

# RURAL FRINGE

*Journal of the Hall district*

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 6

December 2011



## This was some of 2011 in Hall . . .

- the School Centenary
- the Naming of the Hall Lanes
- the founding of the Friends of Hall Museum
- the makeover of the General Store
- the formation of Hall Men's Shed
- the inauguration of the Hall and District Collectors Club
- the opening of the Starr Tourist Centre
- the upgrade of Hall Community assets, Pavilion, School Cottage, tennis court)
- the third Hall Medieval Tournament
- the return of National Sheep Dog Trials
- the gathering of friends at the Well
- the re-establishment Hall Hornets Rugby League
- the new Hall residents get together
- the return of the Twilight Concert with the Hall Brass Band



## Hall Community Christmas Party in the Park



**7pm, Saturday  
10 December**

*Santa is coming . .  
and so is the  
Hall Brass Band !*

- Carols
- Food available
- register your child(ren):  
Allyson - 62302646

Sadly we bid farewell to our much loved  
Editor Lee Corrigan who reluctantly  
must step back from the role of  
Rural Fringe Editor.

We welcome Lee's successor,  
Jo Hall, as Editor.

Your Rural Fringe Team are  
all volunteers, and will miss  
Lee greatly.

Ah, it's beginning to look a  
lot like Christmas!

Your "Feral Fringe" team; Jo Hall,  
Gail Condy and Bob Richardson,  
wish you a safe, healthy festive  
season.

# Medieval Tournament

## in Hall

reporter **Bob Richardson**

For a third year and growing the Canberra based medieval re-enactment club returned to the fields of Hall Village. The air rang with war cries, battle chants, music and poetry.



Aongus and Ginevra, Barony of Politarchopolis (all assume medieval noms de plume) conduct activities recreating a Medieval Tournament and Fair. This includes war practice and combat archery, dancing, food preparation, heraldry, calligraphy & illumination, leather work, jewellery, wood work, brewing, arrow making, musical instruments (playing and making) and story telling.

King Cornelius 3rd, Kingdom of Lochac.

Cornelius is King by right of arms and must win in the Tournament to retain kingship.



Countess Katrina prepares for the joust.

Katrina is a formidable horsewoman and jouster.



Visitors from Victoria, Lady Katerina Saunfayle and Bertram of Riedacher.

They manifest as 14th century Knight and Lady.

Chivalry and defending a lady's honour was a serious affair.



see more: [www.canberramedievaltournamentandfair.com/](http://www.canberramedievaltournamentandfair.com/)

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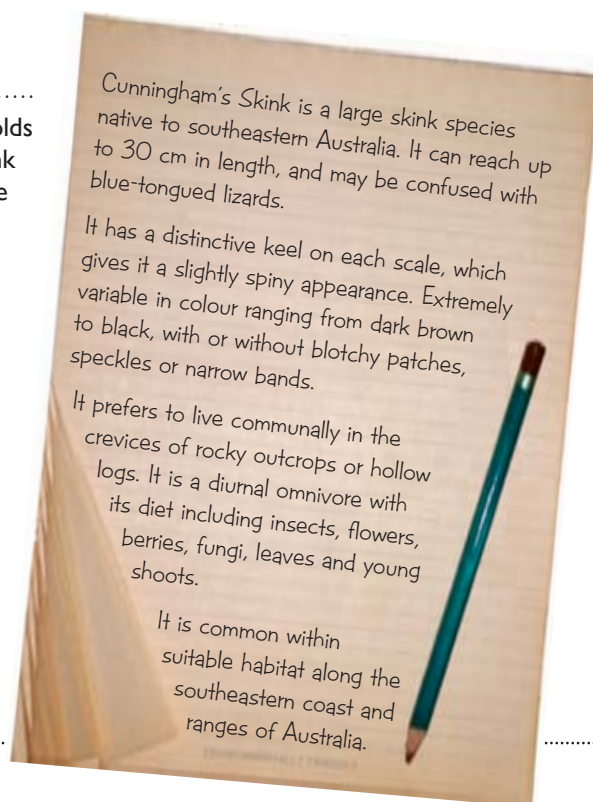
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# Out and about



Shaun O'Connor holds a Cunningham's Skink that visited his home in Hall.



## Yass High School Captain Erin Starr

School reporter **Bob Richardson**

Erin Starr has been elected as Captain of Yass High School. Erin spends considerable time assisting her parents Craig and Sandra Starr run their successful Tourist Farm Visit business. Well-known local identities John and Beverly Starr established the acclaimed tourist business over many years. First at Gold Creek and recently at Hall on their West Gold Creek Station.

Erin, like her father Craig and grandfather John, has the "knack" with the visitors from all over the world. Some of these skills may have helped Erin to achieve the distinction of being elected Captain Yass High School.



The captains from left to right:

Captains - **Fergus McGrath, Erin Starr**

Vice Captains - **Namritha Collins, Brent Hickey**

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# Rotary news

by **Lee Corrigan**



**November** – Club member Ken Spencer has challenged all no mo growers to pay \$10 per week for the month of November – all proceeds to Prostrate Cancer.

**Guest Speaker** – Hugh Riminton – Journalist, Senior Political Correspondent and news reader with Channel 10 came and addressed the Rotary meeting on 8 November, 2011. He spoke on War, Law and Politics and covered a range of current issues and related his personal experiences. He then admirably faced some intense questioning from members and guests and was thanked by club member Pam Brown.



**Remembrance Day** – Hall Rotary Club organised the service at the Hall Memorial Grove on November 11th (see opposite page) .

**Joint Meeting** – Hall Rotary Club had a joint meeting with Ginninderra Rotary Club. Hall President Barb had the seat of honour next to the Ginninderra President. The impressive guest speaker, a member of an eRotary Club, Chris Joscelyne, spoke about "Rotary - In the Age of Technology", including about the differences between those in Rotary who want to embrace technology and those who resist it. Chris is the Managing Director of Australian Projects and has been a Rotarian since 1973. He is a Past President of Rotary eClub One, Colorado and the Rotary Club of Sydney.

Chris started on radio in Goulburn – "CJ the DJ" – and was instrumental in setting up a radio station in China for AWA.

## Out and about



*Halloween in Hall Village*



# Remembrance Day in Hall



Piper and Defence Force representatives

Well over a hundred community members gathered on Remembrance Day for the annual Hall Remembrance Day ceremony. The atmosphere was set for the occasion by piper Jim Davies.

The ceremony was organised, as usual by the Rotary Club of Hall, with President Barbara Baikie and a good number of Club members in attendance. Bill Pearson and Dennis Greenwood did a fine job of organising and managing the ceremony.

Barbara opened proceedings with a welcome, followed by the Armistice Day address by Mr Phil Roberts, and prayers led by local church representatives - Pastor Bernie Rodgers (Wattle Park Uniting Church), Mrs Dimity Manton (St Michael and All Angels) and Michael Brown (St Francis Xavier).

Wreaths were laid by the Rotary Club, the Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade, and the Hall Progress Association, and the flag was raised by Matthew Dragh.

The Army again gave much appreciated support to the ceremony. The 5th Combat Engineer Regiment (a Reserve unit of the Royal Australian Engineers) provided a Catafalque Party, and the RMC Band provided a bugler (Lance Corporal Luke Glasoom) for the playing of the Last Post and Reveille, or 'Rouse'.



Hall Rotary members Barbara Baikie, Bill Pearson and Dennis Greenwood.



Bill Pearson, Jim Rochford and Dennis Greenwood



What did the bald man say  
when he got a comb for Christmas ?  
Thanks, I'll never part with it !

# interview with Lee Corrigan

*Why did you become editor of the Rural Fringe?*

Both times I was asked to help with the RF. The first time I was heavily pregnant with my son and he was born at the same time the first issue came out. That means the RF will be 20 years old next March. Hope you are celebrating somehow?

*What did you like most about it?*

I thoroughly enjoy contributing to the community. Even though it has been about 16 years since I actually lived in Hall, I still have a very strong connection as my husband (Peter Corrigan) lives in Victoria Street and, unlike most separated couples, we remain very close and share the trials and tribulations of raising our two children. Also I am the Treasurer of the Rotary Club of Hall and I am a tutor with the Broadband for Seniors group (BB4S) that is run in the Principal's Cottage at the primary school.

*What was hardest?*

About being an editor? Finding the time to do the job properly. Most people do not appreciate that it takes at least 30 hours per issue and fitting that in between business as usual (ie running a my bookkeeping and secretarial service, looking after my teenagers and my



elderly mother and doing all my volunteer work with Rotary & BB4S) does not leave much time for rest! But you know what they say... if you want a job done, ask a busy person.

*What advice do you have for future editors?*

If you take on the challenge I sincerely hope you are as lucky as I was in having wonderful supporting people all around you. People like Jo, Gail & Bob. Makes all the difference if you are part of a group with a common cause rather than trying to do it all alone.

It is very rewarding to know that you have contributed in such a positive way to your community. And really the job is what you make it, so make it fun! Run competitions, get readers involved especially young people, junior reporters! All wonderful stuff for the community. And finally, remember that people do read it although occasionally you wonder because sometimes there is little or no response to an issue. All you have to do to check if people are reading and appreciating it is to be late for an issue and brace for the outcry!!

*Any last words?*

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the community. I got such a kick out of it and I am sad to stop but I have so much on my plate that I need to rationalise it somewhat and something had to go. It was a very difficult decision but one I had to make. Onward and upward RF! You are a treasured part of the Village of Hall.

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# Indoor Plants

by **Sue Edmonson**

The ever increasing popularity of houseplants as Christmas gifts shows no sign of abating, particularly with the health benefit of houseplants becoming more well-known.

Unfortunately, due to lack of proper care, many of these plants which are lush and healthy when they arrive, begin to deteriorate quickly and quite a few fail to survive the shock of a sudden change of environment.

Often it is not that their new owners neglect them – on the contrary they are so anxious to look after the plants well that they tend to overwater or over-fertilise.

Sometimes to show off to best advantage, a plant is placed in a position where it is ideal for decoration but quite unsuitable so far as the plant's needs are concerned.

Many people seem to have the mistaken impression that fertiliser is a kind of medicine for plants. In actual fact the feeding of an ailing plant is almost certain to finish it off altogether.

Almost all plants are adversely affected by sudden changes of air conditions and temperature, so they should never be permanently placed in entrances or passageways where they are exposed to strong draughts. Neither should they be placed close to fans or air conditioners.



## Light

Light intensity is a vital factor in plant care. Speaking generally, flowering plants need more light than foliage plants. Sunlight filtered through sheer curtains or blinds adjusted to admit a little sunlight suits flowering plants reasonably well. Most foliage plants can manage with less light but it should be good enough for reading without difficulty.

Humidity is of great importance to houseplants. One way to provide the required humidity is to

regularly dampen their foliage with fine mist spray of water. Another method is to stand plants on a moist gravel base. The grouping of plants together also tends to retain humidity.

## Watering

Watering the correct amount is undoubtedly difficult for most people to gauge. More houseplants are killed by overwatering than any other cause. The "finger in soil" method is a convenient guide to watering. Between watering, the soil should be allowed to dry out a little but it should not become excessively dry.

When you do water, do it thoroughly. One of the best ways to water plants in small containers is to stand them in a half filled sink for a quarter of an hour or so and then allow them to drain. In the case of large containers which cannot be lifted, it is sound practice to fill the space between the soil surface and the rim of the pot every time you water. But be sure that drainage is OK by watching the excess water drain away.

Seaweed extract solution is a great pick-me-up for tired houseplants after the winter months with the manufacturer providing a recommended application rate. Applications of fertiliser must be done strictly in accordance with the dosage and interval recommended by the manufacturer to avoid trouble.

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## EARTHWORKS & WATER CARTAGE

# Barton Blitz

## gives mixed results

The September Speed and Drink Driving Blitz on the Barton Highway showed mixed results, with Yass Valley residents making 25% of all speeding fines issued. ACT drivers are the worst offenders on this road, accounting for almost 38% of all speeding infringements closely followed by interstate drivers at 36%.

"The September phase saw a rise in the number of Speeding Infringements, but saw a drop in the percentage of local Yass Valley residents detected. It is encouraging to see most Yass Valley resident drivers taking ownership of safety on the road by obeying the speed limit. It is also very concerning to see such a large number of ACT and out of state drivers speeding on the Barton Highway, as it's often difficult to get safe driving messages across to this audience," says Yass Valley's Road Safety Officer Alison Beresford.

Just prior to the September Barton Blitz, Yass Highway Patrol officers had detected two drivers from out of state traveling at 171 km/h and 167 km/h along the Barton Highway.



Another positive for the September blitz was that no drink driving offences were detected despite the number of road side tests increasing to a whopping 958 tests in the 10 days of the operation on the Barton Highway.

Yass Highway Patrol Acting Sgt Steve Yeo also reports that three drivers were detected overtaking on double unbroken lines and one radar detector was confiscated, with the driver being issued with a large \$1383 fine.

Again, interstate drivers led the way with other traffic offences with their total equaling that of both Yass Valley and ACT drivers combined.

Road Safety Officer Alison Beresford concludes, "Stay with the basics; obey the speed limit, drive to the conditions, never overtake on an unbroken line and don't drink and drive. Let's keep the Barton Highway safe."

*from Media Release 57/2011, issued by the Yass Valley Council*

# St Francis Xavier

## church news



### Christmas Mass Times

#### Saint Monica's Parish (Evatt and Hall)

There is a change to the Christmas Mass Timetable from previous years due to the inability of gaining the services of a second priest on Christmas Eve.

#### Christmas Eve

6.00pm and 8.00pm (St Monica's, Evatt)

10.00pm (St Francis Xavier's, Hall)

#### Christmas Day

8.30am (St Monica's)



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# Hall Preschool

## news

by **Lisa** and **Wendy**

The end of the year is fast approaching, and Term 4 at Hall Preschool has been very busy too.

We celebrated Melbourne Cup day by making cardboard horses, attaching string to them, and then racing them across the floor. Then we went outside and collected the many snails from our garden and had a snail race. We put the snails on the cement inside a chalk drawn circle and waited to see who would come out of the circle first. It was very exciting!

We went on an excursion to the Canberra Museum and Gallery, in Civic, where we looked at paintings of Ned Kelly, listened to some stories about him, and joined in some puppet games. We then had a chance to do some work in the artist studio, where we painted, collaged and printed some lovely artworks. We then had a picnic lunch in the middle of Civic, rode on the carousel, ate an ice block, played in Glebe Park, and then came home on the bus. It was an exhausting but fun day.

This year at Hall Preschool we have had 14 children enrolled. At the end of the school year, we will see six of our children going off to kindergarten, six children will be returning to Hall preschool, and two children will be moving on to other preschools.



The preschool has already reached its capacity for 2012, with 15 families having accepted their offers of place. We look forward to an exciting new preschool year. We also wish all of our families safe and happy Christmas holidays.



*Annabel Lukic, Halle Novak, Katelyn Tokley  
Atticus Mansfield, Savannah Roso, Ruby Sheargold*

These preschooler graduates are all off to kindergarten next year.

## Out and about



### **Sausage sizzle** at The Cottage

Old meets new!

The sausage sizzle with the elderly statesman of Hall, Greg Rule with the newest Lucy Morris with her mother Belinda.

Museum Friends and Men's Shedders get together to celebrate their combined efforts to rejuvenate the School Museum and Hall District Museum.

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# Hall has Talent!

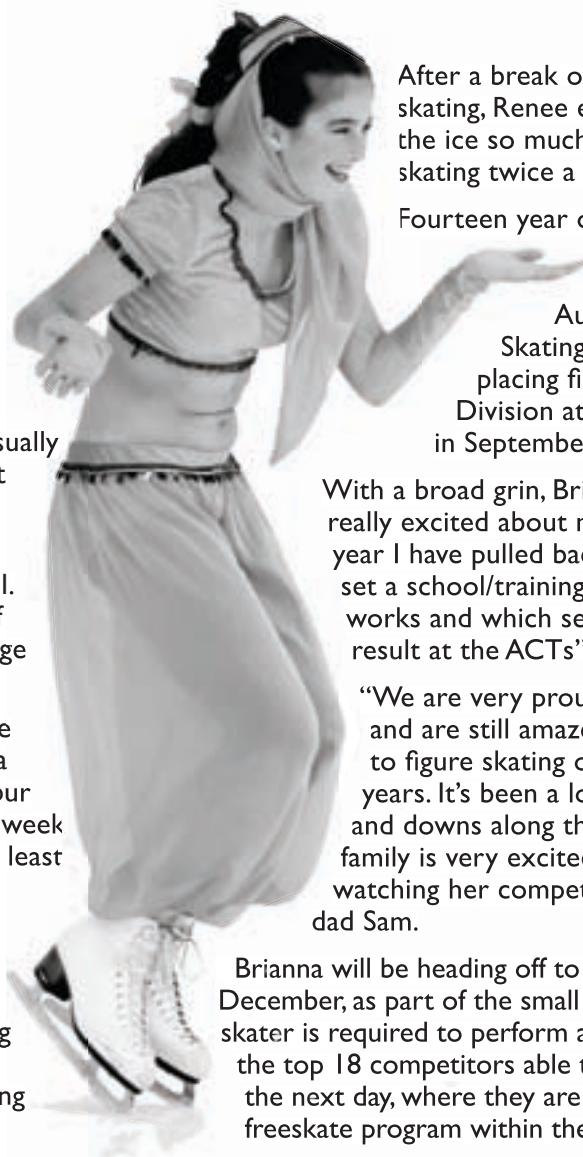
## Brianna and Renee Steggall

The Hall community may not know they have figure skaters among them, as it's usually a wonderful array of outdoor sports that keeps the community fit and healthy.

One of Hall's newest families has two figure skaters, Renee and Brianna Steggall. Brianna has been skating since the age of 7 while Renee hit the ice at the tender age of 4.

Training for both girls has varied over the past seven years but at one stage Brianna was at the ice rink in Phillip, at 6.30am four mornings a week and again four nights a week with off-ice training and strengthening at least twice a week.

Both girls thoroughly enjoyed bringing figure skating to the Canberra community with the recent "Skate in the City" in Garema Place. Renee loved being a part of the lunchtime Fashion on Ice shows and both girls had a lot of fun doing the Kid's Show held twice a day.



After a break of seven months from skating, Renee enjoyed being back on the ice so much she is back training and skating twice a week.

Fourteen year old Brianna has been selected to represent the ACT at the 2011 Australian National Figure Skating Championships, after placing first in her Intermediate Division at the ACT Championships in September.

With a broad grin, Brianna explained; "I am really excited about my first Nationals. This year I have pulled back on my training and set a school/training/relaxation balance that works and which set me up for a great result at the ACTs".

"We are very proud of Brianna's selection and are still amazed at her commitment to figure skating over the past seven years. It's been a long haul, with many ups and downs along the way, but the whole family is very excited and looking forward to watching her compete in Brisbane", said her dad Sam.

Brianna will be heading off to Brisbane, in early December, as part of the small ACT team of nine. Each skater is required to perform a short program with only the top 18 competitors able to continue competing the next day, where they are required to do their freeskate program within the week of competition.

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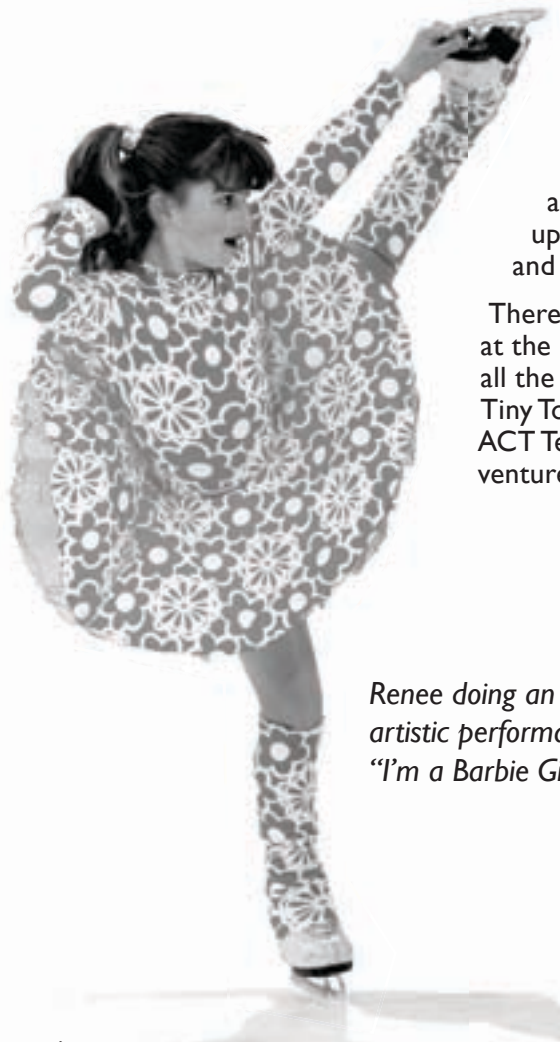


*Darralee Quarry has recently been re-opened.  
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Renee doing an  
artistic performance  
"I'm a Barbie Girl"

opposite page:

Brianna doing her artistic "I Dream of Jeannie"

Proud mum Julie mentions; "Figure skating is such a graceful sport to watch. It is also a fantastic sport for both boys and girls, where you need to use all muscle types because so much strength and agility is required to perform skating elements, such as spins and jumps. We wish we could encourage more boys to take up the sport. Boys have the great advantage of strength and power and when you watch them using this to compete its just thrilling!"

There is a fun event, ACT Ice Skating Association's Showcase, happening at the Phillip rink on Saturday, 19 November from 4pm to 7.30pm, where all the skaters get to finish the year with some fun on ice. There will be Tiny Tots to Senior; skating as singles and novelty pairs with some of the ACT Team performing as well. It will be lots of fun, so we hope you can venture over to a fun afternoon out."

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# Climbing this Mountain of Mine

## Penny Leemhuis

*"The path goes on endlessly and you follow it, taking time to rest and restore, to push further ahead, and to see what is to come next. Taking two steps forward and then six steps back, the six back demoralizing and disheartening, the two steps forward worth all the effort you have put in, the effort that comes without thought just the urge to go on to keep going without hesitation without reserve without thinking, like a well oiled machine smooth in the progress relinquishing nothing, aware of the strain of muscles and tendon and sinew nerves so raw that they scream but still you go on, the strain the heartache of the things you must leave behind in order to be who you intend to be, what you think to live the truth of your existence."*

Penny Leemhuis lives in Holt and works at Hall General Store. In 1997 she was classified as totally and permanently incapacitated...never able to work again. Penny has written a remarkable memoir about reclaiming her life and her journey to climb Mount Kosciusko. The following extract gives you a flavour of her story. *For the full article please go to the Hall and District website at [www.hall.act.au](http://www.hall.act.au)*

"Mount Kosciusko is the roof of Australia she stands 2,228 metres (7,310 ft) above sea level and like all mountains rises up from the very core of the earth as a majestic testament to time and the forces of nature that prevail upon her, scarring and regenerating her in equal measure. She grows and changes becoming all that she is meant to be.

She stands feet five with a spine held together by bolts and screws and a leg that wants to live independently from the rest of her body. She will walk the mountain.

It was a mountain that took her freedom, her mobility and created great suffering. It would be a mountain that gave her back her life.

Come away to the mountain with me ....

I was guiding someone who was blind folded on Mount Ainslie, in what seems to me now, a lifetime ago, there was a small accident, 'an unfortunate circumstance', that would take me on my mountain journey and along the way I would have much taken from me and be given much more in return.

It's not about what happens to us in life; it's what we choose to do with what happens. Whether we choose to grow and climb the mountain or stay at the foot, looking up at the peak or down at the rocks under our feet and not moving.

Damage done due to the 'unfortunate circumstance' included fractured vertebrae, herniated discs and a crushed nerve to my right leg requiring some reconstruction. "Humpty Dumpty had a great fall....all the king's men tried to put her together again"...

I had five spinal surgeries over a period of four years. Following the final surgery I was put in a spinal brace (again) from my hips to my neck and encompassing my torso, walking was a hip swinging shuffle, with my right leg either dragging or the foot turned under itself and sideways, I balanced on two elbow crutches, unable to sit for longer than 15 minutes a day, not able to get in a car, not able to do anything, other than lie down, literally, for 18 months, in the hope that this last surgery would work ...."



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## visit to Hall School Museum



Elizabeth Estbergs, ACT Government Archivist and Paul McKee, Directorate of Records Management, ACT Department of Education visited the Hall School Museum in November to view the collection and the work being done.

They met with the Management Team and Conservation Team to talk about collection management programmes, protection, ownership, custody and disposal of the records kept at the Hall School Museum. All these actions are to be in accordance with the ACT Records Management Act and guidance and training of the team was offered by Paul McKee.

The ACT Government has ownership of the old school records and the long term holding of these records within the Museum is a matter to be resolved in future discussions with these ACT Government representatives. Paul McKee felt that the Hall Museum management team is doing an excellent job in conserving the collection and commented favourably on the fact that it has already developed policies on the protection, housing, recording and display of the collection. He suggested that a Memorandum of Understanding between the ACT Government and the Village of Hall and District Progress Association, as the incorporated body representing the Hall School Museum, be drawn up in order that the Hall School collection be permanently on loan to the Museum.

There will be further meetings to go through the necessary steps to finalise these issues.

Paul McKee also offered to arrange talks with the group on privacy, freedom of information and security of records.

## Canberra Centenary Trail

The community is invited to provide feedback on the proposed route of the Canberra Centenary Trail.

The Centenary Trail will be a self-guided, non-motorised loop track for walkers and cyclists, taking users on a seamless journey between urban and rural environments and incorporating the ACT's iconic sites and hidden treasures.

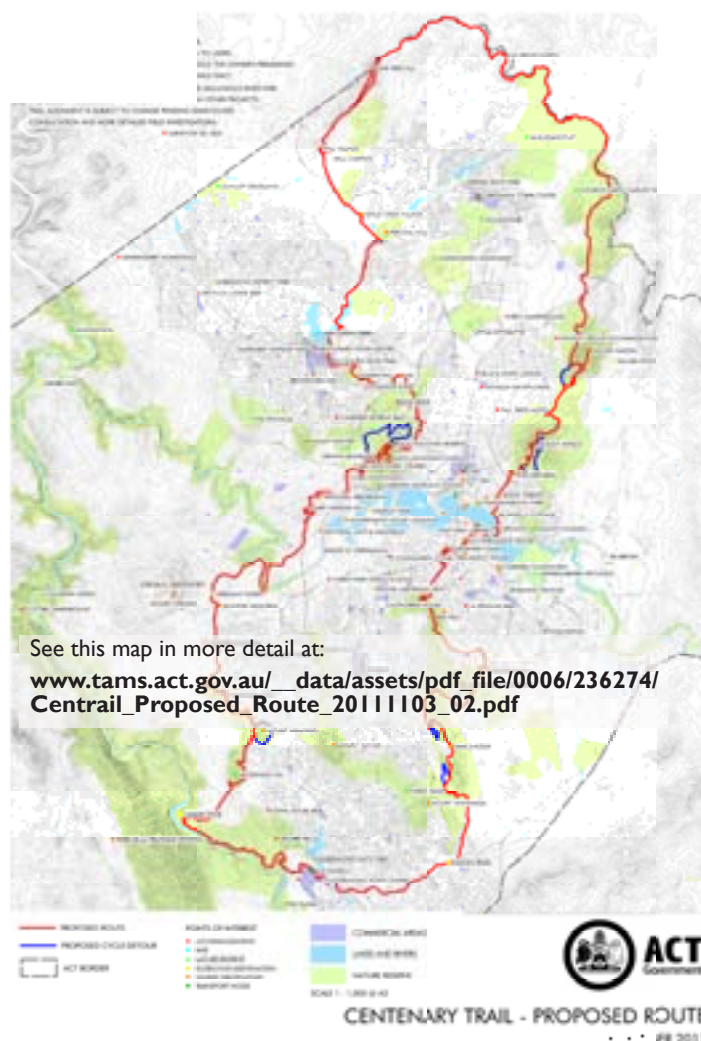
The Trail has been designed as a 140 kilometre seven day walk and three day cycle tour for low intensity users. The Centenary Trail will provide a high profile recreational asset for locals and interstate visitors and boost nature-based tourism in the region.

Information on the proposed trail alignment is available at [http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/about\\_our\\_department/community\\_engagement/community\\_engagement\\_activities\\_and\\_events/canberra\\_centenary\\_trails](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/about_our_department/community_engagement/community_engagement_activities_and_events/canberra_centenary_trails)

Please send your comments on the proposal to [TAMSCentenaryTrail@act.gov.au](mailto:TAMSCentenaryTrail@act.gov.au) or by post to:

TAMS Centenary Trail  
GPO Box 158  
Canberra ACT 2601

Responses should be sent by close of business on Friday 16 December 2011. If you require more time to submit your response, or would like to arrange for a presentation about the trail, please phone the project team on 6207 3703.



# Local Lego Champ

by **Angie Hazlehurst** (proud mum)

Little local, Harvey Hazlehurst, has made history - he is the first person in his family to ever win a prize at a show. On 11 November 2011, the judges of the Craft Section at the Queanbeyan Show awarded him first prize for an 'Item of Lego - original idea, 7-12 years'.



Not a bad effort for a little boy who has only just turned 7! His creation was a 'Battle Buggy' - an eight wheeled buggy built to travel over rough terrain. The Battle Buggy carries two troopers and their weapons - blasters, gunners and lasers. There is even a piece of gold stored in the middle of the Buggy which powers the blaster and Buggy engine. The judges were very impressed with Harvey's

efforts, especially the little note of explanation about the Battle Buggy that he wrote.

Harvey has been a lego fan for a couple of years now, honing his creative skills morning and night. His 'workshop' (aka bedroom) is filled with lego creations in various stages of completion. He draws his inspiration from Star Wars and most recently, Ninjago.

Sincere thanks and acknowledgement must go to Margaret and Tony Morris. Volunteer stewards at the Queanbeyan Show for well over ten years, they let us know about the Craft Section and encouraged Harvey to enter.





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# Lanes

of Hall ... the third in a series of  
how the names came to be.

## 3. SCHOOLHOUSE LANE



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- For generations this lane provided safe access to the Primary School.
- Children used the lane to walk or ride horses to the original school, opened in 1911, with continued access to the school and later the pre-school for almost 100 years.
- Before the road by-pass, the Barton Highway followed Victoria Street and the huge amount of traffic along it made the lane a safe route to the school and the connecting buses into Canberra.
- Hall has provided quality education to the district's children for almost a century.

Schoolhouse Lane represents the importance of education in a community and the school as a focal point for friendship and social interaction.



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a visit to

# Parkwood Chapel

Friends of the Hall Museum visited Parkwood Wesleyan Church, organised and led by Judy Roberts of Allwood.

The granite chapel was built without foundations, as was done in those days. The recent drought dried the clay sub-soil and caused the walls to move and crack. In 2010 the Sowell Family Society repaired and underpinned the walls and painted the chapel, both inside and out.



Thomas Southwell arrived in Australia in 1838 and came to the Ginninderra Creek area in 1840. He was a staunch Wesleyan and began holding prayer meetings and church services in his home. When his home became too small he built a slab church which he replaced in 1880 with the granite building.

Thomas Southwell was regarded as the founder of Methodism in the district. By 1880 his health was beginning to cause his family much anxiety. When the Church was completed, Thomas, who had suffered a paralytic stroke, performed the opening ceremony from a wheelchair.



▲ Thomas and Mary Southwell

Judy Roberts thanks Jim and Pam Grace for hosting the visit. ▼



## National Sheepdog Trials

Tuesday 13th – Sunday 18th March 2012  
Hall Showground



Tuesday 13th March

**Wine & Cheese Welcome.** 6-8pm

Gold coin donation.

Wednesday 14th March:

**Morning Tea & Scones.** 10am -12pm

Gold coin donation.

Thursday 15th March:

**The Dogs Dinner:**

6pm-7pm: Wine & nibbles.

7pm-10pm Dinner & Entertainment. \$30

(See insert for dinner reservations)

Thanks to our sponsors:

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# Out and about

Seen at Murrumbateman Field Day.



John Fowler & Co (Leeds) Ltd  
steam roller



Hall Collectors attracted interested visitors at the Murrumbateman Field Days: Bob Richardson with the military truck restored by Andy and Richard Fulton and Malcolm McCloud.

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# Heat stroke

**Dr Kate** Hall Veterinary Surgery

Death from heat stroke is common in dogs in hot weather, especially if it is humid as well. Every summer we see dogs that overdo it in the heat. When heat generation exceeds heat dissipation, body temperature goes up to dangerous levels.

Some animals are more likely to develop heatstroke than others. Working dogs who don't know when to stop or who are not allowed to cool off in a trough or under a tree overheat rapidly on a hot day.

Sometimes obese or overweight dogs over-reach their fitness levels and collapse in hot and humid weather.

Flat-faced dogs with breathing difficulties, like pugs, boxers and Staffordshire bull terriers, cannot lose heat as quickly as they generate it in hot weather. No matter how much they pant, their temperature continues to go up.

Dogs or cats confined in poorly ventilated areas without water and shade on a hot day risk developing heatstroke, also.



Early signs of heat stroke are high body temperatures, often over 40 degrees centigrade, excessive panting and rapid heart rate. Many dogs vomit and develop diarrhoea, often with blood in it. They soon collapse, bleed and fit. The gums are dark and red but towards the end become pale and ashen.

Heat stroke is an emergency. Wet your dog to the skin to start getting the temperature down and phone your vet. Most dogs require treatment with a drip and drugs to prevent shock.

Prevent heat stroke by making sure your dog has plenty of water and shade at all times. Avoid mustering or running on hot days. Early morning or late evening is safer for stock and dogs.

Flat-face and overweight dogs should never exercise in the heat of the day. Know your pets' limits of fitness and retreat into the cool before they reach them and overheat.



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# Hair Styling in Hall

by local reporter **Bob Richardson**

*Shannon, Naomi, Bria and Stacy proudly display some of the awards they won.*

The Shearing Shed was established by the dynamic duo Kylie and Kylie in 2000, and in 2011 has stolen the show at the Hair Stylist Society Championships held at Woden CIT.

Shannon Wilson, an experienced veteran of past glories in these competitions, led a team of three young apprentices, Naomi Joiner, Bria Lustri and Stacy Morton. Our young stars were up against fully qualified competitors. Naomi took 1st place in the "Men's Open Cat Walk". Next Naomi lined up for the "Open Men's Cut" and took second place. Not content, Naomi presented in the Open Men's Color and Open Team Collection. This requires three models based on a theme. Naomi's theme was Moulin Rouge. This gave her 3rd in both events. Finally Naomi gained 2nd in the Senior Ladies Cup.

Shannon Wilson specialises in "Open Bridal". This requires much forward planning, research and preparation. Shannon modelled Kelsey Green in "Senior Ladies Cat walk" to gain 3rd place.

Bria Lustri competed for the first time in an event for 1st and 2nd year apprentices and came home



1st in "Cool hair" and Stacy Morton sealed it for Hall by coming in 2nd. Congratulations to our skilful and hardworking ladies from the Shearing Shed. Hairdressers are on their feet most of the day in a highly competitive trade satisfying their clients' demands. Those long hours of work exercising expert communication and trade skills have been recognised and our Hall hairdressers have reaped the rewards.

## the ACT Plastic Bag Ban

. . . came into effect on 1 November 2011.

Single-use, lightweight polyethylene plastic bags (35 microns or less) can no longer be provided by retailers for carrying goods.



It was all fun 'n games...  
...till paper turned  
to plastic!

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# Alexander McKenzie

## Pioneer convict of Canberra

by **Peter Welch**

The large rural property known as Lanyon on the southern outskirts of Canberra was established in 1835 by James Wright and John Lanyon. Lanyon returned to England after one year leaving only his name and Wright to continue to run the property with the help of convicts.

I have worked at Lanyon Homestead for 9 years as a guide and Education Program presenter as it is now a heritage listed museum and controlled by an ACT Government body called Historic Places. One of the Lanyon convicts that appealed to me from the time when we used to run a school program called "Lanyon by Starlight" was Alexander McKenzie. His appeal was partly because to me he came across as a very real person, due to a tangible reminder of his time at Lanyon and also, because he was active in the heart of Canberra before the area became a city. Also, he epitomized the classic case of a convict who made good and became a very worthy citizen.

Alexander McKenzie was transported to Sydney from Perth in Scotland for seven years for having stolen a watch. He arrived on the ship "Mary Anne" on 31 October 1835 and almost immediately was assigned to James Wright at Lanyon, where he became his personal servant. Strangely, although it seems that there was a fairly close relationship between the two men, McKenzie was not given an early ticket of leave and had to serve his full sentence. In 1842 Alexander McKenzie married Elizabeth Bass who was employed by the Wrights as a nurse to their children and about the same time he was given his Certificate of Freedom, probably shortly before the marriage. James Wright built for the newly weds, a one roomed stone cottage across from his own homestead and this room is now the Harness Room in the stable block at Lanyon.

It is significant that Alexander McKenzie on obtaining his freedom chose to stay with James Wright and continued to do so when Wright was forced to sell Lanyon to the Cunningham family and move to Cuppacumbalong. Wright and McKenzie would have known each other very well and it tends to make one believe that Wright's harsh reputation with convicts may have been a bit unfair. Alexander McKenzie remained employed by Wright until the latter left the district in 1856.

By this time Alexander had become well known in the district as a steady, reliable and trustworthy worker and he soon gained employment with the Campbells on the Duntroon Estate. In 1858 he was recommended by George Campbell to the St. John's Rector to become the tenant of the Glebe Farm adjoining St Johns Church. This lease of 100 acres ran down to the Molonglo River and covered a lot of what is now

Commonwealth Park by the Lake. The McKenzies spent ten years working this lease till 1868, a period that they regarded as the happiest of their lives. Their two daughters were born there and Elizabeth McKenzie was in great demand due to her considerable midwifery experience. She is generally regarded as being the first female with nursing experience in the district.

On expiry of the lease, Alexander again obtained employment, with the Campbells on their Mt. Campbell property and their home was on the upper reaches of Jerrabomberra Creek towards Royalla.

By 1882 the McKenzies reaching old age, moved to live with their daughter Catherine and son in law William Moore in a slab cottage at Fairvale on the left hand side of the Cotter road going towards the Murrumbidgee River. This also put them close to their other daughter Sarah who lived with her husband John Blundell at Blundells Flat below Mt. Coree in the Brindabella range.

Alexander McKenzie passed away in 1898 aged 82, as did Elizabeth in 1908 aged 87, both whilst residing at Fairvale. They are buried in St. Johns Churchyard in Reid with many other pioneers of the district.

William Davis Wright the son of Alexander and Elizabeth's old employer James Wright and who knew them very well, spoke for all when he recorded the great esteem and affection the entire community had for the old couple. Many of their descendants live in the Canberra area.

By a remarkable coincidence, the Fairvale property was subsequently owned by Dorothea (Tommy) Davies the daughter of later Lanyon owners James and Mary Cunningham. Following James's death Mary Cunningham went to live at Fairvale with her daughter where she died on 15 November 1930 (one of several





different dates given for her death) whilst living alone in the same slab cottage that had also been home to the McKenzies in their final years.

Jennifer Horsefield in her book about Mary Cunningham, records how Mary's son Andy found her body at Fairvale when he came to visit her and in a display of his well known eccentricity put her in his car and after collecting some flowers from the neighbouring property, drove her body to Lanyon for burial in the family cemetery.

My source for much of this information is written work by the late Bruce Moore the well known Canberra Historian.

## Out and about



The **Hall Goju Ryu karate club** got off to a flying start in October with good numbers of pee wees (under 10s), juniors (over 10s) and adults training each week at the Hall Pavilion. This photo shows one of the early classes about to commence training.

Classes help students get fit, learn a traditional martial art and practical self defence or maybe become the next karate kid. It can be lots of fun particularly for pee wees, but it takes a lot of effort too and over time students are able to grade from white belt to black belt. The Instructor, John (Sam) Steggall, was recently graded to 4th Dan and has been training for over 25 years in the Goju style.

Classes are held each Tuesday at the Hall Pavilion - pee wees (under 10s) from 5.00pm to 6.00pm with juniors (over 10s) and adults from 6.00pm onwards.

Enquiries can be directed to John (Sam) Steggall on **0430 153 375** or **sam@artforme.com.au**

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# Wattle Park Uniting Church

Pastor **Bernie Rogers**

How quickly time passes, it seems just yesterday that we were welcoming Christmas 2010 and here we are at Christmas 2011. Sometimes I think we are all so busy that we have forgotten how to stop; look around; and enjoy our surroundings and friends. In our busy lives we need to be able to take that break and realise just how lucky we are compared to many others. At Christmas we remember what God has given us in the birth of Jesus and, hopefully, pause to feel that happiness that comes with the joy of giving to others. So from me this year, I wish you all peace and the opportunity to stop and ponder the happiness that surrounds you: and hope that you will absorb that happiness and spread it to everyone you meet – be they an old friend or the stranger you pass in the street.

At Wattle Park this year we give you a special invitation to join us for our family services in a church that gives off peace and happiness in its beautiful surroundings.



## **CHRISTMAS EVE 8.00 pm**

This is our traditional service of lessons and carols and must be witnessed to be appreciated. Come early if you want the best seats!!

## **CHRISTMAS DAY 10.00 am**

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, so our normal service time of 10.30 will be changed to suit our regular Christmas Day time of 10.00 am.

May 2012 bring you peace and prosperity.

Many Blessings

Pastor Bernie



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# Goodradigbee Gladiators

by **Dan** 'Don't Leave Me' **Passer**

Six intrepid (bloody crazy) adventurers have weathered the uncharted wilds of the Goodradigbee River rapids.

After ten years of drought the Goodradigbi finally had a decent drink over summer this year, flooding and refilling the various pools along its winding length. In a strike of inspiration (lunacy), the mastermind of this operation Richard 'Richo' Fulton, conceived the adventure and began the extensive planning process (googling the river), selected a crack team of experienced white water enthusiasts (the only blokes wild enough or dumb enough) and assemble the only support crew with the ability to get these boys through with their lives intact (Richo's dad Andy and the mysterious 'Tron').



Leaping in with reckless abandon, and unaware of the ordeals ahead, the lads launched their sophisticated water craft (truck tire tubes) from the rocks under the Brindabella bridge. With a whoop of joy and a rush of water the crew were away. The journey started like the best water park you've ever been to – spectacular bush

scenery, punctuated by water slide like rapids, frequent spills and foamy refreshments.

Then the intensity began to increase. The brush on the sides of the began to make way for grey-stone gorges, the gently curving river to hair-pin turns and the fun water slides into metre and half drops. The river transitioned from pleasant to thrilling to down-right petrifying, dragging the lads to the point of no return – it was forward or call for a rescue helicopter.

The men floated on.

Al "Loco" White took to the adventure with reckless abandon, trying more hair-raising rapids and plunging falls than any of the others. 'Sensible' Benny Carroll took the river at a more sedate pace, picking his battles more carefully and providing ample support to this writer (who was clearly dragging the chain).

The greatest test came 100 metres from the finish line. Lyall "Pointman" Marshall, looking ahead at what seemed like any other stretch of the river, aims his craft at the rocks near the edge what seems like the last half dozen drops.

Gliding toward the edge, he notices the river pick up pace, until suddenly it is unnavigable and he loses control of his tube. Reaching out, his hands grasp at rock-edge as his legs and tube drop over the edge of a three metre waterfall...

Despite his peak physical condition, the rush of water is too much for him to lift himself back up. His feet kick at the water fall, desperate for purchase, but there is none. He looks down, and before the vertigo causes him to look away, he sees his tube flip-flop in the crush of water below.

And then rescue. "Nick o' Time" Andy Duncan hauls his fellow adventurer back over the falls, to safety. Quickly the pair wave their following companions to shore to a path that leads to their final destination, Fleet Creek, where a barbeque and beers await.

While the journey was wearing on even the hardest of the adventurers, each bruised, sun burnt and physically exhausted, all bore a pride that could be matched by none.

We battled the Goodradigbee and won.



# Gathering at the Well in the Park

At 4pm on the last Sunday each month during summer, Hall residents and friends gather at the Well in the park.



The Palethorpes; Kerrie, Greg and India are all smiles



The Hazlehursts; Monahan, Mackenzie, and Angie, with David conversing in the background. Harvey managed to evade the paparazzi.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles to the Hall Well and enjoy a casual catch up with neighbours and friends from our local area

All Welcome

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## Out and about



Halloween in Hall Village

### No known species of reindeer can fly.

There are 300,000 species of living things yet to be classified, and most of these are insects and bacteria. Although this does not completely rule out flying reindeer, the chances for it yet to be discovered are pretty slim.



### Dr Jennifer Strachan

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## Out and about



Home grown electrician Shaun O'Connor, born and bred in Hall, volunteers his skills to up-grade lighting at our Hall School Museum. Shaun has also donated an antique cinema projector from the Kinleyside Hall to the Friends of the Museum. Phil Robson, our Honorary Curator, is delighted and is preparing space to exhibit the item for all to see after many years stored away from public view.



# Museum

## Musings



**Phil Robson** Honorary Curator

The lining of the old store-room in the museum has been completed and looks great. Many thanks to the volunteer work undertaken by Graham Moss, John Gerstenberg and Greg Welsh of the Hall Men's Shed. The store-room will now be painted to match the existing school museum colour. The next project is to remove the sink unit which is not in keeping with the early appearance of the schoolroom.

The Executive of the "Friends of the Hall School Museum" have been busy developing the appropriate documents to form the basis for the operations of the Museum; the Mission Statement; an acquisition plan; a donation form and a promotional flyer. It is planned that these will be available from ACT Tourist information outlets and the ACT school museums at St John's Reid and the Tuggeranong Schoolhouse.

The Hall Progress Association has now received the grant from ACT Heritage for further work in the museum. This work includes the specialised conservation of damaged items in the collection,

further conservation or archival training, the development of a museum webpage on the Hall Village website and to purchase appropriate display cases. We can also move forward in the planning of our "Bush Schools Exhibition" in the 2012 ACT Heritage Festival.

The very small number of visitors to the November Museum Open Day has been attributed to the major Clarrie Hermes Drive roadworks. There were hundreds of cars banked up on the Barton Highway back to Canberra and on Kuringai Drive back to Spence attempting to get into Hall! It is hoped the numbers for the December opening will increase as the roadworks proceed to completion!

As the Conservation Group works through the collection, they agreed that it would be interesting to publish the details of a "Find of the Month" or "What or Who is it?" segment on the Hall Village website and for inclusion in the Rural Fringe. Consequently, on the front News Page of the Hall website I have posted an article seeking information on a photo discovered in the museum that appears to be have been taken in the 1940's. There is a moustachioed gentleman in the school doorway and a lady on the right hand side who is hanging a floral tribute on the school wall. The gentlemen present have removed their hats. Perhaps, it's the celebration of the end of World War 2 or a Remembrance Day Ceremony?

I have not had any responses so here it is again!

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Please let me know if anyone can identify the occasion or any of the people? 

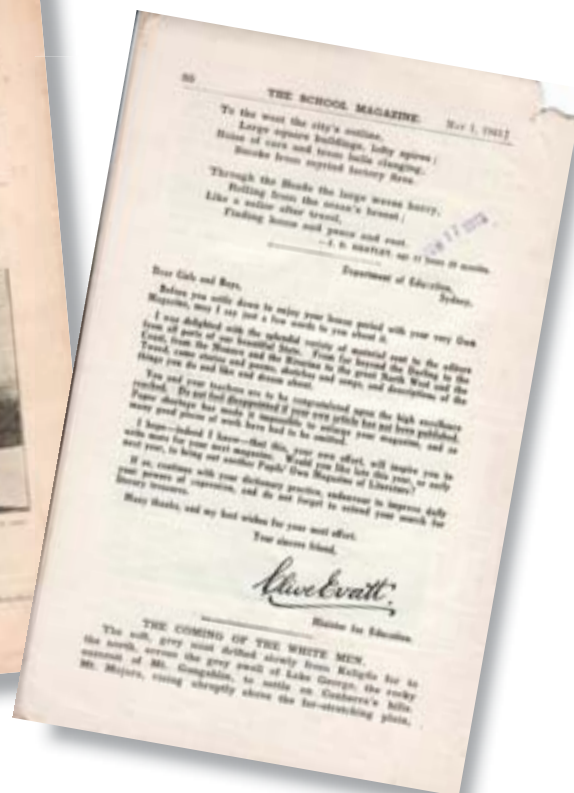
Jenny Holcombe also discovered an interesting School Gazette published on 1 May 1943. It was put together entirely by school children. The stories and drawings are excellent. Here are excerpts for your enjoyment:

This is part of the fabulous collection of educational material the is currently being cleaned, catalogued and digitised for easier access.

Finally, many thanks to Kingsley Southwell for his donation of old books.

If you would like to join our team of conservation volunteers that meets on Thursday mornings from 9am until 12noon at the school or if you have any old photos or memorabilia relating to Hall School or the Village and are willing to donate or for me to copy them, please let me know at :

**p.robson50@optusnet.com.au**  
or **6259 5221**.



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# Solar power in Hall

**Shaun O'Connor** Manager, Territory Energy

Installing a 10kW system is a real commitment to reducing carbon emissions and increasing renewable energy. Being involved with the electrical industry I had a small insight to solar installations. This gave me the links and correct questions to ask of this installation. The first thing I discovered was that the solar industry was full of crooks and shonks now made evident by the number of liquefied solar businesses and ACTPLA defects issued. I was given 4 different prices for the supply and install of a 10kW system. The price difference was up to \$20,000! I decided to purchase a system direct from the wholesaler saving approximately \$5000. All solar grid feed-in systems must be installed by a licensed solar installer and connected up by a licensed electrician. The system must be approved by ActewAGL all fees and charges paid (\$180) and approved by a ACTPLA electrical inspector.

After the initial approval from ActewAGL I employed a solar installer which with my help took approximately 3 days to install. ActewAGL and ACTPLA were then notified to install the bi-directional meter and approve the system.

The system has 45 X 230W Symphony panels with a 10kW SMA single phase inverter. The warranty period being 25 years on panels and 5 years on the inverter.

So what did the whole installation cost?

\$30,000 – the supply of the system

\$3500 – Installation cost

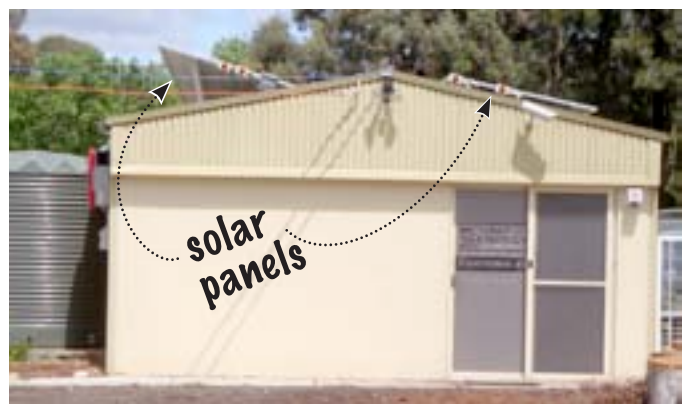
\$180 – ACTPLA fees

Total cost – \$33,680 – REC's

This is quite a large outlay for anyone. Some companies do offer finance. However, it is important

to realise that there is rebate with solar called a renewable energy certificate (REC). The REC's differ with the size of system that you have. A 10kW system has approximately 330 REC's that can be sold on the market.

The current price is \$28.60 ( $330 \times 28.60 = \$9438$ ) I am yet to sell my REC's as I am watching the market and will wait until it rises in the high \$30's. Most solar companies take the worry out of this as they sell the REC's on your behalf at a particular rate. Understandably the solar companies make profit on supply and install also on the sale of the REC's. The expected supply and install 10kW price from a solar company would be between \$38,000 to \$48,000 this is priced after the solar company takes your REC's.



My system, after the REC's, should cost no more than \$24,000 inc. Still a substantial outlay but take in to consideration the feed-in tariff that is set for the next 20 years. \$0.45 per kWh feed-in. Currently paying \$0.14 per kWh for power usage and the 10kW solar system produces approximately 40 to 50kWh per day. My electricity bill is approximately \$2000 per year, therefore, payback period should be about 4 years and credit for the next 16, possibly never having to pay for electricity again.

Unfortunately the feed-in tariff has finished in both the ACT and NSW, so whilst you can still purchase and install solar panels you will not currently receive any government rebate. This does not mean that it is not worthwhile. A small 1.5kW is quite affordable and can still offset your electricity bills substantially.





## Tips if thinking about solar:

- Watch for the next solar feed-in scheme. It will come again as this has been the biggest win win for the government for some time. (create jobs and input power without infrastructure)
- Get a local electrician with solar accreditation to do the work for you.
- Remember, cheap panels usually means low power output
- Make sure you get a certificate of Electrical Safety and installation and parts warranty on everything.
- Don't pay the final bill until you are signed up, approved and everything is in working order.

**Go Solar !**

## Out and about



**Judy Roberts**, "Friends of Hall Museum" guide, enthralled visitors to our Hall School Museum. Volunteers give time and their knowledge to welcome visitors to our Museum. If you wish to become a "friend" and help promote and preserve our heritage, please contact Phil Robson: [p.robson50@optusnet.com.au](mailto:p.robson50@optusnet.com.au) or **6259 5221**

## A Christmas thought!



# TERRITORY ENERGY

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# Summer Gardens

by **Lisa Walmsley**

As I wander around town walking my ever busy fox terriers (actually they belong to my children who seem to only love them on a needs be basis, bit like their mother really), I can't help but notice the lack of consideration to the planting for a summer garden.

Many houses lack a tree, let alone a few trees. We have been so accustomed to air conditioning that we have forgotten about creating an environment on the outside that enhances the inside. It's not unusual to hear people say 'I go from my air conditioned house to my air conditioned car to my air conditioned office and vice versa at the end of the day'.

What about aesthetics? Not only do trees throw lovely cooling shade but they create an eco system whereby wind and sunlight near the house is cooled through the leaves and altering the external buffering the house gets from general weather conditions.

Fortunately the recent gardening trend of grasses/ flaxes and pebbles have become somewhat passé and trees and shrubs are again the chosen plants. I was in a garden last week, and even though it was lovely, and had many mature plants not one was a tree. All the taller plants were out of control shrubs; I had to look twice to confirm this but was very surprised and naturally suggested some tree species that would fit beautifully into the existing design.

Perhaps the masses are a little nervous of tree sizes and shapes and avoid having to deal with an out of control green monster that could potentially cost a lot of money to have removed. Trees come in many different sizes and shapes and there are ones to accommodate all situations.

Another misconception is that trees have nasty roots, and some do but not all. Trees do not have tap roots either and most trees don't grow deeper than 450mm, so if all your services are trenched at the correct /legal depth of 600mm, trees should not cause them any problems.

Trees and shrubs naturally have a mind of their own and even with all due consideration, can choose to head off in a different direction other than intended. If you have neighbours close by and your well nurtured disobedient tree chooses to hang over their fence it can cause some grief if they are not into your tree. But good neighbourly relations (and I know this is sometimes more easily said

than done) are all that is needed and they can always prune whatever hangs over their fence anyway.

Something I miss about my rural garden is the space, been able to throw trimmings over the fence, not having to worry about offending neighbours and stock casually eat any escapee plants that sneaks out of the boundaries. A large garden allows for a lot of plant experimentation (and failure) a luxury we don't have in the urban environment.

I do profess to be a bit of a tree nerd, in fact my small block of 420m<sup>2</sup> has 36 trees on it and that doesn't include the shrubs. Some of my trees do require some

maintenance, but that was intended, as I have pleached trees in my front garden, a cloud pruned California juniper that I am experimenting with and espalier species that require regular trimming. I don't have any Bonsai, although I would not be adverse to having a go, some of my clients make an art of it and it seems to be quite calming and peaceful so a cheaper alternative to a therapist.

With the scorching months looming upon us and outdoor entertaining an Aussie way of life, trees seem totally appropriate to soften and enhance our outdoor spaces. The sooner you have them planted the sooner your spaces become more user friendly.

With so many beautiful trees to fit any site it should be compulsory to have at least one tree in your garden. Lucky I am not on the council, we could end up with a jungle, which I would love.



## Out and about



**Hall Men's Shed** gets down and dirty. Sonny Pirotta and Grahame (The Do'er)

Hall Men's Shed continues to increase membership and develop a considerable array of equipment.

Each Thursday, Hall old guys get together to complete projects, exchange experiences, encourage each other and plan more worthwhile ways to improve our community.



# St Michael and All Angels

## Anglican Church



*Corner Victoria and Loftus St, Hall*

### Blessing of the Pets

Sunday 9 October 2011

The Anglican Parish of St Barnabas Charnwood held a Special St Francis Day outdoor service in the picturesque gardens at St Michael and All Angels Church in Hall. There was much country goodwill as we positioned ourselves through scudding showers, followed by a time of fellowship over a BBQ lunch.

This has become a regular event at St Michaels' and is growing every year. We welcomed members of the Hall community, parish members their friends and families. Along with the dogs and cats and photos of family animals we had a surprise 'pet' come with a young family from Hall who brought garden worms forward for God's blessing.

If you would like further information on this or other parish events please do not hesitate to contact our Office Administrator on 6258 6088 or [stbarnabas@bigpond.com](mailto:stbarnabas@bigpond.com).

[www.saint-barnabas.org](http://www.saint-barnabas.org)



*Hannah, Candice and Eliza presented their puppies Toby and Nellie, for the blessing.*



Everyone is  
invited to share  
the joy of Christmas at services at  
**St Michael & All Angels  
Anglican Church**

Corner Victoria & Loftus St, Hall

#### • **Sunday 11 December at 7pm**

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The true Christmas story is revealed in six short bible readings and old favourite Christmas carols during this simple candle-lit service.

Everyone is invited to share this celebration, followed by supper in the cool of the evening.

#### • **Christmas Eve at 10 pm** – Holy Communion

#### • **Christmas Day at 10 am** – Holy Communion

For more information please ring **6255 5482**



*Jane Gulliver and Evelyn prepare golden retrievers Winstone, Rosy and Gabe for the blessing of all pets, great and small.*

# Collectors Club

by **Bob Richardson**



Hall Collectors enjoy their Christmas meet 2011. Hall Collectors with their wives and sweethearts convoyed to Murrumbateman to view an amazing collection and demolish a Christmas feast. A fleet of restored military vehicles, a restored ducati motor bike, a pristine late 20th century Ford Mustang, a restored Vespa drove out of Hall and were kings of the highway until they reached their Christmas meet. Each of the wonders on display had a story. Some of them had numerous tales of what, how, when.

Each sparked memories and our Collectors swapped tall tales and true.

Eventually the food was consumed along with the Christmas punch and even the Black Forest cake with fresh cherries was no more.

"A safe, Happy Christmas to everyone" said Tiny Bill (Pearson) and we called it a day.

*(apologies to Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol").*



*The first Commonwealth Heritage Listing within the Yass Valley !*

## Yass Post Office

On the 8th November 2011, the Hon Tony Burke (Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities) formally included the Yass Post Office on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

Yass Post Office is one of 43 Post Offices from around Australia added to the list, to recognise the important role that post offices and the postal service have played in the development of towns and communities throughout Australia.



The Yass Post Office was built in 1884.

It has impressive company on the list, other items on the Commonwealth Heritage List including Kirribilli House, Sydney; Old Parliament House, Canberra; and Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.

If you are interested in finding out more, go to:  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/commonwealth/index.html>

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# ACT Heritage Grant

Village of Hall and District Progress Association

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to say that we have been awarded a grant by ACT Heritage for \$7,845, the full amount requested. This is very good news. The grant is to pay for new display cases, web development, brochure production, professional conservation treatment, a training program, and support our 2012 Heritage Exhibition on 'bush schools of the Hall District'. The 'co-contribution' specified in our application will be \$1,500 with a further contribution 'in kind'. ACT Heritage staff have made it clear to us that have seen good value for money from the two previous grants.

With the appointment of Phil Robson as Honorary Curator, and now the formal establishment of the



'Friends of Hall School Museum', Museum affairs will increasingly be managed by their own steering group. However, as the incorporated body, we will remain ultimately accountable for the grant management and acquittal.

We have received grants in the past two years of \$8,745 and \$5,000, so this year's grant means that ACT Government will have committed \$21,590 in grants to the Museum. In addition, DHCS has agreed to fund the storage area re-lining being undertaken by the Mens' Shed.

**Alastair Crombie** President

Village of Hall and District  
Progress Association

(02) 6230 2977 (home/work)

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\$67.50 (to the value of \$75.00)

### Body Blitz Package



Full Body Massage  
Pure Fiji Eco Duet Pack (includes body lotion and shower gel)  
\$77.40 (to the value of \$86.00)

### Simply Spoilt



Maintenance Facial  
Eyebrow Wax, Eyebrow Tint and Eyelash Tint  
Mini Pedicure  
Mini Manicure  
Pure Fiji Discovery Travel Pack (includes body lotion, exotic oil, body butter and eco soap)  
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# an Aussie Poem

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**GLADSTONE ST, HALL ACT 2618**

They were funny looking buildings, that were once a way of life,  
If you couldn't sprint the distance, then you really were in strife.  
They were nailed, they were wired, but were mostly falling down,  
There was one in every yard, in every house, in every town.  
They were given many names, some were even funny,  
But to most of us, we knew them as the outhouse or the dunny.  
I've seen some of them all gussied up, with painted doors and all,  
but it really made no difference, they were just a port of call.

Now my old man would take a bet, he'd lay an even pound,  
That you wouldn't make the dunny with them turkeys hangin' round.  
They had so many uses, these buildings out the back,"  
You could even hide from mother, so you wouldn't get the strap.  
That's why we had good cricketers, never mind the bumps,  
We used the pathway for the wicket and the dunny door for stumps.  
Now my old man would sit for hours, the smell would rot your socks,  
He read the daily, back to front in that good old thunderbox.  
And if by chance that nature called sometime through the night,  
You always sent the dog in first, for there was no flamin' light.  
And the dunny seemed to be the place where crawlies liked to hide,  
But never ever showed themselves until you sat inside.

There was no such thing as Sorbent, no tissues there at all,  
Just squares of well read newspaper, a hangin' on the wall.  
If you had some friendly neighbours, as neighbours sometimes are,  
You could sit and chat to them, if you left the door ajar.

When suddenly you got the urge, and down the track you fled,  
Then of course the magpies were there to peck you on your head.  
Then the time there was a wet, the rain it never stopped,  
If you had an urgent call,  
you ran between the drops.



The dunny man came once a week,  
to these buildings out the back,  
And he would leave an extra can,  
if you left for him a zac.  
For those of you who've no idea,  
what I mean by a zac,  
Then you're too young to have ever had,  
a dunny out the back.

*(Zac was slang for the sixpence coin  
before decimal currency in Australia  
in February 1966)*



Here is some

## Irish humour



Paddy McCoy, an elderly Irish farmer, received a letter from the Department for Work & Pensions stating that they suspected he was not paying his employees the statutory minimum wage and they would send an inspector to interview them.

On the appointed day, the inspector turned up.

"Tell me about your staff," he asked Paddy.

"Well," said Paddy, "there's the farm hand, I pay him £240 a week, and he has a free cottage.

Then there's the housekeeper. She gets £190 a week, along with free board and lodging.

There's also the half-wit. He works a 16 hour day, does 90% of the work, earns about £25 a week along with a bottle of whisky and, as a special treat, occasionally gets to sleep with my wife."

"That's disgraceful" said the inspector, "I need to interview the half-wit."

"That'll be me then," said Paddy.

## 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 10th 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](mailto:ruralfringe@hotmail.com) or PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618.

### Advertising rates (per issue)

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

Advertisement design fee—\$30

### Other information

Editor: Jo Hall

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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## Letters



to  
the editor

*Here's your chance to raise issues  
and to engage in community discussion,*

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post: **Rural Fringe**  
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**ACT 2618**



## a Car for Christmas



Danny had recently passed his driving test and decided to ask his clergyman father if there was any chance of him getting a car for Christmas, which was yet some months away. 'Okay,' said his father 'I tell you what I'll do. If you can get your grades up to 'A's and 'B's, study your bible and get your hair cut, I'll consider the matter very seriously.'

A couple of months later Danny went back to his father who said 'I'm really impressed by your commitment to your studies. Your grades are excellent and the work you have put into your bible studies is very encouraging. However, I have to say I'm very disappointed that you haven't had your hair cut yet.'

Danny was a smart young man who was never lost for an answer. 'Look dad. In the course of my bible studies I've noticed in the illustrations that Moses, John the Baptist, Samson and even Jesus had long hair.'

'Yes. I'm aware of that...' replied his father '... but did you also notice they walked wherever they went?'

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