

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district



VOLUME 20 ISSUE 2

April 2013



70th Sheep Dog Trials



We are proud to host the most prestigious sheep dog trials in all of Australia, the National Sheepdog Trials, in our village each year at Hall show grounds. Starting with the best working bee ever, thanks to the Hall firies and other Hall residents, the ground was set up in record time and looked a picture. With excellent sheep supplied by the Starr family of Hall and six days of fine weather from 12 to 17 March, high scores were the order of the day, with handlers and dogs at the top of their game.

The trial course is laid out with gate, race, bridge and pen representing the obstacles the sheep dog encounters in his daily work. Fifteen minutes are allowed to complete the trial. Each competitor starts with 100 points, some of which are deducted for errors by the dog and the worker, or obstacles not negotiated. Should the dog cross between the three sheep and the worker he is deemed to be out of control and is disqualified. Ideally, the dog should keep the sheep close to the worker within an area 7-8 metres wide. Points are deducted when the sheep are off course or escape, or when the judge considers the dog is not working, the dog turns tail, or the worker wanders off course or stops to assist the dog.

Champion of Champions for the trials was taken by Jim Dodge of Snake Valley in Victoria with his dog Viewfield Cossie. Jim and Viewfield Cossie won the Open Championship (the Queen's Trophy and the Duke of Gloucester Sash) as well as the Ross Dodge Trophy, Cusacks of Canberra Trophy and the Melissa Gillard Trophy. Jim's success at the Trials was well deserved, popular and emotional, as Jim's father (winner of six Nationals himself) had donated the Ross Dodge Trophy shortly before



his death four years ago. Jim's sister Sheryl attended to present her father's trophy, so it ended up being quite a day for the Dodge family.

Local trialer, Laurier Slater from Murrumbateman, also had an excellent trial with second place in the Open as well as winning the National Improver Championship the Governor General's Sash with his dog Wondara Cloudy. The New Zealand High Commission Shield for maiden dogs (which have never won a trial) was taken out by Greg Prince from Dubbo with Tippers Biscuit. Full results are available at:

<http://nationalsheepdogs.webone.com.au>

Off the field were the social aspects of the week, particularly the morning tea scones, and a hugely successful 'Dog's Dinner' on Thursday at the Pavilion. The Dogs Dinner Wine Label has now become a collector's item. A group of very special and hard working ladies from Hall, under the enthusiastic leadership of Helen White, organise these events each year to make the dog trialers feel welcome and connected with our community. This was Helen's tenth and final year as chief organiser and she is passing the hat (excuse the pun!) to our very own milliner Trish McIntyre for next year.

Thanks to the National Sheep Dogs Trial, the ladies' committee, residents of Hall village, and all those who helped in any way to make this year's trials an outstanding success and maintain the National as the major event of its type in Australia.

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Parties at the Shops

Victoria Street came alive on 12 March, reminding many older residents of last century's 'Tru Blu Do' (ask your mother or father...). Local garage band West Texas Crude, armed with their new CD, gave great musical colour and rhythm to a crowded and memorable street party.

'Parties at the Shops' was part of the Centenary celebrations, to mark and celebrate the role of local shops in the story of Canberra. Hall's shops have a very special place in that story of course, predating Canberra. Our General Store began life in 1889, and for much of the time since has also been home to the Hall Post Office.



Our own elder citizen and Canberra centenarian Jim Rochford made a ceremonious arrival by horse drawn carriage (with young Greg Rule as groom), and cut a beautifully decorated birthday cake (made by Hall's confectioner Jane of Sweet Dreams) - marking his, and Canberra's, 100th year.

Congratulations to Gavin and Trudy Mansfield, and all those who worked hard to make the Parties at the Shops such an enjoyable and memorable evening.



In Victoria Street a range of local enterprises and community groups put their offerings on display. Amongst them Hall Attic staged a lucky dip, the Bushrangers Rugby Club had food and drinks, Peter and Anne O'Clery offered Homeleigh olive products, others offered local wines and artwork, and there were pizzas from Jacko's Pizza Truck.



Some people are asking why we don't do this every year?!



Dr Jennifer Strachan

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Karate skills on show

Well done to the karate club members who demonstrated their Goju-ryu skills to the Victoria Street crowd on Canberra's 100th birthday.

Students from pee wees to adults demonstrated basics including blocks, punches and kicks with loud kiai's (yelling!). The highlights were students performing their first kata and a demonstration of kata applications (bunkai).



Congratulations to all students for 'having a go' and showing Hall their martial arts ability. It takes courage to stand in front of your friends and neighbours and demonstrate your karate skills – well done.

These sentiments were supported by the Parties at the Shops organising committee, who were delighted with the 'totally awesome' efforts of the karate kids and ladies who performed in the demonstration.

Club members are training now for their next grading towards the middle of this year. Training is on Tuesdays at the Hall Pavilion: pee wees 5-6pm, juniors and adults 6-8pm.

New members welcome, please contact Sensei Sam (John Steggall) on 0430 153 375.



Letters to the editor

'Dog's Dinner' on Thursday 14 March at the Pavilion.

To My Dear Friends,
 What a beautiful night, the Hall look superb, great job Trish. I can't believe how well the Committee works together, thank you for my wonderful gift and the lovely words from you all in my card (still teary) I wish the new committee all the best for the 71st year Anniversary keep up the great work - I am still around to annoy to all
 Best wishes
 Garie xx

Dear Helen and Bob,
 What a lot of work went into last night's event - well you did us all proud! What a wonderful committee you have that can work together and pull something off like that last night. Paul & I had a great time and so did our guests - they are still talking/emailing about it - I caught up with people I hadn't seen for ages eg Craig Sheargold for one - my guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves too and were thrilled to have been invited. The decorations were an absolute knockout whoever thought that idea up - it looked absolutely smashing. The pre-dinner 'nibbles' were fantastic too and were a meal in themselves. We can't say enough about it - it was friendly and all go right from beginning to end, we loved it! Please pass on our thanks to the rest of the committee as well.
 regards
 Yvonne Lipscomb & Paul Larsen



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Tree removal in lower Victoria Street

Community Information Evening, 7 March 2013

A Community Information Evening was held by the VHDPA (Village of Hall & District Progress Association) to inform concerned and interested residents of the proposed removal of trees at the lower end of Victoria Street and the Memorial Grove.

Over 20 residents attended and expressed their concerns about the tree removal and lack of appropriate community consultation and consideration of the sentiments and views of families associated with trees in the Memorial Grove.

The meeting opened with Michael Brice from UrbanTreescapes giving an overview of why the trees have to be removed:

- 13 trees have been identified as being of potential risk to users of the area
- As a department the policy is to try and keep / preserve trees where possible.
- This is not achievable in this case with the nominated trees because of issues of dieback and structural insecurity.
- The trees were recognised as having local heritage value and ACT Heritage had been made aware of the issues. Letter tabled from that department.
- It was most unlikely that the trees will be replaced with the same species as they are no longer supported by the department because of maintenance issues
- The meeting identified several trees in the memorial grove area with plaques commemorating war service by local residents.
- The meeting suggested that the families be consulted regarding tree replacement options.
- One suggestion was that because of the symbolism, 'Lone Pine' trees might be considered.
- There was some acknowledgement by the Department that there had been some difficulties with the community notification processes adopted.
 - 1) Poor notification of the planned removal in 2012
 - 2) Poisoning of the trees during the community consultation period in 2013
 - 3) It seemed that not all the memorial trees cut down were going to be replaced
 - 4) There was no consultation with the families and an apparent lack of sensitivity with regard to the replacement of the memorial trees
 - 5) A lack of recognition of the symbolism attached to these trees and those remembered there
 - 6) No consultation with Veterans Affairs with regard to the replacement management/processes.

- Michael Brice agreed to follow up issues raised at the meeting and to remain in touch with Tony Morris chairman at the Meeting.
- He advised the trees would probably be re-planted in late winter so there was enough time to consider the issues raised at the meeting and report back.
- Because of their location the trees would be well guarded against vandalism.
- Replaced trees are usually watered for a period of about 18 months after planting.
- Mulch generated by the removal could be made available to the community.



It was also suggested that members of the Hall community may be of assistance in tracking down the families to be consulted about the tree removal.

Now, having an understanding of the sentiments attached to the area, Department of Territory and Municipal Services representatives have undertaken to pursue the issues raised at the meeting.

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Easter in Hall

Bob Richardson religious reporter



Hall combined Christian churches confirmed their Easter traditions on Good Friday by traveling the 13 stations of the cross. Starting at Saint Xavier's on the hill, the 100 or more congregation members, lead by their church leaders, wound their way in a warm autumn sun down Victoria Street. Each stop represented a station of the cross, where prayers were offered.



Julia Hayes

Many residents in the village will remember Julia Hayes from her time at Hall School and when working at the Hall Premier Store. Julia completed an Arts/Law degree at the ANU last year and recently received three prizes from the Law Faculty.



Julia is pictured receiving the Commonwealth Attorney-General Department's Prize for top academic performance in her graduating semester from Mr David Fredericks (Deputy Secretary of AG's). Julia also received the ACT Women Lawyers' Association Prize award for top female student in her graduating semester and was a joint winner of the Thomson Reuters Prize for Community Law Clinical Program.

Congratulations to Julia who is now working in the Department of Immigration and Citizenship which is sure to present some new challenges!



hallschool MUSEUM
The Laurie Copping Heritage Centre

'Hall and District 1913'

Official opening at 10 am Saturday 13th April

'Hall Village and District 1913' exhibition will be held at the Hall Primary School on 13-14 April 2013 from 10am to 4pm each day. The exhibition will be part of the ACT Heritage Festival and the Canberra 100 celebrations.

The exhibition will include a walk along a re-creation of Victoria Street as it was in 1913 with photos and artifacts from the various businesses that were there at the time.

Other attractions will include:

- Old vehicles from the Hall Collectors' Club
- Face painting and other activities for children
- Sausage sizzle by the Rotary Club of Hall
- Displays of the old trades of the time by the Hall Mens' Shed
- Quilting display
- Old time dancing by the Monaro Folk Group
- A mapping display of the schools that were in the region when Canberra was proclaimed in 1913
- and other activities too numerous to mention!

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As you read this report Easter will be over and we will have all enjoyed the public holidays that Easter gives us. So perhaps we should reflect for a moment on why we take these holidays?

Probably, because our workplace closes down for those days and we don't have to go to work, or perhaps we do work and get a higher rate of pay because of the inconvenience of working on a day when "normal" people are on holiday. Interestingly, ministers do not get extra benefits at this time, but still work Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Therefore, Easter provides us with extra leisure time to spend in relaxing and having a good time. However, do we thank God for these holidays? Do we remember just what Jesus did for us? Do we make our annual pilgrimage to church?

Easter is a commemoration of the unjust execution of an innocent man. A time to reflect on just what we humans did to achieve a political solution to an age old problem. It appeared that evil had once again triumphed over good. That nuisance Jesus, that man who taught love and forgiveness, had been done away with: removed from the scene. However, this time the powers of evil had failed – Jesus did not go away, he rose from the grave and continued his ministry of good deeds, of helping the poor and needy of the world.

Do you want to hear more about this policy of helping others? Then may I suggest you visit your local church and listen to the way we can change our world for the better. I would urge you to practice love and forgiveness and feel just how good it is to give rather than receive.

Our church may not be perfect, but we do try – each Sunday 10.30 am.

Many Blessings
Pastor Bernie

Petition for the Barton Highway Duplication

Rowena Abbey, Mayor of Yass Valley, on behalf of all users of the Barton Highway will be seeking a commitment from the Prime Minister of Australia, Julia Gillard, and the leader of the Opposition, Tony Abbott, to fund the duplication of the Barton Highway as a matter of urgency.

Nearby locations where the petition can be signed include:

Murrumbateman:

- Murrumbateman Tavern
- Service Station & General Store
- Shaw's Winery

Village of Hall:

- Hall Premier Store
- Canberra Rural Stock Feeds
- Hall Service Station

Information about other locations is available on
www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au

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Barton Blitz

visited by tragedy and a record number of speeding motorists

For 14 days, from 31 January the Barton Blitz speed campaign saw a record number of motorists booked by NSW Highway Patrol. It also saw tragedy on the busy local highway with one fatality occurring during the second week of the blitz. Police are still calling for witnesses to the accident to come forward.

Motorists would have noticed the increased presence of the Yass Highway Patrol, with 70 drivers booked for speeding. Thirty six of those were from the Yass Valley area, with ACT and Yass Valley drivers accounting for more than two-thirds of the speeding tickets issued. The highest speed recorded was by a 40 year old male driver who was recorded at speeds up to 154 km/h.

Also of concern was a P-plater, restricted to 90 km/h, who was detected at a speed of 120 km/h.

It wasn't just speeding drivers that caught the attention of police. There were many other drivers booked for overtaking on double lines, unregistered vehicles, driving while unlicensed, as well as a disqualified driver being detected. Motorists are also still illegally using their mobile phones when driving the busy highway, with three motorists caught out.

The Barton Blitz also saw a large number of RBTs, with 920 breath tests conducted by police.

"Although speeding is still clearly an issue on the Barton Highway, this operation has shown that drivers are engaging in other risky behaviours when behind the wheel. A moment's inattention and distraction can have disastrous results, not only for the driver but also the other motorists on the road," says Alison Beresford, Councils Road Safety Officer.

Acting Yass Highway Patrol Sergeant Steve Yeo continues, "Police will continue to work closely with Council and the RMS in an effort to improve driver behaviour. However, it comes down to individual drivers taking responsibility for their actions behind the wheel. If motorists witness poor driving they are encouraged to contact police. You can remain anonymous."

MURRUMBATEMAN LANDCARE LINKING BIODIVERSITY FIELD DAY



Sunday 21st April 2013

9.30 am - 1.30 pm

'Bundidgerry'
Mountain Vale Rd,
Murrumbateman

Murrumbateman Landcare Group and Greening Australia Capital Region invite you to a pleasant morning on the farm for a

Bird Walk and Field Day

Come and see how many birds we can discover, and along the way learn how native plants can be integrated into sustainable farming systems to improve both production and conservation.

We will be joined by Canberra Ornithologist Group bird experts
Nicki Taws and Malcolm Fyfe!

Where to meet: 'Bundidgerry' Turn off Murrumbateman Rd into Dicks Creek Rd, travel approx. 2.4 km and turn left into Mountain Vale Rd, follow to the top of the hill and turn right into 'Bundidgerry' gate (follow the signs).

What to Bring: hats, water, appropriate footwear, binoculars and 4WD's (if you have them). Note there will be a moderate amount of walking involved. Morning tea and lunch provided.

RSVP **Essential:** Thursday 18th April
Contact: Lori Ph 62533035 or email: lgould@act.greeningaustralia.org.au




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DARRALEE QUARRY



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

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Museum

Musings



Phil Robson Honorary Curator

The team at the Hall School Museum are busy getting material ready for the "Hall and District 1913" exhibition for ACT Heritage Week celebrations on **13 and 14 April**.

The large mural which will be the background to the exhibition has been completed and will be mounted over the next week or two. Donations and loans of artifacts and photos have been coming in steadily and will feature in the exhibition. Many thanks to all the donors, including Bevis Brown and Necia Graham who have loaned some wonderful material and photos relating to the old Hall Premier Store. A reminder that if you have any old Hall and District material but do not wish to lend it beforehand but are agreeable to let us make copies on the day, we will have a facility in place for copying and scanning old photos and documents. So all Hallites and others are invited to attend the exhibition and to enjoy the many attractions that have been organised for the weekend.

Kingsley Southwell has been going through his mother Beryl's collection of photos, newspapers and other old documents and has discovered a photo of an image of the old Ginninderra Farmers Union Hall being hauled behind Ernie Gribble's traction engine when it was moved to the Hall Showground in 1930.

There is a lot of interesting material, including early Ginninderra and Hall Show items that have come to light.

Community Forum for Wallaroo & Spring Range

Yass Valley Council will be conducting a
Community Forum for the
Wallaroo & Spring Range residents

4.00pm – 6.00 pm Thursday 16th May 2013

Gooromon Park, Gooromon Park Road, Wallaroo

This will be an open house environment with light refreshments where residents and ratepayers can come and talk to Senior staff one on one and meet your Councillors.

Input from the community into these forums will be used by Council when reviewing the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.



Clean up Australia 2013

A small number of residents participated in this year's clean up along Wallaroo Road. Those volunteers collected a considerable amount of rubbish and for this we all say 'thank you'. Fast food wrappings and drink cans continue to form a large part of the rubbish collected. We hope that in future those who travel along our roads will refrain from throwing and dumping goods onto the roadside, so that it will not require members of the community to clean up after them.



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LORIENDALE APPLE DAY

6th April 2013

Loriendale Orchard is hosting its 23rd annual Apple Day festival on Saturday 6th April (1.30 – 5.00pm), at Carrington Road, just 5kms along Spring Range Road. The passing years have seen an expansion of the varieties of apples and pears grown by Owen and Noreen Pidgeon at the orchard. They have close to 120 varieties of apples now which makes for a long harvest period. The first apples are ripe in early January and the last in June.



Early April is the time when the biggest number of apple varieties are ready for picking. So you can be pleasantly surprised by 25–30 types of apples to select from on Apple Day. There is the very good, round with bright colour called Bonza. This originated in Batlow in 1950 so it is not a surprise that it produces a good crop every year.

Most apple varieties originated in European countries or later on from North America. The lovely purple skin Spartan apple is from Canada, with one of its parents being the famous McIntosh. The lovely little Snowy apple with its snow white flesh came originally from France and was then taken across to Canada and finally reached the shores of Australia. Older Victorian folk often bought this apple in their early years.

This orchard grows its fruit and vegetables under certified organic standards. Some apple varieties are disease resistant (that is, not succumbing to the apple scab problems). So it is beneficial to grow these varieties in the orchard. Summer Red, Bonza, Topaz and Svatava are disease resistant varieties. The latter two have been brought into Australia from the Czech Republic in recent years. They resemble in taste the Pink Lady and they are growing well in Spring Range Road.

One challenge has been to decide which varieties will grow well here and then to secure a supply. We have sourced apple trees from propagation nurseries in Orange and Batlow; Castlemaine, Dandenong and Portland in Victoria and Huon Valley in Tasmania. There are now several suppliers of heritage fruit trees with internet sales sites. Yalca Fruit Trees in Victoria and Woodbridge Fruit Trees in Tasmania both have a good selection.

Apple Day at Loriendale promotes local produce. There will be a wide range of fruits and vegetables. The first quinces will be ripe and the 50 heritage varieties of tomatoes being grown this summer will still be producing.

It is a relaxing afternoon with wonderful, gentle music being provided by local pianists, orchestras and choirs.

Devonshire teas/coffees are served and visitors can sit in the garden setting to listen and to chat with friends. There is the opportunity to see fresh apple juice being made on a wooden C19th century style apple press. French crepes, Dutch pancakes and organic beef BBQ products will be cooked fresh. Apple pies and strudels made just the night before will also be on sale. Organic jams, relishes and jellies will be available. For folk who want to know more about the apples being grown, there is an Apple Advisory and Tasting Marquee.

Loriendale Orchard has been conducting this Apple Day as a fund raising event with the North Belconnen and Wattle Park Uniting Churches. Projects being supported include Frontier Services work in the outback, community development projects funded through TEAR Australia, the Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara Nepal Nungalinga Aboriginal Training College in Darwin. Our feature project this year is the Kibera School located in the slums of Nairobi.

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Hats "Off"

for local resident milliner to meet Royalty

Local Hall resident Trish McIntyre had the unexpected phone call that changed her plans for Melbourne Cup Day 2012. Trish has attended the Spring Carnival for the past 22 years and this phone call was to change the "norm" on cup day for her and her partner Bernie Brennan. Trish was nominated to the Victorian Racing Club for her duties to the community over the past 25 years and her current work with the National Jockeys Trust. The NJT is an organisation to raise funds and awareness for injured jockeys and their families with medical bills and to try to make every day living a little easier for their family.

Trish felt extremely humble to receive this award, as she feels there are so many other people doing volunteer work in communities who are not recognised.



Trish did not go out and buy anything new as she had a full outfit already for the cup. Brilliant Canberra designer Gloria Grady designed Trish's outfit. Trish purchased the fabric while in Dubai. Trish is a milliner, so her hat was not a problem to complete the outfit. The dress was in colours of lime wash blue, purple and orange. A blue lime wash peplum jacket, burnt orange shoes, bag, leather gloves, and hat in jinsin fabric trimmed in french lace (purchased in Paris) with hand made silk dupion orange to complete the overall look.

Trish had protocol to adhere to on the day. She was presented at 1:55pm, starting with a curtsy to both Prince Charles as "Your Royal Highness the Duke of York" and to Camilla "Your Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall". After

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the Royal handshake and curtsy, it was then "Sir" and "Madam" (as in "jam"). Trish spoke with both Charles and Camilla for approximately 5 minutes, with Camilla showing a lot of interest and giving information about the Trust in "her country" as she put it. Trish would have liked to ask questions about the Trust in the UK as she found Camilla to be very informative and friendly but part of the protocol was no questions.



Camilla looked lovely in a tone on tone of winter white, dress, and coat trimmed in French lace. Both appeared very relaxed. The Prince and Camilla sat in the seats two down from Trish and Bernie to watch the beautifully trained Green Moon win the cup owned by Lloyd Williams. This is Lloyds fourth cup win and giving jet-setting jockey Brett Prebble his first cup win. Brett, who is now based in Hong Kong, said he gave Green Moon "the ride of my life" to score in the \$6.2 Melbourne Cup. Brett was very



kind in signing a pair of breeches donated by retired champion jockey Wayne Harris that were auction on Cup Eve. The breeches raised \$3200 for the National Jockeys Trust that Trish helped organise.

Trish and Bernie were entertained for the full day in the VRC Chairman's dining room. French champagne, caviar, crab, various fish dishes, delicious salads and beautifully prepared vegetables and beautiful desserts for lunch, high tea of cucumber sandwiches and delicious petit fours. French champagne flowed all day with wonderful waiters right by your side to do the "top up."

Amanda Elliot gave a moving speech of the Melbourne Cup history. In addition, what people would be doing on this day around Australia? Trish said she felt very proud to have this great award and to be an Australian on this wonderful day here in Melbourne. Just how lucky are we?

The formals finished at 7:00pm then Trish and Bernie were off to dinner to catch up with friends and chat not only about the day's activities with "the Royals" but all the racing news from the day.

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.

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Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade

Helping to restore a piece of Canberra's history

Melissa Riches President

As Canberra celebrates its Centenary, we are reminded of how much community activities have contributed to that history. Canberra's transformation from the pastoral settlement of the Limestone Plains to Australia's National Capital is the story of people with vision, commitment and an unwavering belief that this place was worth being part of. The growth of Canberra is about a commitment to that community in the past, present and in to the future and any celebration of that has to begin with the people who have been part of that commitment.

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. Today Hall is the only one of those brigades still in existence and indeed the Brigade played an integral part in the formation of the other two volunteer brigades here in the north of Canberra.

Hall Brigade wants to share with the people of Canberra a special project that is about telling the history of the Brigade, celebrating the heritage values of the Village of Hall and proudly relaying the stories of the ACT's volunteer firefighters in restoring Hall's first fire tanker, HALL 104, back to a working historic vehicle available for community events and return it to being part of Canberra's Centenary memorabilia.



Hall 104, a 1964 RL Bedford was a 300 cubic inch petrol truck that carried an 850 gallon (or 3825 litre) tank with a 138 Holden Grey 2.5 inch Delta pump in support. HALL 104 first came in to service with the Brigade in 1982 and was the first ACT fire truck to be fitted with heat shields.

Secured from NSW Forestry by Chief Fire Control Officers Cliff Parsons and Val Jeffrey, HALL 104 had the distinctive green and gold of the forestry service with its first badging provided in black electrician's tape. HALL 104 was the only heavy tanker in the north of Canberra serving as a first response unit to fires in the area as well as to major blazes in Gudgenby in January 1983 and to the east of the ACT in March 1985.



When gifted to the neighbouring Wallaroo Brigade in the early nineties, HALL 104 had only done 24,000 miles despite its considerable service.

The restoration project, that will involve the Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade, Hall Collector's Club, Hall Men's Shed and, we hope, the Hall community, will provide a local focus with a community outcome.

To this end the Brigade has just run a raffle thanks to generous donations from Florey Supa Express and Florey Hair Design. This raffle has provided us with seed funding to get the project underway and the Brigade is forming a special community working group under the governance of the Brigade. If you would like to be part of this exciting project, please email:

Captain Matt Bolton Matthew.Bolton@actew.com.au
or Vice-President Richard Fulton andy@hallmetal.com.au
and register your interest.

HALL 104 once provided vital protection to the Hall community and it would be worth recording in Canberra's centenary annals that we were able to protect this valiant little tanker in return. Please help us!

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Twilight Concert

Sunday 24th March

Gorgeous weather brought out an appreciative crowd to listen to the dulcet tones of the Victoria St Band and the Hall Village Brass Band. Sponsored by Barnett Lilley & Associates, it continues the fine tradition of the Brass Band's annual return to its first home.

The audience was treated to a program of jazz and popular standards, some featuring vocal soloist Diana Tulip.



from the President

Gavin Mansfield



Dear members and residents of Hall Village and district, We trust everyone has come through the Easter holiday period safely, well and refreshed. There are a number of noticeable things looming around the village over the coming months to keep an eye out for.

Now that Autumn is here, the remake and planting of the Victoria St garden beds will be completed. This is a project involving the Progress Association, Hall Rotary Club, Hall based businesses and the ACT Government.

Out and about



Hall Bootstrappers begin the replacement of the Hall pavilion fence and access. Sport and Recreation ACT have funded the project, with Hall community volunteers providing the labour and skills.

Some new signage will be installed to commence a trial period of utilising the polo cross car park area as a site for overnight stays for the ever increasing band of grey nomads and other travelers.

Work on the removal of a relatively large number of trees along Victoria St as deemed necessary by the relevant experts at TAMS.

The Events Calendar is on the Hall Village website www.hall.act.au along with a veritable feast of other useful and relevant information. All residents of the district should have this site saved to their favourites.

The Committee meets on the third Wednesday of every month. All meetings are open and any member of the Association is welcome to attend. We work hard to ensure that meetings do not run over time or get bogged down on only one or a few issues so it is highly recommended that you notify our Secretary (Shaun O'Connor) prior to the meeting to have any issues you wish to discuss added to the meeting agenda.

As always, your own initiatives and involvement, not the Committee's, are key to the preservation, progress and sustainability of our beautiful village, district and community.



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Hall Men's Shed

by **Kevin Stone**

Extended opening hours

Following expressions of interest from some prospective new members, the men's shed is now open every Saturday morning in addition to the usual Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

The new opening hours mean that men who have been unable to come along during the week due to other commitments now have the opportunity to join the shed or simply drop in and see what activities take place.

Although the majority of members are retired, younger men are also encouraged to join, and having the shed open on Saturday morning may enable them to do so.

The shed's facilities have also been extended into

one of the old school halls after a donation of two workbenches and other equipment. The men can now spread out and take on larger jobs if they want to, working in a safe and comfortable environment.

The more experienced members are only too happy and willing to mentor anyone interested to learn new skills, for example, in the use of wood turning equipment. And of course safety is the number one priority when anyone is using tools and equipment.

But men's sheds are more about companionship than anything else. They're a great way to help men keep active physically, mentally and socially. In fact, a lot of the men come along to the shed mainly for the social side as it's a chance to relax and have a chat in an informal setting.

One of the regular social activities is a barbeque held at the shed on the first Thursday of every month.

The shed is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am till around 12.30pm at the Hall Primary School site on Palmer Street.



Bits from Bette

"Out (the) Back"

(I'm just getting old!!!)



I remember when the loo was a dunny
And the pan-man came at night,
It wasn't the least bit funny
Going out the back with no light!

The interesting items we could read
From the newspaper cut into squares,
And hung on a hook in the out-house
It took little to keep us amused!

The clothes were boiled in the copper
With plenty of foamy suds,
The ironing seemed never ending
As Mum pressed everyone's duds

I remember the slap on the backside
And the taste of soap if we swore,
Anorexia and diets weren't heard of
And we hadn't much choice what we wore.

Do you think that bruised our ego,
Or our initiative was destroyed?
We ate what was put on the table
And we think life was better enjoyed!

Anon

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Hall Pre School Campus

Cindy Condon Classroom Teacher

The Sleepy Bears have all settled in at Hall Preschool and we have been witnessing the start of many new friendships. Cindy Condon is continuing on as the classroom teacher and Wendy Crowley is continuing on as assistant. This year we have a full enrolment, with 9 'four year olds' and 7 'three year olds.' The children have been taking part in many fun, play based learning experiences and developing their emerging social skills through interactions during play with their classmates.

The Sleepy Bears have had a couple of excursions already! Our first was to the 2013 National Sheepdog Trials at Hall Showground. The children were presented with their very own



The Sleepy Bears artwork was on display for every one to admire at the National Sheepdog Trials!



medal in recognition of their wonderful artwork, which they were delighted to see hanging on display in the pavilion. We got to meet a sheepdog and puppy, before being treated to a healthy morning tea. We then went to watch the sheepdogs in action. The day was a wonderful success and enjoyed by all.

We also had a special excursion to Nicholls Preschool, where we saw the fantastic and clever magician, Mr Bamboozle! The children were amazed and delighted throughout the whole show, as many magic tricks were performed in front of their eyes. Some children even became a part of the magic show! When a comment was made to Oliver about his newly discovered magic skills (after he accompanied Mr Bamboozle for a trick) he replied, "Well, I've always thought I was magic"! The show sparked the children's imagination and was a wonderful and fun learning experience.

We are looking forward to continuing on our Preschool journey together, and sharing some more fun times throughout the rest of the year!



Mr Bamboozle, the magician had the children in hysterics with his magical performance.

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Congratulations

Sam and Aiza!



The *Rural Fringe* and our readers send best wishes to Sam and Aiza who were married on Sam Scott's property just outside Hall on a sunny evening on 2 March, followed by a lively reception at the Polocrosse Shed. Aiza, from the Philippines, is quickly adjusting to rural Australian life, cantering the first time she rode one of Sam's horses.

In the Park . . .

This fabrication has been part of the Hall Park scenery for over 10 years. Year after year this obstruction belonging to Telstra saw out the seasons as a public safety precaution. It signalled to residents there was an absence of a manhole cover over a Telstra access pit. Well, it is now gone!

A regulation manhole cover has replaced it. *Thank you* to the community-minded resident who spent many hours on the phone negotiating this happy outcome.



Autumn's hips

by Lisa Walmsley

I am very excited to see that the plant palette trend is widening, after years of flax and strappy plants. Garden folk are wanting more colour and less texture and lawn is also finding a revival after years of drought.

Many of our stunning spring flowering plants follow with fruits with exceptional decorative delight.

Viburnum (my favourite plant species), Sorbus, crabapples and Crataegus do us the honour of producing flowers in spring and berries in autumn. It is not unusual to focus on springs stunning display, but to have a plant that provides multiple seasons of attraction to both birds and people is an absolute reward. I have seen recently a Viburnum wrightii, heavily laden with berries in the brightest of reds looking like stunning lights that hang like baubles. This plant also produces a lovely scented flower in the spring. Many of the Viburnum opulus sp. are covered with orange, yellow and red translucent fruits that birds find impossible to resist. I have designed Viburnum walks, with a mass of varieties crammed into one space, the effect is sensational in all seasons.

Another favourite with the birds is Sorbus, even though the berries appear dry and pithy. It's a shame really as the fruit is such a lovely colour in pastel shades of pink and orange. It would be great if the birds could leave them alone for a while so we can enjoy them. The dwarf variety Sorbus reducta (miniature rowan) seems to hold its fruit longer, but only because birds have more competition with humans at that level.

Have you seen the Crataegus on Northborne Ave at the moment. Although much maligned (due to their weed status) they are stunning and after rain or wind thousands of berries carpet the footpath and look beautiful. Myth has it that a good crop of hawthorn berries means a cold winter – batten down the hatches and get out your winter woolies.

Crabapples are also a beauty to add to your garden, stunning in spring and delightful in autumn, for foliage colour and berries. Not only can you make jelly if you are industrious but the birds adore them.

I have a few favourite trees (actually more than a few) but if I was forced to select one species it would be crabapples. Can you imagine a crabapple walk, with as many varieties as you can cram into the space you have, and espalier some where space is tight. It would be divine.

The mega stars of an autumn garden, other than our stunning foliage, is rosehips. They come in a wide range of colours from red, orange, black and brown in sizes ranging from a pea up to a small tomato and shapes that are too varied to mention. Even though as a rose I am not particularly fond of Rosa rugosa, it definitely has the 'wow' factor in hips.

The large orange to red translucent hips on rugosas are so delicious they can be nibbled on and not just by birds. Hanging in bunches just like the flowers that preceded them. Be careful with your rugosa selection as not all produce hips, 'Frau Dagmar Hastrup' is one of the greatest. Rosa pimpinellifolia with its cherry black hips is also a hit with single white flowers dotted all over the plant and lovely yellow stamens. Rosa moyesii 'Geranium' cuts a fine specimen with large orange hips and is great to pick for indoor arrangements.

This time of the year is so lovely to be outside and hips and berries just make a garden walk all the more enticing not only for their colour but the birds that they bring into the garden.

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from the Editor . . .

What a fabulous Party at the Shops we had to celebrate a hundred years of Canberra. With a history stretching back thousands of years and European settlement in Hall some thirty years older than Canberra, it makes me wonder what things will look like in our village and district into the future. I used to live in the Middle East where a group met regularly to determine the 100 year plan for the troubled and symbolic city of Jerusalem. What would a hundred year plan look like for Hall and our district?

Just over the past 17 years since I have had the good fortune to live in Hall, we have seen considerable changes. Agreement for the buffer zone around the village and heritage listing. Upgrade of the village precinct. Demise of the school and our doctor's surgery. Expansion of the Shearing Shed and what seems to be a blossoming of home-based businesses, including the Starr function centre. New trees planted and old trees felled. Plenty of enthusiastic volunteers in the Rotary Club, Progress Association, and several informal groups and individuals who simply make things happen. The Men's Shed, the Hall Museum, the Collector's Club, the naming of the lanes, our village walk. Great institutions like the National Sheep Dog Trials, the Hall Markets, the Preschool, the Fire Brigades and the Rugby Club continue to flourish. Other things like the Post Office seem to be under periodic threat. Whether Kinleside suburb proceeds is in question. And the Barton Highway seems busier than ever as people commute from New South Wales, with the new Clarrie Hermes Drive intersection adding a new dimension to the drive to work. People have come and gone from the village, but we have maintained that sense of community regardless.

Wikipedia considers Hall a village but 'in practical terms Hall might now be considered an outer suburb of Australia's capital Canberra.' I'd suggest they haven't understood the connections between Hall and its rural district, the character of the village and the determination of its 332 residents. For me, Hall is a village close to Canberra and I like to think it still will be in a hundred years. But we will need to have sensible action to protect our surrounding woodlands and careful thought on development, particularly the school site, in order to keep the place the thriving rural community that it is.

Until next time

Jo Hall

The Rural Fringe – ISSN: 1329-3893

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.

February issue deadline is 10 January

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.

Advertising rates (per issue)

large (quarter page) \$80

medium (eighth page) \$40

small (three sixteenth page) \$30

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