



## West Texas Crude launch album

Local Hall band West Texas Crude have launched their first album “Writing on the Wall” at a party in the Hall Pavilion.

The band has been together since 1995 and its Tuesday night practices have become legendary. Its members have all played in other bands and bring a mixture of country, folk, blues and rock. The band plays charity gigs including for the local Fire Brigades and the Hall community and donates any earnings to charity.



Most of the songs on its first recently released album, “Writing on the Wall” were written between 2004 and 2010 by Hugh Watson and Matthew Herbert. There are a couple of old ones as well. In general Hugh writes the lyrics and Matthew the music then Matthew shows his multi-talented musicianship by playing many of the instruments. Stephen Webb brought his extraordinary drumming skills to several songs and Phillip Williams can be heard harmonizing and playing blues harp in a couple too. Greg Clift, Greg Turnbull and Andrew Purdham also join the band to play live.

Their songs include ballads about Hugh and Matthew’s home town of Bega including “The Battler” about Jimmy Sharman’s boxing tent and “Jimmy’s not coming to



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school today” about the exploitation of Aboriginal kids in Bega in the 1950s and 60s. Another ballad tells the life of Hugh’s convict relative Hannah Railton, while “The Rain” relates the struggles of Australian famers in drought. “Dear Leader’s Country Band” is a funny song about Kim Jong-Il and his antics.

The album is on sale in the Hall Premier Store with \$5 from every sale going to the Hall Bushfire Brigade.

Matthew and Hugh were interviewed about the album by Louise Maher on ABC 666 on Wednesday 16th June. They next play at the Fire Ball at Poachers’ Pantry on Friday 20 August

# Progress Association – from the President

## Bus Interchange - dead end?



As a result of expressions of concern from a number of parents, the Association took up the matter of dangers to children and others at the Bus Interchange on Gladstone Street. After a visit by Roads ACT staff and the commissioning of a consultant's report, we are told that 'no action' is recommended.

This is a disappointment. We have decided to persist, and are now asking parents to record and report any dangerous incidents during the times when school buses are arriving and departing. (For more see page 26)

At the same time, all parties have agreed that driver behaviour at the interchange, including that of parents delivering or collecting their children, is a major source of danger.

Parents and others are urged to park safely in designated parking places, drive slowly, and take exceptional care when using the area at morning and afternoon bus times.

## Thanks Elaine!

By the time this Issue appears our AGM will be behind us. And so will eight solid years of service as the Association's Treasurer by Elaine Leckey. As one of our invaluable 'quiet achievers' Elaine has helped keep the wheels of the Association turning by managing our accounts, signing cheques, banking, preparing the statements and organizing the annual audit, and so on.

Elaine has the country 'can do' mentality. Born in Brisbane, she arrived in Hall via Dubbo, Nyngan, Bourke, Goulburn and Canberra. She came to Hall in 1979 so that her some could attend Hall Primary, living on the corner of Gladstone and Gibbes Street. When the 'APU's' were built, and being alone by then, Elaine 'down-sized' to her present home in Victoria Street.

With a background in office work – banking, book-keeping and statistics –

Elaine became Treasurer of the Association in 2002. She has also been a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and the Canberra Blind Society, and belongs to a number of organization, including View, Probus, and National Seniors.

Well done Elaine, and many thanks for your years of service to the Progress Association!

*Alastair Crombie*

## Signs for the times

The April issue of the Fringe carried details of the proposal to put names to Hall's Lanes. Now the Progress Association is involved in two more 'signage' project.

Firstly, we have gained the interest of ACT Heritage in creating a number of heritage interpretation signs for the village. Signs of this sort have been appearing around Canberra at a number of significant historical sites, including at our Cemetery.



Newly appointed heritage officer to HALL Progress, Phil Robson and Roads ACT Rep, Snezana Dimitrovska inspect HALL signage at a meeting last week to improve and up grade HALL Village signage. Hall Progress reps are in the process of designing and sighting new descriptive signs to enhance HALL as a welcoming tourist destination.

The plan for Hall is to have a triangular (three-sided) 'orientation' sign somewhere in the main street, which would include basic information about the establishment and naming of the village, and selected images. It would also point to a number of other signs designed to give information about other buildings and places of particular interest, including for example the 1911 school building, the Hall Showgrounds, and the General Store. This project is well under way.

At the same time we are exploring with Roads ACT a proposal to mark the three entrances to the village with signs saying 'Hall Heritage Village'. This would recognize the fact that the 'village precinct' of Hall is entered on the Heritage Register.

Our hope is that these three 'signage' projects will, together with the work now under way at the Hall School Museum, lift the heritage profile of Hall. Other ideas on how we might highlight the heritage assets of Hall and district would be very welcome.

## Our Band - back for more!



We are delighted to announce that the Hall Village Brass Band will be back in town on 22nd August to give a Concert in the newly refurbished Pavilion. The Concert, 'August Tones. A recital of sounds to warm the soul', will also be the occasion for the official launch of the renovated Pavilion, and the community facilities on the school site, by MLA for Ginninderra Mary Porter, on behalf of

the Chief Minister. There will be a gold coin donation, with proceeds to the Band, and light refreshments after the Concert. A short Launch ceremony will precede the Concert, which is scheduled to start at 4.00 pm.

Readership of this highly literate website will have noted that 'august' is both the name of a month, and an interesting adjective - "Inspiring

mingled reverence and admiration; magnificently impressive; stately, solemnly grand; venerable, revered".

Not too many Australian villages can boast their own Brass Band these days. There has been large and very appreciative audiences for the last two twilight concerts by the Band at the school. We are hopeful that we can fill the Pavilion for this first winter Concert.

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## Hall's population

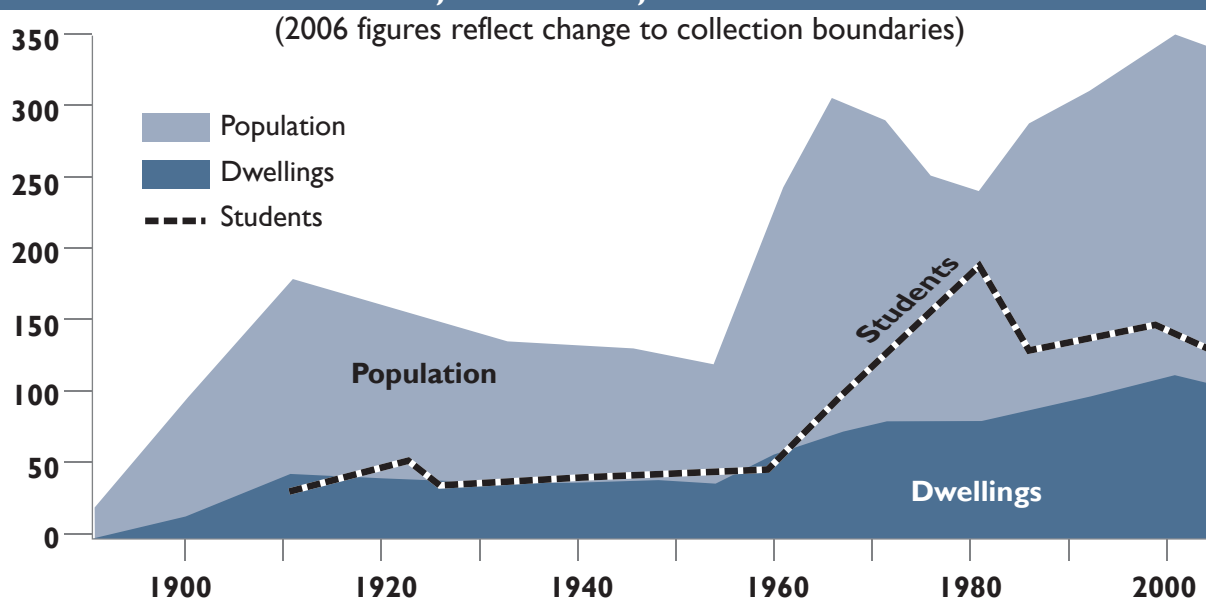
Hall's population seems to have grown in three significant 'surges'. According to the 1911 census, the population of Hall had by then reached 179, and there were 42 occupied dwellings. When the school opened that year there were 29 pupils. Twenty years of steady growth to this point was followed by some forty-five years of stagnation, or decline. The census of 1954 recorded 35 occupied dwellings and a population of only 118. The school enrolment is described as 'around 35'. The period 1911 – 1954 was of course marked by two world wars and the great depression, and also the compulsory acquisition of land following creation of the Federal Capital Territory.

Dutch families living for a time in or close to Hall included Binks, Buitendams, Kruithof, Noordhof, Groos, Penders, Zonneveld, van Klaveren, van Gerwen, Meiboom and Daamen. At one time three German families lived sided by side in Alexandra Street – Signs of the times

Wanjura, Brandt and Kleefisch. For some of them, renting in Hall was a stepping-stone to obtaining public housing in Canberra.

A second period of stagnation followed; it was some thirty years before the population again passed 300. By 2000 it was around 400.

### HALL DWELLINGS, POPULATION, AND SCHOOL ENROLMENTS.



Things picked up again in the fifties, and by 1964 the population had reached 307 (68 occupied dwellings), and in 1965 the school enrolment was 84. A significant proportion of this growth was made up of post-war migrants to Australia, including many Dutch families, for whom Hall was an affordable, if rather remote and relatively primitive alternative to suburban Canberra.

In this third and most recent period of growth, Hall completed the transition from an economical, 'country' alternative to suburban Canberra, to a relatively expensive and sought after place to live – more of a dormitory for professionals, and less of a bush village caught up by chance in the Capital Territory. Blocks which were selling for \$45,000 at auction in 1983 are currently valued at well over \$500,000. The decline in school enrolments from a peak of 189 in 1981, to 123 at the time the school was closed in 2006, reflect in part diminishing family size, and increasing proportion of village children attending private schools.

In 1983, a number of still vacant village blocks were auctioned, and in 1989 extensions to Alexandra and Palmer Streets created eight new blocks. The present total of 103 blocks was effectively capped in 2002 when the ACT Government rejected a planning proposal to 'in-fill' the corner between Palmer and Hoskins Street, prescribed a 'buffer zone' around the village to protect it from incursion of future development, and entered the village precinct on the Heritage Register.

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# Hall Preschool

Term 3 at Hall Preschool is shaping up to be a very busy term indeed. Our focus inquiry unit is about "Our Bodies." We will be looking at our skeletal system, circulatory system, digestive system and respiratory system. As an introduction to this topic, we have been talking about foods that are healthy for our body, and have set up a fruit and vegetable shop in our preschool room. This may even lead to an excursion to the Hall Premier Store!



Book Week also happens during this term, and this year's focus is "Bridges to Story Time." We have many children who are interested in construction, so we are hoping to create some bridges of our own.



If you are able to help us in any way with our learning at preschool,

eg. providing resources, visiting with a show and tell topic, suggestions of excursions etc., then please contact the preschool on 6205 6526, Monday to Wednesday.

Or email us any time at [Lisa.Ryan@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Lisa.Ryan@ed.act.edu.au)

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# HALL AND DISTRICT

Upcoming events, community issues and local businesses around Hall and district

[www.hall.act.au](http://www.hall.act.au)



# Solar Power

Hall residents Leigh and Kathie Crocker have joined the ranks of Canberrans who have invested in green solar power. Leigh, who is an engineer, weighed up the advantages of investing in solar power and now has installed on his house a 24 panel 4 kilowatt solar cell system.



Leigh reported that the 'cross feed' in tariff operates 24/7 back into the grid and pays a three-monthly dividend. This system runs off a separate meter and is not connected to the house meter.

Leigh claims he receives five times as much for his 'feed in' to the grid as he pays for his metered use of power.

The Crockers expect pay back on their \$25,000 solar investment in five years.

The Federal Government renewable energy credits program is under review. The Regulator will adjust the model on 1 July 2010, when a new tariff will be announced.

Imagine if it were mandatory for all new homes and all new commercial buildings to generate 30 percent of their energy needs.

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Jennifer believes in a wholistic approach to counselling addressing emotional, intellectual, physical & spiritual well-being. She believes counselling is about meeting people where they are at & empowering them to be able to make good choices for themselves & move on in their life's journey.

Jennifer can be contacted by  
Phone/Fax on (02) 6230 2570  
OR Mobile 0409 038 850  
OR by Email: [strachan3@bigpond.com](mailto:strachan3@bigpond.com)

Her office is located at  
"Rivendell" 49 Oakey Creek Road,  
Wallaroo via Hall NSW 2618 (off Wallaroo Rd).

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# Alexandra Street Hall – HG & E Klefisch

The house at 13 Alexandra Street (colloquially known as ‘the big white house on the corner’) was built by Hans and Edith Klefisch. The build commenced in 1963 and the main house was finished in 1965. A workshop wing was added (Alexandra Street side) in 1976, so that Hans and Edith could conduct their curtain manufacturing business from home. The original garage and store room (Loftus Street side) were converted into a one bedroom flat in 1989.

Hans and Edith arrived in Australia in April with a few suitcases, a sewing machine, a six year old son (Eugene) and a baby on the way (Caroline). The only thing they had a large supply of was the determination to make a better life for themselves and their children than was available to them in post-war Germany, where unemployment was high and opportunities were few even for skilled trades people like Hans and Edith. Their first homes in Australia were Commonwealth migrant centres at Bonegilla in Victoria and Ainslie Hostel in Canberra. The family were sharing a rented house with another migrant family in Hobart Avenue, Forrest (now one of the most exclusive suburbs in Canberra) when Hans heard about cheap land at Hall—a rural area somewhere near Woop Woop with electricity but no town water or sewerage. Hans and Edith were able to obtain a 25 year lease for four pounds per year (the lease was later converted to 99 years for \$2000).

Hans and Edith could not afford to pay a building contractor, so Hans took on the role of architect, draftsman, project



▲ Empire Day celebration at Hall school

manager, bricklayer and main labourer himself. Wolfgang Wanjura Snr, also from Alexandra Street, was a licenced builder and oversaw the bricklaying done by Hans. Reg Libbis, who was building across the road on Alexandra Street, helped Hans with the bricklaying in exchange for Hans’s labour on the Libbis house. As Hans did not have the cash to fund the build, he found himself quite inventive in his application for a government loan and was able to convince the approving officer that he had the means to complete the build.



▲ Caroline Klefisch with Delf\_Feb 1964, Alexandra St in background

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To save money on rent, Hans built a one-room shed at the back of the block of land for the family to live in while he built the house. The shed looked very much like tiny log cabin. He clad the timber frame with off-cuts from the government sawmill and clad the inside with Caneite sheets (a by-product of sugar cane). The floorboards were recycled from unwanted packing crates from the CSIRO (Hans was working as a storeman at the CSIRO at the time). A second hand stainless steel sink in the kitchen did double duty to wash dishes as well as people. There was no plumbing and all the water was carried in by bucket from a tank outside; grey



water was emptied into the garden. Always keen to recycle, Hans dusted the sink off 25 years later and used it in the garage conversion!



Eugene Klefisch turning first sod at 13 Alexandra St Hall 1963, Alexandra St in background

The first photo record of the build is Eugene as an eight year old turning the first spade of soil in digging the foundation trenches. Hans did all the rest of the digging with mattock and shovel. The dirt road surface of Alexandra Street is just visible in the photo behind the scrub. At that time, the Alexandra Street boundary had a dry creek bed running parallel with the road and was thick with eucalypt and wattle scrub. Eventually, the government laid storm-water drainage pipes and filled in the creek bed. Over the years, Hans dug the scrub and wattle out – also with mattock and shovel.

Hans did most of the building work himself, labouring long into the night after working his day job and on weekends. One photo shows him, complete in the Styrofoam pith helmet that served a dual role of sunshade and hardhat, with spirit-level in hand laying bricks to his stringline (note the light rigged up overhead so Hans could work at night). Edith mixed the cement mortar in the wheelbarrow behind him in a ferociously hungry petrol-driven mixer. On one occasion, while pouring the footings, Doug Rattenbury, who lived with his wife and family next door on Loftus Street, came over to Edith and took the shovel from her hands saying that mixing cement was too hard a job for a woman to be doing. That was the beginning of a long-standing and respectful relationship between both families and a practical welcome to a 'new Australian' family, as migrants were known in those days.

Another item of note in that photo is the weatherboard cottage in the background. It was then the home of 'old' Mr Rochford, father of Jim; he was the builder of the beautifully straight fences that seem to go on forever across Lake George. The Rochford house was demolished in the 1990s.



Hans Klefisch, building 13 Alexandra St Hall, Dec 1963, Loftus St in background

Hans and Edith lived at 13 Alexandra Street for almost 40 years. Even when maintaining the half-acre block became too much for them to manage, Edith refused to discuss selling the house claiming she would never leave Hall and the house would be sold "over my dead body". Edith was laid to rest at the Hall Cemetery in 2003. Hans sold the house and now lives nearby at Dunlop.

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THURSDAY	19 August, 2010	10:00 AM	Exercise Room, Swim School Area, Gold Creek Country Club, Curran Dr., Nicholls
THURSDAY	19 August, 2010	6:30 PM	The Hall Pavilion - Gladstone Street, Hall

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## Caroline Thornthwaite nee Klefisch

Things I remember about Hall Primary School – 1967-73.

- On my first day of school, my older brother, Eugene, showed me around the school before the other children arrived. He showed me where the water bubblers were and the big wooden crate filled with toys like rope quoits and skipping ropes.
- My first classroom was in part of the original schoolhouse (then aqua blue weatherboard). I remember sitting facing the door and fireplace but we never had a fire burning. My desk had a hole in the top for an inkwell. We moved into our new classrooms the following year.
- The new building, which was for the junior school children, (facing Hoskins St) had two classrooms, a kitchenette and a storeroom. My classroom had a yellow sun pattern worked into the green lino tiled floor and a huge blackboard then almost ran the length of the wall. A corridor with big windows ran the length of the building, which faced north. Andrew Duggan, Elizabeth Rattenbury and I often sat there together—we were advanced learners and were sent to do our work away from the rest of class. It was a lovely place to sit in winter because it was so warm.
- The senior part of the school was in the long building built in the 1950s (parallel with Victoria St). The two classrooms were divided down the middle with huge concertina doors to separate the third and fourth



↑ Eugene and Caroline Klefisch with Delf, 13 Alexandra St, Alexandra St in background, also Reg and Ada Libbis' caravan on other side of street (built 2nd house from corner, next to Graeme Bryce's house).

graders from the fifth and sixth graders. There was also a long corridor with the headmaster's office at one end.

- There was a bench outside the headmaster's office where offenders were sent to await punishment—usually a whack on the hand or leg with a cane for the boys and a spank on the bottom for the girls. Mr Copping spanked me once because I had supposedly touched the wet paint on the new classroom wall—I had actually been jostled by another child as our class was walking down the narrow pathway and the side of my hand touched the wall. Mr Copping lifted my uniform dress up to spank me and I was so humiliated that I couldn't bear to tell my parents. I eventually told them when I was in my thirties!

- When the new toilet block was built, my height was measured to make sure all the children would be able to reach the basin and taps because I was the smallest (although not the youngest!) child in the school.

- We had two 'houses'—Windsor and Kent. The Windsor colour was sky blue and the Kent colour was gold. The blue and gold colours combined were the school colours. I still have my badges and remember proudly wearing my Kent badge below the school badge.

- There were three teachers—Mr Laurie Copping (Headmaster), Miss Bradfield (granddaughter of Dr JCC Bradfield, designer of the Sydney Harbour Bridge) and Mrs Yoland.



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- We had combined classes because there were only about 60 children at the school.
- When the school at The Mullion in NSW closed down its brass bell found a happy home at Hall School. The teachers only gave the best-behaved children permission to ring the bell at the end of lunchtime. (Where is the bell now?) I remember the teachers told us how sad it was that a school had to close down. No one would ever have believed back then that our lovely little school would one day also close.
- I think the bell from The Mullion came to Hall because the ACT schools were still under the authority of NSW Department of Education at the time. I recall that some years later the teachers had to decide whether they wanted to stay in the NSW system and leave or transfer to the new ACT authority and stay at the school.
- A pedestrian crossing with traffic lights was installed near the school driveway because the busy Barton Highway passed right in front of the school. We children felt much safer crossing the road once we had the traffic lights. I think we also liked the power of making the big trucks stop to let us cross the road just by pushing a button!



↑ Hans Klefisch, building 13 Alexandra St Hall, Dec 1963, Loftus St in background.  
Jim Rochford's father's house in background (demolished and rebuilt).

- The school celebrated its diamond jubilee in 1971. Children contributed favourite family recipes for a cookbook to commemorate the occasion and raise funds for the school. My recipe was an apple cake made with cream cheese.

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# Alexandra Street Hall (continued from page 11)



Picture on the left:  
No door next to chimney...

Picture on the right:  
Door next to chimney...

- Mrs Irene Copping and Mrs Ursula? Southwell taught the girls sewing for an hour each week. Mr Copping taught the boys woodwork and other crafts like cane basket weaving.
- Mrs Grace Brown played the piano at weekly singing lessons and school assemblies, where we sang God Save the Queen not Advance Australia Fair.
- There was no school cafeteria but we were able to order our lunch one day a week from the Hall General

Store. I still recall the smell of hot meat pies and tomato sauce on a rainy day.

- Even though we were a small country school, we had wonderful outings, such as theatre and ballet, fossil hunting near Wee Jasper and weekly swimming lessons in the summer.
- The fifth and sixth graders had a dance at the end of the year in Mr Max (*spelling?*) Southwell's woolshed. The boys were always too embarrassed to dance with the girls even though we had a few ballroom dancing lessons. The boys slept in the woolshed and the girls slept in the shearer's quarters. We girls made ourselves a long dress in sewing classes to wear to the dance.
- Book Week was always lots of fun, where we were encouraged to enter story competitions and we had fun visitors, like children's author Noreen Shelley. The Mobile Library Service bus came to the school about every three weeks but we could only take out three books at a time.
- My brother's five children—Matthew, Daniel, Christopher, Sarah and Rebecca—all went to Hall School for a time.

## Gumnut Cafe

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# Pet dentist in Hall

Pet dentist Dr Christine Hawke enthralled the crowd at Hall Veterinary Surgery's annual information evening at Hall Pavilion on Monday, 6th July. She demonstrated how to clean a dog's teeth, introduced pet foods and chews that passively clean teeth, and convinced the audience that annual dental checks for our pets are essential.



The big dog and friends (Geraldine Wickham, our vet nurse, the dog, Christine Hawkes, the pet dentist), as Christine is about to show brushing technique with your dog.

Dr Christine reminded us that bad 'dog' breath is not normal. It is caused by plaque that builds up on teeth and hardens into tartar. Tartar is rough and makes the gums sore and inflamed. Every time a pet with tartar and gingivitis chews, bacteria are shed into the bloodstream and damage organs like the kidneys and heart. Eventually the gums and jawbone recede and the teeth fall out.

Tartar and loose teeth make chewing painful, although most pets hide the pain. In the wild the pack would leave them to die at any sign of pain or disability and most animals will continue to eat despite advanced disease. They would rather eat, even though it's painful, than go hungry.

Owners are often unaware of their pets' dental problems, not because they don't care, but because these problems are hidden away in the mouth. Bad breath and subtle behavioural changes are the only hints of dental disease until the pain becomes unbearable. Drooling, dropping food, reluctance to eat and facial pain are more obvious signs that something is wrong.

Healthy teeth and gums are crucial to an animal's quality of life, Dr Christine said. Imagine how your mouth would feel and smell if you never brushed your teeth. Suffering a bad toothache in silence is no fun.

# Rotary News

With the new financial year comes all the new committees in Rotary locally, nationally and internationally. The Rotary Club of Hall held their changeover dinner in June and our new President Vic Gibbons introduced his team to the club.



A snippet from the Rotary District Newsletter about the awards received by the Rotary Club of Hall at the District Changeover...

"The Rotary Club of Hall's 'Rotary Flicks' mobile entertainment trailer received the Community Service Award in both District 9700 and District 9710. It was a good year for Hall, also collecting the Attendance and Bulletin Awards."



Attendance Officer Rtn Liz Rodgers, Club Service Director PDG Bernie Rodgers, IPP Adrienne Moss and Bulletin Editor PP Brian Goldstraw with the awards

The **Capital Region Farmers Market** is run by the Rotary Club of Hall and proceeds from this activity are used to help people in need in all different aspects of our world wide community. You can do your bit by making sure you go to the markets on Saturday morning from 8am to 11am in the Exhibition Park in Canberra. Not only fantastic fresh produce direct from the producer but you are helping others in Australian and around the world. Feels good!



# Oh! To be in school!

Would you believe it? I didn't have much schooling - nor did my husband John. For poor children in Ireland like us, the Irish National System of education came in too late. By 1832, aged 12 and 13, we had left school and could read, but not write. But I soon learnt to write - as you can see! In 1848 the NSW government decided to use the Irish system, but our children had a tutor who lived with us at our farm near Black Mountain - that is, until he dropped dead!



One of the earliest schools in the Canberra region was the St John's Schoolhouse which opened in 1845, four years after we arrived. All the children were in that school one day in 1864 when the wooden shingle roof caught fire, so they all fled out and watched as their school burnt to the ground. Only the stone walls survived. They had to have their lessons in the Duntroon Dairy while their school was rebuilt - quite a squash!

But school was often a long way from the children's homes and most had to walk. Pioneering families often had to use their children to help run their farms and many families did not think schooling worthwhile. When the students failed to turn up at school because they were helping with the harvest, some teachers in this district, got depressed, and ended up drinking too much alcohol - good for me, since I was selling it - and I was good at arithmetic!

When we arrived in the northern part of Canberra in 1841, there were less than twenty children in this area. But John

and I did our bit by having ten children in about twenty years! Well there were various schools over the years but it was only in about 1872 that a Roman Catholic School was available for our children. Not only was the Ginninderra Village School too far from our Black Mountain home, but most of our children were already at work!

This school was a church, as well as a school, and the priest decided he did not want it as a school, so the children had to go! Where could they go? Well - a large tent was erected at Ginninderra village in June 1882 - just in time for winter! There was no fire and the children froze as the cold Canberra wind whistled through the cracks! No wonder they were reluctant to go to school, and many parents kept their children home, and put them to work! Better than trudging to school in the mud and slush only to freeze when you got there!

Finally in May 1884, a new, handsome stone school house and teacher's residence was built and open for business - and it is still there! Unfortunately this school closed in 1910 because many of the students lived a few kilometres away in the new and prosperous Village of Hall and their parents were sick of the long walk for their children.



This time the parents of the children kept asking the government for a new school in the Village of Hall and they were successful! The school was built in 1911 and Mr Thompson, the only teacher, had seventeen boys and twelve girls start in one schoolroom. It is also still there, but - guess what? All the desks, the ink wells, original seats, books, blackboards and all the old fashioned paraphernalia of the old time school house are still there - and, I believe, so are the ghosts of the children from the past! Until last year the school rang with the sounds of children. The Hall Primary School is closed now, but the original school house is a museum housing not just the school equipment, but also the memories of the children from the past, many of whom did very well at school. Several won scholarships to travel to larger centres like Goulburn, where they studied hard and became teachers themselves - very different to the opportunities available to my frontier children - oh so many, many years ago!

Written in the voice of Mrs Julia Webb (known as "Judy the Great") born 1820, died 1877. She ran a 'slygrog' shop behind Charnwood/Dunlop and was a renowned midwife in the district.

Elizabeth Burness, ph. 6161 6383

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# Wattle Park Uniting Church



Well, it is good to see that God's work is pottering along at Wattle Park without any fanfare. Nothing of great note has happened since I last wrote to you and we continue to worship God in our beautiful church. Our congregation averages about 25 each week and, as always, we welcome visitors no matter who you may be.



Just as a reminder, we meet at 10.30 am every Sunday and we offer Sunday School each week during school terms. We also have a very successful Girl's Brigade on Thursday evenings from 6.00 pm: again during school terms.

This may be a short report, but our blessings are as big as ever.

Many Blessings


*Pastor Bernie*

## Hall Village Motors

*Your local servo!*

Proprietors: Tony & Amy Hazelton  
phone: **6230 2288**

Mon-Fri  
7:30am-5:30pm  
Saturday  
8:00am-2:00pm



## Galloway beef

*For sale, directly to your door  
Now also available at Epic Farmers Market  
two Saturdays a month*

*Sold by the side ( approx 60 kg),  
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**Greg & Chris Stuart**

phone: 6230 2536

email: [fenris1@bigpond.com](mailto:fenris1@bigpond.com)

Although we are still in winter and the fire season has not yet commenced, there are some maintenance matters that should be undertaken now. These include:

- Checking and servicing fire fighter pumps
- Checking all hoses and nozzles to make sure they function appropriately and are not damaged
- If you use an electric pump with a generator as back up, make sure the generator is serviced and working well.

Check all your fire fighting equipment to make sure it is working properly and that you have everything that you need. This is the time to make purchases and organise repairs so that you are ready before the fire season commences.

## Burning off Prior to the Fire Season

While no permit is required there are still procedures that must be followed. You are required to notify:

- Yass Fire Control Centre (see contact details at the end of this article).
- All adjoining neighbours

These notifications must be made at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the burn. It is also recommended that you notify the local brigade captain at the same time.

If you need assistance or advice, contact Wallaroo Brigade Captain, Darren Marks.

(see contact details at the end of this article).

## Burning off During the Fire Season

Permits, to undertake burns, will be required from the commencement of the fire season and the brigade captain will need to be contacted so that permits can be issued.

Make sure that you are aware of the commencement of the fire season. This is publicised on the RFS website (see contact details at the end of this article). The fire season usually commences on 1 October each year, however, commencement and cessation dates may vary according to the conditions at the time. If in doubt, contact the brigade captain, Yass Fire Control Centre or check the fire danger signs on Wallaroo and Spring Range Roads.

## Reminders

The RFS Open Day, on 25 September, is a great opportunity to interact with brigade members, obtain advice on property protection and learn about the work that emergency services personnel undertake. There will be interactive activities to suit all ages and everyone is welcome to attend. Activities will commence mid-morning and wrap up early afternoon at the Murrumbateman Recreation Ground.

A reminder also that smoke detector batteries will need to be changed when daylight saving commences.

## Contact Details

NSW Rural Fire Service web site: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) .  
Wallaroo Brigade Captain, Darren Marks: 0409 070 056  
Yass Fire Control Centre: 6226 3100.

# Jon Murphy

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mobile: 0427 583 398  
email: [jonmurphy\\_49@hotmail.com](mailto:jonmurphy_49@hotmail.com)

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"Wattagan"  
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# Native tree & shrub tubestock sale

## \$1 each

Wallaroo

contact: **0407 224 490**

# St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church



## Garden Fete at St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church,

cnr Loftus & Victoria St, Hall,

**11.00 am – 2.00 pm, Saturday 18 September 2010**

Join us to celebrate the start of spring in the grounds of St Michael & All Angels. Enjoy the spectacle of Hall's very own Hall Village Brass Band under the spreading branches of our oak tree, as well as other musical treats. Browse the 2nd hand books, craft & plant stalls, and tempt your taste buds with a sausage sizzle, Indian curry or Devonshire tea.

Further information from Beryl 6255 5482.

## The Hall Attic

Antiques, Collectables, Old Wares, Craft



*The Hall Attic is Canberra's newest Antique shop and stocks an eclectic range of antiques, vintage items and collectables. Come out and browse through The Attic, you never know what you might find.*

Our stock includes:

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We are always looking to purchase old and interesting items including porcelain, paintings, prints, militaria, nauticalia, silverware, vintage and antique furniture including items in need of restoration.

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**11am – 4 pm**

HALL MARKET DAYS (first Sunday of the Month)

**9am – 4 pm**





# Phil Robson - heritage officer for Hall District

Phil Robson, who served on the Hall Progress Association in the nineties, primarily in the role of Heritage Officer, has been re-appointed to the position after an absence of 10 years.

Phil moved from Hall in 2003 but has never lost his passion for the village and its history and was delighted to be asked to take on the role again.

*“Heritage is happening in Hall at the moment! There are a number of important issues including:*

- protection of the Hall School Museum and its collection;
- arrangements for the celebration of the Hall School centenary in 2011;
- “Hall Heritage Village” signs at the road entrances to the village;
- interpretive heritage signage at key Hall sites;
- gathering a collection of historical material relevant to the area;

- digitising the collection of historic photos;

- setting up a historic photo galleries on the Hall website <http://www.hall.act.au/>;


- articles in the “Rural Fringe”;

- the naming of the historic lanes and

- develop a partnership between the Hall community and the ACT Government to highlight the importance of the village and surrounds in the history of Canberra, the centenary of which is being celebrated in 2013.

*I am very pleased to be associated with the Progress Association again in this capacity and I am sure the current residents of the village and surrounds will support all the planned heritage activities.”*

Phil has asked that if you have any material - photos, stories, memorabilia and so on - that you would like to lend to the Association for copying or donation to the planned heritage collection please contact him on 62595221 or by email [p.robson50@optusnet.com.au](mailto:p.robson50@optusnet.com.au).



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# Yass Valley Council Local Heritage

## Grants Program



Do you own or lease a heritage building or place in the Yass Valley?

Did you know you may be eligible for assistance to:

- Repaint
- Restore windows, fences or verandahs
- Restore shopfronts
- Fix cracked walls, a leaking roof or rising damp and many other things...

Applications are now open for the Yass Valley Council 2010-2011 Local Heritage Grants

Program, and you are encouraged to apply!

Generally, Local Heritage Grants are in the \$500 to \$2000 range up to a maximum of 50% of the proposed cost of works.

Application forms and guidelines are available for download from Yass Valley Council's website

[www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au) or can be obtained from Yass Valley Council.

For more information about the Local Heritage Grants Program, please contact Liz Makin, Senior Strategic Planner on 6226 1477.

Applications close Friday 13 August 2010.

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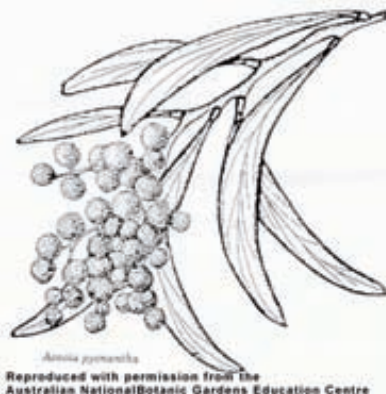
214 Gooromon Ponds Rd, Hall, ACT 2618.  
E: [gooromonpark@bigpond.com.au](mailto:gooromonpark@bigpond.com.au) W: [www.gooromonpark.com.au](http://www.gooromonpark.com.au)

# From the Vault

## Blooming Wattle

To me wattle has always been the harbinger of spring. This is especially so in Canberra where, by August when I'm much looking forward to some warmer weather, the bright yellow blooms lift my spirit. Perhaps that is why it has become one of our national symbols. Its colours of green and gold are worn proudly at many national events and no doubt will feature prominently alongside our flag at the 2000 Olympics and the Centenary of Federation celebrations in 2001.

Interestingly a sprig of wattle was first worn as a national emblem in Hobart in 1838 more than half a century before federation, at a regatta to commemorate the discovery of Tasmania by Abel Tasman in 1642. Although used as a national symbol many times, it was 1988 before a wattle was officially proclaimed as the national floral emblem. A ceremonial planting of Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) was carried out at the National Botanic Gardens on 1 September 1988, Wattle Day. Mrs Hazel Hawke, wife of the Prime Minister planted one of the trees beside the Visitor Centre and it continues to bloom each spring.



Wattles (*Acacia* spp.) are found in every state and territory, from wet forests to the arid inland, the number of species described now numbering over 900. Beautifully adapted to survive in many harsh environments they are water conservationists as well as soil improvers. Many fail to keep the true, fern-like leaves seen on tiny seedlings,

replacing them with flattened leaf stems which lose much less water through transpiration. All wattles, being legumes, have nodules on their roots containing nitrogen-fixing bacteria so, like peas and beans or clover will add nitrogen to the soil.

Most wattle seed is protected by a very hard seed coat and will only germinate naturally after the heat from a bushfire cracks this coat allowing the penetration of water. Another clever survival strategy! After a fire wattles are first to germinate and grow quickly giving protection to other plants and

for this reason are often used as a "nursery" species.

Wattles have been used by humans for thousands of years in Australia. The aboriginal peoples in many areas used the seeds of some wattles as a food either eaten green or

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as flour ground from mature seeds, mixed with water or breast milk, and cooked in hot coals. Wattle gum was also eaten, some bark used as medicine and wood made into tools and weapons.



Early settlers in Australia used saplings for the construction of their wattle and daub huts. This involved interweaving branches and overlaying mud and was commonly used in Europe and termed “wattling”. It was because of their widespread use in Australia for this method of building that the plants came to be called wattles. Early tanning industries were also founded using the bark of some wattle species.

Wattle seed has made a comeback with the increase in interest of bushfoods, ground seed being used to flavour breads, biscuits and icecream or used to make a hot drink. A warning though, the majority of species have not been tested for human consumption; use only approved wattle seed for cooking.

Wattles make excellent garden plants, ranging from prostrate and low-growing species to larger shrubs and trees. Contrary to popular myth not all wattles are shortlived (10 years is a long time in a garden anyway) and wattles are not a common cause of allergies. Monitoring of air around Canberra has shown that wattle pollen is an insignificant part of the pollen load even at peak flowering. Wattles have heavy pollen; it is the light wind blown pollens of grasses, pines and other wind pollinated plants that are more likely to cause problems.

So get rid of the winter blues, bring some early spring sunshine into your garden, plant a blooming wattle.

Margaret Lynch

Picture: Australian Wattle, [www.itsanhonour.gov.au](http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au)

# HALL RURAL SUPPLIES

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**12 Victoria St, Hall**



**Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc  
WALLAROO & SPRING RANGE RESIDENTS GROUP**

**CRIME PREVENTION MEETING**

Residents of NSW are invited to attend a special meeting on

**MONDAY 27th September 2010**

**7.00 pm**

**WALLAROO FIRE STATION**

with

**Snr. Constable Naomi Nemic**

Crime Prevention Officer / Monaro

and

members of the

Rural Crime Squad

Because of an apparent increase in crimes occurring in the Wallaroo and Spring Range areas we have organized this meeting to discuss such matter as

- Contacting Police in Case of an Emergency
- The importance of reporting incidents to the Police
- Anonymously reporting criminal or suspicious behaviour or activity to  
CRIME STOPPERS
- Explanation of the "Good Neighbour Scheme" &
  - Farm Security Assessments

Further information please contact:

Val Wiseman on 6230 2459 or

Judy Roberts on 6230 2436

# Hall loses another of its old gum trees

Heavy winter rain was the finale for this lovely gum tree on the corner of Gladstone st, and Palmer st. The tree blocked the road and crashed into the property opposite.



Much of Hall village was without power for hours. The response by ACT Gov. utilities was speedy and thorough. There were no injuries reported.

—Bob Richardson



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# Hall Community Fire Unit 13 (CFU)

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## TEAM LEADERS MEETING 5TH JUNE 2010

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome to new ACTFB CO

Paul Swain, CO,ACTFB, spoke to team leaders. There are (44) CF units at present. This may increase to (50).

Sandy Whyte is CFU Co-ordinator, mobile 0409 913 263

#### 2. Training Issues

Team leaders will be resourced with Training Folders for practice exercises. Training Modules will meet National Competency requirements. Statements of Attainments will be assessed by Urban Fire Station Officers.

Failure to complete initial training and yearly refresher training will result in limitation of a team member's role in exercises.

Failure to train longer than 24 months will result in a member being totally deactivated from team participation. Untrained team members should not handle equipment and are not covered by compensation insurance.

New members training is scheduled for September 2010.

#### 3. Smoke Exposure Management

Air Foxics info session. Respirable particles, CO carbon monoxide, Formaldehyde are contaminants present in bush fire smoke. House fires may produce exposures to numerous house or farm toxic chemicals that may be "reactive" when accidentally mixed with other chemicals, heat, or water. Category 2 substances (Formaldehyde) have potential carcinogenic effects. May activate cancer if inhaled. Pre-existing medical conditions, fitness levels, medications, alcohol, may exacerbate potential for harm. Become familiar with MSDS. (Material Safety Data Sheet)

#### 4. Safety and Safe Working Practices

Safe work practice - Manual handling. Knapsacks may be made redundant. Do not fill a knapsack (weight). Do not leave water in knapsack. Gloves, masks, goggles are essential P.P.E. (Personal),

#### 5. Trailer Location and Maintenance

Keep Trailers/Equipment maintained and clean regularly. Trailers will be serviced by Urban Fire Services.

#### 6. Up to date Contact Lists and New Database

New database. Visit website regularly.

#### 7. Resource Centre Move

Training will move to Hume (check portal).

#### 8. Consultative Committee Vacancy

New rep elected. A list of reps can be located on the website.

#### 9. General Business

Team leaders did a Q and A with Urban Fire officers. Team leader responsibilities, future training and resources. Latest info and data. Wind pattern behaviour. Satellite images. Retardant foams and gels. Interaction with local Fire teams. Use of radio contact. Reminder that the legislation restricts CFU members to operate "Only in their designated area".

Bob Richardson, Hall CFU13

Team Leader, 0407 071 245



[www.hall.act.au](http://www.hall.act.au)

# Hall School Museum

The Association has continued in the role of 'custodian' of the Hall School Museum – created by former school principal Laurie Copping and officially opened in 1986.

We were advised in July 2009 that our application for a Heritage Grant of \$8,745 to help produce a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and a Volunteer Guides Handbook for the Museum had been successful. That work is now largely completed, giving us a solid platform for the future. The CMP sets out in great detail the future conservation needs of the Museum and its collection. Following a meeting at the Museum with the head of ACT Heritage we have already initiated the quest for further resources to address the priority conservation tasks.



The Volunteer Guide Handbook is a rich collection of informative resource material put together to enable community volunteers to get a good working understanding of the origins of Hall and its school, the history of the school, and nature of the collection.

With the unstinting involvement of Elizabeth Burness, the Museum has been open every Hall Markets day, and on many other occasions by special request for groups such as the Australian National Museum of Education, the National Trust of Australia (ACT), and The Pinnacle Southern Cross Cub Pack. This latter group was led by the great grandson of the original teacher in 1911 - Mr Charles Thompson - Tony O'Sullivan.

A special mention is warranted for Mrs Irene Copping, the widow of Laurie, who is in her '90's' now, yet still braved the winter chills to visit with her son-in-law, as part of the Museum of Education group.

*"It is the comprehensiveness of this school museum, in terms of the large variety of its education artifacts, documents and school records which is its greatest strength, rather than the individual value of its items. It provides viewers and researchers with an insight into typical rural primary schooling in New South Wales during the first half of the twentieth century. As such it is a most valuable community asset, in its original geographical context, in addition to being an important part of the Canberra district's educational history".* Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt, Australian National Museum of Education.



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# Hall Bus Interchange - Incident Report Form

## GLADSTONE STREET BUS INTERCHANGE

### - Incident Report -

■ **Name\Witness details:**

■ **Contact details:**

■ **Date of incident:**

■ **Time of Incident:**

■ **Location of Incident: (As precise as possible):**

■ **Injury\potential injury:**

■ **Cause of incident:**

■ **Description of incident:**

■ **Suggestions to avoid future incidents:**

■ **Signed:**

**RETURN TO:** Letter box at 2, Alexandra St, Hall  
(Cnr Gladstone and Alexandra)

Dear Parents\user of the Hall Bus Interchange,

If you are witness to a incident that you believe resulted or could have resulted in an injury to a child or other person please fill out the following form and return it to the letter box of:

2 Alexandra St, Hall.

Regards,

Village of Hall and District Progress Association (VHDPA)

July 2010

### Background

Recently safety issues regarding the Hall Bus Interchange located at the corner of Victoria St and Gladstone St, Hall have been reported to the VHDPA.

The VHDPA is seeking to record incidents regarding the safety of children and traffic around the interchange in order to identify the frequency and types of incidents. A case based on these statistics will then be brought to the ACT government arguing for improvements to the interchange the will improve the safety of the children using the interchange. (Any information collected on this form will be used for this purpose only).

## DARRALEE QUARRY



*Darralee Quarry has recently been re-opened.  
It was one of the RTA's main sources  
of road base for many years.*

**Supply and/or delivery of  
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**Contact Paul  
on (02) 4845 8288  
or paulwyer@fertspread.com**



# Naming Hall's Lanes

*"I was very pleased to receive such a well thought out and researched submission. The names are delightful and the associated history will enhance that which is already recorded within our nomenclature of the ACT. I am happy to report that the Place Names Committee are also fully supportive of the names and wish to congratulate the VHDPA".*

Lorraine Bayliss, ACT Place Names Officer,  
March 1 2010

Our proposal for the naming of Hall Lanes was very well received by the ACT government, and we are delighted that the names have now been gazetted.

Congratulations to Shaun O'Connor for the initial suggestion, and to the group convened by Margaret Morris and included Julie Welsh and Bob Richardson who researched and proposed the names. Each Lane is now imaginatively associated with part of the history of the village, and will help to tell the Hall and district story. (We note that 'One Tree Lane' may yet have to be modified so as to avoid any possible confusion with the 'One Tree Fire Trail')

- Cricketers Lane
- One Tree Lane
- Schoolhouse Lane
- Chaffcutters Lane
- Saddlers Lane
- Merchants Lane
- Bootmakers Lane
- Pony Lane

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# A WWII Jeep in Hall

A 1944 Willys Jeep has been restored by Andy Fulton and Malcolm McLeod at the Hall Metal Fabrications workshop in Victoria Street.

The Jeep has many features that are interesting for the time it was built. It has a side-valve engine, and a 6 volt system. It has telescopic shock absorbers - even 1948 model Holdens still had lever shocks.



The Jeep has an "Ameri-can" fuel can (as opposed to a "Jerry-can" (Jerry being a disparaging wartime name for Germany and Germans)).

A Jerry can has an easy to use, lever-flick lid. The Ameri-can has a ridiculous lid, about 12cm diameter and with a screw thread. Pouring petrol out of it would splash everywhere. Which is probably why this Jeep has an equally ridiculous fuel filling spout, to the tank which is under the passenger seat. When the lid is unscrewed, up pops what looks like a 100mm PVC pipe! (reporter's jottings!)



This "night light" headlight is a low level light, to enable the driver to see the ground in front of the vehicle, but the light can't be seen by aeroplanes overhead.



A piece of luxury that is rarely seen in today's vehicles - a footrest for the back seat passenger!



Don't you wish your 4WD has this?

The headlights have a wing-nut release, so that the lights can be turned around to shine light into the engine when repairs are needed on a dark night on the road.

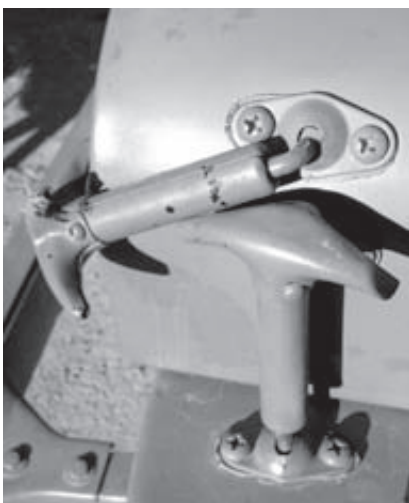




Fuel filler, under passenger seat



Bob Richardson  
in the Willys Jeep



The 1944 Jeep  
uses Phillips screws,  
which weren't used  
in Australian vehicles  
until after 1950.




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# From the Editor...

Hello Everyone. Again another hectic issue is to be 'put to bed'. It looks like we will be a few days late with this one and for that I apologise. It has not been a good month for me with my mother having a very bad fall, breaking her femur, having a 7 hour operation and then spending nearly a fortnight in the Intensive Care Unit of the Canberra Hospital. By golly, they are good people in there. They look after the patient and the family as well!

As you can imagine I was rather distraught about all this carry on but they made sure I was okay as well as my mum. Elsie (mum) is back on the ward now but just last week we made that horrible decision that no-one likes to make insofar as she will now be going to a nursing home rather than coming back to live with me. And all the paperwork that goes with that decision! Every man and his dog needs to have a say about this process! And the hospital immediately start putting pressure on you to get it all done because they need the bed for the next patient. It is no wonder I am feeling rather drained and exasperated! Pass me that bottle of red wine please!

Speaking of red wine, it is certainly the drink of choice (for most of us) at the Rotary Club of Hall every Tuesday night at the Gumnut Cafe on the corner of Victoria and

Gladstone Streets. I am lucky enough to be the Sergeant at Arms for this club and I get to 'fine' people for all sorts of silly nonsense. It is really just a fun way to alleviate everyone of their loose change which adds to the fund raising that we do to help people from various walks of life. I really enjoy my time with Rotary. They are a really wonderful bunch of people... oh dear, better not tell them I wrote this because

1] it will go to their heads, and  
2] one of them will fine me!

And finally since I last produced a 'Fringe', my daughter Sally & I have been on a cruise. This picture is taken out in the Pacific Ocean somewhere between Brisbane & Vanuatu. As you can see it was very smooth sailing for the whole trip.

This trip was not just a holiday but it had a very special purpose too. We took the ashes of my dear friend Kristina Collins to scatter them in her favourite place. We were a group

of 32 people who went for that purpose (and a few others flew in for it) so that is indicative of how much she was loved. I produced a short video of the ceremony which you can see on *Youtube* if you want to, it was just beautiful. Just do a search on *Youtube* for **Canberra Secretarial Services** and then click on **Tribute for Kristina**.

—Lee Corrigan



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## The Rural Fringe—ISSN: 1329-3893

The Rural Fringe is a community newspaper published every second month by the Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc (VHDPA) and distributed free to mailboxes of the 2618 postcode. 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 new deadlines which will ensure publication by the 15th of every second month.

February issue deadline is 10th January

April issue deadline is 10th March

June issue deadline is 10th May

August issue deadline is 10th July

October issue deadline is 10th September

December issue deadline is 10th 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 or PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618.

### Advertising rates (per issue)

Half page—\$70, Quarter page—\$40, Eighth page—\$30

Advertisement design fee—\$30

### Other information

Editor—Lee Corrigan

Co-ordinator—Bob Richardson

All enquiries to the Co-ordinator on 0407 071 245.

The views expressed in this journal do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Co-ordinator or the VHDPA.

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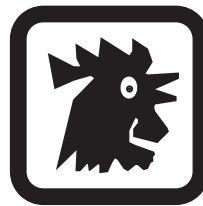
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*William Shakespeare- 'Love's Labor's Lost'*

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*Genesis depicts Adam and Eve leading the plush life in Eden. They may eat fruit from any tree except one. Unsurprisingly, they eat the forbidden fruit and are expelled from paradise. The item in question is invariably depicted as an apple. However, nowhere in the bible is the forbidden fruit labelled as an apple! The Middle East is generally too hot for apples to thrive. Possibilities include fig, grapes, citron, carob or even wheat!*

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