BURALFRINGE Journal of the Hall district Twenty Rural Schools wentilition

Big crowds came to the official opening, or came later on to view the exhibition on 'Bush schools of the Hall district' over the weekend of April 14-15th. After an opening ceremony on Saturday morning marked by the ringing of the school bell, playing of the anthem and raising of the flag, a steady stream of visitors right through the weekend kept the volunteer 'guides' busy. The bell was rung by Kingsley Southwell, a Hall pupil 1948–54, and now the 'guardian' of the sites of Brooklands and Wallaroo schools on his property. The flag was raised by Dave Watson, well remembered by many of us as the Hall school Caretaker for 27 years (1979–2006). His wife Mary taught at the school for ten years or so.



Phil Robson fine-tunes last minute preparations for the Friends of Hall Museum, "Twenty Rural Schools" Exhibition.

The exhibition commemorated the work of Lyall Gillespie, well known Canberra historian, and author of 'Early education and schools in the Canberra region' (1999). Lyall's family were early settlers in what is now Guhgahlin, and he himself lived for a while in Hall and went to school here. The exhibition selected eighteen of the schools that were documented by Lyall - those closest to Hall - and presented maps showing their location, a 'story board' for each, and a file folder of additional information. A good deal of this material was also mounted on computers - the beginnings of



our 'virtual museum'. Genevieve Jacobs (ABC 666 'Afternoons') and Ian Warden ('Gang gang', 'Canberra Times'), visited for previews in the preceding week, which helped enormously to publicise the event.

The exhibition was opened by Canberra historian Jill Waterhouse, who knew Lyall well from the 1970's on, wrote introductions to a number of his books, and authored his obituary for the Canberra Historical Journal (July 2006). She has worked and studied at the ANU and at Cambridge, and for some time held the position of 'community historian' at the Canberra Museum and Gallery. She was able to tell us a bit about Lyall, and made clear how appropriate it was to commemorate his work in this way. Chris Bourke, Minister for Education and Training, also gave a short address, in which he gave some colourful stories concerning his father, who was a bush school teacher in country Victoria, and congratulated the organisers for a fine exhibition.

Amongst more that 100 present on Saturday morning were Linda Roberts from ACT Heritage; Dr Malcolm Beazely, founder and Curator of the Australian National Museum of Education (of which the Hall School Museum is a proud member); Ginninderra MLA's Alistair Coe,

continued on page 9

inside this issue:

- Hall's Easter celebrations
- Tennis in Hall in 1929
- Hall School recollections
- West Texas Crude album launch
- New gate for Hall showgrounds
- Winter gardening

Out and About . . .



Alpacas, Honeycomb, Andronicus and little Merrygold meet Reuben, Jai and Tina. The alpacas are at present being cared for by Hall vet, Jane Spate.

from the Canberra Times, 19 May 2012:

"A company called CGNM Resources has applied to the NSW Government for an exploration licence to cover an area of about 200 square kilometres stretching from the northern border of the ACT near the new suburbs of Gungahlin towards Spring Range and Nanima.

Company spokeswoman Shao Qing said it wanted to look for copper and gold in the area. "

for more info go to: www.hall.act.au/read/2618/mining-in-back-yard.html

Cycling around Australia!



Around Australia cyclist Gene Shafer arrives in Hall on his way to Townsville in far north Queensland.

Gene started off on his odyssey to cycle around the Australian continent on November 1st, 2010. Gene cycled out of Perth and headed north to Derby in Western Australia, arriving October 8th 2011. Next he headed for Halls Creek then Katherine. Onward to Darwin, then Alice Springs, Port Augusta and Melbourne for Christmas 2011. Gene spent New Year's Eve in Nar Nar Goon in Gippsland, Victoria, where he visited the local Light Horse Museum. Next it was east to Merimbula, then Canberra on February 7th 2012. Gene stopped over in Hall Village on his way to Dubbo. Gene told his audience that travelling low to the ground at a slow pace allows one to observe the environment in detail. Vehicles flashing by at 100km/hr miss the whole show!

Cynthia and Kingsley Southwell were among many relatives and friends who visited the Hall Cemetery after the recent theft of bronze plaques. All who visited the old bush cemetery on Wallaroo Rd to observe the damage were distressed and grieved at the mindless desecration of graves.

PHONE 62071622

ALL ENQUIRIES

SPRINGFIELD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

... is hosting a Meet-the-Neighbours Lunch at 12 noon on Sunday 29th July at their Pateman's Lane fire shed.

This is not a fund-raising event, but a community support event, at no charge to children under 10 (there will be a jumping castle) and half the costs of a spit-roast menu met from Brigade funds. Tickets are \$20 to residents of the Brigade area (between Murrumbateman, east of the Barton Highway, north of Fairview Lane and west of Murrumbateman Road).

Enquiries to Terry Birtles 6230 2037.

West Texas Crude album launch



Local Hall band West Texas Crude will launch their second album **'Take Your Chances'** on **18th August** at the *Abbey*, Federation Square, Nichols at a function in support of Inflammatory Bowel Disease research*.

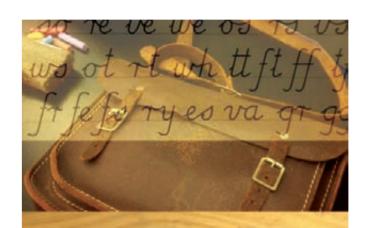
what's happening: Drink on arrival, canapes, two course meal, David Kilby as MC and music quiz host, album launch, your own copy of the CD, a video message from London and rocking your socks off to West Texas Crude.

So the Olympics will be over and it will be time to get out of the house. Mark the date in your diary and think about getting a table of 10.

the cost: \$85 per head or \$800 for a table of 10.

to book: go online to www.westtexascrudemusic.org

the Album: To quote the Canberra Times reviewer Chris Johnson about West Texas Crude's first album 'Writing on the Wall': "The songs are intelligent, original ballads delivering compelling commentaries on life,



Discipline at School The Rules and The Ruler

2012 • CIT Student Exhibition

Date: Open every Sunday of June, from 3rd June 2012 Time: 12pm - 4pm Venue: Hall Primary School, Victoria Street, Hall, ACT

Presented by the Hall School Museum and Students from CIT Certificate IV Museum Practice



Hall Winten Ball

Hall Rugby Union Club/Hall Pre-school Annual Winter Ball is a major fundraiser for the Club and Pre-School.

We urge all current and past players and supporters to get behind this great night out.

> Tickets are \$65 per head or if you can form a table of 10 then it is \$60 per head.

when: Saturday, 23rd June from 7pm

where: Hall Hall, Hall Street, HALL

For more details, follow the link below: http://groupspaces.com/HallRugbyClub/item/295167

love, death and politics. But to categorise the music solely as folk would be a mistake. This album traverses folk, country and rock to treat the listener to a great journey - heavy on the strings. "

Album 2 delivers more of this.

*It is estimated that approximately 61,000 Australians have Inflammatory Bowel Disease, with more being diagnosed each year. It is estimated that this number will rise a staggering 23% by 2020. The cause is unknown and at present there is no cure. IBD often develops between the ages of 15 and 30 but can start at any age.

You can listen to and watch songs from Writing on the Wall at: http://www.reverbnation.com/westtexascrude

Easter in Hall

The combined churches of Hall joined together to walk the Stations of the Cross in Hall Village. Each Easter on Good Friday members of Hall Community, with others, commemorate the crucifixion of Christ. Over 200 residents followed their religious leaders down the length of Victoria St, Hall, stopping at designated points to pray and sing each station of the cross.





Twins Monahan and Mackenzie Hazlehurst at Easter Communion at St Michael's and All Angels Church

The choir of Saint Francis Xavier Church lead the hymns and song at the Stations of the cross



Wattle Park Uniting Church

Pastor Bernie Rogers

Easter was a wonderful event this year (as always) with attendances at Wattle Park as high as they have been in years. With good numbers the atmosphere in our old stone church was quite remarkable. With the stained glass windows giving an added dimension, and with the hymns well known, we all witnessed services that gave a truly "holy" feel.

The Maundy Thursday recreation of that last supper had a sombre finish to a happy start and on Good Friday the highlight was again the "Stations of the Cross" along our main street. The combined numbers of Wattle Park, St Francis Xavier and St Michael's and All Angels resulted in some 150 people participating in the very moving service.

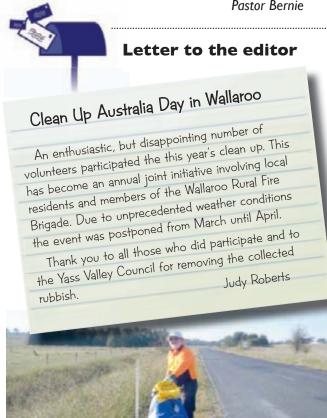
The joy of Easter Sunday was there for all to behold. A fantastic response to God's love and you really should all look to taking in some of these services next year.

On a more formal note, our organist of some years June Hemmingsen has retired to the coast with her husband Jan.We wish them well in their new home and we will miss them very much.

Our Girl's Brigade continues to thrive with another membership year looking to exceed 40 girls. This is a very good organisation that gives girls a Christian based life skills course on Thursday evenings during school terms. If you want to find out more, come to Wattle Park on Thursdays at 6.00pm.

Once again we invite you all to our regular Sunday services, every week at 10.30am.

Many Blessings Pastor Bernie



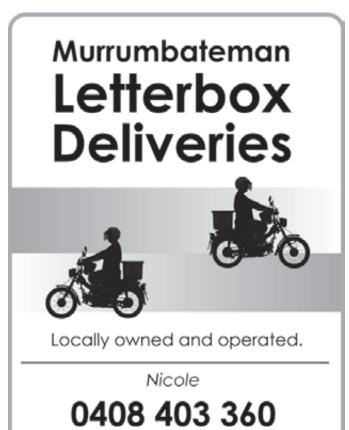
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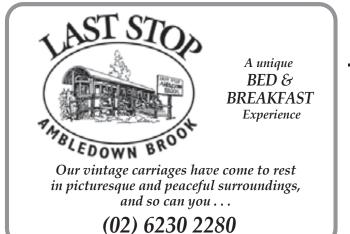
Loriendale Apple Festival

Owen Pidgeon held his very successful open day on his property "Loriendale" on Spring Range Road on Saturday 31 March.

The Apple press was in full swing as crowds of locals from Hall District, Canberra and NSW lined up for the bounty.

Endless varieties of apples, and related products (Strudel - yum!) were snapped up as musicians played and choirs sang.











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Hall's historic Sheep Stalls

Local Hall resident and builder, Mick Colquhoun, restores the historic sheep stalls

DOGS A

Heritage restoration at Hall Show ground. Local residents get together to preserve our heritage. Hall recreation ground's historic "sheep stalls" has received a long overdue make-over. In fact, an expert renovation which will ensure our heritage building for years to come. Peter Howard of Victoria St. Hall got the ball rolling with Hall Progress Association and the Men's Shed surveying the site to ascertain what was required to preserve the important old structure. Local engineer and Hall Progress Association member, Pierre Dragh, and our team ordered suitable hard wood and had it delivered to the site. Canberra Sport and Recreation funded the purchase, an example of the partnership developed between our community and our Government. Local Hall resident builder Mick Colquhoun aided by carpenters, Dale Perry and Haydon Kelley, did the heavy lifting.

Mick said that the new hardwood he was using to replace the old was easy to work with compared to the old tempered and weathered hard wood with which the historic sheep shed was made.







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

5. SADDLERS LANE

bounded by Loftus, Alexandra, Gladstone and Gibbes Streets



- William Aubrey McClung married Sarah Webb in 1906 and resided at 'Glen Lee' adjoining this lane.
- In 1904 Aubrey took over the saddler's shop from Henry Stear who had built it in 1900 and conducted his business as a saddler in Victoria Street until November 1940. In Memories of Hall by Leon Smith, page 12 it states "He was held in high esteem for his honesty, friendship and good citizenship". The Hall Progress Association commenced in 1906 with Mr McClung and G.K. Kinlyside as joint Secretaries.
- With the dependence on horses, the skill of a good saddler was much in demand.

Saddlers Lane represents all the skilled craftsmen over the years on whom the residents rely. They took great pride in their expert workmanship and we acknowledge many of these outstanding trades are sadly now in decline.



Out and About . . .



John Starr shows Sophie and Daniel how to shear a sheep



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"Twenty Rural Schools"

continued from page #1

Meredith Hunter, and Vicki Dunne; Mrs Irene Copping (wife of the 'father' of the Hall School Museum, Laurie Copping); and Nancy Tingey, a past Hall resident and pioneer in recording the history and heritage of Hall and district. Through the Hall Historical Society, Nancy and others laid the foundations for eventual heritage listing of the village. There were also people from many families with connections to one or more of the schools in the exhibition.

In acknowledging and thanking these people, MC Alastair Crombie also made mention of the special contributions of Bill Pearson (story board design and setting up the 'virtual exhibition'), and the Hall Men's Shed, whose members have made a terrific contribution to refurbishment of the Museum and some specialised conservation work. Most recently Hall resident John Gerstenberg completed restoration of the fine old 'tilt and swivel' teacher's chair, which is back on display.

For the organisers - 'Friends of the Hall School Museum' - the most rewarding outcome has been the

number of people who come forward with additional information - or questions and suggestions - that will help us to enrich the records of these small bush schools. The full records that we have for each of the schools will now become available in the School Museum,



on computer and in hard copy. The weekends special exhibition will remain in place for another month or so, and it will be possible to arrange viewings, subject to the availability of volunteer guides.

The exhibition was conceived more than a year ago, and the work of researching the histories of the schools involved was shared amongst the active group of around a dozen 'Friends' who meet each Thursday morning at the School.Visits were made to the NSW archives, and to the various school sites, descendants of district families were contacted, and Lyall Gillespie's work was mined for

all it was worth! Help was sought, and found, on the challenging issues of how best to mount and arrange the material, and a great deal of thought was put into ensuring that the visitor experience would be positive. [Apologies to all those who spilt their tea or coffee due to the table design in our 'coffee lounge'!]

The 'Friends' are keen to recruit new members. If you want to support the voluntary effort that is sustaining and developing the Hall School Museum as a heritage attraction, and increasingly, a resource and research centre for early education, please get in touch and request a membership form (cost \$20 per annum).

For enquiries about access to the exhibition, or the Museum, or about joining the 'Friends of the Hall School Museum' please contact acting Curator Alastair Crombie 6230 2977; info@hall.act.au; or write to : Hall School Museum, PO Box 43, Hall, ACT, 2618.



Tenn'is in Hall, 1929

exracted from "Early Verse of the Canberra Region" by Lyall Gillespie.

Tennis was booming in the Village of Hall in the year 1929. As the courts were in a bad state of repair, it was decided at a meeting to reconstruct them one at a time so that play could continue during the reconstruction. The decision made at the meeting was ignored and both courts were reconstructed at the same time thus denying the club members their sport for some months. William Ernest Gillespie commented in humorous verse using the nom de plume "Coldfoot".

Tennis Touches at Hall

Tennis it was booming, In the District everywhere; So the Hallites decided Their courts to repair.

They held a big meeting In Kinleyside's Hall And the members rolled up Both the short and the tall.

The business was urgent, The young people thought For you cannot play tennis Without a good court.

The President he The chair occupied, And the Sec. and assistant Were there by his side.

The object in view At the meeting that night, Was to find the best way To make the courts right.

There were motions forthcoming From every source, And amendments were often Adhered to of course.

If you'd heard the suggestions That some of them made, You sure would be thinking It was part of their trade.

They talked of steam rollers, That were not their own, And said you could get them By ringing the 'phone.

Someone moved that the courts Be done one at a time, As the weather, said he, May not always be fine. The motion was carried – And everyoned thought That those who played tennis Would still have one court.

As everything necessary Had then been proposed, The chairman declared That the meeting was closed.

Now off to their homes The happy crowd went Too busy in thought To make any comment.

And on reaching their bedsides, They thought with a sigh, We will have two good courts In the sweet bye and bye.

Now the meeting was over And everything was fixed They soon got to work With their shovels and picks.

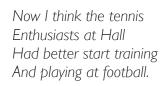
A few of the members That answered the call Were out to do justice For tennis at Hall.

They considered they had More brains than the rest, And decided to do Whate'er they thought best.

And instead of respecting The rules of their meeting, Some things were done I don't like repeating.

So you can't blame a fellow For being a bit sore, Who helped make the rules For others to ignore.

Allan McClung, acting secretary of the Hall Tennis Club in 1929



The next time the Hallites Are going to debate, I will not be there; I would just like to state

I am not very fond Of their practical jokes And consider their meetings Are only a hoax.

"Coldfoot" wrote to the editor of the *Queanbeyan Age* a few weeks later reporting that the Hall tennis courts would soon be ready for play again, referring among other things to the very dull six months while they were being reconstructed. He concluded his letter in verse:

Before my story's ended I wish to make it clear Nothing nasty is intended In what is written here.

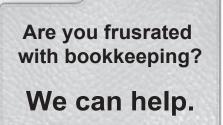
Let naught our friendship sever, If sometimes we speak in jest Just remain as friends forever May I humbly request.

This letter and the earlier verse drew a quick response from the acting secretary of the Tennis Club, who signed "Allan Mac", his full name being Allan McClung. He claimed that the meeting at which "Coldfoot" said certain decisions were made that were later ignored, was not an official meeting but merely a 'pow-wow'. He concluded in verse thus:

So let us wipe the slate, "old son" And wipe that sneer away; And smiling more and growling less, Go upon our life's short way.







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70th Wedding anniversary

church reporter Bob Richardson



On 5th May 1942 a marriage was celebrated by Herbert and Marjorie Robey.

On Sunday 6th May 2012, Herb and Marjorie celebrated their 70 years of marriage at St.Michael and All Angels' Church, Hall. Members of the parish and our local Hall community joined the celebration and special blessings. The children in the congregation joined the sharing with musical instruments of all descriptions.

Marjorie told the gathering the highlight of their many years together was when Herb returned uninjured from the fighting in World War 2. Marjorie told the parishers that she and Herb prayed each morning of their life for each other and for others.

Herb still has a wonderful recall of past events. Herb spoke of his entry to the church. Herb's father, to use his words, ".. was a militant atheist." When Herb was nine years old a truant officer called at their home to interview his brother. The end result was some penance at the church where Herb took to it like there was no tomorrow.

Herb spent the rest of his life committed to his god and his parish.

"A wedding anniversary is the celebration of love, trust, partnership, tolerance and tenacity.

The order varies for any given year."

a golden Celebration

Family, friends and relatives gathered at Starr's, Gold Creek Station on April 5 to celebrate the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Mick and Evelyn De Britt.

The Station environment was a great backdrop for everyone to share in a celebratory lunch and spend a few hours reminiscing with the happy couple.

Many tributes were paid to the pair on their devotion to family and friends and how over the years they had worked tirelessly for young people in the community.





Their outstanding efforts over the years for Pony Club and Polocrosse were acknowledged. These activities still absorb much of their time and Evie still enjoys her dancing.

Daughter Vicki, everyone's tower of strength, made a passionate speech thanking mum and dad for an active and wonderful family upbringing.

Recently, when a friend congratulated Mick on 50 years of marriage, he commented "my Evie's a very tolerant lady", a great tribute and a nice way of summing up a happy 50 years together.

Family, friends and the Hall community wished the couple many more happy years together.

Mick and Evelyn De Britt in the 1970's



Canberra Old Time Dance Club



Canberra Old Time Dance Club comes to Hall.

The headquarters for Canberra Old Time Dance Club is Narrabundah, but it was back to Hall for "The Sunday Tea Dance". In the later part of the 20th century, the late 1970's actually, Joy and Brian Venables regularly travelled to Hall to dance the night away at the popular Saturday night Dance. This was a monthly event and the Hall Pavilion was the venue.

Perhaps some of our Hall residents can recall these happy evenings and who played the music? Let us know if you do!

As one of the club members told our reporter, "the seed for the Canberra Old Time Dance Club" which was formed in the early 1980's was planted at the Hall monthly dance. The club President Duncan Souter who manages the sound system, has 112 dances on his to-do list. These range from slow to quick step and rhumba.

Each dance has agreed steps and all dances conform, there is no free style and no competition.

Dancers learn by peer learning. They teach each other and this adds to the social bonding and enjoyment. Most have special dance shoes for gliding and traction.

A considerable amount of time was spent prior to commencement hammering down protruding nails which can be a danger to dancers.

"A man who dances has his choice of romances." - author unknown "Remember, Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, but backwards and in high heels!" - author unknown

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Shearing Shed **SUCCESS**

by reporter about town **Bob Richardson**

One of Halls most successful and long term businesses, The Shearing Shed has continued and maintained a position of professional excellence at the recent International Hairstylist Society Competitions.

Kylie Green worked behind the scenes with make-up and photography. Shannon Wilson lead the successful team with a 1st in Mens cut and color. 2nd Ladies cut and color and 3rd Mens Cat Walk.To demonstrate her multi-skills Shannon received a 3rd in Photography. Stunning newcomer Naomi Joiner followed last year's triumphs with 1st Mens Cat Walk and 3rd Mens Cut and Color.



The future looks bright; apprentice Bria Lustri scored 3rd Street Expression. Our Hall professionals are preparing for the next competition in July 2012.



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A new gate for the old Canberra showground



Men's Shed member Peter Howard helps assemble the new gate for Hall showground .

Our photo shows Peter Howard at Hall Men's Shed prepares special pieces for the new gate for Hall Show Ground. Peter Howard has been very involved organising the renovation of the Old Sheep Stalls at the Hall Show Ground. To top that off Peter and John (our in house overseer) found time and the skills to repair the damaged fence of Hall legend Greg Rule's house. The Hall Men's Shed is a success with new members constantly arriving bringing skills and comradeship.

ACT Sport and Recreation Services continued to support our Hall Community by funding the erection of a fine new gate for our showground to celebrate the Canberra 100 years centenary. The Hall Men's Shed volunteered to assemble the gate at their workshop at Hall school and the Hall Bootstrap mob "Swung" the gate. Boot-strapper John Starr brought his personal tape measure. John's tape had the numbers worn off it many years ago and is unuseable to anyone except John who claims to remember where all the numbers are on his tape. Shaun O'Connor, always ready to support his community, volunteered his post hole digging equipment and his operating skills. Burnie McIntyre and Alan O'Monahan added a celtic lilt to the harmony of this band of brothers. Kevin Stone, a regular at Hall Mens Shed, came to lend a hand and Andy Fulton, one of our originators of the Hall Collectors, as usual did the heavy lifting. This historic event was recorded by your Rural Fringe showground reporter Bob Richardson.



The Hall Bootstrap Brigade pause and reflect before the hard slog to erect the new gate at Hall show ground.



winter Vegetables

How is your vegie patch looking? Disheveled, soggy, mushy or just plain untidy after the cold wet summer we have just had. Well, guess what, it's time to do some garden maintenance, clear out the last of the struggling plants and blaze a trail for the new winter vegie crops.

Things to consider would include the cabbage family, all cabbages, broccoli, kale and cauliflower, oh and by the way get your caulie seedlings in asap as they require three months of cool weather to form a fat head. It is critical to protect this family of vegies from the cabbage white butterfly, which by the way are busy laying eggs as we speak, so their young are ready to hatch and destroy your crops in a matter of days. The friendly bio-products such as Dipel and Success work well but I like to throw a fine net over the cabbage crops to keep adult butterflies from laying their eggs.

The vegies that really love this season are root crops, so start planting beetroot, carrot, radish, turnip and parsnip. If you happen to live in an area that avoids the dreaded frosts then you can also dig in some spuds. A great way of growing spuds is to place the seed potato on the surface of the prepared soil and cover with mulch, then as time goes on you can drag the mulch back and steal a few new potatoes for your roast while the plant is still growing.

by Lisa Walmsley

Beans are ok now but it's their relo's that thrive now, peas and snow peas. If you want to have a go at broad beans, plant their seeds straight away, they need a few cool months to develop before temps rise again. You don't need a trellis for broad beans as they are self-supporting in groups.

> Then of course we cannot forget the onion family. White, brown, red, spring onions and shallots and every ones soup fav, leeks. These are best bought in punnets of seedlings, ready to go. Dig a trowel through the soil, drop individual seedlings in a row and cover roots with soil,

done.With leeks and shallots if you want extra long white stems, 'hill up' some soil around the plants and gradually as they grow the lower section is denied light and that turns them white.

Leafy green are great to plant now, lettuce, rocket, pak choy, endive, silver beet, mizuna and English spinach. Put some seeds in the ground for a whole winter of yummy fresh leaves for pies, salads, soups and stir fries. If you also love herbs don't forget coriander, dill and Florence fennel.

Well I better not keep you any longer, we all have a lot to do, have fun and enjoy.



By the warmth of the roaring potbelly stove . . .



Cooler evenings are upon us, so gather your friends, come on out to Poachers and share a delicious meal by the warmth of the potbelly fire. With an array of seasonal dishes to choose from, the autumn winter menu is sure to warm you through. Match your dish with your favourite Wily Trout wine. This stunning menu is one of our favourites yet! Check out the new menu online at poacherspantry.com.au/menus

Bookings essential. Book online at poacherspantry.com. au or phone 02 6230 2487



To celebrate our new menu, each table of four (maximum eight) will receive a complimentary bottle of our Wily Trout or Fingerlings wine* to enjoy with dinner.

*Wily Trout Reserve Shiraz not included.





— creating delicious stories —

Poachers Pantry Smokehouse Café

Situated between Hall and Murrumbateman.

The perfect country venue for a relaxing meal with family and friends. Traditional smoked meats are transformed into innovative dishes.

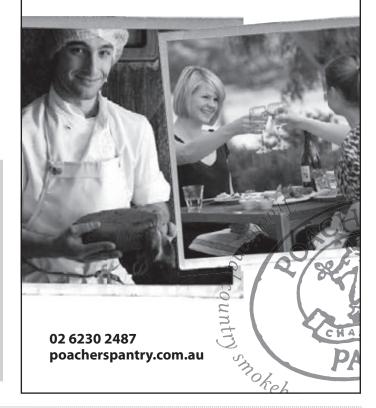
Opening hours

Café

Brunch: Sat & Sun, 10am Lunch: Fri, Sat & Sun, 12pm to 3pm Dinner: Fri & Sat from 6pm

Cellar door, Farm Shop and coffee 7 days, 10am to 5pm

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



Wintertime Pruning

Owen Pidgeon

Loriendale Organic Orchard, Spring Range Road, Wallaroo.

The latest season with plenty of rain has produced a lot of new growth on fruit trees which need to be pruned back. Good equipment is essential, so use a good quality, well sharpened pair of secateurs such as ones made by the Swiss company Felco. Fruit trees and berry bushes need to be cut with well sharpened tree lopers and secateurs.

Stone Fruit Trees

Winter pruning can commence when the leaves have fallen so that pruning of the peach and nectarine fruit trees can begin in the month of May. While just on stone fruit trees, do not prune cherry trees or apricot trees in winter because of their high susceptibility to infection from the pruning cuts. Cuts take time to heal over and if we encounter wet conditions, infection can set in. It is best to undertake a late summer prune of the cherry and apricot trees after next season's harvest.

Determine your preferred height of your stone fruit trees for the backyard and prune back all branches to this height. Peach, plum and nectarine trees are vigorous growers so they can withstand a vigorous winter prune.



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The main aims when pruning stone fruit trees are:

- to remove dead wood (often little end tips of branches);
- to remove broken branches;
- to cut off any rootstock shoots at the base of the tree;
- to generally shape the tree;
- to thin out branches that are crowding together;
- to trim back long, lanky branches; and
- to limit the height of the tree.

Stone fruit trees carry flowers and produce fruit on last season's wood, on both short and long laterals. Ideally the fruiting laterals should be around 30–40 cm in length, to produce premium sized fruit. Pruning will consist mainly of thinning out those laterals that have fruited or are badly positioned and allowing the remaining ones to be around 20 cms apart. As well, some of the lower laterals should be pruned back to the basal bud (the first one) so that new wood will be formed next year for the following season's crop.

Apple and Pear trees

With apple and pear trees, the pruning project becomes even more important as you are working with wood that takes longer to grow. As well, fruit is produced on two year old wood so that poor pruning will have a long term impact.

Trimming up

Firstly, cut off any rootstock that has grown up from the base of any fruit tree. The little branches at the base of the tree can have very different leaves because the propagation nurseries have chosen a rootstock with greater hardiness on which to graft the selected variety. As well, with pears the rootstock usually grows sharp spikes along the branches.

Secondly, prune of any broken branches and short limbs. With apple and pear trees, this is usually the end result of a bountiful harvest when just too many apples or pears have set and the weight of the fully sized fruit has been too much for the branch. If the branch is quite large in diameter, use a sharp saw to cut back.

Thirdly, remove any dead wood. Sometimes, branches will just die back. Cut back to the alive section of the branch, just before a bud (if possible, a bud that is growing upwards).

Shaping the tree

There are four main shapes that apple tree can be shaped to and pruning in the early years is essential for creating your desired shape. The four main shapes are the vase, the central leader, the hedge and the espalier (or palmette).

Vase shaped trees have been the traditional shape for trees with plenty of open space, 4 metres or more between trees. Upright branches are trained in a V formation, with pruning to outside buds. Over time, spurs are developed along these upright branches.

Centre leader trees both have a vertical trunk and a number of side branches are trained to produce fruiting spurs. The more horizontal a branch ends up, the more fruit it will tend to carry, so orchardists will often tie down or use separators to force the side branches to a more horizontal position. Fruiting spurs can be selected to grow along each branch.

Hedgerow systems have been introduced where space is limited. European orchards are now planting intensively (up to 5,000 apple trees per hectare). This means rows of trees which are planted as close as I metre apart. Backyard gardeners can also use this method to get a selection of varieties along the back fence. This is also ideal for when you plant trees that have been produced on dwarfing stock.

The last type of training system is the palmette or espalier. Here you work very hard on training branches to grow like a multi tiered grape vine. The branches are trained horizontally along wires or at 45 degrees to form a shape called the oblique palmette. Fruiting spurs will grow in time along each of the branches.

In our orchard, we trialled the French hedgerow system named the Bouche -Thomas system with early plantings. The goal was to maximize fruiting and limit unnecessary

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upward growth of the trees. Several rows of trees were planted 3 metres apart, at a 30-40 degree angle to the horizontal, facing each other in pairs. The main branches were to be trained to be vase shaped, tying branches to grow in an oblique palmette system. This system is labour intensive and so we abandoned it later on and began to plant the apple trees in rows than grow more like a hedge and allow the braches bearing fruit to naturally bend the branches down.

Pruning for the harvest

Another challenging part of pruning is to help fruit trees to retain their desired shape and produce good crops in coming years. Pruning becomes part of your long term vision: how your prune each tree this winter will shape your trees for future years and impact on next summer's crop as well as the one after that.

Aim to allow the inner section of the tree to receive 60 per cent ambient light exposure over summer for fruit colour, especially if you have varieties such as Royal Gala, Red Delicious or Fuji.

Remove shoots that complete with the chosen leader branches and remove branches that are crowding out the centre of the tree. Remove entirely any narrow angled competing shoots that have grown near your selected side branches.

Apples flower and fruit on spurs so you want to encourage the production of these little branchlets which have fruiting buds. A spur is a very short multi branching stem along a main branch (200–300mm) where the apple tree flowers and sets fruit. In pruning, you are seeking to promote, develop or replace these spurs. Flowering buds are fatter and rounder than leaf buds and they are usually at the end of these short spurs. Keep as many of the flowering buds as possible. With older spurs, consider removing some very old wood which can be replaced by new young growth.

Most apple trees are spur bearing but there is a group of cultivars that grow their fruit differently. These are the lateral bearing apple trees where fruit is also produced on lateral branches. Varieties like Jonathan, Golden Delicious and Fuji need some laterals to be left unpruned and be renewed every 3-4 years. When tip pruning or shortening a branch, always cut just past a set of buds. This leaves the remaining tree in better shape and prevents having dead ends appearing.

Some final pruning tips

When cutting off any rootstock suckers (the shoots that grow from the base of the fruit tree, where the varietal has been grafted onto the hardier rootstock) cut right back to the base. The same applies to when you elect to remove any entire branch; do not leave a stump of 10–20mm; cut right back to the main branch.

When tip pruning or shortening a branch, always cut just past a set of buds. This leaves the remaining tree in better shape and prevents having dead ends appearing. Also choose to cut at the point where a bud/set of buds are growing up and out. This will help with the future shape of the tree.

Off to School ...

Mum never wanted my sister and I to grow up. She wanted to keep us as babies and would not let us start school until we were between 7 and 9 years old. We were so shy we would hide in the grass so the mailman did not see or speak to us if we were sent to collect the mail.

I went to Hall Public School. Others came from "East Lynne" along Spring Range Road to meet us at our mailbox. Then we walked through Moore's (Gledeswood) paddock on to the main road, met the Morris's at Homebush (now Church) Lane, then on past "Dellwood", Kilby's (Ennagh Hill), the Catholic Church and to school, 6 miles a day. My oldest sister

had to walk from home to Ginninderra School before Hall School opened. There was a mug under the tank stand at "Dellwood" for a drink of water if we were thirsty.

One of my older sisters (a real larrikin) would make we two young ones carry her bag from school to the creek near home where we were made cool our faces with water so as not to look hot and tired. We were so shy we never told on her.

The teacher's name was Charles William Thompson. He was a thorough teacher but hard and free with the cane. A wooden box of books came from Sydney and Charlie Thompson bent naughty pupils over the box and caned them on their backsides. Ask Tommy Gribble! (student of the time)

Some of the children were bits of larrikins, like Hollingsworth. One boy took a shotgun to school one day but no-one came to any harm.

Recollections of Gwen Morris (nee Southwell) 1915–2005 The school was one room. Books were kept in presses (cupboards) at the front near the teacher's desk. There was an open fire but the teacher hogged all the warmth. I suppose the boys cut the wood. We had to mix ink powder and fill the ink wells.

There was an area on the

(north) side of the building that was open. It had pegs for hats, coats and bags. Below the building towards the shop was the map of Australia. It was made of mud. We learnt geography by standing where rivers or States, cities or towns were.

Near there was a fenced off garden plot. We tried to grow flowers and vegetables but there was not enough water to do much for the garden. There was only one tank at the school. We brought bottles of water from home.

Empire Day was very special. Someone important was invited along as guest speaker and Prizes were given out. Donald Moore and I won prizes one year for



writing essays on the Empire. After the celebrations, there was a picnic in the park. They used to boil the water on the fire. Once a boy peed in the cup of tea water, but was spotted!

The pine trees around the school grounds were small as they were planted by the older pupils. The "Old Butt Tree" grew near the bottom fence, between the gate where you drive in and the gateway near the tennis court. The teacher sent children to stand near this tree for punishment and to make you feel small or butt your head against it to learn some sense.



The Peace Tree was planted in front of the weathershed when I was going to school. The weather-shed had a dirt floor and seats around the walls inside. There were three walls with open space towards the north. Behind the weather-shed was a fenced off area we called the Horse Paddock. Betty Lees and some of the others rode horses to school. Nina Southwell sometimes drove the sulky to bring her brothers Keith and Mack. There was a sulky shed, too. The teacher put his sulky in there on sewing days when his wife came to teach us sewing.

I didn't really enjoy school life to any great extent. It was good but I didn't excel in anything. Dulcie my older sister and Grace Kilby went to Burwood College in Sydney. After that Dulcie went to Camden Technical College to learn dressmaking and stayed with Uncle Clem's family when she was not boarding. Jean (Miss Jean from the shop) was to go too but the Depression came.

I have a Certificate to say I got into the High School. You had to have that in those days. We had to sit the exams in Queanbeyan. Rex (who I later married) sat for a Bursary because his father was poorer than my father. I sat the Entrance to High School exam. Harry Morris (Rex's father) took us both in the car, a Dodge I think. Rex didn't get word in time to start at the beginning of the next year but he did go to Telopea School for a while. He had to leave to help with the family boot making business, travelling around collecting boots for mending and delivering them back to the camps of the workers who were building Canberra. There was White City camp up the back of Russell Hill. They played football against the Hall boys on Saturday afternoons.

My sister and I travelled each day by mail coach to high school at Telopea and we had special permission to go to Manuka shops at lunch time to buy supplies for home, as we lived on a farm. We were both proud of attaining certificates at the end of three years high school education.

.....



Men's shed

by Mike Fitzpatrick and Kevin Stone

The Hall Men's Shed has undergone a transformation over the past couple of months, taking it from a rather cluttered double garage to a well set out workshop.

A big part of the changes was an upgrade of the electricity supply. 'Shedders' were guided on the best set up during the planning stage through talks with local electricians Denis Greenwood and Shaun O'Connor. Denis also did the work requiring a qualified electrician. Help from Sonny Pirotta was appreciated when he used his trencher to put the electricity cabling underground. That saved a lot of time, effort and blisters!

The Shed thanks these locals for their generous assistance.

Facilities now also include an enclosed lockup carport, which is used as a timber store. So in effect, the work and storage space has doubled in size from the original setup. This means that equipment is better set out in the workshop and members can operate more conveniently and safely.

Focus of Shed activities is principally on smaller community projects. Some of the members' skills were on display at the recent Bush schools of the Hall district exhibition, including a restored headmaster's chair and scrollwork. A system of mentoring is now being devised so that interested members can learn from those more skilled, for example, in the use of wood turning equipment.

Now of course it's not all 'work' at the shed; there's always plenty of time for a chat and 'cuppa'. And that often happens before morning tea!!!

Oh, and there's a barbeque on the first Thursday of every month.

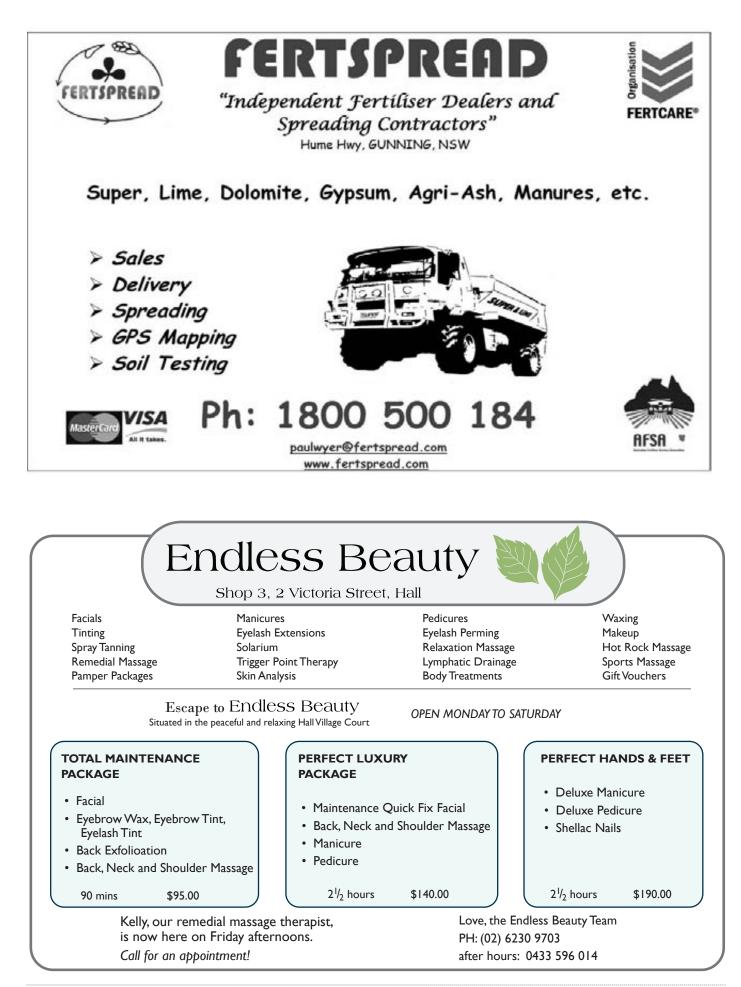
Anyone interested is most welcome to drop in and see what's going on. The shed is open on Tuesday and Thursday, from 9.30am till around 12.30pm and we can be found at the Hall Primary School site.

More information on the shed is available from Mike Fitzpatrick at fitzpatrickscanberr@bigpond.com



Intrepid Rural Fringe reporter Bob Richardson is always on the look out for a new, or even an old, community story.





Hall Vets at Utopia

Dr Kate King and Nurse Geraldine of Hall Vet Surgery spent a hectic week desexing dogs at Utopia in Central Australia at the end of March. Over 184 dogs were operated on in an improvised vet hospital at the Arlparra basketball courts.



Two of our patients

A remarkable collaboration between vets and nurses from Canberra, the Tennant Creek Shire council, Darwin vets from AMRRIC (Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities) and the local Ampilatwatja health service spent the week improving animal health and welfare, and human health.

The dogs belonged to the Urapuntja and Ampilatwatja communities who live in scattered settlements on the old Utopia station. The closest veterinary service is 3 hours drive away over rough and sandy roads.

The vets spent half their time in surgery and the other half out in the camps talking to the people about dog health and the benefits of desexing.

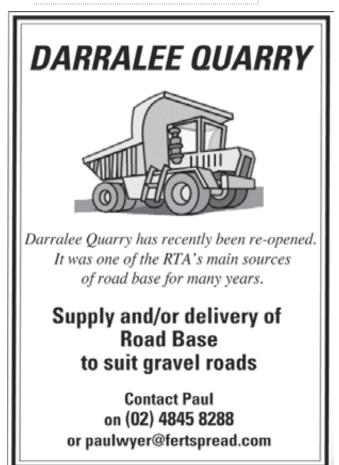
"A dog is one of the remaining reasons why some people can be persuaded to go for a walk." - O.A. Batista

Hall Veterinary Surgery PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF HALL VILLAGE AND DISTRICT www.hallvet.com.au 6230 2223 Corner Victoria & Hoskins Streets Hall Village At the last visit in September, 2011, the vets noticed that many of the dogs suffered from Sarcoptic mange, lice and worms. A "sandwich" of medicine and relief from the burden of reproduction has transformed these thin, incessantly scratching creatures into sleek, happy dogs.

Dr Kate and Geraldine are keen to revisit Utopia again next year to see the results of their week's work and to do another round of surgery. Thank you to all the generous people who supported their work this year.



Geraldine prepares a patient for surgery



Rugby Union

The 2012 season looked to be a good one for the Hall Bushrangers. This season has seen them return to the Monaro rugby competition and bush rugby. The side has appointed two new coaches for first and second grade, Alan Girvin (firsts) and Mich Adler (seconds). The squad numbers are up and there's been an influx of new players attracted to the club because of their recent success in the Canberra competition.

Whilst optimism is high amongst the Hall community and the club, things early on this season have not run to plan. The club have suffered a close and heartbreaking defeat in week one against Goulburn's Dirty Reds. Round two saw the Bushrangers take on a well prepared RMC side, narrowly escaping with a victory after a couple of late tries.

As the temperature has dropped, and the season rolled on, the Bushranger's form has not drastically improved. Two tough away games have seen the Bushrangers slip down the ladder after losses to an inform ADFA side and a red hot Cooma Red Devils.

The Bushrangers are currently sitting in last place but are looking to rebound with some home games and great players returning from injury. Be sure to get down to the Hideout and support a side on the ascendency.

Upcoming home games:

• 23 June 2012 Hall vs Cooma



• 7 July 2012 Hall vs Goulburn

Don't forget to organise tickets for the Hall Winter Ball on 23 June. Tickets are \$65 per head or if you can form a table of 10 then it is \$60 per head.



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Rugby League at Hall



The Hall Hornets played Crookwell Devils .The Lines men and women were keen to get going.



Letter to the editor

I have recently been to court over an alleged Dear Editor, speeding charge. The equipment said I was doing 92 when I was in fact doing 74 by my GPS and 79 by my car speedo which has tested as 8.5% optimistic. My wife was in the car and could verify the speedo reading but not the GPS reading. It was found that I had taken all possible precautions to keep within the speed limit and the charge was dismissed. I have anecdotal evidence that people who regularly pass the equipment on the Barton Highway near Gold Creek on the way in to Canberra City are being fined although they believe they were not speeding - this is especially so for the left hand lane. Many drivers now slow down to 65 to 70 kmh passing this point. Does anyone else believe they have been dudded by this equipment and at what speed? Dave Leahy

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Jennifer believes in a wholistic approach to counselling addressing emotional, intellectual, physical & spiritual well-being. She believes counselling is about meeting people where they are at & empowering them to be able to make good choices for themselves & 4.6 < 65.05:/, & 39, 9.6; & 56, ?

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SHE IS COMMITTED TO HELPING PEOPLE CHOOSE LIFE!

from the Editor . . .

I read somewhere that gratitude increases happiness by 25%. Not sure about that figure, but I am very grateful for a lot of people who make the Rural Fringe possible!

I'd like to give a huge thanks to our small team – Gail Condy who did the design and layout for this June issue, past editor Andrew Purdam who has been giving us occasional help and Bob Richardson who does a lot of the reporting, photographs and general running around. We are on the lookout for anyone who enjoys reading the Fringe and can help us with laying it out; it's a big but rewarding job and if anyone is interested, a bit handy with our software InDesign, and can spare a number of hours spread out over two or three weeks every two months, please contact us! Easiest way is to send an email to *ruralfringe@hotmail.com*

I'd also like to give a special thanks to our advertisers who provide the sole revenue for the Fringe. Because of the high cost of printing and because of the time it takes us to do the layout, we are going to cut back a bit on the number of pages in the Rural Fringe. This will involve doing away with half page advertisements (we lost full page ads a couple of years ago). We will be in touch with you all individually in the next month or so to explain the advertising sizes and new advertising prices. Thank you for supporting us.

A big thank you also to our readers and contributors. We love receiving your articles so please send in any news or items of interest. To encourage some younger contributors, if you are under 16 years old and we print your article (could be anything, maybe a photo with a short description) in the August issue we will pay you \$50! Just send it in to *ruralfringe@hotmail.com* or post it to PO Box 43 by 10 July and mention you are under 16.

Finally, while I'm in the thanking mood, my heartfelt thanks to Tony Morris who I believe is the unsung hero who regularly mows the path around our village walk. Much appreciated!

Until next issue,

Jo Hall

Apology -

Andrew Purdam would like to apologise to Bette Calman for his clumsily phrased comment about the Australian Flag poem by Robin Northover in the April issue of the Rural Fringe.

I certainly didn't mean to imply that Bette had "stolen" the poem. In researching the author of the poem, I'd discovered that usage of the poem by the New Zealanders. The remark was made in reference to their use of the poem; they had - as it were - stolen it. Late night editing will introduce such mistakes occasionally.

> Again, my apologies. Andrew

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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.

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February	issue	deadline	is	l Oth	January
April	issue	deadline	is	l Oth	March
June	issue	deadline	is	l Oth	May
August	issue	deadline	is	l Oth	July
October	issue	deadline	is	l Oth	Septembe
December	issue	deadline	is	10th	Novembe

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

Contributions to ruralfringe@hotmail.com or PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618.

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

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"The tender word forgotten, The letter you did not write, The flower you might have sent, dear, Are your haunting ghosts tonight."

- Margaret Elizabeth Sangster

