during winter. They shrink in size when not needed. Quite amazing!



We also had a flock of Little Corellas (*Cacatua sanguine*) come to feed near our front gate. It's the first time I've seen them in the district but they turned out to be fleeting visitors and didn't stay long. Little Corellas are quite distinct from the more common Sulphur Crested Cockatoo who is a persistent, noisy and generally unwelcome garden resident.

Little Corellas are mostly white, with a fleshy blue eye-ring and a pale rose-pink patch between the eye and bill. In flight, a bright sulphur-yellow wash can be seen on the underwing and under tail. The sexes are similar in plumage, and young birds look like the adults, but are slightly smaller.

Little Corellas generally feed on the ground in large flocks but I only saw about 20 birds on the day they were with us. Little Corellas can live up to 20 years and are thought to pair for life and will start breeding at the start of a long period of rain. The nest is in a tree hollow lined with shavings of wood or small twigs. This nest is used for several years in a row. Both parents

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incubate the eggs and care for the young chicks who are naked when hatched and totally dependent on their parents.

Corellas, like the Sulphur Crested Cockatoo, can be quite destructive, chewing and ripping and gnawing at anything that takes their fancy including fences, gates, overhanging wires, TV antennae and so on, so I guess it's just as well that the little flock of Corellas passed on and didn't stay around.

### Identification Sheet *Uredo rangelii* (Myrtle rust)

The fungus *Uredo rangelii* (Myrtle rust) has been detected on a commercial property on the New South Wales central coast. Myrtle rust is considered to be part of a group of rust fungi collectively known as eucalyptus/guava rust.

Early identification of this rust is vital to eradication efforts.

**Host species:** In Australia, Myrtle rust has recently been detected on *Agonis* (willow myrtle), *Syncarpia* (turpentine) and *Callistemon* (bottlebrush) species. Internationally, there are unconfirmed reports of infection on some *Eucalyptus* species. It has also been confirmed on *Myrtus*, *Syzygium* and *Heteropyxis* species overseas.

**Spread:** Rusts are highly transportable. The most common dispersal mechanism is via wind but they may also attract bees who work the spores on leaves. The spores can also be spread via contaminated clothing, infected plant material and insect movement.

**Identification:** Myrtle rust produces lesions on young, actively growing leaves and shoots, as well as on fruits and sepals. Leaves may become buckled or twisted as a result of infection. On turpentine and callistemon rust lesions are purple in colour, with masses of bright yellow or orange-yellow spores.

Occasionally, they may have dark brown spores. Severe rust disease in young trees may kill shoot tips, causing loss of leaders and a bushy habit. See next page for images.

**Any rust on Myrtaceae should be reported.**

**Reporting:** To report suspect cases of Myrtle rust please call the

**Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1 800 084 881**

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# Hall Ute Competition and Family Day

## Farm Faithful Ute Comes Home to Hall

The 2010 Hall Ute Competition and Family Day held on May 8 raised more than double the funds of the 2009 event, adding more than \$5,450 to the coffers of Camp Quality in the ACT.

This year the event had 125 entries from 88 utes compared to last year's 135 entries from 85 utes. More than 500 people turned out to enjoy the barbecue and family activities, generating a profit of \$5,469 compared to \$2,003 last year.

One of the organisers of the event, Mary Vagg said the winner of the Best Overall ute for the show was Jason Barnett or Richardson in the ACT with his Toyota Hilux 4 x 4.

"The utes on the day were a great selection and the winners of the categories thoroughly deserved their prizes", she said.

"However there was one special ute on the day that carried a great story with it." (See photo).

"The winner of the 'Restored category' was a 1947 KBI International utility and for this old ute it was a case of coming home to Hall.

"The ute first became part of the Hall scenery in the 1950's when Allen Southwell of "Wattle Park" on Spring Range Road bought it second hand to transport livestock and farm supplies.

"It spent 20 hard years carrying supplies and animals as well as Allen's sisters, nieces and nephews across paddocks, up gravel roads, through swamps and boggy creeks. It eventually came to rest at the back of the farm shed with rear spring shackles made out of coiled fencing wire and a worn out motor.

"Fast forward to 1975, when Bob Barnes of Bonython was looking for

a 1956 F100 pickup to restore. He was told that Mr Southwell had an old truck. When Bob went to have a look, it was in a shed buried under hay and other farm material. He dragged it out and discovered in was the 1947 International. It didn't run at all, and had chooks roosting in the back.



"Allen apparently was reluctant to part with the ute as he felt it was most dishonourable to sell a worn out vehicle that didn't go, but Bob eventually convinced him to sell the ute.

"Bob spent the next three years restoring the ute to its former glory. (Luckily he had a very understanding wife.) Finally, in 1978 it was registered and on the road.

"The first time Bob took the ute to the Hall Ute Competition and Family Day, Allen's nephews (Phil and Tony Morris) recognised the truck. They used to ride on the back around the farm when they were kids.

"The old ute had a complete rebuild in 2008 and it's now looking forward to many more years in the competition ring and of weekend outings".

Results of the ute competition and the raffle are on the website, [www.hallutecom.com](http://www.hallutecom.com).

The Hall Ute Competition and Family Day is an annual event that is organised to raise funds for charity. All profits from this year's event have been donated to Camp Quality.

Mary Vagg said the organisers would like to thank all the supporters and volunteers who made the event possible.

The fourth annual Hall Ute Competition and Family Day will be held on 7th May 2011.

**Contact:** Mary Vagg (mob) 0427 368 266  
P.O. Box 8047 GUNDAROO NSW 2620  
[enquiries@hallutecom.com](mailto:enquiries@hallutecom.com)

[www.hallutecom.com](http://www.hallutecom.com)

# HALL AND DISTRICT

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# Camel

Hall residents Angie and son Harvey Hazelhurst enjoy watching camels graze around the HALL pavilion. Rob and Bernadette Sutton from Gympie had a stop over in Hall to rest their camels, Black Jack, Teewah (the eldest of the four, at 18 years). Teewah use to do rides on Nooosa beach for many years. He does not like kids much now he has retired. Dodge and Wolfe, both only 3 years old. Google tells us that camels can live to 50 years. Rob and Bernadette expect to be home in Gympie by Oct. 2010.

(Photo Bob Richardson)



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# Parish of St Barnabas, Charnwood News

After just over 5 years service with the Parish, The Reverend Bronwyn Suptut has finished her term as our Rector. It was with some pride and reluctance that the congregations of St. Barnabas, Charnwood and St Michael and All Angels, Hall farewelled Bronwyn and her family at a joint service on Sunday 2 May at Charnwood.



Our Bishop Stewart has since named Bronwyn as Rector of the Parish of St. Albans, Woden and she was inducted into her new position on 25 May. We pray for her new appointment and the Parish she will serve.

Before we can appoint a new Rector, we are fortunate that the Reverend Connie Gerrity, has been appointed as our Locum until a new rector is determined.

The process of appointing a new rector has to be preceded by a review of the Parish and our future needs and this is underway.

Notes for the Diary at Hall - St Michael's Garden fete will be held on Saturday 18th September.

Please mark the the Fete in your diaries and think about the goodies you can donate. As usual we will have stalls for pre-loved books, CDs, records, Cakes, jams and preserves, plants, craft and handmade goodies and , of course, the barbecue and devonshire teas. We would appreciate suggestions for childrens' activities.

Phone Beryl on 6255 5482.

Meanwhile, our usual services continue on Sundays at 11.00 am - you are welcome then or at any other time.

Neil Manton

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**Winner**  
The Judge's Award

# Hall Cemetery – not to be avoided

Geoff Robertson

When I walk in the gate of the cemetery I have a feeling of tranquillity, no doubt brought on by the natural bush setting. The main area of the cemetery is a lawn with a few scattered trees, but generally the grass is cut a little higher than in other cemeteries. The adjoining paddocks are woodlands with a variety of trees and occasional shrubs, and perhaps look a little messy/weedy.

Unlike most other cemeteries, the grass in the main area around the graves is a native rather than an exotic grass – it is kangaroo grass which always looks a healthy green in summer and turning a rusty colour through winter. It is a good example of how native grasses can make a suitable lawn. Kangaroo grass is one that every Australian should know because it is widespread and its flower head (inflorescence) is very distinctive, as the first picture shows. Unfortunately, it does not survive well under heavy grazing pressure and hence is nothing like as abundant as it once was.

I once saw, at first hand, cows' preference for grazing this grass. On a Friends of Grasslands' (FOG) trip we entered a travelling stock reserve where cattle had been released a few hours before we arrived. Amid the waist-high grass we came across scattered plants of kangaroo grass - all were eaten down. I thought that cattle are not unlike us who prefer to start on the oysters before touching other food.

The 'lawn' is in fact a natural grassland of high conservation value, which is typified by a variety of



native grasses and non-grassy herbs (forbs). In a FOG visit to the cemetery in November 2007, we observed many other grasses and forbs. The native grasses included several wallaby and spear grasses with the occasional plant of snow grass, wheat grass and weeping grass. There were also several introduced grasses, including quaking grass and phalaris. While all native grasses make good garden specimens, weeping grass, like kangaroo grass, makes an excellent lawn grass. Native grass lawns can also handle dry periods better than many exotic species.

Of the forbs seen during the November visit, my favourite was the milkmaids scattered in one area of the grassland. Milkmaids are a member of the native lily group. Other native lilies present were the bulbine lily, yellow rush lily, flax lily and mat rush - all favourites. Several everlasting daisies were present including common and clustered everlasting and and scaly buttons. Other forb species observed included the twining pea (*Glycine clandestina*), common raspwort, and blue bells. I have included photos of the milkmaid, bulbine lily and scaly buttons.

Finally we came across the devilish, *Eryngium rostratum* (see photo). Blue devil is an intriguing plant. I have come across many people who have considered it a thistle and have eliminated it, not knowing it was a native. In fact older weed books have listed it as a weed. If the *Rural Fringe* was printed in colour you would see the bright blue of the Blue Devil.

Some of you might be familiar with these plants and enjoy being reminded of them. Most of you probably aren't, but you can see them in their glory next spring by visiting the cemetery. Before you do, obtain a copy of *Grassland Flora*, available from many sources including FOG, which will start you on your way to being able to understand and identify these plants. You are privileged because there are few areas that have such biodiversity.

But there is more - the cemetery is the home of what should be called the 'Hall leek orchid' (*Prasophyllum*



Bulbine lily



Milkmaid



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*petilum*), see photo. On our November trip we found just one plant as we were weeks too late - the orchid had flowered early. In most years 40-90 orchid plants may be seen. Last year they flowered a little earlier than expected, a response to global warming? There are many orchid species in the region, including many species of leek orchid, but all are uncommon, rare or



listed as threatened, like the Hall orchid. Leek orchids are spectacular but you may need to lie on the ground, and observe them with a hand lens to appreciate their delicate structure. For many years there were only two known populations of the orchid, the most important being at Hall. However, recently a much larger population (several thousand plants) was found at the Tarengo Reserve near Boorowa,

and their discoverer called them Tarengo leek orchid. So it is now called the Tarengo and not the Hall leek orchid. So far we have only focused on the grassland at the cemetery. Actually the grassland is a secondary or derived grassland, that is, it was originally a woodland which, when cleared, was colonised by native grassland plants. While ordinarily it would be appropriate to allow cleared woodlands to regenerate back to woodlands, this is not appropriate in these circumstances as the grassland if of high conservation value, and regenerating trees would pose a threat to the orchids' survival. In any event cemeteries need to have lawns. What the woodlands would have been like can be seen by visiting the adjoining paddocks.

In the wooded area the FOG visitors last November observed candlebark, apple box, Blakely's red gum, and cherry ballart – some many trees in a confined space. The native ground cover was generally of a lower standard in the wooded area than in the lawn area, although there were occasional better patches. A number of forbs in the area around the cemetery was repeated here, although this area recorded much healthier specimens of blue devil. New species included sheep's burr, a native fireweed and scrambled eggs. The woodland is a good example of the yellow box red gum grassy woodland, a threatened ecological community. FOG has adopted this site and is weeding it to remove exotic plants and also regenerating Blakely's red gum which are a threat to both the grasslands and the orchids. Two successful working bees were held in April and more are being planned. If you would like to know more about Hall Cemetery and/or future working bees please contact the FOG website ([www.fog.org.au](http://www.fog.org.au)) or me ([geoff.robertson@fog.org.au](mailto:geoff.robertson@fog.org.au) or 6241 4065).

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## THE SHEARING SHED

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# Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade

## Annual General Meeting

Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 9 June 2010. The results of the election of office bearers is as follows:

**President**  
Rod Roberts

**Secretary**  
Sandy Vincent

**Treasurer**  
Mike Textor

**Captain**  
Darren Marks

**Senior Deputy**  
Neil Shepherd

**Deputies**  
Andrew Price  
Ken Beck  
Aaron Vincent  
Peter Vincent

**Training Officer**  
Kathleen Harvey

**Community Safety Officer**  
Rowena Harvey

## Open Day

The NSW Rural Fire Service Open Day will be held on 25 September 2010. As last year's open, which was held as a combined open day at the Murrumbateman

Rec Ground, was so successful, it has been decided to do the same again this year. It will involve several rural brigades as well as other emergency services (police, urban fire brigade, ambulance and SES). It is an ideal opportunity to come along and get advice as well as see demonstrations on different roles of the various services. Everybody is most welcome.

*Rowena Harvey & Kathleen Harvey*

*The following article was inadvertently omitted from a previous issue of the Rural Fringe. We apologise to the authors (Rowena & Kathleen Harvey) and reproduce said article here and now. It was written in January 2010*

*—Editor*

By now most people would have seen the "Prepare. Act. Survive" campaign on TV and noticed the new fire danger signs that we have in the Wallaroo Brigade area. The media campaign, the new Fire Danger Rating (FDR), and the introduction of new signs have come about as a result of the increased frequency of extreme bush fire conditions, during the last 10 years, and a response by fire services throughout Australia to the Victorian "Black Saturday" fires last summer.

The "Prepare. Act. Survive" campaign aims to emphasise the need for people to consider the safety of themselves and their families as their first priority;



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# Bits from Bette...

People should then consider:

- the defendability of their property;
- the protection of irreplaceable valuables and important documents;
- the maintenance of adequate levels of insurance.

The key messages behind the campaign are:

Prepare:

- Make a bush fire survival plan for your household. This will include whether you are staying and defending or leaving early. Even if you intend to leave early, your property should be well prepared.
- You will need to be mentally and physically capable of implementing this plan.
- Make sure your property is defensible and, most importantly, is well prepared.

Act:

- Keep informed through TV, radio, internet, mobile phones, talking to neighbours
- Follow your bush fire survival plan. Only stay and defend if you and your property are well prepared. Leave early if that is your plan.

Survive:

- People are more important than property.
- Have a contingency plan in place.

The other component to the campaign is outlining the changes to the Fire Danger Rating. After revision, the following categories have been introduced:

*Low/moderate* - ensure your property is well prepared and prepare and practice your survival plan.

*High* - ensure your property is well prepared and monitor your local media for any reports of fire activity

*Very High* - be prepared to implement your bush fire survival plan making sure that the survival of yourself and family are the primary consideration. Keep informed of any fire activity

*Severe* - be prepared to implement your bush fire survival plan making sure that the survival of yourself and family are the primary consideration. Keep informed of any fire activity. Be prepared to leave early, if that is your plan.

*Extreme* - only well prepared, designed and constructed houses should be defended otherwise leave early.

*Catastrophic* - under no circumstances is it considered safe to stay and defend.

More detailed information on "Prepare Act Survive" and changes to the Fire Danger Ratings available on the NSW Rural Fire Service website - [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au).

*If you have any enquiries regarding this or any other matters, please feel free to contact Wallaroo Brigade Captain, Darren Marks, on 0409 070 056, or the Yass Fire Control office on 6226 3100.*

## A Day in the Life of a Busy Homemaker

I decided to wash my car. As I start toward the garage, I spotted the mail on the hall table. I should go through the mail before I wash the car, I thought. I lay the car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the trash can under the table, and notice that the trash can is full. So, I put the bills back on the table and thought I'd take the out the trash first.

Since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the trash anyway, I might as well pay the bills first. I see my cheque book on the table, but there is only one cheque left. My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go to my desk, where I find the bottle of juice that I had been drinking. I'm going to look for my cheques, but first I need to push the juice aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. But the juice is getting warm, and should be put in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

Heading toward the kitchen with the juice, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye. They need to be watered. I set the juice down on the counter, and find my reading glasses, for which I've been searching all morning. I had better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water, and suddenly spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table. Tonight when we sit down to watch TV, we will be looking for the remote, but nobody will remember that it's on the kitchen table. I should put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I splash some water on the flowers, but most of it spills on the floor. So, I put the remote back down on the table, and get some towels to wipe up the spill. Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day:

The car isn't washed.

The bills aren't paid.

There is a warm bottle of juice sitting on the counter.

The flowers aren't watered.

There is still only one cheque in my chequebook.

I can't find the remote.

I can't find my glasses.

And I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

I'm trying to figure out why nothing got done today; it's quite baffling because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired. I know this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail.

Do me a favour, will you? Forward this message to whoever you think might enjoy it, because I don't remember who I've already sent it to.

Love to all ... Bette

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