

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district



VOLUME 19 ISSUE 4

August 2012

the Hall Ball

by **Shaun O'Connor**
Vice President, Hall Renaissance
Homes Bushrangers R.F.C.



Van der Straaten. The speakers did a wonderful job and guests are unlikely to forget Van der Straaten's stories of a young rugby player growing up on the Highveld or Cairns' impressive rendition of the Haka being auctioned off in good spirit.

The Hall Bushrangers wish to thank all those who helped out during the event including local businesses and friends of our community. Without the community effort, the Hall Ball could not continue to grow as a regular event on the Hall social calendar. Thanks to all volunteers, attendees, contributors and residents.



▲ *Maria Maglasis, won \$300 in the raffle, which she immediately donated to the Hall pre-school.*

This year the Hall Ball was held on Saturday 23 June to help raise funds for two great Hall institutions, the Pre-school and the Hall Bushrangers. The night was a resounding success raising more than \$2000 each for the Bushrangers and the pre-school. Added to this the Hall Ball raised \$1000 for the Shepherd Centre to continue their great work teaching young deaf children how to hear and speak.



◀ *Mother and daughter, Isobel and Sammie, had a ball at the Hall Ball. This was Sammie's 20th birthday!*



▲ *Martial Art dan meets Accountant; Sam Steggal and John Howlett*

Thanks once again to the night's MC, former ABC radio presenter Dave Kilby, the night progressed without a hitch. Excellent music was provided by great local acts West Texas Crude and Riley Catherall.

The night was certainly aided by two great guest speakers, former New Zealand cricket captain Chris Cairns and Springbok 'legend' and renowned international diamond trader Hottie



◀ *Actor and Comedian Rhys Muldoon had the audience not knowing whether to laugh or run for it, as South African rugby veteran, Hottie Van der Straaten*



Mining exploration update

The Mt Spring Association, held its AGM and a General Meeting at Poachers' Pantry on Wednesday 20 June. The meeting was well attended by over 35 residents and neighbours of the Mt Spring vicinity.

The main topic of discussion was the proposed application for mining exploration leases in the area. Concern for such an activity in our rural area was strongly expressed. It was reported that mining exploration rights had already been granted adjoining our area to the north west of Nanima Road through Murrumbateman and toward Yass.

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."

Residents were advised to take a firm stand against the mining companies although they were also informed that, if signs of good mineral deposits were found (or suspected to be found) and prices of these minerals were forecast to remain high, then the likelihood of full scale mining in the area was close to inevitable.

The recommendation to take a firm stand against the mining companies would be beneficial in either of two ways: one, the mining company would go away (which is preferred); two, if they were determined to proceed, then the financial inducements offered would be far greater than a passive stance would produce. It was also said that it would take some ten years or more, for actual mining to start to happen, bearing in mind the processes and procedures involved.

The residents agreed on an initial plan of action, including company searches, research and making contact with the relevant people. The majority joined or renewed membership in the Association and "Lock the Gate" signs were taken by most.

We will keep you informed of any further developments.

Phil Peelgrane
for Mt Spring Assoc Inc.

Save
the
date!

22 September 2012.

10.00 am - 2.00 pm

St Michael & All Angels' Anglican Church

GARDEN FETE

Our Fete this year will be bigger & better than ever, so keep the date free!
We've added extra time and many extra stalls and attractions,
more yummy food and plenty of activities for the kids!

If you would like to donate pre-loved books, CDs, prints or pictures,
please contact: Beryl on 0408 488526



**Village of Hall and District
Progress Association Inc**

Annual General Meeting

Hall Pavilion

7.30 pm Wednesday 15th August 2012

An opportunity to raise issues of interest or concern –
and meet the neighbours!

All positions will be declared vacant.

Nominations are to be made in writing, signed by
two members of the Association and accompanied by
written consent of the candidate

Membership & nomination forms are available
to download from the Hall website:

www.hall.act.au / Documents



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3 Year old programme now available

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Draft Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan 2012

- ZONES
- MINIMUM LOT SIZES
- LAND USE
- HERITAGE
- BIODIVERSITY

On public
exhibition
until
22 August

The draft LEP (including maps) will be available to view:

**Hall Post Office
Wallaroo Fire Shed**

council's website www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au
on CD which can be sent to you upon request.

Submissions should be clearly marked:
"Draft Yass Valley LEP 2012"

For further information, or to obtain a copy of the CD,
please contact Council's Strategic Planning Division
on **6226 1477**

NSW Local Government

Election Update

The NSW Electoral Commission has appointed a regional Returning Officer for Goulburn Mulwaree, Upper Lachlan and Yass Valley Councils who will be based at Goulburn for the 2012 Local Government elections.

Brenda Hangilias will be 'on duty' at 104 Clinton Street, Goulburn where she will be available to answer any queries regarding the election. The office hours will be 8.30 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday.

For election and candidate enquiries phone 1300 135 736

The Returning Officer or her representative will be available at Yass Valley Council, by appointment from 8.30am to 12 noon on Tuesday mornings, to answer any questions that the community may have in relation to the Local Government election, on the following dates:

- Tuesday 7 August 2012
- Tuesday 14 August 2012
- Tuesday 21 August 2012
- Tuesday 28 August 2012
- Tuesday 4 September 2012

To make an appointment with the Returning Officer or her representative at Yass Valley Council please call Julie or Shirree on 6226 1477.

Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade



All local families are invited to attend our
"COMMUNITY BONFIRE"

Wallaroo Fire Station, Wallaroo Road

Saturday, 18th August 2012

5:30 - 7:30 pm

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE

RSVP to Rod Roberts on **6230 2436** by Wed 15th August

POACHERS PANTRY FIRE BALL

Date: Sat 25th Aug 2012

Time: 6:30 pm

**A Fundraiser for the
Wallaroo Rural Fire Service**

A three course dinner with a complimentary glass of bubbles on arrival. A great night to be had with fine food and wine, live music and an auction. All money raised from the auction will be donated to the Wallaroo Rural Fire Service.

Tickets \$65, with \$45 from the ticket being donated.

Auction Items include

- ◇ Gift vouchers,
- ◇ Beauty treatments,
- ◇ Cinema tickets,
- ◇ Horse riding vouchers,
- ◇ Pet food, and
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the **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, Nicholls, ACT**, at a fund-raising function in support of Inflammatory Bowel Research at the Canberra Hospital. It is estimated that approximately 70,000 Australians have Inflammatory Bowel Disease (Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis), 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.



The songs on their second album canvass life, love, death and politics. For example:

Doesn't anybody care about the country anymore (words Hugh Watson, music Matthew Herbert, 2011) Country towns are dying, hospitals are closing, the trains have stopped coming and farmers are committing suicide. This song says it all.

He was trouble (words Hugh Watson, music Matthew Herbert, 2012) A great country rock riff waited for many years to meet what had until that time been a country ballad about a country boy gone wrong.

Afghanistan (words Hugh Watson, music Matthew Herbert and Hugh Watson, 2010) A U.S general said in a radio interview "Well Pakistan's unstable and Afghanistan's next door." Some justification! This powerful song is Hugh and Matthew's response; the latter pulling out the mandolin.

A thousand orphan hands (words Hugh Watson and Matthew Herbert, music Matthew Herbert, 2010) Matthew visited an orphanage in Thailand in 2010 set up by a guy for orphans from the Tsunami. That visit inspired this song. Andrew Purdam brings some lovely piano.

It will be a great night:

- sparkling Wallaroo red or white on arrival,

Hall Village noticeboard



- canapés and a fabulous two course meal by well-known restaurant owner Andrew Hollands (Ellacure, Soju Girl),
- David Kilby as MC and music quiz host,
- the album launch,
- a message from London,
- a copy of the CD
- rocking your socks off to West Texas Crude
- fund-raising auction in support of IBD research at the Canberra Hospital

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

to book: Go online to www.westtexascrudemusic.org to choose your table and make your booking.

at the **London Olympics**



Angela Robson, who grew up in Hall and attended Hall Primary School, is at the London Olympics. Angie is not a runner, swimmer, shooter or archer but is part of the London Olympics Organising Committee team as an Accommodation Co-ordinator. She has been arranging accommodation for VIPs and the Media.

Angie has been interested in the Olympics since she was at the Sydney Games to see Kathy Freeman win Gold!

St Michael and All Angels Garden Fete

22 September 2012
10.00 am to 2.00 pm



Do you know what the children are so proudly displaying in these photos? Do you remember the fun of decorating your bike for a school or church fete in years gone by? We want to revive this old-fashioned fun at our Garden Fete on 22 Sept.

So Mums & Dads (and maybe grandparents), let's pass on the joy of this gentle pastime to the younger generation! Break out the crepe paper and streamers, get creative and encourage your youngsters to dress up their bikes for our Garden Fete in September. Bring them along to St Michael & All Angels on 22 September. Entry is free, and bikes will be judged at 12.30, with prizes for boys and girls in various age groups.

This year we aim to make our old-fashioned village Garden Fete bigger and better than ever. We'll have stalls stocked with home-baked and hand-made goodies, pre-loved books, plants and pottery, to name but a few. Activities for the kids will include parachute games, face painting, lucky dips, puppets, skittles and a string maze. The maze will test youngsters' agility as they crawl and climb under, over and through a maze of strings without ringing any of the attached bells.

While the kids are testing their agility, Mums and Dads will be able to relax and enjoy entertainment from Victoria Street Brass, the Monaro Folk Society's Bush Dance Display Group and a pipe band as well as enjoying hot potatoes, strawberries and cream, sausage sizzle and Devonshire teas and other yummy treats.

So, get cracking on those bikes, and we hope to see many Hall residents on 22 September.

For more information please ring **Beryl** on **0408 488526**

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Vale Michael Brown

Hall and district community members have been very saddened to hear of the passing of Michael Brown, who died suddenly on 20th June. Michael has been an active and committed contributor to a wide range of community organisations and causes over many years: for example the Hall Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, Hall and District Men's Shed, and a long-standing member and past president of the Rotary Club of Hall.

Hall Rotary has posted a tribute to Michael (www.hallrotary.org.au/about-us/michael-brown-sadly-missed/), which also includes details of his impressive public service career. This included a period as Senior Private Secretary to the Federal Minister for Territories, and a stint as Director of the ACT Consumer Affairs Bureau.

Michael has been described as a 'practical theorist' - a man who thought deeply about the social structures he was part of, and acted out of deeply held values of care and compassion. In this he was also wonderfully practical; what many in his congregation at St Francis Xavier remember first of him was his diligence in collecting and driving to the church for Mass a congregation member with a disability. Mike also knew which end of a shovel to put his hands on.

Our deep sympathy and warmest thoughts go to Michael's wife Pamela and their large extended family.

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Locals win Prestigious Award

two years in a row



Locally based **Select Custom Joinery** has received the “Outstanding Workmanship” Award for the 2nd year in a row at the 2012 Master Builders and Boral Excellence in Building Awards.

Partner of Select Custom Joinery Gino Monteleone said “The Award recognises our ongoing commitment to producing a high quality product using high quality materials. We are delighted and honoured to have received the Award 2 years in a row.”

This year’s Award was received for a kitchen near Nowra built from solid bamboo board, featuring a tree in the pantry. The tree was achieved by shaping the bamboo into a tree trunk and using laminated lead lighting glass to add the effect of leaves dappled by the sunlight. Mr Monteleone said “The inspiration for the tree in the pantry came from standing in the space where the kitchen was intended to be; I saw the dam surrounded by trees in their backyard and thought about bringing the outside ‘in’, creating practical art in the kitchen. The idea was appropriate for our client’s home and that’s why the end result is so effective.



The use of bamboo in the kitchen is unusual for the industry, but not so at Select Custom Joinery. Bamboo board has been very popular with clients since the business began using the bamboo four years ago and is being used for everything from kitchens and bathroom vanities to bookshelves and entertainment units. Clients are particularly enthusiastic about using the bamboo board for the internal cabinetry as well as the more visible doors, drawers and bench tops. “Using the bamboo for the internal cabinetry creates a very durable product that will outlast other commonly used products” says Mr Monteleone.

As for the practical art – does this happen often? “It depends on the client and what they are after. People come to us because we provide them with solutions to their brief, rather than dismissing their requests as too hard.”

Photos of the winning kitchen and other kitchens with and without practical art can be seen at:

www.selectcustomjoinery.com.au

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Men's Health

Members of the Hall Men's Shed were part of an appreciative audience who recently attended a men's health presentation by Federal MP Warren Snowdon, 'first bloke' Tim Mathieson and men's health expert Dr Rob Walters.

The three speakers all presented in a relaxed and informal style, but left everyone with some valuable information and tips on what we should all do to have a healthier and happier lifestyle. Basic stuff which most of us have heard before, but well worth reinforcing - for example, undergoing regular health check-ups, exercise, taking control of weight gain/loss.

As part of Mr Snowdon's presentation, he officially launched the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's second male health report, *Health of Australia's males: a focus on five population groups*. The report examines the health of Australian males and has some interesting findings. For those who would like to read the report, it is on the Internet and printed copies are available.

When speaking about men's health, Mr Snowdon talked about older men showing younger males the importance of looking after their own health. In fact, one of the main things he spoke about was 'man's' health. The basic messages are the same for all men, regardless of their age, just that as you get older your body and risks change.

Out & About



Hall and District Mens' Shed and Murrumbateman Shed members visit the Museum Repository.

photo by Terry Hunt, Murrumbateman Mens' Shed



Another important issue was depression and what an impact that can have on the family and community. There are several avenues of help available, and doing something such as asking 'Are you okay?' if you think someone may be feeling a bit down can make a huge difference.

Tim Mathieson, partner of Prime Minister Julia Gillard, has been a patron of the Australian Men's Shed Association for the past three years and in that time has visited a number of the sheds now operating around the country. During those visits Tim encourages men to take action on health matters, such as having regular blood pressure checks and testing for prostate cancer. He certainly gave a good speech and was able to get the health messages across in an entertaining but nonetheless effective way.

Dr Rob Walters is a National Men's Health Ambassador and he also spoke about men's health

issues and how to keep healthy, active and positive. As a medical practitioner, he often found that men took the attitude that 'if it ain't broke ...' and it is women who were more open when it came to their personal health issues.

So one of Rob's messages was to encourage men to take a few minutes to complete the *What's Your Score?* survey, which will give an indication on how their health rates and hopefully encourage them to undertake regular health check-ups with their doctor.

More information on the survey and other men's health issues is readily available by searching the Internet or talking to a medical practitioner.



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Museum Musings



Phil Robson Honorary Curator

The prodigal Honorary Curator has returned from his museum study tour of North America, Europe and the UK. Having visited over 30 museums, castles, palaces, large and small museums and galleries and spoken with a number of staff associated with these institutions, I have gathered a great deal of information on many aspects of managing a museum's collection and the displaying of material in a variety of interesting ways. I plan to utilise this newly acquired knowledge on our own Hall School Museum.



Rural School Display - Glastonbury, Somerset, UK ▲

I was away for our "Bush Schools of the Hall District" exhibition during ACT Heritage Week. However, I have been informed that it was a tremendous success. I must add my congratulations to all concerned in the preparation of the exhibition and those who were on hand during the exhibition that made it such a success. I understand that there were several hundred visitors over the two days who enjoyed the display.

I also wish to congratulate the CIT students who prepared and mounted a display on "Discipline at School". These two exhibitions are still on display. Please contact me if you wish to view them.

The Hall Museum webpages are now available on the Hall Village website www.hall.act.au. The webpages contain information on the Museum, news items, photo gallery and on becoming a "Friend of Hall School Museum". Other archival material on early bush schools in the district will also be available in the future. We also now have an email address: museum@hall.act.au if you wish to contact us. Many thanks to Chirp Internet for setting this up and ACT Heritage for funding it.

The Conservation Group is currently tossing around ideas for Heritage Week 2013. As it will coincide with the centenary of Canberra, the theme will involve "Hall Village and District 1913". Displays of the trades, sporting, home and entertainment, agriculture, etc are being considered.



The "Who is it photo?" published in a previous *Rural Fringe*, is believed to be of George Kinlyside's model T Ford. Thanks to Kingsley Southwell for his response.

I also would like to acknowledge the donations to the Museum from Peter Corrigan, Angelo D'Emilio and others, of an interesting array of items from ladies' hair tongs, kero lamps and bound copies of old *Canberra Times*. Any other items of interest would be much appreciated, particularly items relating to the early Hall School or the Hall District.

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

p.robson50@optusnet.com.au or **0408 259 946**.



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Wattle Park Uniting Church

Pastor **Bernie Rogers**



The Canberra winter is in full swing and our wonderfully crisp mornings are just right for an old stone church!! However, the welcome inside is as warm as ever and we must be doing something right as our numbers of visitors seem to be growing each month. It is good to see so many non-members returning on a more regular basis.

We are currently spending some time on the story of King David and it gives me great hope that if God can use a person who does so much wrong to fulfil God's purpose, then I have a chance of contributing as well.

We have had a few problems with the organs recently, but the use of pre-recorded organ discs have provided a different spin on old favourites. It is good to be given something new to keep us on our toes.

So please think of us on Sunday mornings and perhaps you would care to join us for some good singing and thoughtful worship.

10.30 am every Sunday, on the Barton Highway just over the border into New South Wales.

You will be most welcome.

Many Blessings
Pastor Bernie

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History of the Hall

Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

As Canberra approaches the celebration of its centenary, we are reminded of how much communities like Hall have contributed to that history. The Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade is currently working on updating its historical base that to date has been kindly provided by Brian O'Connor and Jim Rochford. If members of the community are able to provide us with any further details or photographs please contact their Vice President Melissa Riches at melissariches@optusnet.com.

As we review our records, we are proud to publish Part 1 of our Brigade's history as we continue to serve the ACT from within the Hall Village.

About Us on Loftus Street

The Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade was first established in the summer of 1943-44, becoming the third of the four official brigades operating in the ACT - Mulligan's Flat, Weetangera and Tuggeranong. Today Hall is the only brigade still in existence under its own title here in the north of Canberra.

In the early days the Brigade held no equipment. Volunteers attended fires and used corn sacks they kept on hand to beat out flames. Beyond these sacks they fashioned beaters from brush cut on the spot. Water carrying knap-sacks were almost unheard of.

As Hall approached the 1950s a central bus shelter was erected from material salvaged from the old Mulligan's Flat School and it doubled as a fire equipment shed. The shed housed leather beaters (a 'modern' derivation of sacks that used strips of leather tightly bound to a wooden handle), McLeod's tools or rakehoes, knap-sack sprays and a hand pump used to transport water. When the brigade wasn't providing fire services, it also completed minor works around the Village, including assisting in the construction of the bridge over Hall Creek.




left to right: Malcom McCloud, Peter Bolton, Bob Watson, (President) Matt Harris, Andy Weaver, Marcus Wanjura, Kevin Bolton, Andy Fulton. The helmet represented an absent John Marshall. The site is the Bolton property at Hall. The Dam in the background no longer exists. The team is standing around Delta motor pump reclaimed from a decommissioned Bedford fire tanker. It was the first quick fill pump employed by our rural fire fighters. Photo courtesy of archives.

During the 1960s a 2000 gallon water tank was erected on a high stand on the north west corner of Victoria and Gladstone Streets as a water source for fire fighting. It was kept full by the government water tanker. An actual water supply to the Village of Hall had been under consideration for many years and on 1 April 1967, the Minister for the Interior, the Hon. J. P. Anthony performed the official "turning on" of the water.

With this access to water the Hall Brigade received a donation of a length of canvas and a stand-pipe from the ACT Fire Brigade and locals were shown how to operate them. With no dedicated Brigade Shed the new equipment was stored in a box at the Dalgety Estate Agent's Office (now Alan Golding Real Estate) in Victoria Street.

The original Brigade died out some time around the late 1960s, partly due to a lack of equipment and because most residents worked away from the Village and were not available during the day.



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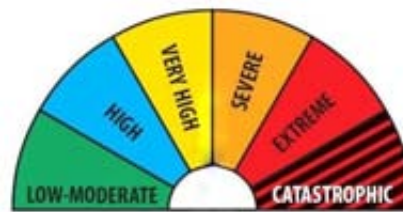
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On 13 February 1979, known as “Black Tuesday”, a fire started on a property called ‘Sunny Corner’, just over the creek from the Hall Showgrounds. Losses in the ACT were 2 cottages, 3 sheds, machinery, stored fodder, approximately 5,000 sheep, 6 horses and \$200,000 worth of fencing. The majority of losses were in the immediate Hall district. A total of 16,500 hectares of land was burnt out in the ACT and NSW. The cause of the fire was found to be drop-out fuse from high-tension powerlines.

After the “Black Tuesday” fire Jim Rochford gathered together a group of locals and in October 1979, under Chief Fire Control Officer Cliff Parsons, a new era in the Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade commenced. The new Brigade had 14 members.

The Brigade’s first vehicle was a 4WD Toyota Landcruiser complete with pump and tank, which was presented to the Brigade in November 1979 by Cliff Parsons. In 1982 the ACT Bush Fire Council presented the Brigade with a 1962 Bedford tanker with a 3,500 litre capacity. This vehicle was ‘retired’ in September 1990 to the neighbouring Wallaroo Brigade in NSW.



After years of negotiations, in 1985 a 3 door fire shed was erected in Loftus Street and was officially opened by the then Governor General, Sir Ninian Stephens on 19 April 1986. This was the first of the government-sponsored fire sheds here in the ACT.

In 1985 Hall approached the ACT Volunteer Brigades Association to host the first Field Day here in the ACT, believing Field Days would lift the training and operational standard of all ACT Brigades. The ACT’s involvement in large campaign fires, both here and interstate, has seemed to vindicate this belief in skills enhancement.

The Hall Brigade also designed and built the first “Quickfill” trailer which incorporates an independent motor-driven pump and ancillary equipment for fast drafting of water from local rural water supplies to re-fill firefighting vehicles. This trailer can also be used to provide additional pumping capability in hose relays or in uphill hose lays. It is now standard issue across all ACT brigades and in many parts of NSW and Victoria.



Hall firetanker 104 in the 1980’s. This was our first Tanker. The place is Cusack Crossing, Parkwood. The locally designed “quick fill” is receiving it’s first try out. Bob Watson and Kevin Bolton are identifiable.

In the mid 1990s the Hall Brigade Executive felt there was a need to establish a Junior Brigade to provide a focus for young people in the area between the ages of 12 and 15 years and to help them develop a sense of community awareness and provide them with training to assist their seamless transition to senior firefighting at 16 years of age. On 25 March 1996 Hall Brigade officially launched its Junior Brigade.

Just over ten years later this commitment to juniors was vindicated during the January 2003

bushfires with 73% of the Hall RFS crews previously trained as juniors within the brigade. This percentage actually represent a retention rate of almost 80%, a very real achievement when the average senior’s retention rate in the ACT is 20% after two years of service. In 2011 this service record was recognised with the Hall Juniors named the ACT’s Youth Citizens of the Year.

Today the Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade boasts a membership of 35 and the following operational vehicles: 1 x 4WD Command Unit, 2 x 4WD dual cab tankers, 1 x 4WD medium tanker, 1 x 4WD light unit, 1 x Quickfill trailer, 1 x dual axle trailer and 1 x catering trailer.



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A gem in our backyard

Gold Creek Station

Reporter **Kevin Stone**

The Gold Creek Station is a working pastoral property at Hall. The Starr family has run the property and made tour groups most welcome with typical friendly country hospitality for more than 20 years.

Recently a touring party of 34 American students and accompanying adults visited the local station as part of a 17-day educational travel tour of Australia.

They came from both sides of America - North Carolina and Nevada - as part of the People to People program, which was set up by US President Eisenhower over 50 years ago. The successful program gives young people an opportunity to see different countries and cultures and to expand their global knowledge and life experiences.

And from the smiling faces, positive vibes, laughter and friendly camaraderie ('mateship' to them by the end of their 17 days) they certainly seemed to be enjoying their whirlwind trip in Australia so far.



Doing it like the experts! ↑

So even an overcast day and light rain wasn't going to stop this enthusiastic and attentive group from having a good time.

Craig Starr engaged the students with his informative talks and hands-on demonstrations of sheep handling. The students happily volunteered to handle some of the animals and were pleasantly surprised how flexible and docile they were. Some of the students said this was the first time they had seen a live sheep, let alone touched one and commented about the softness of the wool.

Craig told them the sheep aren't always quite so passive, saying how they get their chance for revenge if they're not being shorn correctly. Not sure if the students would like to try that one!!

Digger and Ned, the two resident Kelpie yard/paddock dogs were also a hit. They showed off their skills in working the sheep and keeping a keen eye on them to make sure they didn't escape.



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How wonderful it was for the students to actually hear the sound of a kookaburra and see cockatoos in the gum trees in our beautiful, clean Australian countryside and to be on a working pastoral property, all within walking distance of Canberra suburbs.

But of course a trip 'downunder' wouldn't be complete without a bit of boomerang tossing. Craig is really good at this, so was able to show all the right techniques. And some of the students who have never been near a boomerang before did pretty well too. Others? Well even some of the cars were ducking!!! But great fun was had by all.

'Craig explained things really well'. 'He's very kind and patient'. 'Very friendly and welcoming'. 'I really enjoyed the true Aussie experience'. These are just some of the positive comments heard on the day.

So the time spent at the Gold Creek Station - or in someone's words, 'on an Aussie farm' - will long be fondly remembered.



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Hall Pre School news

by **Cindy Condon**

The *Sleepy Bears* have had a busy Term 2. We have sung, chanted and acted out many of our favourite nursery rhymes and completed many fun activities based on this theme. We had another "old day" dress up day, to help Elizabeth Burness (a local history performance artist) launch a collection of texts based on local historical stories.

The local Hall Ball was on in Hall, which is a fundraising event organised in conjunction with Hall Preschool Parent Committee and the Hall Rugby Club. Chris Cairns (ex-NZ Cricketer) who now resides in Canberra and Rhys Muldoon from Playschool (and various other media) were guest speakers on the night and we had over 110 people attend.

The *Sleepy Bears* created wonderful animal statues as the centrepieces for the tables at



Lily busy creating Humpty Dumpty using real egg shells.



Isabelle and Frankie working on our abstract artwork for the Hall Ball

the Ball and also became mini Picasso's and created a large abstract artwork, which was auctioned on the night. It sold for \$275! A total of \$2000 was raised on the night for Hall Preschool. A big thank you to those people on the committee who helped with the organisation of the Hall Ball. It is great to see such community spirit and to know that the Preschool is valued so highly in the community!

The children are having a great time at Preschool, playing with their friends and developing their skills and creativity. We have had our Learning Journeys, which gave the *Sleepy Bears* the opportunity to share their learning with their families. They were so proud of their work!

We are now having more fun and excitement in Term 3.

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Composting

by **Lisa Walmsley**

This is something we all should do, it is relatively easy, once in the habit, very rewarding if you remember to spread it, and brilliantly sustainable. It's like sowing what we reap; giving back what you take and what goes around comes around. It's great, if only we could all do it, and that includes me.

It's the perfect way to 'feed' the soil and soon you will reap the rewards.

It keeps the kitchen and garden waste out of the landfills and thus prevents the gases created there that we'd like to avoid. In various parts of the world, kitchen waste has been banned from rubbish collection, forcing people to compost. When I had a larger garden with room for an enormous pile I did that and trekked out daily to a spot hidden by the shed. It meant in my daily jaunts I was able to explore new things evolving in the garden, such as the first bulb to escape through the soil and the first flower to burst its bud. I still remember the stunning encounter with a family of blue wrens, sitting on me for a very brief moment on a crisp spring morning when the frost was still on the ground.



Ideally you should use a small bin hidden somewhere and easy to just drop off that odd bit of tomato, cucumber, radish from the salad makings in any time of year. Small is good because it forces you to take it out regularly. Another benefit that keeps me on track with this habit is that I don't have smelly kitchen trash!

Many other garden/green waste products can be added to your compost such as leaves, trimmings and lawn clippings, although folks passionate about their compost would probably suggest to leave the grass out. Weeds are not so great either, especially if they have gone to seed and will just germinate around

the garden again. A weed seed can last as many as 20 years in the soil, so keep them to a minimum if you can.

Manure and soil may also be added along with newspaper and egg cartons; this will all break down and form a lovely rich organic mixture, perfect for improving your soil and feeding worms.

So if you feel a rush of blood to contribute back to your garden, go out today, get a small bucket with a lid and start composting, it can be your contribution to reducing the greenhouse gases and maybe even reduce eventually the carbon price!!!

the *Shearing Shed* Hair Salon

The Shearing Shed Hair Salon was established in the beautiful village of Hall ACT, on 1 November 2002. With quiet surrounds it is hard to believe we are less than 10 minutes from Gungahlin and Belconnen, as well as the convenience of free parking right at our front door.

We all would like to invite you to come and experience the relaxing atmosphere and the friendly staff of our salon, we are all skilled in all areas of hairdressing and are continually updating through education with Joico and Fudge. We also consider ourselves very family friendly with a DVD player for the kids while they are here and free WI-FI for you to use every time you visit. As a winter special we would like to offer 15% off any service for all new and existing clients when you mention this advertisement.

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Jakob's story . . .

Having just returned from a seven week family holiday in Europe (far, far away from this cold weather) Jakob and Blake Leishman have plenty of stories to tell!



Jakob and Blake at the Eiffel Tower ↑



16,920 km to Hall! ↑

My Holiday

I have just returned from Europe with my family. We went to Paris in France and Bern, Zurich, and Lucern in Switzerland. We also went to Milan, Lake Como, Venice, Florence, Tuscany, Amalfi Coast and Rome in Italy. My favourite place was Paris because we got to go up the Eiffel Tower. Wow! I couldn't believe I was standing in front of it! It was so big that you could see it for miles. It was really awesome. We took a elevator up the very top. I felt excited. We got out of the elevator I could see all over Paris. Every thing looked like lego blocks and matchbox cars. After we took lots of photos we found a sign that said we were 16920 km away from Canberra. That's a long way!

We decided to walk down from the second level of the tower for a bit of fun. It took about 15 minutes walking down the steps and our legs were a bit wobbly when we got to the bottom. We went back to the Eiffel Tower at night time. It was so pretty because it was all lit up. It was even better when the 20,000 lights that get turned on for a few minutes every hour. The Eiffel Tower sparkled like a million stars.

My Holiday was the best. I hope I can go back overseas one day to discover other great things. I better start saving.

BY Jakob (11 years)



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Blake's story . . .



I am a Gladiator!
 Last week I was in Rome the capital of Italy. While I was in Rome I learnt how to be a Gladiator! Gladiators were professional fighters in Ancient Rome times, many many years ago.

First I put on a tunic and then I put on a rope belt so I would look like a real gladiator! Then I was ready for training a big rope lots of times, I had to do dodge moving sand bags and then I had to jump over a wooden stool. I had to do these activities over and over again. I was soon sweaty and pretty. We were given wooden swords and taught some gladiator skills like attacking and blocking. We practised hard until we got it right. Finally I got to battle. My gladiator teacher scored us points for using the skills we had learnt in training. I versed my dad and won. I felt great! We were given awards to show we had learnt how to be gladiators. My award said my gladiator name was crixus who was a good friend to the famous gladiator Spartacus. I felt proud. Now I am ready to battle in the mighty Colosseum! By Blake.

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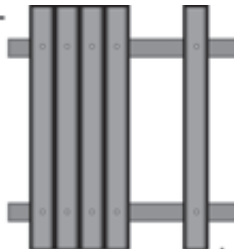


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Karate in Hall

Hall students train with 8th dan karate instructor

Local Goju Ryu karate students Marjorie Crombie, John Sayers, Georgie Sayers, Bobbi Sayers and Brianna Steggall trained with 8th dan instructor Bakkies Laubscher at the AIS in May.

Hall's karate students were shown basic and advanced techniques along with fitness and flexibility exercises. Sensei Bakkies is the number two instructor in our organisation and we benefit greatly from his annual visits from South Africa.



AIS training session in May, from left: Arianna Venus, Vince Publico, Sam Steggall, Brianna Steggall, Sensei Bakkies Laubscher, Marjorie Crombie, Lexie Saldano, Phil Collins.

Several students were graded to 9th Kyu: Willoughby Mansfield, Trudy Mansfield, Natalie Carroll, Marjorie Crombie, Xanthe Sheargold, Ruby Sheargold, Nick Bell, Jack Crowe and Brianna Steggall. Georgia Peake and Darcy and Atticus Mansfield will be grading in the near future.

I congratulate those students who have kept up their training during the colder months. The key to developing karate skills is repetition and regular training.

Training is on every Tuesday at the Hall Pavilion:

- pee wees (under 10s): 5pm – 6pm
- junior and adults: 6pm – 7.30pm

New students welcome.

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from the Editor . . .



One of the most poignant places in Canberra is the SievX Memorial in Weston Park. By including the actual size of the boat (19.5m long) on which about 395 people were crammed, with each of the 353 poles carrying the name of the children, women and men who drowned on 20 October 2001, and even more tragically the poles labelled “unknown”, the memorial is a haunting reminder of the human cost of asylum seeker policy. The numbers of boat arrivals to Australia shown in the table average about 1,000 people per year since 1976.

Australia’s boat arrivals 1976–2012

year	no. of boats**	passengers
1976	56	111
1977		868
1978		746
1979		304
1981		30
1989	1	27
1990	2	198
1991	6	214
1992	6	216
1993	3	81
1994	18	953
1995	7	237
1996	19	660
1997	11	339
1998	17	200
1999	86	3,721
2000	51	2,939
2001	43	5,516
2002	1	1
2003	1	53
2004	1	15
2005	4	11
2006	6	60
2007	5	148
2008	7	161
2009	60	2,727
2010	132	6,502
2011	69	4,572
2012*	85	5,457
TOTAL		37,703

Neither the government or the opposition have yet devised a humane policy for people desperate enough to try and escape countries where their governments cannot afford them protection. Inspiration might come from reading Anh Do’s glorious book “The Happiest Refugee”. Or perhaps a stroll through Weston Park might help.

And from the national to local agenda, I’d like to encourage everyone to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association on August 15 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion. Make sure your voice is heard and come and have your say in who should represent you!

Until next issue,

Jo Hall

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The Rural Fringe is a community newspaper published in 600 copies every second month by the Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc (VHDPA) and distributed free to mailboxes of the 2618 postcode. It is also available online at www.hall.act.au 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.

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April issue deadline is 10 March

June issue deadline is 10 May

August issue deadline is 10 July

October issue deadline is 10 September

December issue deadline is 10 November

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

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

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* Until July 19

** Counting the number of boats is fraught because of changes in the way of counting; for example UNHCR estimates that 1600 people were diverted during 2001-4 so not counted. Source: Phillips, J and Spinks, H (2009). Boat arrivals in Australia since 1976. Parliamentary Library, <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/bn/sp/boatarrivals.htm> and Project SafeCom at <http://www.safecom.org.au/pdfs/boat-arrivals-stats.pdf>

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