

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district



VOLUME 20 ISSUE 5

October 2011

Spring Parade of Millinery



▲ Trish McIntyre & her daughter Katrina Bowditch who helped with the catering



Inside this Issue...

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- Hall School Museum Newsletter
- Hall Preschool
- New Residents Morning Tea
- Medieval Tournament



Hall Village resident Trish McIntyre presented her "Spring Parade of Millinery" at the Pavilion.

What better way to welcome Spring than a Spring/Summer fashion hat parade created by our very own talented, Trish McIntyre!

For a very modest entry fee to raise funds for the Starlight Foundation, invitees enjoyed a chilled glass of champagne and canapés and watched with delight as Trish's magnificent hats were paraded before us by the stylish models: Fai Field, Cheyanne O'Callaghan, Julianne Horseman and Jessica Adelan. Bouquets also to the little models who displayed head pieces for children.

Thanks to: Sofia Pollack Designs for two of the dresses. The jewellery for sale was from Paris (Paula Loves Paris) and the gloves and umbrellas from Italy (All available from Trish).

Trish would be delighted to design your hat for any season. She can be contacted on: 6230 2310 (business hours) or www.hatsbytrish.com.au

The Banker's Fate

They sought it with thimbles, they sought it with care;
They pursued it with forks and hope;
They threatened its life with a railway-share;
They charmed it with smiles and soap.
And the Banker, inspired with a courage so new
It was matter for general remark,
Rushed madly ahead and was lost to their view
In his zeal to discover the Snark.

But while he was seeking with thimbles and care,
A Bandersnatch swiftly drew nigh
And grabbed at the Banker, who shrieked in despair,
For he knew it was useless to fly.

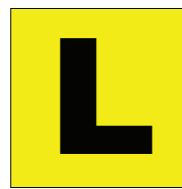
He offered large discount—he offered a cheque
(Drawn “to bearer”) for seven-pounds-ten;
But the Bandersnatch merely extended its neck
And grabbed at the Banker again.

Without rest or pause—while those frumious jaws
Went savagely snapping around—
He skipped and he hopped, and he floundered and flopped,
Till fainting he fell to the ground.

Lewis Carroll

Safe Learner Drivers

Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers



A free workshop for parents, supervisors and soon-to-be supervisors of learner drivers will be held at Yass on Tuesday October 18 at 6.30 pm, facilitated by Yass Valley Council Road Safety Officer, Alison Beresford.

The course, Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers, developed by the RTA offers parents and supervisors, hands-on advice on how to provide the most effective driving practice for learner drivers.

“Parents and supervisors who have previously attended this course have found it boosted their confidence as supervising drivers, assisted them better plan driving sessions and found the practical exercises useful in reinforcing information gained during the evening.” Ms Beresford said.

Each participant will be given a course material folder, light supper and key strategies to provide effective driving practice for learner drivers.

Bookings for the Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers course can be made by calling Yass Valley Council on 6226 9248. For further information, please call Yass Valley’s Road Safety Officer, Alison on 6226 9248.

Hall Collector’s first registration



Andy Fulton of “HALL COLLECTORS”, proudly displays his new historic number plate 1268. The first issued to our collectors club Hall. Andy was on his way to Yass to a field day display of vehicles.

Bushfire Danger Period

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIOD TO COMMENCE

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS ZONE

NSW Rural Fire Service SOUTHERN TABLELANDS ZONE has declared the start to the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) as at 1st October 2011.

From October 1 any person wishing to light a fire in GOULBURN MULWAREE, UPPER LACHLAN and YASS VALLEY Local Government areas will require a fire permit. During a Total Fire Ban however, no fires of any kind may be lit even if you hold a permit.

“Commencement of the Bush Fire Danger Period does not prohibit landholders from burning. In fact, we continue to encourage properly prepared and managed hazard reductions. It does mean however, that permits will be required for lighting fires, said Peter Dyce Community Education Safety Officer.

“Fire permits are free and can be obtained from your local fire station or fire control centre. For more information contact Southern Tablelands Zone Office on 62263100

“Above average temperatures for the summer period have been forecast we ask people to be careful when using fire. The current conditions across most of NSW mean that fires are more likely to develop into bush fires, threaten life, property and the environment.

“It is an offence to allow a fire to escape from your property and it is your responsibility to ensure that fires are not left unattended.

“We strongly advise residents to contact their local brigade and use their expertise to assist in carrying out safe and successful hazard reductions.

“If the fire does escape, it is essential that the landowner call Triple Zero (000) immediately so that emergency services can respond accordingly and minimise the damage,” said Peter Dyce Community Education Safety Officer.

The RFS has a number of publications available to residents providing information on: alternatives to burning, planning and preparation for a Hazard Reduction and applying for a Hazard Reduction certificate and fire permit.

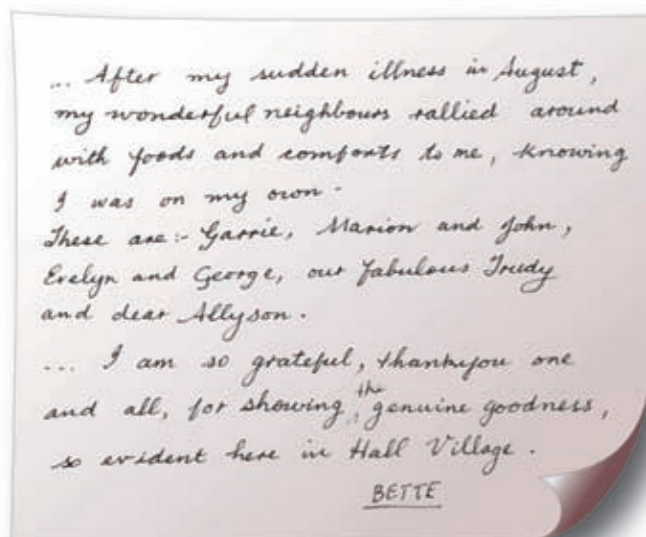
For more information contact Southern Tablelands Zone RFS Office on 62263100 or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

Joy Burch, MLA visits Hall



Hall representatives meet Joy Burch, MLA to discuss community arrangements in regards to the Hall School Site. Future projections for the Hall Pre-School, the School Museum, the Men’s Shed, the “Cottage” and the entire school site. If you wish to know more please contact your Hall District website or an elected member of your Hall Progress Association.

Letter from Bette Calman



... After my sudden illness in August,
my wonderful neighbours rallied around
with foods and comforts to me, knowing
I was on my own.
These are: Garrie, Marion and John,
Evelyn and George, our fabulous Trudy
and dear Allyson.
... I am so grateful, thank you one
and all, for showing ^{the} genuine goodness,
so evident here in Hall Village.

BETTE

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Hall CFU Report

Progress Association

Wallaroo Bushfire Brigade



Hall Community Fire Unit 13 meet to prepare for the coming fire season 2011. Equipment has been checked, PPE (personal protective equipment) checked, radio communications checked. Hall CFU has 12 active members at present. A number of residents have put their names down for training. The Training is not too demanding, there is no fitness level required. Trained members are skilled to defend their homes from destruction by fire. HALL village is designated RED ZONE category 1. This is the highest level of danger from fire. This is why HALL was one of the first CFU formed and trained after the 2003 bush fires. Members of the Hall CFU have proactively commenced clearing, cleaning and testing all of the water valve stands in HALL. Hall Village has been divided into zones. CFU members are allocated a zone (usually in their street). They will be calling on every house hold to audit a number of essential factors to insure your family's safety. The number of people usually on the property, any disabilities or special requirements in case of emergency evacuation. Small children, babies, elderly, hearing defects etc. Are there animals on your property? Will you take them with you? Will you need help? Do you have a water tank or swimming pool? Can it be used to defend against fire? It has been established that air-conditioners are a source of entry for fire. Do you have covers for your conditioners? Hall is the luck position having in our village a RURAL FIRE BRIGADE. These highly trained volunteers along with the ACT Urban Brigades will be our first line of defence. The role of the CFU is to defend their homes unless ordered to evacuate by Authorities. Further inquiries to BOB RICHARDSON 0407071245. CFU team leader.



Pierre, Rowena, Marion and Brian.

At the AGM of the Progress Association on August 10th the following were elected to the committee

Alastair Crombie President	a.crombie@effect.net.au
Tony Morris Vice President	tonymargmorris@bigpond.com
John Starr Treasurer	jstarr@gold-creek.com.au
Judy Roberts Secretary	allwood3@aapt.net.au
Pierre Dragh	pdragh@bigpond.com
Paul Porteous	ssmuse@baroque.com.au
Bob Richardson	richwhite@bigpond.com
Greg Palethorpe	gregory.palethorpe@afp.gov.au
Phil Robson (Heritage Officer)	p.robson50@optusnet.com.au

A schedule of meetings for the year has been established, and it was agreed that alternate meetings would be open meetings. All meetings are held at The Cottage at the school, and normally at 7.30 pm on Wednesday evenings. Meetings for the coming twelve months will be on:
 30th November (open)
 1st February
 14th March (open)
 25th April
 6th June (open)
 18th July
 15th August – AGM

Members can put forward matters for consideration at any time, either by contacting any committee member, or writing to the Secretary.

Postal: VHDPA, PO Box 43, Hall ACT 2618

Email: info@hall.act.au

Public Officer: Brian Banyard (6230 9630)

Membership forms for those wishing to join, or renew their membership, are available on the Post office counter, where there is also a 'ballot box' to leave your form in. Alternatively, you can download a membership form from the community website at www.hall.act.au. Select 'Documents' from the main menu, then under VHDPA forms, select the Membership form. Note that it is now possible to opt for two or three year membership payment, and doing so is very helpful to the Association!

Wallaroo Bushfire brigade seeks new members

Wallaroo Volunteer Bushfire Brigade is seeking new members to join its ranks to address the worrying fact that very few active volunteers currently live in the Wallaroo area. Not only is the brigade struggling to operate with little more than 20 active members, many of its volunteers live well outside our brigade area, many residing in the ACT. This means some brigade members have to travel some distance to react to incidents in the Wallaroo area. The extra time it takes brigade members to travel to the fire shed can make a significant difference in an emergency situation where every minute counts.

At the end of the day the brigade simply needs more volunteers, both living in our community and outside it, to call on in an emergency. It is time that the community of Wallaroo starts thinking about their own backyard. There should be a lot of people aged from 16 and upwards around the area who would be very handy to the brigade. Do the sums !

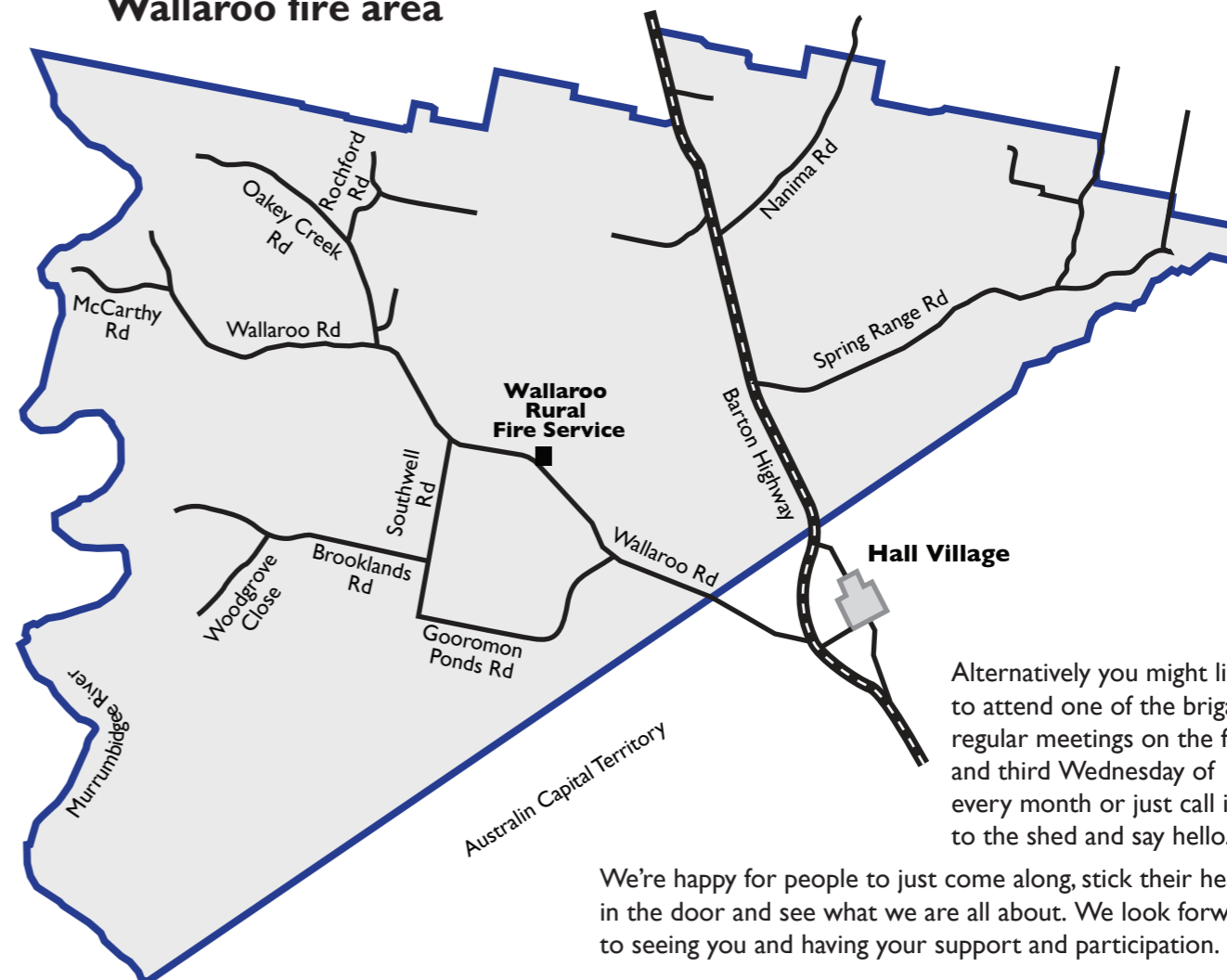
There are around four hundred and fifty properties in the area, three trucks and too few people to operate them.

The State Government provides us with tremendous facilities and equipment. All we need is enough trained volunteers to respond in an emergency volunteering is a great way to give back to the community and can provide valuable experience, life skills and friendships.

The training provided through the Rural Fire Service is world class and nationally accredited volunteering for the brigade is not just about firefighting. There are many other ways residents can help such as maintenance of vehicles, mowing, fund raising, community education and assisting in community events.

During the height of the fire season we also need people to assist with catering and communications anyone interested in volunteering should contact: Brigade President on 6230 2436 or Secretary on 62302926

Wallaroo fire area



Alternatively you might like to attend one of the brigade's regular meetings on the first and third Wednesday of every month or just call in to the shed and say hello.

We're happy for people to just come along, stick their head in the door and see what we are all about. We look forward to seeing you and having your support and participation.



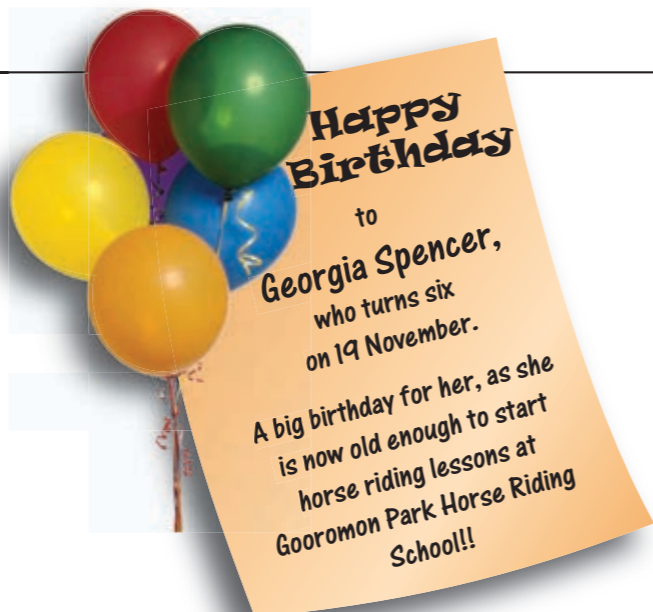
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 postal address: PO Box 282, GUNGAHLIN, ACT 2912
 street address: 3/10 Victoria Street, HALL, ACT 2618



Birth Announcements!

Please send your contributions to ruralfringe@hotmail.com



Lily Howlett was born on 30th August 2011 to proud parents, John and Emma



Levi Jett Greenwood born 13th September at 9.58am weighing 10lb. Beautiful son to Luke & Nikki Greenwood 5th grandchild to Dennis & Garrie Greenwood. All is well.

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Winners are grinners

A number of Poachers smoked meats were awarded medals at the 2011 Hobart Fine Food Awards, including Champion Smallgoods for Smoked Poultry Product to the Thai Chicken Thigh. The smoked duck breast received gold; silver went to the Sicilian chicken breast, smoked chicken breast with tarragon and lemon and the sweet chilli chicken thigh, and bronze to the smoked chicken breast.

Visit our tasting bar and try these award winning products for yourself, and while you're out, why not pop into our pantry for a look at the whole range. Seven days, 10am to 5pm.

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 Road Base to suit gravel roads

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Or pop into Hall Premier Store and pick up some delicious smoked meats for you to make a Poachers inspired dish at home!



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St. Michael and All Angels



Perfect weather for the large gathering at Hall Anglican Church of St Michael and All Angels. Hall Brass Band opens the church Spring Fete with a sparkling medley of everyone's favourite tunes. Devonshire teas and clever home-made craft items were in big demand.

Warm spring weather welcomed the many folk who supported the annual Garden Fete at St Michael & All Angels on Saturday 17 September. After the icy rain & bitter wind of the previous weekend, the balmy temperature on 17 September painted blossoms and new leaves on bare branches, and encouraged many visitors to Hall to enjoy the fun at our Fete. The glorious music of Hall Village Brass Band once again set the scene of our old-fashioned Fete, and continuing our theme of yesteryear, a display of beautifully restored Morris Minors attracted many admirers.

Children of the parish entertained visitors with a puppet show twice during the Fete, attracting a full house in Hall Cottage. The story and puppets have been created by parish member Shirley Stanton, and our youngsters have had a great time learning & rehearsing for the performance. What a great way for these young people to learn self confidence and have fun! At St Michael's we have a growing Sunday school (the Starshine club) for the littlies, and teenagers are enjoying our new Youth Group which meets on alternate Fridays.

For more information about our children's activities, Sunday services and other parish activities, please contact our Parish Office on 6258 6088 (the office is staffed Tuesday, Thursday & Friday afternoons, at other times please leave a message)

Many thanks,
Beryl Pedvin



Spring fete at Hall Village. A selected display of very special MORRIS CARS found an appreciative audience at the spring fete.



Spring fete presented the timeless joys of a puppet show at the school cottage.

The Food Intolerance Network

The Food Intolerance Network consists of more than 8,000 families, mostly in Australia and New Zealand but with members in USA, UK, EU, Canada and several other countries.

The Network provides

- independent information about the effects of food on behaviour, health and learning ability in both children and adults, and
- support for families using a low-chemical elimination diet free of additives, low in salicylates, amines and flavour enhancers (FAILSAFE) for health, behaviour and learning problems.

The Network runs 27 email support groups with more than 4,000 members, sends a quarterly electronic newsletter to more than 8,000 families, arranges talks to more than 3,000 people a year, lobbies Ministers and food regulators and runs an active website which has seen more than 2.4 million hits since 1999.

www.fedup.com.au

Garden Meanderings By Lisa Walmsley

How delightful it is to wonder around the garden or in fact outside as the chill from the winter months fades and glimmers of summer's warmth sneak into our days. Life is returning to the suburbs as we uncurl from our long hibernation and with it a desire to potter in the garden.

We are often told to surround ourselves with people that make us feel good and to gently move away from those that don't nurture our souls the same may be said about plants in our gardens. Why have plants that don't reward you with every season? There is such an investment in time and money in a plant so why not have one that gives you joy and pleasure.

I get very excited at this time of the year to spot the new varieties of plants the growers have toiled over to produce for the gardening masses. Many of our regular plant species are hybridised and perfected to produce the 'alpha' form of the original. Some of these may be very fussy and require lots of extra care while others are a massive improvement on the original.

A good example of this is our native plants, the breeders are going to great lengths to improve our existing varieties. There is now a wide number of Correas on the market and new ones been developed all the time. One of my favourite recent Correas is 'Autumn Blaze', this little beauty has burnt orange bell shaped flowers and glossy green leaves, it's one of the smaller correas which will fit perfectly into a small garden space or rockery. Another great native is Eriostemon or Philotheca (its new name) many of you probably know it as the wax flower and in its earlier life it produced a few flowers once a year. It now comes in many forms, covered in flowers and densely foliated, perfect for many locations in the garden.

One of my recent improved favourites is Loropetalum chinensis 'Plum Gorgeous', this plant has a deep purple foliage colour all year with vivid hot pink, tasselled flowers in the spring and autumn. It has a natural dense, domed habit, vigorous growth and is hardy for most situations. It is easy to grow with minimal maintenance. What more could you want from a plant, really?

While it is lovely to experiment with plants and try all the new and exciting varieties that come onto the market every year, most of us don't have the luxury of space or the desire. Not only that, it can become quite disconcerting to be constantly disappointed by failure when plants don't thrive and survive in your garden. And choosing the right plant for the right location (that is it must be culturally correct) for it to have its optimum success.

Many plants, we know for sure can be hard to grow around here. We know that our plants must be drought tolerant and frost tolerant. Some will only grow in certain pH soils, or certain soil types. Others require full shade or full sun or a combination, and then there is irrigation. The list to provide the perfect spot for plants can be endless so much of the time we take a guess and hope for the best. Lemons (citrus) can be difficult to grow around here, but rather annoyingly (only because I have not had success) the odd one in the odd garden thrives and I smile in wonder why they are so selective about where they grow.

I dare you to take the risk this season and get to know a new plant, there are so many I'm sure you will find one you love and will have a wonderful relationship with for years to come.

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Inaugural meeting of the Friends, September 21

There will be a meeting to establish the 'Friends' on Wednesday September 21 at 7.30 pm in the main building at Hall Primary School.

Dr Malcolm Beazley AM, Curator of the Australian National Museum of Education, and leader of the team that carried out the inventory of Hall School Museum, will be guest speaker. The Honorary Curator will report of achievements and work-in-progress, and there will discussion of ideas and options for the future. Followed by supper - all welcome.

A notice with full details of this important meeting will be sent out shortly, but please put the date in your diary meanwhile.

Phil Robson – Honorary Curator

The Village of Hall and District Progress Association formally appointed Phil Robson as the Curator of the Museum at its committee meeting on 31 August. Congratulations Phil!

Conservation volunteers

'Graduates' of the basic conservation skills workshops conducted earlier this year by Kim Morris continue to meet every Thursday morning from 9.00 am. We have acquired essential conservation equipment and material, and made great strides in cleaning all the material on display. We are using the adjacent school classroom as a 'conservation laboratory', withdrawing material from the Museum for treatment.

All 'Friends' and others warmly welcome to drop in any Thursday morning.

An 'inter-Wars' classroom?

Some agreement has emerged that we should try to recreate a school room which is authentic to the inter-war period, 1918 – 1939. However, this would entail moving some of the material currently on display, and at present we have no other home for it. We are in discussions with the ACT Government about options for using other parts of the existing school

accommodation.

ACT Heritage Grant

An application has been made through the Village of Hall and District Progress Association for a 2011-2012 Heritage Grant (\$7,450) to enable us to:

- Continue with high priority conservation tasks
- Establish a new 'Museum' section on the Hall community website
- Create an information brochure about the Hall School Museum
- Conduct further conservation skills training
- Purchase some new display cases
- Mount an exhibition on 'bush school' for the Hall district in 2012

International visitors

We were delighted to host recently three visiting academics from Indonesia, here to visit the Australian National Museum of Education. Their university in Jogjakarta has plans for the establishment of a national museum of education, and they were in Canberra to meet with the Australian National Museum of Education.

Chris Bourke MLA visits

Chris Bourke MLA, the new member for Ginninderra in the ACT Legislative Assembly, is our most recent special visitor. We showed Chris around the Museum as part of an introductory briefing about Hall and the district, Chris tells us his father was a school teacher in country Victoria, so he has seen a few small schools like ours.

ACT Heritage visitors

On Thursday 1st September we hosted an informal visit from staff of ACT Heritage, now part of the Chief Minister's Department. ACT Heritage has been a strong supporter of the Museum, and the interest of their staff in what we are doing is very welcome. ACT Heritage is also responsible for the heritage interpretation signs that can now be found throughout the village. The visitors commented very favourably on what has been achieved with grant monies received.

Cooperation with Hall Mens Shed

One of a number of very positive recent developments is having the Hall Mens Shed group working with us. Shed members have withdrawn one of the display cases for refurbishment, removed shelving structure from the foyer area, and cleared out the small 'office' area so that appropriate wall lining can be installed. It is strongly hoped that this fine collaboration will continue.

Alastair Crombie
2 September 2011



The official opening was on Saturday morning with Mark Carmody, our local ABC weatherman, entertaining us by providing many aspects of local life in his address. Mark was most approachable (as usual) and enjoyed a light morning tea along with most of the people. Our Wattle Park based 16th Canberra Girl's Brigade were very friendly and efficient waitresses and were kept busy by a constant customer base. The Sunday School also provided a very willing sausage sizzle supervisor who was right on top of the system and ensured a most adequate supply of vitals.

Our services continue to have a regular base of friendly worshippers and most Sundays we have our numbers boosted by several visitors; I am sure it is the

As spring is in the air and our allergies are thriving, we still feel the positive effect of a new start in new growth: both the plants and in our relationships. At Wattle Park this September we had a very positive start to what we hope will become a regular event; it was our inaugural Spring Art and Craft Fair. Over 200 people frequented the hall over the Friday and Saturday viewing days with paintings, pottery, beads, and porcelain dolls all on sale.

worship that attracts them, but morning tea may have a temptation affect!!

Please feel free to join us at 10.30 am every Sunday, who knows, you might even enjoy it!
Many blessings



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A well earned 19 - 14 win for our Hall Bushrangers over Defence academy. 2011 marks 20 years of Hall Rugby. What a grand achievement for the HAMLET of HALL. The O'Connor family (long time residents of HALL Village) have done sterling service over many years in many areas of Community building. Rain, hail or shine the O'Connors with "other stalwarts" front-up to ensure the future of HALL Rugby. Our Community dips it's hat to the "spirit that prevails".



HALL BUSHRANGERS RUGBY TEAM TAKE CONTROL against Australian Defence Force Academy at the HALL Sports ground. Hall went on to win 19-14 after a guttsey display. Hall will finish the season in the top group to battle out the premiership for the 2011 season.

National Sheep Dog Trial AGM



National Sheepdog Trial Assoc. AGM Newly elected President and Vice President Charlie Cover of Yass and John Starr of West Gold Creek take the reins of the NSDTA encouraged by Peter Welsh past President. Hall Residents Helen White and Bob Richardson were again elected to the Committee.

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The Word Billion



The next time you hear a politician use the word 'billion' in a casual manner, think about whether you want the 'politicians' spending your tax money.

A billion is a difficult number to comprehend, but one

advertising agency did a good job of putting that figure into some perspective in one of its releases.

- A billion seconds ago it was 1959.
- A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive.
- A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.
- A billion days ago no-one walked on the earth on two feet.
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Aston Sisters

by Bob Richardson



From left to right: Di, Lyn, Gloria Aston

There were 3 generations of the 'Aston family' in attendance at this year's (2011) National Sheep Dog morning tea.

Di Aston, a well-known Hall resident welcomed her sister Gloria. Gloria was born at Molonglo in 1924. Housing back then consisted of buildings retained from a First World War prisoner's hostel.

Gloria (Di's sister), attended Telopea Park School and later worked at the Hotel Kingston during World War II (1940s). Gloria married in 1950 and resided in Newcastle, NSW.

Lyn is Gloria's daughter. Lyn lives in Canberra.

The original Canberra family was large, with 12 children. Three sisters: Gloria, Pam and Shirley created a singing trio called the 'Aston Sisters'. Gloria remembers how they were compared to the famous War-time trio in the USA: 'The Andrew Sisters'.

Di and Pam would 'fill in' or join in entertainments but the Three Aston Sisters who appeared on radio and cut records here in Canberra in the 1940s were Gloria, Pam & Shirley. No photos were available or survived at the Riverside Hotel.

Shirley now lives in Queanbeyan.

'When we made mention recently of functions at some of Canberra's early hostels, it broke a musical memory for Allan Helman, of Forrest.'

"As a youth after the war, I sometimes used to walk across from the Causeway to attend the Sunday evening concerts organised by the Eastlake Hostel residents", Alan says. "I particularly remember the singing of the Aston sisters from the Causeway whom I reckoned could give the Andrews Sisters a run for their money at the time."



Hello readers.
It may seem like it has been very quiet at preschool, but we have actually been very busy this term.

We started off the term with a 5-week judo program, where the children learnt the art of controlling their body and falling safely.

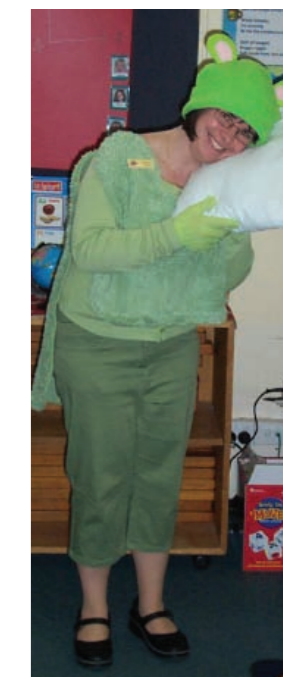
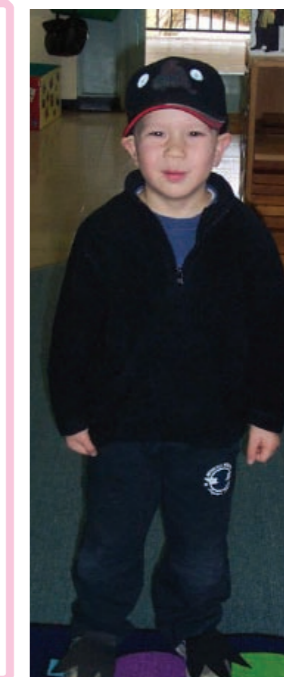
To celebrate book week we had a dress-up day where the children came dressed as their favourite book character. We also had an excursion to the Gungahlin Library, where we couldn't decide if the most exciting thing was the interactive area at the library, or the bus ride to the library!

A lady named Kate spent an hour with us at preschool teaching us African Drumming. She had been to Africa to learn to play the drums, and we had lots of fun learning from her – even if it was a bit loud.



Towards the end of the term, we had our preschool learning journeys. It was great to see so many parents come and join in the activities with their children.

Finally, our exciting piece of news this term is that the Hall Preschool published its own book! It is called "My Body" and is a factual book which is a culmination of our year's worth of learning about our body systems and our five senses. Each child drew a picture, and all the text came from the children's conversations about what they knew about their bodies. We are very proud of our work and how much the children are learning. The children are making great progress and are a great asset to the Hall Community.



What makes a great school? A teacher's perspective

-The answer is quite simple- great kids, and Hall School had plenty of those. There was a great mix of students from Hall Village, Hall rural district, Murrumbateman, and a few students from nearby suburbs. A tight knit group, they all showed loyalty and camaraderie to each other. They were grounded in reality and huge amounts of common sense (even though common sense is not really common!)

-They were loaded in talent: artists, musicians, scientists, sporting folk, and those academically gifted in literacy and maths.

-They were focused on school and community values such as Junior Landcare. They followed the school motto "Service before Self", and showed great compassion for those less fortunate, often initiating charity drives to help others. They also reflected home values, and they had a strong sense of their own identity at school and in the wider community.

Special Events

-Every year Hall School enthusiastically embraced Heritage Day, dressing for the occasion, sharing lessons across the school on a range of heritage topics, often sitting in the little Hall Museum, the legacy of Laurie Copping, where they could step back in time and enter another era of schooling.

- Book Week was celebrated with equal enthusiasm, with parades of costumes, even though one year we had a squadron of Harry Potters, so popular was his character!

- Eisteddfod was an occasion when we took the whole school to perform in a junior and senior choir. No child was left behind, and every child had the opportunity to grace the stage of the Canberra Theatre. They sang out loud and proud, and gained a second and third place against more polished and selective schools.

-Pet Shows. Such an assortment of livestock seen in one location! The kids just loved it, while the staff were having kittens!

- Ski trips meant a very early start but a rewarding day as children realised that this was fun, and a challenge. Many have made it a sport for life. What lucky kids!

- School Camps provided a great opportunity to rise to unexpected challenges. Cooperative problem solving meant Hall kids earned the respect of those running

these facilities. I saw this first-hand, and I was so proud of Hall children when they were away.

-School fetes, Sports Days and School concerts for the parents were also highlights which made Hall School a worthwhile, hardworking and lively place to be! Special events make a school life worthwhile, and for teachers too!

Buildings and Grounds

-Hall School was a hotch potch of buildings flung about the school grounds. Many were temporary, if temporary means something designed to last at least 50 years!

-Although the education officials would prefer each space filled with students, the spare room near the Peace Tree was used for French, art, science, music lessons before school and in school time, and as a place for teachers providing teacher release time to go with a group. Specialist teachers also used this room over the years. Invaluable!

-The double demountable was aptly named, as it had to double for everything other schools did in their purpose built school hall! So it doubled for somewhere to have school assembly, for parent concerts, usually over 2 nights because we could not fit them all in! Visiting Arts performers viewed their space with alarm, wondering where the children would fit! It served for years as the practice base for Hall Brass Band. Drama lessons, fitness and dance practice tested this little unyielding building, perhaps never more challenged than on a school social night, as every modern dance tune was put to the test! The kids rocked, and so did the building on its unsecured piers – we never realised.....! For years we had begged via the Board for a new and suitable building, only to find that every school would eventually receive the very building we had craved! And they didn't even have to ask.

Hall Museum, now the Laurie Copping Heritage Centre

This is the late Laurie Copping's special gift to Hall School, its district and the ACT, with a well-deserved renaming ceremony by the then Governor General Michael Jeffery. Laurie's knowledge, vision and passion for Hall School and its little museum has been an inspiration to staff and students alike for those lucky enough to share this special building with him. Today it is the only classroom in the school to still have its desks and seats, as it has done poignantly for 100 years.

The trees and grounds

-The pine trees have stood sentinel over the children at Hall for nearly 100 years. Each tree had significance for the families of the Hall district who saw their members leave their home and country to fight in The Great War 1914-1918. These trees too will soon celebrate their 100th year. Their significance to the School and district should not be overlooked in years to come.

-The Peace Tree from 1919 still stands, another poignant reminder of the part the local Red Cross played back then.

- Our students have played their part in Landcare and Greening Australia and have planted hundreds and hundreds of trees in the district, a wonderful legacy from the students at Hall School. Such an irony to have their school trees taken from them!

Principals, staff, parents and community

-I have been privileged to have warm collegial support from principals, other staff, and reliable hard working parents, Board and community while at Hall School. All have had a commitment to Hall School.

- The celebration this weekend proves that the community spirit is alive and well in Hall, doing what we do best to achieve a common goal. Congratulations to all involved.

- It was a privilege for me to teach any children, but a very real privilege to teach the children of Hall School. It is a privilege I have never once taken for granted. I shall carry the children of Hall School in my heart wherever I go. Thank you for inviting me to speak.



Special Notice

The Rotary Club of Hall meets every Tuesday night at 7pm for a meal, fellowship and often a guest speaker.

If you would like to visit or join us please call Brian Goldstraw on 0417 409 755 or email brian.goldstraw@bigpond.com or Lee Corrigan on 0427 559 446 or email Lee@canseconserv.com for details.

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The conservation of the collection in the Hall School Museum continues each Thursday morning with a band of enthusiastic volunteers cleaning, repairing and mounting the items for proper display.

Together with the Hall Mens Shed Group who are carrying out repair work on the furniture items and removing old and damaged shelving from the storage area., there is great progress being made. Many thanks to the Mens Shed for your great help and support to the conservation team!

Three members from the ACT Heritage Unit, Linda Roberts, Anna Gurnhill and Mary Gleeson, visited both the conservation and the Mens Shed groups last Thursday and were very impressed with the work being carried out. ACT Heritage is appreciative that the heritage value of the Museum and the collection is acknowledged and have provided funding for the conservation training and materials. They will report back to their Minister on the great progress we have made. Also they will support our "Bush Schools Exhibition" in the 2012 ACT Heritage Festival.

In the last few weeks we have had visits from Andrew Leigh MP and Chris Bourke MLA. Both expressed support in the direction that the Museum is taking to protect its existence and promote its importance as a connection to both the history of Hall and district and to the time preceding the establishment of Canberra.

The inaugural meeting of the "Friends of the Hall School Museum" is planned for late September, with over 35 people who have expressed an interest in being a "Friend", being invited. From this meeting, a future action plan will be developed, a steering committee will be appointed and hopefully, our small core of volunteer museum guides will be increased.

The open days of the museum (every first Sunday of the month) continue to attract a small but very interested number of people who have had some early connection with the school or wish to show their children what school was like "in the old days". Groups that have come through have included the Melba and Gungahlin Mens Sheds and the Still Kicking Mens Group.

Finally, many thanks to Bessie Bardwell for sending me the group photos taken during the school centenary with the names on it.

Dont forget if you have any old photos or memorabilia relating to Hall School or the Village and are willing for me to copy them, please let me know at p.robson50@optusnet.com.au or 62595221.

British Humour

These are classified ads, which were actually placed in a U.K. newspaper:

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8 years old.
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Chris Bourke, MLA, visits Hall



Anna Sheargold, resident of HALL meets Chris Bourke MLA. Anna recently spoke at length to labor member for Ginninderra Chris Bourke about concerns for the future of the Hall School site and the location of our pre-school.

Anna Sheargold joined some of your elected members of Hall Progress to discuss issues with our local labor member. Phil Robson (our heritage officer) explained to the member for Ginninderra the work being done by local volunteers (Friends of the Museum) at our School Museum. Phil outlined the future needs of the

Community in regards to obtaining redundant Hall school buildings to house items which will be the beginning of our 'Hall and District Museum'. Chris Bourke then inspected our Hall's Men's Shed. Alastair Crombie outlined the projected future for the Men's Shed as a community asset. Chris finished his visit with a visit to the recently developed 'Starr Function Centre' at the Gold Creek West, the property of Craig and John Starr. Chris offered advice on how we might accelerate agreements with the ACT Government concerning the long run.

Andrew Leigh, MLA, visits Hall

by Political reporter Bob Richardson



Left to right. Paul Porteous, Helen White, Bob Richardson, Andrew Leigh, Alastair Crombie, Trudy Mansfield, John Starr.

Hall residents meet Federal member for Fraser, Andrew Leigh at Hall. Andrew took valuable time from Federal parliament to meet Hall District residents to make himself familiar with our community and it's hopes and dreams. The group inspected the Hall Community assets. (Hall school museum, Men's Shed, Pavilion) Morning coffee was taken in our General Store. Andrew spent time at Craig Starr's new Tourist

Banque hall "The Starr Centre" West Gold Creek. Everyone who attended had opportunity to express their visions and hopes for HALL district. Cross border issues were raised. Public transport needs. Up-grades of infrastructure in HALL. A Collective Solar grid. Storm water harvesting. Hall School and district Museum.



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Growing Vegetables by Sue Edmodson

Even a person with the smallest backyard can enjoy growing a few vegetables. But it is possible to grow most vegetables needed for a medium sized family in an area of about 7 x 10 metres.

When selecting a position for your garden preference should be given to an open sunny area away from the shade and roots of trees, particularly large gum trees. Choose a position that is handy to a garden tap with garden paths laid out in a way that avoids dragging the hose across beds causing disturbance to plants. Drainage is important, and a site protected from strong winds is also ideal. The proposed beds should be kept level to avoid water running-off and soil being relocated. Very steep areas should be terraced.

Beds should be kept about a metre wide as this will make their management easier. This width allows at least three rows of smaller growing vegetables such as carrots, beetroot and lettuce. Two rows should be provided for vegetables needing more space such as cabbages, broccoli and beans. Built-up beds give the best results except for well drained sandy soils that dry out very quickly. The beds should be built up after the area has been dug thoroughly and weeds removed, particularly couch. A planting line consisting of a length of string attached to 2 stakes helps keep the edge of the beds straight and provides a guide for a consistent depth, ideally 15 to 20 cms. Paths should be at least a foot wide for comfortable access to the vegetables, including planting and weeding.

Plants combine water with carbon dioxide to produce sugars and starches to help them grow. Other chemicals are also needed in varying quantities. The most important of these chemicals are nitrogen, phosphorous and potash. Elements needed include magnesium, sulphur, copper, zinc and iron. In the home garden it is best to stick to complete fertilizers, at the same time as adding organic material. Different fertilizers are more appropriate for different crops; for example green leafy vegetables will need more nitrogen than beans and root crops. However, all crops will benefit from an initial application to the soil just before sowing or planting with a fertilizer high in phosphorous. Mulching your vegie garden with organic material in the form of compost or animal manure has many benefits. It prevents moisture evaporation; cools the soil in summer and acts as a worm blanket in winter. Mulch reduces weeds and also supplies humus and encourages the right soil organisms which improve the structure of the soil. There is the added benefit that it protects soils from run-off and texture loss through caking. Making a compost heap to supply the future needs of your vegie garden is quite simple and an easy way of disposing of

unwanted grass clippings or other plant growth. A heap is best turned after 3 or 4 weeks and one method is to use a layering technique of coarse and fine plant material with the addition of animal manure and a small amount of soil to each layer.

When direct sowing, press out shallow rows with a stake approximately 2 cms deep. Scatter seeds thinly or drop seed at specified intervals as per packet direction. Cover the seed from the edge of the row and firm down the soil to ensure proper contact with the seed. As Canberra is a cool climate with the possibility of frosts to early November, seedlings may need protection and frost sensitive plants such as tomatoes and capsicum should be raised in a protected area and transplanted into the vegie garden when the risk of frosts has passed.

Watering technique is an important issue for the success of your garden. Water should be applied in a gentle fashion to avoid run-off and caking of the soil. If the water puddles or agitates the surface of the garden, there is a risk that soil structure will be lost discouraging vigorous root growth and penetration of essential air.

Vegetable growing can be a most satisfying past time and like gardening generally it provides relaxation, and health benefit in the form of exercise.

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Sylvia Curley
Deputy Matron of Canberra Hospital
from 1938 to 1966

I commenced my nursing training at the sadly imploded Canberra Hospital in January 1964. We were fortunate to have benefited from Sylvia Curley's very progressive and modern ideas for nurse education. She was the driving force behind the "block" system within the School of Nursing, which meant that trainee nurses did not work in the wards during their study block weeks. Sister Curley, affectionately known as "Curl" was always strict and sometimes feared, but her kindness to all was legendary. She would go out of her way to help any nurse who found herself in a distressing situation. At her farewell she was referred to as the "soul" of Canberra Hospital while Matron Guy was the "heart".

In April 1964 Dame Pattie Menzies opened the Sylvia Curley Nurses' Home. There are many stories to tell of our escapades in the nurses' home, not least overstaying our curfew times and having to scale up the fire escapes, the doors being wedged open with a lump of paper. Curl somehow got wind of most of our bad behaviour and pranks. She fought for superannuation for nurses which unfortunately did not happen while she was Deputy Matron. She refused to go on the pension and when she retired she ran an employment agency at Manuka for 20 years until she was in her mid eighties. She truly was an inspiration to all of us who worked at Canberra Hospital.

Sylvia Curley's Connections to Hall

Sylvia Curley is an outstanding and much honoured citizen of Canberra who died in 1999. It may come as a surprise to many that Hall has a claim to the memory of Sylvia Curley.

Sylvia Curley was a second generation descendant of Irish immigrants and grew up in Duntroon in what is now Canberra.

Sylvia qualified as a nurse in 1926. She gave 28 years' service to the hospital that becomes the Royal Canberra Hospital.

In 1994, she donated her family home, Mugga Mugga to the people of Canberra and oversaw its development into an environmental education centre.

Sylvia Curley was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1992 for services to nursing, local history and the National Trust.

Sylvia is remembered as ahead of her time in her advocacy for changes to Nurse Education. She recorded her striving for change in her book: *The Long Journey*.

Sylvia Curley lived to be 100 years old and will be long remembered in the history of Canberra.

So well may you ask was Sylvia Curley's connections to Hall?

Firstly, Mandy Perry, one of the grand teachers at Hall Primary School before it was closed down, has sent your editor and email stating that to the best of her knowledge, four weatherboard cottages were built to house workers employed on the (first) Parliament House. These cottages were later removed from the Canberra Hospital Peninsula to allow for the erection of the Sylvia Curley Nurses Residential, six storey building.

The cottage once lived in by Mandy Perry, opposite the Hall Primary School (corner of Hoskins St and Palmer St.) was one of those original workers cottages built for those employed on the first Parliament House construction.

The cottage which resides in Hall (Hoskins/Palmer Sts), was cut in halves, transported by truck and set on red brick foundations in Hall.

Much of our region is treeless or has only scattered trees, so often farms are adversely affected by lack of shelter. We all know the pleasure we get from the shade of trees on hot summer days. Animals also suffer greatly from exposure to heat and wind and it's common to see them huddling behind trees, power poles and anything they can get shelter from. There is much evidence showing the economic benefits gained by providing shade and shelter for stock. The mortality rate of young lambs is much higher on country lacking shelter from cold wind and rain. Shelter provided by windbreaks also has a marked effect on the growth of grass. Although there is a loss of fodder directly within the root zone of trees, when the increased growth in the area protected by the windbreak is taken into account, there is a significant net gain in production. Designing an effective windbreak will help you get the greatest possible benefit from the shelter it provides. Every property has different topography and production requirements, so each windbreak needs to have varying characteristics. Despite this, there are some rules of thumb that can be applied when designing windbreaks for our region.

Windbreaks should ideally be oriented so that they run at right angles to the wind. In this region wind is mostly from the West or North West so breaks running from North to South give the greatest benefit. In winter we get cold Antarctic blasts from the South which are dangerous to sheep and small livestock, particularly during lambing.

Generally, the taller the windbreak the greater a distance from the belt that a reduction of wind occurs. A windbreak usually reduces the wind close to the ground for a distance on the leeward side equivalent to around 25 times the height of the windbreak. Many factors will determine how the wind acts as it passes over a windbreak. Dense plantings often give a very calm area directly behind the break, but can produce high turbulence for the remaining sheltered area. In areas requiring crops this can be detrimental, but for shelter for animals this can be advantageous. If you allow some permeability the area of reduced wind speed extends much further beyond the belt.

The shape, width, length and species makeup of the break also greatly affects its success. To be effective, breaks need to be of reasonable length. The most desirable cross sectional profile of a windbreak is one with ascending heights of vegetation creating a ramp for the wind to climb. This profile offers less resistance to the wind than a narrow row of trees which creates a vertical wall. Windbreaks with no density near the ground can cause winds to increase as they get funneled underneath. This may be caused by the lower

branches of trees being shaded and dying or being pruned. Planting shrubs along the windward side of the breaks is one effective way of ensuring wind does not get funneled underneath it.

There is an enormous range of species to choose from when deciding what to grow in your windbreak and each has its own advantages and disadvantages to weigh up. The big advantage of using native vegetation rather than exotic is that it has significantly less chance of being destroyed by fire. Most native species have evolved mechanisms enabling them to survive fires.

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New Residents Morning Tea



Residents of Hall gather to greet new residents.



A special cake for special people. New residents in Hall were welcomed at the cottage.



Hall community gather to welcome new residents at the school cottage. Helen White spoke for us all when she congratulated new residents on their wisdom in choosing HALL as their home. Helen encouraged all to become actively engaged in making our community the best it can possibly be.

Hall District Pony Club

by Bob Richardson



Perfect weather at HALL SHOW GROUND for the under 12 year old Gymkhana. Tekira takes her mount Dolly through the course. Takira Rides for HALL Pony Club and keeps her DOLLY nearby at John Starr's property, Gold Creek West.



Hall Pony Club host the under 12 year old Gymkhana at Hall show ground.

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Burn Off

by Bob Richardson



Crew prepares for burn off at HALL. Hall community was given very short notice that a fuel reduction burn was to take place at HALL. Past experience with burn offs in HALL has made residents wary of the possibility of serious damage to our trees if extreme care is not taken or preparation is inadequate. On short notice, members of your CFU (Community Fire Unit) attended. With earlier notice of the event and some consultation, a much needed training exercise could have been organised combining the expertise of HALL Rural Brigade, HALL CFU and the TAMS Crew. If you are interested in supporting your community by being "fire ready trained". Contact Bob Richardson – 0407071245, HALL CFU - 62302134

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Medieval Tournament



Canberra Medieval Tournament & Fair 2011 Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 October Time: 9.30 - 4.30 pm

Follow the aroma and introduce your taste buds to medieval fare. Admire the handcrafted, vivid costuming or peruse

the markets stalls brimming with various wares, art, jewellery, weapons, armour and shields all for purchase.....lose yourself in the charge of thundering hooves.....noble steed and rider hurtling at breakneck speed to meet the challenge...at the point of a lance. Which knight will prove most worthy? Or would you rather test your archery skills by shooting a knight?

Location: Hall Polocrosse Grounds
Contact: Declan Kane 0407 428 476
Email: khtm@bigpond.com
Website: www.canberramedievaltournamentandfair.com

Learn Karate in Hall

For those interested in learning a traditional martial art and keeping fit, there will be a demonstration of Goju Ryu karate at the Hall Pavilion on Saturday, 15 October at 10.00am.



Students from 6 years up to adults will demonstrate the basics and more advanced self-defence techniques of this traditional Okinawan martial art with information available for parents and prospective students.

Weekly classes are planned to commence at the Hall Pavilion on Tuesday, 18 October at 5.00pm.

The International Okinawan Goju-Ryu Karatedo Federation has over 200 members in Australia with 3 dojos (training facilities) in Canberra and over 20,000 students internationally. Training is open to men and women, girls and boys from 5 years of age.

Goju Ryu teaches practical self-defence techniques, values fitness and promotes loyalty and respect both inside and outside the dojo.

John (Sam) Steggall has over 25 years training in Goju karate and was recently graded to 4th Dan black belt. Sam has been running the Woden dojo since 2008 with 12 students ranging from 6 years through to adult.

For more information contact Sam on 0430 153 375 or sam@artforme.com.au or visit our websites: iogkf.com and iogkfoz.com.au.

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Stress-less visits to the Vet By Dr Kate, Hall Veterinary Surgery

Many people resist taking their cat to the vet until they just can't avoid it any longer. A yowling, peeing cat in a confined space is not an appealing experience.

Unfortunately, cats often don't show us they're sick until it's almost too late.

Because cats hide illness and pain so well they need regular, scheduled visits to the vet to ferret out problems like arthritis, thyroid and kidney disease and liver and heart decline. Annual visits are adequate for cats less than 8 years old. Older cats need checks more often, especially if any problems have been identified.

How do we make visits to the vet less stressful for all concerned?

When you phone the surgery ask reception to book you at a quiet time or when no dogs are around. Leave the carrier out permanently in your home. Many cats will rest or hide in it or use it as a play thing, particularly if it has been about since they were kittens.

Withhold food before travel to prevent travel sickness and consequent negative feelings about car rides. Short practice rides followed by a good experience such as a favourite food help some cats to relax in the car.

Apply Feliway spray to bedding in the carrier regularly and just before transport. Feliway contains a natural

pheromone that relaxes cats. Familiar clothing from a favourite person before a visit or hospital stay may also calm your cat.

Cover the carrier with a towel or blanket, or place one over the cat in the carrier so that she can hide if she needs to. As long as the day is not too hot or cold, leave the cat in the car while you check in with reception.

In the waiting room place the carrier up off the ground on a seat or bench and well away from dogs. If your cat is stressed ask the receptionist to put her behind the desk or in a spare quiet room.

Reducing the stress of vet visits means more frequent checkups and a longer, healthier, and more comfortable life for your feline friend.



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to
the editor

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and to engage in community discussion,

email: ruralfringe@hotmail.com

post: **Rural Fringe**
po box 43
Hall
ACT 2618



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 deadlines ensure publication by the 15th of every second month.

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