

# RURAL FRINGE

*Journal of the Hall district*



VOLUME 21 ISSUE 3

June 2014

Where to now?

Hall School site

Over recent months the Hall Village and District Progress Association has re-engaged with both community and the ACT Government on the future of the Hall Primary School site. Following the public meeting on 23 March, further feedback from the community and discussions between interested community groups, the Progress Association has written again to the Chief Minister.



**David Hazlehurst**  
President VHDPA

Rotary is also interested in exploring using a small part of the site (yet to be determined) for temporary accommodation for families participating in their ROMAC program (*Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children*). This caters for children within the Oceania region requiring surgical and other

procedures which they are otherwise unable to access. When not being used for ROMAC, this low cost accommodation for people seeking medical attention could be extended to others in need.

We have proposed the following indicative timeline to the Chief Minister.

Short Term: *Immediate priorities (2014)*

- formalise a licence agreement with the ACT Government
- develop and implement management plan for existing asbestos
- further community consultation on child care centre and Rotary Club of Hall projects
- interim use of facilities agreed
- tree survey and any safety work completed

Medium Term (2015-16)

- develop plans and budget for preschool, Heritage Centre, Men's Shed, Community Hall, Rotary Club facilities and any other facilities such as child care
- develop landscape plan and budget for whole site
- develop fundraising strategy
- secure government funding in 2016-18 budgets.

Longer Term (2017 and beyond)

- phased removal of demountables
- implement landscape plan
- phased construction of new buildings in areas indicated in Eric Martin's Hall Primary School Master Plan (Preschool, Heritage Centre, Men's Shed, Rotary Club facility and Community Hall)

Over the next couple of months we aim to settle arrangements between the Progress Association and the Hall Rotary Club and the terms of a license to occupy the site with ACT Government. Prior to finalising any agreement, we plan to again consult with the community by holding another public meeting coinciding with the Association's AGM in mid-August. In the meantime, please let us know your views by emailing us at: [info@hall.act.au](mailto:info@hall.act.au).

We have confirmed community preferences, to:

- maintain the facilities for community use, and in particular for ongoing use by the Gold Creek Pre-school, the School Museum and the Men's Shed
- protect the heritage value of the site
- achieve security of tenure for the community
- treat the school site as a whole – for landscaping and heritage purposes, and for balancing the overall costs and revenues from the various activities on the site.

We have also indicated the community is open to further exploring the development of a child care centre, but the strong view is that this should not displace the current activities of the Museum in the two permanent buildings on the site.

The museum and its collection are currently being assessed for national significance under the National Library's Community Heritage program. The draft report concludes the original school and its unique collection are of national significance. Part of the significance is its location on the present site and its important cultural connection with the village. The assessment also recognises the importance of the two 1960s permanent buildings on the site which show the development of education within the ACT.

Other major considerations include the area required for a child care centre, parking and traffic issues. We also believe any plans for a child care centre should include a permanent site for the preschool.

In recent weeks the Progress Association and the Rotary Club of Hall have been in discussions on a partnership for the immediate and long-term future of the site. Rotary is interested in increasing its community presence and activity in Hall and is prepared to support the Progress Association in reaching a settlement with the ACT Government.

Out  
and about



Belconnen Arts Centre

**Opening Night: Unmade Edges Exhibition**

*Portrait of a Nation: Unmade Edges* was a Centenary of Canberra project when artists worked with communities in Hall, Uriarra, Tharwa, Pialligo, Stromlo and Oak's Estate to explore the meaning of these villages to their residents. The Hall project was exhibited last year at Craig Starr's place and included sculpture, photography, performances and other art works. The Canberra-wide exhibition was brought together at Belconnen Arts Centre, opened on 4 April by Dr Chris Bourke MLA.



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# The Village People

Greg Rule

by John Carson

The first in a series of interviews with local people who live in Hall Village and its immediate environs.

***It was with great sadness that we at the Rural Fringe learned of the death of Greg Rule less than a week after the conclusion of this interview. He was one of the great village characters and will be sorely missed. His wife Marjorie gave her approval for the interview to go ahead and be published as a tribute to her much adored husband.***



It was truly a splendid autumn afternoon, sunny blue sky and hardly a breath of wind, as I pedalled my bike up Victoria Street and then turned left into Loftus Street. Moments later I was standing on the front porch of the residence that was my destination. Such was the stillness in the neighbourhood surrounding me that I almost felt that a knock on the door would betray my action and myself as both uncouth and vulgar. What to do? Fortunately my dilemma was resolved when the door opened unexpectedly and framed in the opening was the very man I had come to interview – Greg Rule – a village legend. It was hard to believe that the sprightly figure before me belonged to a man in his nineties but then again perhaps not so surprising given that he is a first cousin of the almost equally sprightly Jim Rochford, a Hall village man who not so long ago celebrated his 100th birthday.

Given the grandeur of the day, we both settled ourselves down into the front porch lounge chairs.

Despite his years Greg still has a mischievous look about him and a twinkle in the eye that suggests he is a man with a thousand stories to tell about a life lived to the full and not a regret to any of it. And it does not take long before he is reminiscing about a time long gone when he would be getting up with his brothers and sisters in the early hours of the morning to help his parents with the ploughing, sowing and harvesting of crops and looking after the cherry orchards on their property at Young. The work was hard but fulfilling and you learned to appreciate the little treats that life delivered as you went along.

After he left the family farm he worked for a number of years in Uberta, near Wagga Wagga, on a dairy farm where he further developed his extensive range of farming skills. But it wasn't too long before he was back in the Hall region where most of his family

and friends had congregated. I suppose you could say that Greg was first and foremost a shearer – and one of the best around if some of the reports that I have heard are correct. It was no great effort for Greg to shear 200 sheep in a day going from morning to evening. Talk about hard yakka – I was exhausted just thinking about it. But as Greg admits, work like that, though satisfying at the time, takes its toll in later years through painful back problems.

But it wasn't always farming and shearing for Greg. Through word of mouth he found out that there was an opening at Parliament House for people who were both knowledgeable and of good appearance to be attendants in that august building. How about that for a change of career? Bob Menzies and Harold Holt were two of the Prime Ministers of the day that Greg recalls during his time there.

And did Greg have time for romance during this busy life of his? He smiles at me and that wicked twinkle comes back to his eyes. Sure wasn't it the beautiful Marjorie that only he had eyes for at the Saturday night dance at the Hall pavilion all those many years ago. And in the very same pavilion they got married in not so long after. The twinkle gives way to a contented smile you sometimes see on the faces of couples who have weathered the ups and downs of what life delivers to all of us but can now reflect back with a warm glow on the love that has carried them through.

Greg and Marjorie have lived in their Hall house virtually all of their long married life. Like many of the older residents they have seen the changes that have taken place in the village, most of them for the best. They know most of the people who live there and have shared in their elations and sorrows as only a tight community knows how to.

The time has gone far too quickly and I know there are hundreds more stories that I would have enjoyed listening to. I take my leave as we share a parting joke and shake hands.

As I made my way home in the chill of the late autumn afternoon I was still basking in the warmth of my conversations with Greg. And I thought to myself that you would be hard pressed to come across a more decent bloke in a day's walking.

## An Induction and a Pilgrimage with a difference . . . what an Easter season!

by **Angie Hazlehurst**

It certainly has been a busy time at St Michael and All Angels, Hall.

### An induction

After a long wait and with great anticipation, we warmly welcomed our new Priest-in-Charge, the Rev'd Mark Beresford, to our community on 8 April. The Right Rev'd Stuart Robinson, Bishop of the Canberra-Goulburn Diocese, presided over the induction service at St Barnabas, where there was standing room only. The church was filled with Mark's friends and family, members of clergy, and the combined church communities of Charnwood-Hall, and Holy Covenant, Jamison. During a moving service, Mark was brought forward by members of his previous parish to be received by members of his new parish. He was presented with symbols of ministry, followed by the formal induction by Bishop Stuart.

During the service, warm tribute was paid to the ministry of the Rev'd Helen Dean, whose pastoral carriage of the Charnwood-Hall parish has been extraordinary. Normally the parish Assistant Priest, Helen willingly accepted the challenge of acting as Locum Priest until a new priest-in-charge was appointed. Helen's dedication, care and guidance of the parish over many months has been a loving gift to all of us.



↑ *Saint Michael and All Angels has a new vicar. Mark Beresford has joined our community.*

*photo: Bob Richardson*

all excited about becoming part of the Hall community and look forward to meeting many locals..

### A pilgrimage . . . with a difference

At St Barnabas' Maundy Thursday evening service, we were privileged to welcome the team travelling on the final leg of *The Gift of Refuge Pilgrimage* epic journey. This dedicated and inspiring small group of people had walked for 32 days from Melbourne to Canberra, towing a replica of the wooden boat that brought one of the members from Vietnam as a 10 year old refugee over three decades earlier. Their mission was simple but so humble and inspiring – to thank the Australian people for offering them the gift of refuge, for offering compassionate hospitality as they were welcomed into homes, and for offering hope in a safe community where healing could begin. For more information on *The Gift of Refuge Pilgrimage* see [www.facebook.com/giftofrefuge](http://www.facebook.com/giftofrefuge).

After we shared a simple meal, the fellowship continued with Holy Communion, footwashing and evening prayer in the beautiful candlelit garden. Some of us were lucky enough to host members of the team in our homes for the night. As Tri Nguyen had said of his pilgrimage experiences, they arrived as strangers and left as friends. Indeed they did!



*Symbols of Ministry presented to Mark*

Mark comes to our parish with a deep passion for the Gospel, for mission and works of justice, and the life of prayer. He trained at the Canberra College of Theology with, in addition, a Masters of Ministry from St Marks, where for four years he taught Youth Ministry and An Introduction to the New Testament. For the last three years Mark has served as the Assistant Priest at the parish of Holy Covenant, Jamison.

A talented musician himself, he is married to Katie, who is a recording artist, a singer-songwriter and a trainer for worship-teams. Katie currently works as a teacher at Burgmann Anglican School. Mark and Katie have three children, Zoe (11) Jordan (8) and Charlotte (6). They are



*back row L-R: Cate Nguyen, Angie, Harvey and David Hazlehurst*

*front row L-R: Monahan Hazlehurst, Celia Nguyen, Mackenzie Hazlehurst, Noah and Tri Nguyen*

The theme of pilgrimage continued on Good Friday morning. After bidding the Gift of Refuge Pilgrimage team farewell as they set off on the final leg of their walk, we again gathered in Hall for the annual ecumenical Stations of the Cross, led by clergy from the three Hall Churches (Wattle Park Uniting Church, St Francis Xavier's Catholic Church and St Michael and All Angels Anglican Church). This is always a moving experience. To have so many locals and visitors from across the denominations gather and walk together in faith reaffirms and reunites us as one community. How blessed we are.

## Good Friday in Hall Village – the Stations of the Cross

by **John Carson**



▲ Fr Joseph (St Francis Xavier), Pastor Bernie (Wattle Park), Rev Mark (St Michael & All Angels)

photo: Bob Richardson

'Father the hour has come' were the opening words of the prayer intoned by Pastor Bernie of the Hall Uniting Church to the open air congregation assembled in Victoria Street adjacent to St Francis Xavier (SFX) Church. He was flanked on either side by Rev Mark from All Saints Anglican Church and Father Joseph from SFX. The occasion was the annual Good Friday Stations of the Cross ecumenical ceremony which traces the final hours in the life of Jesus of Nazareth leading up to his death and crucifixion on the cross at Calvary. Along Victoria Street a coloured ribbon tied to a tree or lamp post marked the various stages in that final fateful journey from Pilate's Praetorium to the hill at Calvary.

Thankfully the early morning fog which had shrouded the village and surrounding countryside in the early daylight hours had lifted before the ceremony got underway and while it left a distinct chill in its wake, the autumn sun did its best to spread some warmth among the gathered faithful. And that faithful included small children in their parents arms, teenagers on skateboards, couples arm in arm and the elderly and enfeebled. The event embraced people from all walks of life who shared the common belief that the events of Good Friday marked not an end but a new beginning for the world and its people.

Although the procession along Victoria Street was a solemn occasion there was a spirit of camaraderie and cheerfulness amongst the assembled gathering. And this was as it should have been since for the true believers Good Friday is a prelude to the resurrection of Easter Sunday.

Each of the three celebrants took it in turn to identify the particular station at which the procession had paused and then through prayer and reflection each asked what significance the event had for all of us attending and indeed for the wider community. To assist in this contemplation the choir of St Francis Xavier Church, under the sensitive direction of conductor Nikki Carson, sang a moving musical coda to the concluding prayers at each station.

The Easter weekend is of course very much a secular holiday these days and sometimes the religious significance of the occasion gets lost in the hustle and bustle of the holiday, especially when so many of us head to the south coast or elsewhere to enjoy the extended break. In a way it is precisely this that makes the Hall Good Friday religious celebration such a special occasion. Being held in the morning of the first day of the holiday it heralds the religious significance of the days ahead and provides a spiritual foundation for the secular celebrations.

At the end of the final station the celebrants encouraged their loyal band of followers to go forth filled with joy, hope and peace which is indeed the essence of the message of Good Friday. The final hymn, enriched by its intricate harmonies, seemed to soar to the very treetops before dissipating in the morning breeze but leaving its message intact – 'Jesus Remember Me When You Go Into Your Kingdom'.



### Letter to the editor

Very sad to learn of the passing of one of life's true gentlemen . . . Greg Rule.  
I had the privilege of catching up with Greg on a number of occasions when I was a member of the Hall Men's Shed. He was always such a positive and wonderful person to talk to, and everyone enjoyed his company.  
I particularly remember Greg saying something to me once that was typical of his attitude to life. When I said on a cold, wintry day, 'It's a bit chilly, Greg, his immediate response was 'But it's one day closer to summer!'  
And of course he said it with his usual sunny smile!  
A reminder for us all to look on the brighter side of life.  
An inspiration to us all. Kevin Stone

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# Local community and business help drought stricken farmers

When Barrie Cole, Director of the Transport Industries Skills Centre Queanbeyan heard about the hardships people were facing in the north-western areas of New South Wales he knew he had to do something. The tough times farmers are going through result from a combination of bushfires destroying 54,000 hectares and families losing homes in the area and now drought where people are hand-feeding sheep and cattle. In some cases, farmers are resorting to shooting some of their precious stock.



Barrie's idea was to collect and deliver fodder to farmers in the Coonabarabran and Piliga areas of the Warrumbungle Shire, so he rolled up his sleeves, got to work and became the official 'coordinator'.



A bank account was set up, Lions clubs and businesses came on board and donations quickly started flowing in from them and the general public. Katy Gallagher, Chief Minister, ACT Government, wrote a letter of support for the initiative, local radio and television helped spread the word and it was 'all systems go'.

Many people did extraordinary things to help. For example, Karen from Amaroo, baked biscuits and cakes for the drought affected families. Her husband, still recovering from brain cancer, delivered

the goodies in two large boxes to Barrie at the TISC Queanbeyan base. Then there was 'Presto', who collected and donated \$1000 from guests at his 50th birthday party, and a further \$500 after running ANZAC Day two-up at the Eagle Hawk pub.

Unfortunately, many farmers in country areas less fortunate than our own are down on their luck, leading to family trauma, depression and in some instances people considering suicide. And in the case of this NSW shire, rural communities are quite desperate, because according to farmers in the area, they are seeing a bit of green grass, but as yet virtually no useable feed on the pasture country.

A grateful community

The convoy of five trucks and a ute left Canberra on 3 May and headed north, travelling 800 kilometres and carrying 2500 bales of hay. Rain followed them all the way to the small town of Baradine, but undeterred, tarps covered the hay and the trip went well. They were met by plenty of smiling faces, hand shaking and back slapping. Some very welcome relief at last!



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by **Kevin Stone**

A mixture of small and large bales proved very useful, so much better to work with than large round bales and easier to divide up between the farmers in need. One lady they noticed took a moment before she got out of her ute as she had tears of gratitude when she saw the hay. Others said they received so much from the fact that city people cared and they would never forget how a group of strangers came together for a common cause and donated so much to their community in need.

The convoy co-ordinator, TISC staff, the team of helpers/volunteers and everyone who made donations were all sincerely thanked for their contributions and care for the people in the Baradine area. The Chair of the local NSW Farmers Association also mentioned it was good that the local children were introduced to the concept of volunteering and helping others.



Buy a bale and lend a hand

In the April 2014 *Rural Fringe* local couple Lyn and John Anderson told us about their grandson James who raised \$339.70 to help farmers after hearing about them trying to feed starving cattle and sheep. But James didn't rest there, and through commitment and determination, reached his goal of donating \$1000 to the 'Buy a Bale' scheme. A great achievement for the young man, helping our farmers and at the same time learning an invaluable life lesson.

If you would like to learn more about how James donated the money to these farmers in strife, the website [www.buyabale.com.au](http://www.buyabale.com.au) is a good starting point. On the website you will find 'frequently asked questions' explaining how to get involved and where your donation will go. For example, a receipt will be issued for all donations and amounts over \$2 are tax deductible.



We still like to think, and know, that our farmers produce the best food and are the backbone of our country, but sometimes they need a bit of a boost along to show that we're thinking of them and are willing to help in times of need.

By making a donation through the 'Buy a Bale' scheme, we can lend a hand to graziers who have little or no feed left for their animals. The idea is not only to provide stock food, but essential items to people who are affected by circumstances beyond their control.

Like James found, there are a number of ways to collect money which can be donated through the scheme. A tin at a function or on the bar? Or at a birthday party like 'Presto' did at his 50th.

For another inspirational story and to get an idea on how to lift the morale of rural women who are going through severe drought conditions, Google search *Beauty baskets for women doing it tough*.

Contact the Buy a Bale team on 1300 448 322 or through their website: [www.buyabale.com.au](http://www.buyabale.com.au)



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**Men's Shed  
news**

by **Bob Richardson**



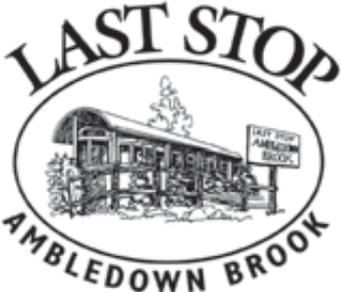
Simon Corbell, Phil Robson and Men's Shed Foreman Graham Moss visit the Hall Men's Shed museum  
*photo: Bob Richardson*



Peter and John build a glory box of exotic timbers .  
The equipment in the picture has all been donated.  
*photo: Bob Richardson*

New members are always welcome  
at Hall School cottage, every Thursday morning.

The ACT Men's Shed Forum held at the ACT Assembly saw a big rollup of ACT Shed reps. With ACT Assembly members in attendance it was an opportunity to share ideas and matters of concern. The Government was interested in finding ways to assist long term sustainability and expansion of these established and important community initiatives to improve men's health and well being. Hall Men's Shed representatives talked about their eagerness to establish formal tenure of their site on the old Hall school site.



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Hall Men's Shed resident Master Baker Alan Mothnagel prepares sausage rolls for the Thursday gathering  
*photo: Bob Richardson*



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All of the other exhibitions at the Museum, including the original Hall School and its unique collection are open

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[www.museum.hall.act.au](http://www.museum.hall.act.au)

*Our exhibition aims to give you a glimpse of life as it was lived in the half century before Federation. Hard times and natural disasters notwithstanding, it was not all work and no play.*

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## NSW and ACT join to tackle illegal dumping

An aerial surveillance operation took place on Tuesday 29 April across the NSW and ACT border region to identify significant hot spots for illegal dumping of waste as part of a larger program to stop illegal dumping in the region.

NSW Environment Minister Rob Stokes, Member for Monaro John Barilaro and ACT Member for Ginninderra, Yvette Berry said the NSW and ACT governments have joined forces to stop illegal waste dumping.

'Illegal dumping is a crime that isn't restricted by borders. By joining resources across NSW and the ACT we are able to improve our ability to stop rogue operators,' Mr Stokes said. 'We've committed \$450,000 for this initiative as part of a \$58 million commitment over the next five years to tackle illegal dumping activities. Those operators who are doing the wrong thing in NSW and are found to be dumping waste illegally could face fines of up to \$5 million and two years gaol.'

The aerial surveillance operation targeted areas across the NSW/ACT border region where the highest rates of illegal dumping are known or suspected to occur.

'Construction, asbestos, household and garden waste, mainly generated in the populated areas of Queanbeyan and Canberra is being dumped on public land and isolated rural areas in the region' said Ms Berry. 'Illegal dumping and contamination of our land and waterways will not be tolerated; NSW operators who are found to be dumping waste illegally could face fines of up to \$5 million, and ordered to clean up the sites.'

If people see what they suspect is illegal dumping they should report it to the EPA Environment Line on 13 15 55 in NSW or to Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 in the ACT. The more information people can give, such as vehicle registration numbers, locations and times, the easier it is to follow up the report.

## Mothers' Day celebrations at



by **Lyn Anderson**



On a perfect autumn Sunday Hall Pony Club was a sea of pink with our members (young and young at heart) raising money on our rally day for the Breast Cancer Association.

It was a double celebration as we enjoyed our Mothers' Day lunch in our beautiful newly constructed clubhouse. We have a stainless steel kitchen, tables and chairs, a wonderful verandah and, yes, a toilet!

Children in the fresh air on their ponies, dogs looking for that spare sausage, adults chatting around the BBQ, and not an iPad in sight.

What a perfect Mother's Day!



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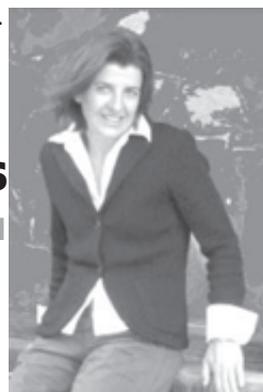
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Hall Ball, Hall Hall, Hall Street, Hall

For more information and to  
purchase your tickets for the Ball  
please email [infohallball@gmail.com](mailto:infohallball@gmail.com)



Hall Bushrangers rugby union club play Goulburn at Hall recreation grounds in round 2 of the 2014 season.

photo: Bob Richardson



## Brindabella Hills Vineyard Cafe

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Hall  
athletes



## in Mother's Day Classic

by **Marg Monahan**

We were at the Mother's Day Classic at Lake Burley Griffin in support of breast cancer research. It is a great event with a huge turnout. There were many, many volunteers on hand all the way round the course and the organisation was fantastic. Participants were in great spirits and the whole event was coloured pink. The Hazlehurst family was there and David and the kids walked the course while Angie and Jo ran the 5km! I did *not* run the course – I walked too. We had a few minutes together before the runners took off. It was a beautiful morning, the lake looked fantastic with the autumn colours. And a great sense of satisfaction and solidarity on completion.



Hall participants, left to right, David, Monahan, Jo, Marg, Mackenzie, Angie and Harvey.

# Immune system fight back

Anita Kilby Naturopath

The change in seasons is a peak time for colds and flus, peaking again in spring along with hay fever season, so now's a good time to get your immune system powered up. An under-functioning immune system leaves you more susceptible to any bug going around, and leaves you struggling to recover from the invasion. An overactive immune system sets the stage for hypersensitivity to pollens (or other year round triggers like dust mite, pet hair, foods) and the very familiar allergy reactions.

How can you help your immune system get back into balance?

*Eat well.* Nutrient deficiency is a common cause of poor immune function. A diet loaded with a wide variety of colourful fresh fruit and vegetables, whole grains, nuts, and legumes can be the basis of bringing your immune system back into balance. Eating seasonal foods provides the body with compounds that are particularly well suited to its differing seasonal needs (fresh foods are usually at their cheapest when they are in season). Plant foods provide vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and many other phytochemicals beneficial for proper immune function. Adequate protein intake is also important for good immune function, as is a good water intake.

*Stress management.* Stress dampens the immune system. When you get stressed your body gets ready to run away from danger or fight a threat, so resources get diverted away from 'non-essential' functions to life saving functions such as the heart, leg and arm muscles. The non-essential functions (in life threatening situations) include immune, digestion, hormones, growth and repair. When you are constantly stressed there are many body systems that cannot function properly, so managing your stress levels effectively will improve your immune function and overall health.

*Fix your gut.* Deal with any digestive disturbances to improve nutrient absorption and to reduce inflammation throughout the body. An inflamed gut can allow harmful compounds that would normally be excreted to be absorbed into the bloodstream. This places an increased detoxification burden on the liver and can lead to increased body-wide inflammation if untreated toxins are able to circulate around the body (signs of which include PMS, skin eruptions, bad breath, fatigue to name just a few). Compared to normal cells, inflamed cells can produce high amounts of inflammation producing substances, reacting more readily and for longer. This leads to hypersensitivity reactions and allergies, including hay fever.

Apart from the usual immune boosters like garlic, ginger, honey, vitamin C, and zinc (I particularly like garlic, vitamin C, horseradish tablets to help dry up excess mucous and reduce ear congestion), taking a good quality Echinacea supplement during winter helps to strengthen and balance the immune system. It shouldn't however be taken by those on immunosuppressant medications or with sensitivity to the daisy family of plants (Asteraceae/Compositae).

Above all else, like mums always say – cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, and reduce the spread of germs by washing your hands regularly with plain old soap.



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Wallaroo

## Rural Fire Brigade

**John Baird** President

### Fund Raising

In February, Neil Shepherd, the Captain and I wrote to residents of Wallaroo seeking support for a fund raising drive that would allow us to expand the fire fighting resources of the Brigade. Our target was \$60,000.

I am thrilled to report that our fund raising efforts have raised in excess of \$45,000 so far with a number of fund raising activities still to come. Over \$7,000 was received from the residents, and I would like to thank all those who have contributed. A very special thank you also goes to Hall Rotary, Lawrence and Hanson and Canberra Switchboards for their generous donations. As a result, I am pleased to announce that we will be proceeding with the extension to the shed over the next 18 months.

### Raffle

The Brigade is currently holding a raffle with a first prize of \$3,000, a second prize of \$1,500 and a third prize of \$750. Tickets are \$2 each. Get your tickets from brigade members and watch out for us at the Hall Premier Store on Saturday mornings in June. The prizes will be drawn at 6.30pm on 19 July 2014 at the Fireshed.

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### Fire Ball

Thanks to the generosity of the people at Poachers Pantry, a Fire Ball and charity auction will be held there on Saturday 11 October in support of the Brigade. Please put the date in your diaries and look out for further information. It will be a great night!

### Wallaroo Open Day

The RFS will be holding a state wide open day on Saturday 13 September between 10am and 2pm. The Brigade will be hosting a range of activities such as lectures on fire protection, familiarisation with our fire fighting vehicles and demonstrations. Come along and learn more about your local Brigade and the dedicated volunteers who give their time to protect us. New members always welcome.

### Wallaroo AGM

The brigade's Annual General Meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 4 June at the Fireshed on Wallaroo Road. All members are strongly encouraged to attend.

### Hall Village

from [www.canberraatracks.act.gov.au](http://www.canberraatracks.act.gov.au)

'Proclaimed in 1882, Hall Village represents a small rural service centre associated with the pastoral use of the area prior to the formation of the ACT. Today the community values the sense of physical and social separation from Canberra.

The ridgelines enclosing Hall support an endangered yellow box/red gum grassy woodland ecological community. Five vulnerable bird species have also been recorded in this grassy woodland. The presence of Aboriginal sites within the grassy woodland and along Halls Creek demonstrates a relative lack of physical disturbance within these areas.

Hall Village is also significant for its historical and social associations with the early pioneers of Ginninderra and Hall District families. While the buildings identified on the map are not individually highly significant, the collective value of these places is important in defining a 'sense of place' for the Hall community. The village is part of the broader cultural landscape, closely linked to the pastoral history of Ginninderra and Gungahlin.'

# Young residents of Hall

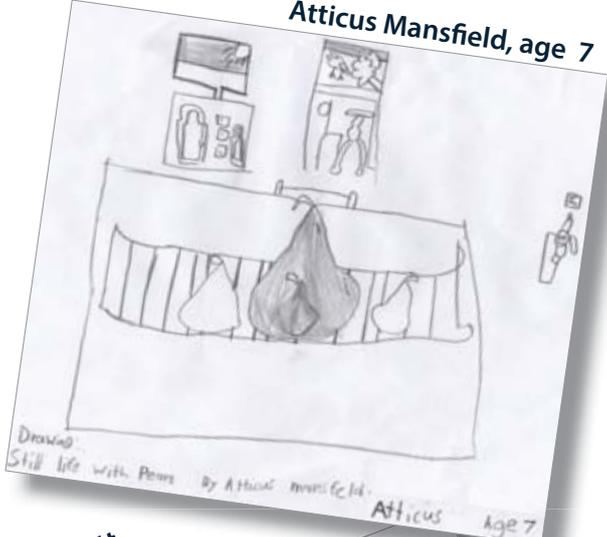
Three of the Mansfield children have made literary and artistic contributions to this edition of the Rural Fringe. We hope that other children in the Village and district will contribute in the future!

Ella Mansfield, age 13

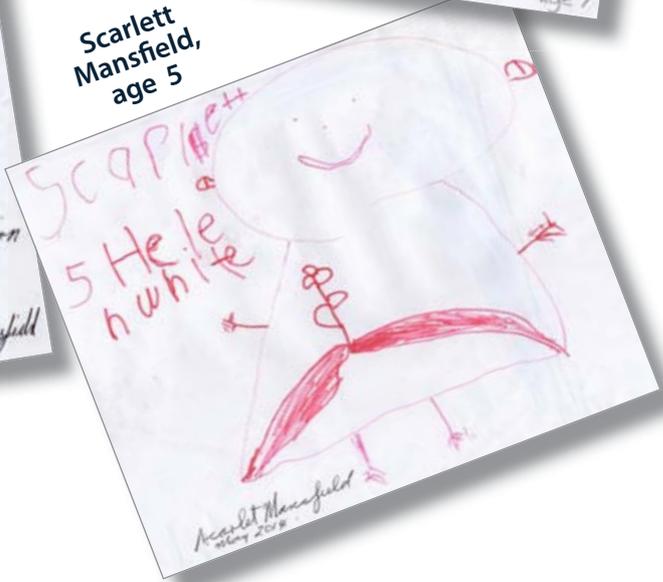
Hall is a small village north of the ACT Australia. Hall was founded in 1882. The first landholder in the area was Henry Hall, hence the name. Some of the features of the historic village are the Volunteer Rural fire brigade, Hall metal fabrications, The Hall pavilion and showground, The Hall school museum and heritage center, located in the former Primary School, along with 3 historic churches and a general store. Once a month, the showground hosts the Hall markets, a popular charity market. Hall has a lovely, easy community. Due to its size, it's impossible not to know anybody and the many establishments have much to offer and rely mostly on the locals of Hall. The Hall school museum contains around 2200 individual items and three historically significant collections. Many items from the school's functioning years can be viewed such as class roll books, visitors books, teachers programmes, lesson registers, curriculum framework documents and punishment books. One of the most extensive and impressive collections contains over 1000 books such as school textbooks and books from the school library. These date from late nineteenth century through early twentieth century. It also contains a collection of 62 sheet music items. In conclusion Hall is a small friendly village and a very special part of the ACT.

By Ella Mansfield

Atticus Mansfield, age 7



Scarlett Mansfield, age 5



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# Music! in Hall

by **Paul Porteous**

Three cheers for Trudy Mansfield for supporting the arts in Canberra! Our resident Hall musician Sally Melhuish is artistic director of the *Salut! Baroque* ensemble which plays early music from the 17th and 18th centuries. Trudy loved the February concert so much she gathered around 20 friends and family from around Hall to spend the evening listening to fine baroque music in Albert Hall. The Albert Hall has been recently refurbished to enhance its heritage appeal and now provides a unique ambiance in which to enjoy early music.

Sophie and Daniel, pictured with the group, share Sally's enthusiasm for music with Sophie (9) studying piano and violin and Daniel (8) studying cello. They live in the recently restored house 'Glenona' on the corner of Gladstone and Palmer Street which was originally the home of George Schumack and later Jane and Ellis Smith. George was active in raising funds to establish the Ginninderra School of Arts. Later residents included P. Fisher who was a school teacher and his wife who taught music from the house. (Thanks to Margaret Morris for her earlier research on the history



The May concert, entitled *From Allegri to Albinoni*, included works by Corelli and Vivaldi and featured two international guest artists. *Salut! Baroque* will celebrate its 20th year of presenting baroque music in Canberra in 2015.

Sally originally graduated from ANU School of Music and then completed her Masters degree at Amsterdam Conservatorium. She was also Director of the Harvard Baroque Orchestra in Boston for their presentation of Cesti's opera *Oronhea*. As Artistic Director of *Salut!*, Sally does all the music programming, concert planning and is a key performer.

of the house.) It is nice to feel a connection with the heritage as music continues to be played, practiced and performed from 'Glenona'.

The next *Salut!* concert is entitled *Mad Songs and Englishmen* and will include works by Purcell, Dowland and Eccles. It focuses on dramatic compositions which reflected baroque society's fascination with lunacy and asylums such as Bethlem Royal Hospital (origins of the word 'bedlam'). The more popular the songs became, the more composers used techniques unlike any other musical conventions from the period to represent the asylums, such as discordant harmonies, jarring melodic lines, and unexpected changes in tempo and key. The concert is on Friday 8 August at 7.30pm at Albert Hall. For more information see [www.baroque.com.au](http://www.baroque.com.au) or phone 6230 9262.



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messy

May

Autumn is Awesome!

Without a doubt, our best season of the year.

The weather is sublime and this year we have been particularly spoilt with the 'warm wave' and only a few frosts.

This in turn has delayed leaf fall, trees have hung onto their glorious coloured foliage longer than usual, enhancing our already beautiful season.

Now, though as May has come to an end, the leaves are falling, covering our gardens with carpets of red, yellow, orange and pink. It is time to consider how we are going to handle the mess.

Many folk are so tired of the raking and sweeping, they never want to see a leaf again so they stuff the leaves into bags and take them to the tip or simply burn them. To the compost purist this is a tragedy.

Other folk like to rake them onto their garden beds as a simple, easy and free mulch. Although this is not the worst mulch choice, it is not the best either. Leaves change colour by the tree

by **Lisa Walmsley**

gardening



Autumn leaves in Hall village

absorbing nitrogen (the green) out of the leaf to sustain the tree over the winter. So leaves spread as mulch do not provide any nutrients for the plants in the bed. However as they break down they can provide a little organic matter in the soil so all is not lost.

The ultimate way to treat autumn foliage is to compost it. Ideally, rake up all your leaves into piles, feed the leaves into a mulching machine and add to your compost heap, along with your lawn clippings, prunings and manure. This pile doesn't require turning, but turning it will speed up the process. Once broken down, it forms a wonderful rich mix which can be used as a surface mulch or dig in to improve the soil.

Mulching or shredding leaves is a great idea for a few reasons. Many of the leaves are quite tough, leathery and big, taking up a lot of space so chopping them reduces their area. Also it greatly enhances their decomposition allowing you to use them sooner.

I have seen people bag them up in aerated plastic bags with a dash of blood and bone and stow them behind the garden shed to break down over a few months. This process, although it has some merit, takes up a lot of space and takes longer, but if you have the space it may work for you.

If you don't have a deciduous tree in your garden it is definitely time to consider one. There is a whole range of different sizes and shapes to fit every garden space.



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# Colic

a pain in the belly!

by **Dr. Natasha Hovanessian**

Many people know that horses 'colic', but what exactly does this mean? Colic is a general term referring to anything that may cause a horse to show signs of pain in the abdomen (i.e. the belly) and there are over 150 reported causes of colic!

Usually this will involve a problem somewhere in the stomach, small bowel or large bowel, but can also be due to disease of organs including the liver and kidneys, from the space around the bowel (the peritoneal cavity), or even from the chest.

Thankfully, most cases of colic are resolved with medical therapy. Common medical conditions include a small impaction of dry, congested gut contents, stomach ulcers, sand/soil impaction, worms and gas build up.

It is important horse owners can recognise what the signs of colic are, so they can respond promptly. These include a dull demeanour or being quieter than usual, reduced appetite, reduced manure output (normal is 6–10 piles/24hours), stretching out to urinate frequently, looking at the belly, kicking the belly, lifting the upper lip, lying down often and of course, rolling on the ground.



When we arrive at a case of colic, a veterinarian will initially try to determine the cause and provide some relief. Usually this starts with a thorough physical exam to determine the extent of the horse's pain and then proceed on with other tests. This may

include sending blood for laboratory analysis, passing a tube to the stomach and checking for build up of fluid (reflux), passing an arm into the rectum to feel for the problem, ultrasound of the abdomen and taking a sample of fluid from the peritoneal cavity. A decision can then be made on how to treat the colic, which often includes anti-inflammatories, fluids and electrolytes.

What to do if your horse is showing signs of colic:

1. Contact your veterinarian immediately. Although many colics are mild, at least 10% can require surgery or be fatal. Additionally, colic means a horse is in a lot of pain and requires therapy to relieve that pain.
2. Put the horse in a yard where it can be observed for pain and passage of manure, and record these observations. Withhold all food until your veterinarian advises it is okay to feed again. Offering water is usually fine.
3. Many people walk a horse with colic as it can help with bowel motility. However it is important not to tire and dehydrate the horse further. I usually recommend walking the horse for no more than 20 minutes every 1-2 hours.
4. If the horse is in intense pain and throwing itself on the ground, it is best to keep a safe distance until your veterinarian arrives.

Colic that is caused from the intestines is often placed into two categories – strangulating or non-strangulating. This indicates whether the bowel is twisted and its blood supply occluded, or not. Usually strangulating lesions of the bowel require surgery to resolve the problem and often horses will be in intense pain. Common strangulating conditions include torsion (twisting) of the large bowel after foaling in mares and strangulating lipomas seen in older horses. These are small, fatty tumours which are harmless in themselves but grow on a long stalk that can wrap tightly around the small intestine. Some non-strangulating lesions may also require surgery, including impactions that will not resolve with fluid therapy and displaced large bowel that is not in the correct anatomical position.

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## Letterpress printing in Hall

by **John Steggall**

Five members of the *Good Design Club* ventured out to Hall on Saturday, 17 May to see Artforme Letterpress Studio in action.

The group met at the Hall Premier Store for breakfast before heading up to the Studio in Palmer Street. In the mainly digital world of graphic design, the young group was amazed to see how printing was done 40 or more years ago. They were shown cases of type with a demonstration of old-fashioned typesetting - one letter at a time - and viewed the Heidelberg Platen (the press) in action.



As designers, they were pleased to see letterpress could produce results that were refreshingly different from what we commonly see. More visits are planned for later this year.

For more information about the *Good Design Club* see [www.gooddesignclub.com](http://www.gooddesignclub.com)



↑ *The Heidelberg printing press*  
photos: Ash Peak



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Many of our favourite plants over the years have joined the noxious weeds list.

#### Cotoneaster

A wonderful, bird attracting, frost hard, drought tolerant shrub, with beautiful red berries and white flowers and soft green leaves. This plant also hedges very well. Its only negative is due to its lovely red berries, birds are attracted, eat the berries then spread the seed all over the country.



Cotoneaster ▲

#### Cootamundra wattle

This lovely Australian native shrub or small tree, with grey bipinnate foliage and masses of golden ball flowers in late winter or early spring is a noxious weed because of its prolific seeding.

#### Privet

This evergreen shrubs which has been used extensively as hedges all over the country has now literally spread everywhere. I find this plant randomly in gardens everywhere, carried in by birds. A very well known landscape designer, that charges extraordinary prices for their work is still using this plant, very scary!

These three are only a few of our old favourites and people with these in their gardens have great difficulty removing them as they can form crucial design elements. Prominent streets in Canberra have hedges of them; let's hope the local weed inspectors don't insist on removal!



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In my travels around gardens, I am rather alarmed to notice many more of our tried, true and faithful plants self seeding prolifically and therefore are destined in due course for the weeds list.

Some of you may already know that *Agapanthus* in Victoria has joined the list already and may not be far away for this area. This is a loved plant by many, very easy to grow, drought tolerant and has pretty flowers at Christmas time.

I have also seen seedlings in gardens of lavender (which, may I say, when I was a child used to die every winter from frosts, so either climate change or adaptation is evolving this plant). Also seeding is *pittosporum*, *rosemary* and *polygala*, all potentially woody weeds.

Plants, like people and animals, are very adaptable and even though our weather is becoming increasingly moody some plants are rising to the challenge. Survival of the fittest and strongest in its finest example.

Don't be fooled in your garden by the 'cute' little seedlings some of your plants are producing. Pot up the ones you want to keep and remove or poison the rest.



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# Biological Weed Control

workshop

Karissa Preuss Ginninderra Catchment Group

## Landcare in our district

On Saturday 26 April over 50 landholders attended a workshop at Gold Creek Station, Hall, to learn more about biological control agents for weed control. Ginninderra Catchment Group ran this workshop as part of a federally funded Community Landcare Project focused on supporting landholders to control weeds and create more sustainable properties.



The workshop was presented by Barry Sampson, who has over 30 years experience in biological weed control with NSW Agriculture, CSIRO and other bodies. He explained the principles behind biological

weed management and control agents for various weeds, including Paterson's Curse, St. John's Wort, Blackberry, Docks, Thistles and Horehound.

Landholders came away with a greater understanding of biological control as an important aspect of an integrated weed management program as well as techniques on how to identify agents in the field. Many participants also took mites for St John's Wort and Paterson's Curse back to their properties to help control their weeds.



This workshop highlighted that weed control, like many environmental issues, is best addressed at a landscape scale. As a result landholders have decided to form a local Landcare Group to continue to address local environmental concerns. The first meeting of the Hall/Wallaroo Landcare Group will be held in the near future. Contact Karissa Preuss (details below) for more details.

### Upcoming events

There will be a Native Pastures and Weed Control Workshop (including a paddock plant identification walk) held on 21 June from 10am at Gold Creek Station, Victoria St Hall. Native pastures are well adapted to the Australian environment and offer a range of benefits for grazing systems and land management. In this workshop, renowned rural educator Alison Elvin will detail how to best manage native pastures. The day will include a walk through local paddocks to help identify native and introduced grasses.

Ginninderra Catchment Group is also offering Property Planning Workshops in July. These workshops provide vital information on saving time and money to look after your property more sustainably. The workshops usually cost approximately \$600, however Ginninderra Catchment Group is fully subsidising the workshops for participating landholders.

For more details please contact Karissa Preuss, coordinator, Ginninderra Catchment Group: 6278 3309 or [landcare@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:landcare@ginninderralandcare.org.au)

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# Museum Musings



## On our Selection exhibition

Visitors will experience what life was like for the early settlers who came from the other side of the world to select land in the Hall District. The displays include photographs, stories and artefacts from the period that reflects home life, farming, law and order, tragedies, sporting and recreation, medical and trades and services.



Simon Corbell and Hall Museum curator Phil Robson opening the exhibition 'On Our Selection' photo: Bob Richardson



Elizabeth Burness poses with Judy's exhibit and great grand daughter Mary photo: Bob Richardson

## Anzac Centenary Exhibition for 2015

Our attention is now focussed on collecting information on those from the district who volunteered, whether or not they were accepted for service. If you have any information, service records, memorabilia or stories to tell we would love to hear from you. Please contact [museum@hall.act.au](mailto:museum@hall.act.au)

All of the other exhibitions at the museum, including the original Hall School and its unique collection, are open:

- every Thursday from 9.30 – 12.00
- Market Days (first Sunday of the month from 12–3pm)
- or by appointment by phoning Alison on 6230 2313.

Free admission but a gold coin donation will assist the museum.



Friends of Hall Museum researched and built from scratch the latest exhibition. Tony Morris cleverly converted existing furniture to a purpose designed display cabinet. photo: Bob Richardson



Friends of the Hall Museum Tony and Marg Morris along with Danielle Reynolds and partner.



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## Winter is here . . . are you Bushfire Ready?

As winter arrives in the nation's capital and we all hunker down or try to escape Canberra's weather to somewhere tropical or even to the snowfields, it is a great time to reflect on the summer that was and the summer that soon will be. Part of any summer thinking, aside from marvelling at how lucky we are to live where we do, should include some thought about the risk of bushfires and how we can keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. Although *Masterchef* may be compelling viewing, completing or reviewing your Bushfire Survival Plan (if you already have one) might just be more sustaining. It is worth taking the time to prepare yourself for the impact that bushfires may have on you, your family and your property.

Winter is the ideal time to create your Bushfire Survival Plan. With the busy festive season not yet on the horizon and that spring cleaning roster not finalised, the change to cooler weather often gives you a captive audience to assist your planning with everyone huddled inside away from the cold. Bushfire Survival Plan templates and guides are available for download from the ACT Emergency



Services' website at [www.esa.act.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/bushfire-survival-plan.pdf](http://www.esa.act.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/bushfire-survival-plan.pdf).

The document offers a practical and easy to follow guide in preparing your home and property, including tips such as what clothing to wear if you decide to stay and defend your property, planning around keeping your family and even your pet safe, documents and valuables protection, as well as helping

you determine if and when you should leave your property. This may be in the event of extreme fire weather or in the event of an actual bushfire.

One of the key questions detailed in the Bushfire Survival Plans is whether you, your family and property are at risk of bushfire. While you may not have dense bushland directly next to your property this does not mean you are safe from

the impact of bushfires. For example, the 2003 fires impacted much of the region, including burning deep into many of the suburbs of Canberra. So if you live, work, travel or even play near bush or grassland then you are at risk from bushfire and should prepare a Bushfire Survival Plan.

The Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade, while enjoying some down time during the winter months, is already making preparations for the 2014-15 bushfire season. Our job is made a great deal easier if the community is also prepared for bushfires. In fact, the earlier everyone is prepared, the better we will all be, because as we saw with the October 2013 bushfires in the Blue Mountains the bushfire season can start very early. A Bushfire Survival Plan should be at the top of your list of things to do now. So if you, your family, friends and neighbours have not completed a Bushfire Survival Plan or have not reviewed it recently, please take the time over the winter months to prepare or update this vitally important document so that we can all be ready to enjoy the summer.

Hall Brigade continues to protect the community with many costs borne by the Brigade. Your donation helps us provide articles like these and also helps the Hall Brigade become better trained and better equipped. Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible and can be made online at the following web address [www.givenow.com.au/hallruralfirebrigade](http://www.givenow.com.au/hallruralfirebrigade). Any donation is greatly appreciated and makes a real difference to our Brigade.

Lastly, if there is a topic you would like covered by the Hall Brigade please feel free to drop us an email with your suggestion at [hallruralfirebrigade@gmail.com](mailto:hallruralfirebrigade@gmail.com).

  
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**Polocrosse**

**in Hall**



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Yass Polocrosse Carnival at Hall. Over 30 teams competed over the weekend of 13-14 April 2014 at the Hall polocrosse grounds. A huge following of 30 adult, 25 sub-junior and a host of under 12's teams were on site for two days of competition and social events.

Teams from Young, Milton (Victoria), Lake George, Eurobadalla, Yass, Hall and many more charged into the fray.

. . .

Hall is the only Polocrosse Club operating in the ACT. It has operated for almost 40 years. New members are always welcome! Come along and enjoy the fun with great people who belong to a great club.

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# Ginninderra Falls and Murrumbidgee River parkland corridors

**Chris Watson** president Ginninderra Falls Association

Ever since earliest colonial explorers made forays into the Canberra region, the Ginninderra Creek catchment area has been an important link between the 19th century settlements around Yass and Lake George to the north and the Limestone Plains and Monaro regions to the south. The catchment was first sighted by Charles Throsby in 1820 on a reconnaissance expedition from the Lake George area.



Part of the Robert Dixon property map, published 1837  
National Library of Australia

Between the years 1830 and 1836, the colonial surveyor Robert Hoddle made several visits to the district to survey property boundaries. Hoddle was also an accomplished artist and his 1835 sketch of the Ginninderra Falls is instantly recognisable today. The Ginninderra Gorge area has been identified as a place of significant natural beauty for at least 180 years and a recreational drawcard for visitors.



Robert Hoddle sketch of Ginninderra Falls, 1835  
National Library of Australia

George Thomas Palmer established 'Palmerville' about 1826 and by the time the map of surveyor Robert Dixon was published in 1837, many blocks of land had been claimed along Ginninderra Creek. The 'Parkwood' property and homestead are still occupied today.

Fast forward over 180 years and the beautiful countryside around the Ginninderra Falls and adjacent Murrumbidgee River in NSW is, unfortunately, not now accessible by the general public despite some good attempts by the landowner to create a wildlife park and walking trails in years gone by.

In the last two years the Ginninderra Falls Association has been making representations to the ACT and NSW governments and the Yass Valley Council



Ginninderra Falls

aimed at restoring public access to the Ginninderra Falls area and adjacent Murrumbidgee River corridor in NSW.

In recent months we have seen proposals by the Riverview Group for a West Belconnen urban development in both the ACT and NSW. (see related article). The Ginninderra Falls Association regards this as an ideal opportunity to create significant public parkland along both the Ginninderra Creek and the Murrumbidgee River.

The West Belconnen urban proposal will likely be on public display at the end of June 2014 (see map in related article). We would encourage local residents to make submissions regarding the desirability of such corridors and any other matters of concern related to the development. Riverview Pty Ltd will host a public meeting regarding the development at the Hall Pavilion on Wednesday 25 June 2014.

## PUBLIC MEETING regarding West Belconnen Urban Development

**Wednesday  
June 25 2014  
7:00pm  
at the Hall Pavilion**

Detailed maps of the development will be on display. Representatives from Riverview Pty Ltd will be on hand to answer questions.

*A presentation by Riverview Pty Ltd.*



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# Proposed urban development near Wallaroo area

**David Maxwell** director The Riverview Group

In June 2013, the ACT Government announced an agreement with Riverview Projects (ACT), a locally owned land development company, to facilitate the planning and development of new suburbs adjacent to the existing suburb of Holt in the ACT over the next 30 years.

Consultation undertaken since the announcement has found the concurrent rezoning of Parkwood land, for example the ACT land generally east of Parkwood Road (including the Parkwood Eggs site) and the adjoining NSW land is logical and timely. This NSW land is landlocked by the Murrumbidgee River and Ginninderra Creek.

Extensive technical studies and a Planning and Design Forum have been undertaken since June 2013 as part of a planning process that will hopefully result in the rezoning of this area. A draft master plan of the development has been prepared.

If approved, the West Belconnen project has the potential to deliver about 11,500 houses over the next 30 years in both the ACT and NSW. The development will provide housing for about 30,000 people.

Large parts of the land will be reserved as 'conservation land' and will be dedicated in perpetuity as public recreation and conservation areas.

Riverview Pty Limited will be hosting a seminar on the proposed developments on Wednesday 25 June, from 7- 8pm at the Hall Pavilion. Details of the development will be on display at that time.



More information on the proposal can be found on our website [www.talkwestbelconnen.com.au](http://www.talkwestbelconnen.com.au)

We have a vision for a sustainable community, including energy efficient housing, well designed transport systems, schools, shopping facilities and easy community access to extensive natural areas along the Murrumbidgee River and the Ginninderra Creek. The website also provides you with an opportunity to ask questions and receive feedback from the project team.

We encourage you to attend the public presentation on 25 June and to register your interest to receive more information as it becomes available, including advice on upcoming engagement activities.

## FERTSPREAD



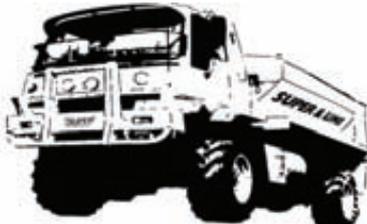
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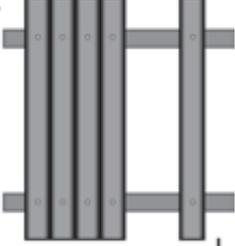
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**Out  
and about**



**Letter to the editor**



*Walkers and responsible dog owners are becoming frustrated at the growing number of threatening, unleashed dogs in Hall. An enjoyable walk becomes a challenge when confronted by dogs and their owners who are obviously unconcerned by their pets' behaviour. Polite requests to restrain their dogs are often met with an annoyed response: 'He/she won't bite.'*

*Dog owners should understand the regulations and responsibilities of dog ownership. I suggest that dogs should be leashed unless using a designated, enclosed area. This would also help curb the problem of dog faeces fouling the playing fields.*

*This letter is a plea to dog owners who come to Hall. Walkers and responsible dog owners should be able to exercise without the threat of thoughtless and irresponsible dog owners.*

*Community cooperation and consideration will result in equal enjoyment for all and avoid future conflict and possible litigation.*

*Let's hear your comments.*

*Concerned residents.*

The Geraghty family from Guildford, Victoria. Mother Carol, Jacob 14 and Walter 12, camp at Hall Show Ground after starting out before Christmas 2013. That's over three months on horse back. Their horses are rescue horses. That means these horses Kai and Charm were destined for slaughter before the Geraghty's rescued them and trained them as pack horses. On the trail Jacob rides Desert Rose and Walter rides Cozzie. Following the National Trail, they have experienced dry and rugged terrain, plus wild dogs that spooked their pack horses. It took hours to find them at night.

The family is trained in first-aid and carry safety beacons. They are monitored and registered with the Trail Association for times of arrival at destinations.

The family eats a lot of dry food and take time for home schooling. Next stop after Hall is Jenolan caves. Final destination is Cook Town Queensland.



Jacob riding Desert Rose and Walter riding Cozzie, stop at Hall on the National trail while on route from Victoria to Cooktown, Queensland

photo: Bob Richardson

**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](http://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](mailto: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

**Other information**

Editor: Jo Hall

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Enquiries to the Sub-editor on 0407 071 245 or [ruralfringe@hotmail.com](mailto:ruralfringe@hotmail.com)

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

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from

the Editor

Against the wishes of the community, on 13 December 2006, Hall Primary School was closed. Hall Primary School is included on the ACT Heritage Register with clear heritage guidelines. The preschool remained open and fell under the administration of Gold Creek Primary School. The preschool is not under immediate threat, but in the long term it will need to be in a permanent (and not demountable) building. If a child care facility is constructed this should house the preschool.



Following the school closure, the Village of Hall & District Progress Association (VHDPA) immediately obtained agreement from the ACT Government for use of the Cottage, multi-purpose courts, garage (now the Hall Men's Shed) and the Hall School Museum. The ACT Government did renovation work on the Cottage and this continues to be used for community meetings, church activities and also to run computer literacy programs. The tennis courts are also in frequent use.

The ACT Government upgraded the Pavilion as an alternative to the 'community hub' model being developed at other closed school sites. The amount invested in Hall to date has been small compared to other school sites (precise figures are not available).

The *Hall School Museum*, under the stewardship of the Friends of Hall School Museum, with a membership of 40 people largely from Hall and the district, has done an enormous amount of work in restoring the school building and collection. The Friends, an important social group in themselves, have staged major exhibitions each year since 2010, which have received hundreds of visitors. The work has been maintained through a steady stream of grants from ACT Heritage and the Federal Government. Particularly important has been the relationship with the University of Canberra and the potential for assisting with their curation and heritage studies and with the Australian Education Union to assist schools with the history component of the new national curriculum. Another significant relationship is with the National Library of Australia and its assessment of the national significance of the museum and its collection. There is every potential to develop the museum into a Hall and District Heritage Centre, which could become a significant asset to the ACT; developed entirely through the efforts of volunteers.

The *Hall Men's Shed* was formally registered in August 2011 and has over 30 members. Occupying the old garage and informally using the old school hall, the

shed is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. When not drinking coffee and having a chat, activities have included building special workstations for autistic children and similar community projects. The museum has benefitted too as the Shed members have carried out minor building works and furniture repairs. Men's sheds have helped men throughout the country who suffer from isolation, depression or grief and the interaction between members of the shed at Hall has been of great benefit in this regard.

A *Multi-purpose Community Hall* could be hired out for the purposes of karate classes or similar activities. Until such a hall is constructed, these activities (or extra exhibition and working space for the museum) can be accommodated in three of the vacant demountable buildings.

The *Rotary Club of Hall* has also indicated interest in a facility in Hall for at least two purposes – in support of their Romac program (see front page) and for storage of Rotary items. They are looking for a visible association of the club with the community and are willing to financially back the VHDPA. This emerging partnership holds great promise for the future of the site.



The Government would like to see some income generated from use of the site to cover maintenance costs. The Hall community would like security of tenure for use of the heritage site for the above community purposes. These two elements are coming together following March's well-attended community meeting. The future of the school site affects everyone in the village and district and I urge you to continue having your say through the Association.

Jo Hall

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