

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district



VOLUME 23 ISSUE 3

June 2016

village people

Sandra Southwell-Stevens

by Jo Hall

Glen Lynne on the site of the old Bedellick School on Spring Range Road just minutes out of Hall village is home to fifth generation Sandra Southwell-Stevens and her babies. Since about 1979 when she answered an advertisement in a newspaper, Sandra has been continuously providing foster care for babies. At that time she had three children of her own, aged two, four and six. Sandra's maternal instinct drove her remarkable and long career of caring for babies who could not remain with their families – for many reasons including mental health, drug addiction and in some cases the disability of the newborn child.



'It runs in the family,' she told me 'when Grandma's sister died leaving a six week old baby, she rode side-saddle to Collector to bring the baby home and raised it as her own'. Sandra's childhood was full of playing with dolls and her own parents were very baby-oriented. In those days you had to be married, have a religion and no children younger than two years old. 'I had to wait for my daughter to turn two before I could apply' Sandra said.

Two of Sandra's foster children – Shannon and Michelle – stayed with her for life, meaning Sandra, by then a single mum, raised five children as well as providing love and care for dozens of babies. In the early days it was for six weeks and then you would hand them back, have a two week break and then onto the next one. 'After I handed a baby back,' says Sandra 'I would go to a café and sit at the back with my back to the door. They knew not to talk to me. I'd have my cup of coffee and a piece of cake, and



then I'd be okay'. You can just feel how difficult those days must be. 'I write a letter to every foster baby and take photos for them when they are older. There is always the option for them to contact me later and many do' Sandra told me. 'The hardest thing is when they go back into a difficult situation, sometimes at short notice'.

Sandra trained at Reid TAFE and at 15 joined the public service as a secretary in the Air Force until her first baby was

born. Now she runs the property where she lives surrounded by merino sheep, plus her brand new miniature Pomeranian puppy Bindi and the working dogs out the back. Her house is full of antique cots, bassinets, baby clothes and baby paraphernalia. With eight grandchildren and one great grandchild of her own, you start to wonder how she can fit in the fostering. Especially because it seems Sandra has become the go-to foster mum for the agencies for the more difficult situations. Caring for a crack baby going through the horrors of withdrawal or taking disabled or sick children for hospital checks and treatment are all in a day's work for Sandra, time and again. 'The drugs have become the worst problem in recent years' Sandra told me 'if I could change anything it would be the drug culture'.

Then I discovered another piece of voluntary work Sandra was involved in was teaching adults (through TAFE) to read and write at her home. 'I would find out what they wanted to read – the *Women's Weekly* or a particular book, and we'd focus on that' she told me. And there's more.

. . . continued on page 16

Autumn colours in the Vineyard at Pankhurst Wines



The 2016 vintage in our vineyards in the Hills of Hall area has provided exceptional quality fruit. The hot summer and ripening period resulted in the earliest vintage on record and it was all completed by the last week in March. The vines are now showing their autumn colours and will soon be asleep for the winter. Almost time for the next cycle to begin!

Come out and enjoy the wines at your local wine industry – off Wallaroo Road. Autumn is a great time to visit and enjoy the atmosphere. Check our website for coming events:
www.pankhurstwines.com.au

Artists in the Shed

During the annual Harvest Festival, on a typically beautiful Canberra autumn weekend, the public gathered at Shaw Vineyard to enjoy fine local wines, food, music, activities and an art exhibition, featuring 'Artists in the Shed': Lyne Dingwall, Julie Hawkins, Helen White and Meg Dingwall. 'Artists in the Shed' would like to thank the Shaw family and the community for their support to help make this a highly successful exhibition. It was so much fun! Let's do it again next year!



painting by Lyne Dingwall



painting by Julie Hawkins



Helen White with a selection of her paintings

photo (on canvas) by Meg Dingwall





Kevin Stone with friends at the Mother's Day Classic.

Ross Corrigan, Jo Hall and Rania Yallop, wet but triumphant after the Mother's Day Classic 5km run



Dear Editor

I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who have made a contribution to the McGrath Foundation, either directly through the web page that my daughter set up or by donating at the Wood Duck Inn and the Gum Nut Café. Through this ongoing and generous support, it has helped to raise just on \$3500 in about 10 weeks.

For people who aren't aware of what the money is used for, the foundation places breast care nurses in communities across Australia as well as increases breast health awareness in young people. So every dollar counts! And as the foundation motto says, 'Together we can make a difference'. During the recent Mother's Day Classic walk I met up with two guys, both with children ranging from 4-6 years old, and whose wives had passed away from breast cancer. One was 36! But both men, like me, very much appreciated the support given by the McGrath Foundation. That's why I care and will continue to fundraise for this wonderful cause. The web page will be open until February next year and Allyson Wedrat has kindly offered to keep the fundraising tin and box available at the two locations for ongoing donations.

Thanks once again people of Hall and the district.

Kevin Stone



20 March 2016

Dear Editor

My husband and I attended the Sheep Dog Trials in Hall yesterday. We drove up from Batemans Bay especially to attend. I had a few questions beforehand that were promptly answered via email. We were greeted at the gate by some very enthusiastic kids. The entry fee of \$5 told the public you wanted them there. We had lunch and drinks as well which were also reasonably priced. The lady on the commentary had a friendly, inviting voice; I liked her straight away, even though I didn't see her. Charlie was great with sharing his knowledge without going overboard like some people do. Sharing his knowledge happily. Everyone was friendly; the dogs and their owners were terrific to watch. Well done to everyone involved; we had a lovely day out.

regards, Tanya and John Nugent



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Hall Village Community Fire Unit

by **Bob Richardson**

In early May over 40 Community Fire Team leaders met at the Hume Training Centre to compare notes, experiences and actions during the 2015/16 fire season.



Hall Village Community Fire Unit, number 13, has been operational since 2003. Annually we thank the dozen or so Hall volunteers who year after year step up to the mark and volunteer time and effort to help protect our residents and their homes from bush fire.

There are more than 100 homes in the Hall Village. The precinct is divided into zones. Each zone has a leader, 'a go to' and a deputy. Find out who your zone leader is and make yourself known. Check the notice board outside 'Daughters at Hall' or contact team leader, Bob Richardson, 0407 071 245.

Team leaders are charged with auditing and consulting in their zones. Data is collated for developing appropriate responses. Data may include:

- How many residents per house and are there any special need or disabilities?
- Do you have pets and how many?
- The location of swimming pools and water tanks and how accessible they are.
- Do you intend to stay in an emergency?
- Do you need advice to plan and prepare for bushfires?

We have a few houses identified as containing asbestos in Hall Village, including the old Hall School site. Appropriate response in fire has been prepared by our ACT Fire and Rescue. Asbestos is only one of the chemicals that may be dangerous in response to fire. Many chemicals are reactive to water and heat, creating toxic gas and particles.

The CFU trailer is on stand-by in the old school grounds. CFU trailer maintenance programs are routinely carried out and improvements made. At present, an upgrade of radios is being field tested. An encrypted application for CFU communication is being developed and tested and also identification cards for trained CFU members are being put in place. Emergency Services Agency will enhance its Facebook and Twitter Communications.

Personal protective equipment replacement and upgrades are available for trained members of our CFU. Contact your team leader for details.

Your Hall CFU is integrated with ACT Fire and Rescue and Hall Volunteer Rural Fire brigade. CFU members are trained to watch and report, deploy hoses, support and carry out activities in the event of ember attack or spot fires. The CF Unit team leader will identify escape routes for the team, manage accountability boards to monitor where unit members are when deployed to an incident. The health, safety and well-being of members is paramount to the team leader.



Tony Morris, Bruce Isaacs, Brian Banyard, Bill Pearson

The Hall Village sports area and Pavilion is our designated emergency assembly area. If in doubt, head for this emergency assembly area at the Pavilion.

Any possible emergency evacuation from Hall Village, activated by a bushfire needs your cooperation.

Based on the 2003 experience, Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade and Urban Fire Units will be

engaged at the fire front and

away from the village. The most likely fire front will be moving north-west, from the grasslands across the Barton Highway. Hall Village will be in its path. Your Hall CFU will be in the village controlling embers, spot fires and the evacuation of residents. The main and possibly the only escape route will be Victoria St. to the Barton Highway and South to Canberra CBD. Traffic out of Hall will be monitored and managed by Hall CFU. Unit members will attempt to document departing residents. We will require your name, a contact number, number of persons in the vehicle and your destination. Zone leaders will issue information cards to residents. These cards can be filled out in advance and handed to your traffic control people on departure. This procedure will help ensure all residents are safely evacuated. Zone leaders will check each house for stragglers.

Hall and District Axemen's Club

by **Shaun O'Connor**

The Hall and District Axemen's Club is possibly the fastest growing wood chopping group in the world! That sounds impressive! And in our sport it is, as we only have approximately 800 registered wood choppers in Australia. The Hall and District Axemen's Club (HADAC) now has over 12 members and growing, is incorporated and now has a bank account.



The weekend of 14 May at the Farmers' Home Hotel at Wagga was a successful chop with our Alex Dyriw getting first in the novice underhand out of 10. We also placed fourth and fifth in this event. The junior chop saw Austin O'Connor (11 years old) complete his 10 inch log in front of a very supportive crowd.

Apart from a few chops before the end of the year the official wood chopping season has ended. Hall members competed in many chops, including The Canberra and Sydney Royal shows. We have won or placed in every novice underhand event that we have entered and won three double handed sawing events.

Whilst all of our group are novices the age range is 11 to 46, some participants in the sport are over 70 and still very competitive. This means that it's never too late to swing an axe or pull a saw, especially ladies. The sport is a sprint sport so cardiovascular is high level yet low impact on knees.

With help from our Association the South Coast and Tablelands Axemen's Association we have had training days and invitations to many local wood chops which has been imperative to learning the sport of wood chopping plus meeting some of the best people any sport can produce.



Richard Fulton practising hard

If you are interested in getting into wood chopping, training is on most Tuesdays and Fridays from 4:30pm at the old Pony Club shed.

Please contact Shaun on **0427 363 747**.



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Farmer Brown's Eggs in Hall

by **Farmer Greg**

When driving along the Barton Highway recently, you may have noticed an additional Chicken Caravan with more hens roaming around it, bringing the total number of Farmer Brown's Free Range hens to 1000. Being on approximately 20 hectares of land, this gives us a stocking density of 50 hens per hectare. This is a far cry from the 10 000 hens per hectare recently set as an 'acceptable' level to be able to call eggs 'free range'. Can you imagine the 20 hectares adjacent to the Hall cemetery with 200 000 hens on it?!

Having the new 500 girls arrive about one month ago, brings with it extra work in the form of teaching the new girls good habits. This meant manually tucking approx. 500 hens 'into bed' each night on their perch in the chicken caravan for the first seven nights until finally they all learnt where to go to sleep. As the new girls began laying over the course of the next week or two, most girls needed picking up and placing in the nesting boxes. Often a critical mass occurs and other new layers see the activity in the nesting boxes and join in, however there are always a few stubborn ones who inevitably lay their eggs on the ground.



Free range egg farming is full of challenges, when compared to caged or barn eggs, which maintain total control of the hens environment (temperature, light intensity, hours of light) and diet. As the life of the free range hen is far less controlled and highly influenced by the natural seasons and weather patterns, egg volume and quality can vary depending on grass and insect coverage. The hens are also more vulnerable to

foxes or disease brought in by wild birds. However, this variation and risk must be weighed up against the far greater quality of life given to true free range hens and, in general, higher quality eggs. Fortunately Canberra is a great location to produce free range eggs due to the higher level of education and awareness around sustainability and animal welfare.

Another challenge facing not only myself, but other farmers in the ACT, is connecting directly to customers for direct retail sales. The popularity of the Canberra Region farmers market should be a blessing to local farmers due to the large numbers of Canberrans it attracts each Saturday. These markets however have added a major obstacle to those local farmers who cannot secure a position there and may actually be detrimental to the local economy.

A large proportion of 'Canberra region' stall holders travel from as far as Albury and Sydney to sell at these markets while some truly local farmers cannot gain market stalls at these markets as they are tightly controlled and defended.

As soon as the market is complete, these regional farmers take their proceeds directly out of the Canberra economy. It is ironic and totally incomprehensible that local Canberra farmers need to consider travelling out to more regional markets to sell their produce! If you do like shopping at farmers markets you may want to consider visiting



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drop in to 2 Alexandra St in the Village,
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facebook.com/FarmerBrowns.FreeRangeEggs**

farmer brown's

one of the less crowded markets such as the Southside markets on Sundays or the Farmers and Foodies markets on Friday afternoons.

Local farmers rely highly on the support on their direct local community in order to survive and thrive in these times of intensively mass produced food. In return local farmers provide to their community things that may not necessarily give an immediate saving to the hip pockets but generate longer lasting returns to everyone in the community, that large industrial corporations cannot (I call them *Big Egg*). These include:



- return to the local economy – the local farmer will spend their money locally, keeping the money within the community.

I can honestly say the local Hall region community has been highly supportive of me in my attempts to change my lifestyle while improving my local environment and food production. Whether that be through buying my eggs or even just a friendly smile, wave, yell or honk of encouragement when they see me working down the paddock!

So thank you, Hall community!

- transparency in how your food is produced – you can physically see where and how it is produced.
- commitment/caring about the local community – does your local farmer care whether the chemicals or processes he/she uses causes harm to locals? – of course they do. Can the same be said about top managers and CEO's of big multi-national corporations?
- local productions means low food miles (sustainability) and fresh quality foods that will far exceed the shelf life of any fruit or vegetables bought from the large supermarkets.

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A quiet achiever

Many people may not know Allyson Wedrat, because she is not a Hall resident, but an unassuming seven-day-a-week worker, busily going about her businesses of running the Wood Duck Inn and Gum Nut Café. She is ably assisted in the café by the delightful Fran, who always manages a genuine and friendly smile, however busy she is.

I got to know a bit about what Allyson does for the Hall community after she offered to place an official McGrath Foundation fundraising box on the inn counter and a donation tin in the café. You may recall that I wrote an article about the foundation in the April edition of the Rural Fringe. And there is plenty more information on the web if you are interested. A wonderful organisation which has made such a difference to so many people's lives.

But I digress. Back to Allyson . . .

During our conversation she mentioned a luncheon held at the inn for retirees. This is held on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month and normally consists of a roast, desert and coffee at a reduced price. The luncheon originally started out as one for Hall retirees, but word has spread with anything up to 14 people joining the fun, and although no current Hall residents come along, they of course are more than welcome, because it offers great value and wonderful company. Allyson said she regularly gets eight or nine regulars who have a permanent booking, but others need to book by phoning the Wood Duck Inn for catering purposes. There are even theme lunches, such as Christmas in July and Melbourne Cup Day, complete with decorations.

Continuing the community-minded theme, Allyson and Fran also offer coffee and cake at the Gum Nut Café for \$5 to pensioners with limited budgets. This

is a great idea for people living in retirement villages and nursing homes in and around the district, and I was told that they get between 15-20 at times from as far away as Yass. So it not only provides great value for money, it gives people an outing and an excuse to visit the beautiful Hall Village.



↑ Christmas in July at the Wood Duck Inn

Now our chat wasn't all about retirees! Because the younger ones also got a mention. And this came in the form of a community bus idea that Allyson has had floating around her head for a while. A couple of years ago she bought a 14-seater, which needed a few repairs done to it. But not having a lot of spare dollars, the work was put on hold until some willing people came along and either did the necessary repairs on a voluntary basis or at a cheaper price to get the vehicle completely safe and roadworthy. Allyson has two main ideas for the bus: it's better to drive people home if they may be over the legal drink/drive limit than to risk an accident and possibly expand the idea to be available for the general community. The idea is only at the planning stage, but the plan is to have the bus available on a voluntarily basis.

And finally, on the second Saturday in December each year, the Wood Duck Inn puts on a family day in the park, complete with brass band, carol singing and Father Christmas, who somehow manages to arrive in a different form of transport each year and gives out pressies to the kids. There'll be more information about this in later editions of the *Rural Fringe* or in the mail, so watch out for it, because it sounds like a fun time.

In conjunction with the Christmas spirit, once again the 'older' generation is not overlooked, because each year a Christmas hamper is given to the Loftus Street Mulanggari Gardens residents.

Allyson, I don't quite know how you manage to do so much for the Hall community! I just wish that there were more like you in the wider Canberra area.

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Hall Bushrangers

rugby

Nigel Page President



Twenty five years ago this great club of ours kicked off and every year it becomes more exciting with growth in player numbers, talent and supporter base. After coming very close to winning the flag in first grade in 2015, 2016 is sure to be a big year for the club.

This year is already proving to be a cracker, with one of our favourite sons Luke (Janso) Jansen who returned for his second year as our head coach. Luke brings to the club a higher level of management, respect and mateship, hence giving the team the right attitude to be successful and after seven rounds first grade is undefeated and are sitting on top of the ladder. In the off season Luke recruited a new reserve grade coach – Rhys Langley. Rhys had pretty big shoes to fill taking over from Pat Gallagher who coached reserve grade to a premiership in 2014. Rhys is also doing a fantastic job with reserve grade sitting in the middle of ladder with four wins and three losses.

Luke and Rhys couldn't have the club where it is today without the tireless efforts of our support staff. Lisa

Thompson our sports trainer since 2008, Samantha Jansen in her second year with the club as sports trainer and of course our Manager Kenny (Keith McInnes) who has been around since Moses was a boy. Supporting all of these activities is our committee working tirelessly behind the scenes. The committee is made up of few old names and lots of new ones: Ben Reedy, Jess Williams, Joel Williams, Josh Peck, Pete McCabe, Wayde Hogan, Rob Foster, James Smith, James Murphy and Ayden Tait.

Below is a list of our remaining home games for the 2016 season, we'd love to see some Hall locals down on the side line cheering on the 'Hall' Bushrangers at The Hideout, Hall Oval

18 June
from 1:30pm
Hall Rugby Club v Young Rugby Club

2 July
from 1:30pm

25 year celebration main event.

Hall Rugby Club v Uni-Norths Rugby Club

16 July
from 1:30pm
Hall Rugby Club v Tuggeranong Rugby Club

On 2 July we'll have a Hall Bushed-Ranger Golden Oldies curtain raiser prior to our games against Uni-Norths, followed by a family, sponsors day out at the Hideout which will most likely conclude with a few refreshments at our spiritual home The Wood Duck Inn.

A big thank you to all our club sponsors, our coaching staff, our players and of course our die hard supporters for your commitment and diligence in building our clubs continuous improvement.

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Gardening, the Wonder Drug

by **Lisa Walmsley**

I don't know if these tips are accurate, but I love the idea that gardening can create so much awesomeness in our lives.

In our world of constant and instant communication, we are exposed to cures for whatever illness we may have with the latest wonder drugs, often costly and some come with big risks and side effects.

Isn't it wonderful that age-old simple cures can sometimes work wonders? Gardening is turning out to be one of the best drugs available for mind, body and spirit.

Do you want to lose kilos, build muscle, look and feel great, have fun, save money and help out the planet? Do you want to be more resistant to disease and injuries?

Did you know that one hour of gardening is equivalent to 35 minutes of jogging?

The physical benefits of gardening include, but are not limited to:

- weight loss
- blood circulation
- flexibility
- reduced bone loss
- stronger immune system
- vitamin D
- strength
- improved coordination

Vitamin D is critical for our health, it regulates calcium and phosphorus levels in our bodies. It can be supplemented, but the best way to increase it in our bodies is by direct exposure, and gardening is an easy way to achieve that.

When you are gardening you are required to bend, dig, lift, reach, prune and stretch, all of which build and tone muscles, strengthen bones and improve

flexibility. In turn these movements increase blood circulation, leading to lowered blood pressure and faster healing, making you more resistant to injuries and reduced risk of bone loss, heart disease, diabetes and other health nasties.

The psychological benefits of gardening:

- increased neurotrophins – improving your mental health
- cortisol reduction – stress relief
- mycobacterium vacche exposure – improves depression (mycobacterium vacche is a harmless bacteria, that lives in soil and boosts serotonin in our brains and works as an antidepressant).

Not to mention the benefits of growing your own produce, including the increase in nutrients and flavours in home grown veggies.

Aside from flavour, kids love growing their own veggies and plants, seniors develop a wonderful sense of fulfilment and its a great excuse to get the teenagers out of the house and away from technology.



Furthermore, supermarkets choose produce according to its shelf life, there is a huge disparity in flavour, which anyone that has grown tomatoes knows. Not only that, homegrown food is dramatically fresher than produce that has traveled unknown numbers of kilometres and sat in cold storage for many months.

Gardening is truly a wonder drug, it costs very little and rewards you in so many ways.



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Seedy Toe in horses **equine**

by **Tamara Riley & Cassie Duddy**

In the warmer wetter months of the year, it is more common to start seeing horses develop seedy toe. Seedy toe, also called white line disease, is when the hoof wall separates from the underlying tissue in the foot and can be an extremely painful process for the horse. This disease process affects horses of any age, sex or breed, however, is much more common when extra stressors are added, including excessively long toes or flares, or poor hoof conformation (eg. Clubfoot). We tend to see more cases of this when the weather is warm and humid. Wet and humid conditions break down the barrier walls of the hoof, allowing entry of pathogens into compromised areas which leads to infection of the separation.



In the early stages of the disease you may notice a dark line on the surface of the hoof that will slowly grow over time and form a concaved area. Animals will only start to show signs of lameness once damage has become quite extensive and therefore other signs to look for include a positive reaction to hoof testers, a wide white line, heat in the hoof and slow or poor growth of the hoof wall. If separation has occurred you may see discharge from the white line on the under surface of the foot and if this is seen please contact a vet immediately.

Early detection is an important step for the successful treatment of seedy toe and depending on the severity of the condition, treatment may include resecting the affected hoof wall and thoroughly cleaning out the infection or corrective shoeing to help take the stress off the toe to avoid further separation. Horses exposed to moist conditions over long periods are more susceptible to this disease and therefore keeping them in dry areas for periods of time can help. If your horse has had seedy toe previously, it is important to continue to monitor them, as it can reoccur.

This disease can be prevented with regular farrier work to help balance the foot and reduce the mechanical stress put on the wall. It is important to check your horse's feet daily for any abnormalities as prevention is always better than cure!

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By the time this edition of the Fringe goes to print we will at long last have signed a license with the ACT Government granting the community, through the Association, occupancy and control over the Hall Primary School site. As with everything in this process, the last step took longer than expected! Following broad agreement with the Government late last year, it took a further few months to negotiate the details.

We have been granted a two year license to occupy the whole site (apart from the pre-school). In exchange we are to meet our share of the costs of the site (utilities, security, garden maintenance etc). This will allow the community activities of the Hall School Museum, the Men's Shed and Hall Rotary to continue and prosper with certainty.

This is a significant milestone for the community, but not the end of the journey. Over the next two years we will work the Government on a long term plan for the site.

In other news we continue to watch the proposed development of the CSIRO Ginninderra site with interest. On 5 May the Commonwealth Territories Minister, Paul Fletcher, approved a change to the National Capital Plan to include the area as an 'urban area'. This is the first step in approvals for

development of the site. CSIRO has asked for expressions of interest for a joint-venture partner for the development. They intend to begin development in two to three years, and our understanding is that development will start at the Giralang end of the site.

The Association has written to CSIRO requesting continued consultation. Our main concerns are:

- Not compromising the Hall Precinct Plan – the Precinct Plan for Hall is designed to ensure the rural nature of the village is retained. We have highlighted this to the CSIRO and ask it be considered from the start of planning for the development.
- Traffic – making sure the extra traffic generated by the development is supported and coordinated with any work required by Roads ACT. This is especially true for the Barton Highway, and the need for money to be spent off the site to support development on the site. The funding and timing of other off-site work to support the development must also be negotiated and agreed well in advance (e.g. water, sewerage, gas, electricity). We want to make sure other ratepayers aren't subsidising the CSIRO development.

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- Sustainability vs Profit – we have asked CSIRO to advise us how they are going to manage the inevitable conflict between their aim “... to maximise the value of the site” and their sustainability aim.
- We are particularly interested in being involved in the planning of access (road, bike, walking etc) to the areas to be developed north of Kuringa Drive. The placement of roads and foot/bike paths in this area provides both threats and opportunities for Hall, and we’d like to have a say in what is being planned.
- Halls Creek – the erosion of Halls Creek is an ongoing environment issue for our part of the valley. Halls Creek flows into the proposed development area, so we are looking at ways of working with the developers to minimise the water quality impacts on their development by proposing remedial work in the Hall Village area. Hopefully this will be a win for both the village and the proposed development.

It will be some years before the development itself approaches the outskirts of Hall, but there is potential for things like traffic to impact on Hall residents from the start of construction. We’re trying to have our input on all these issues right from the start. More information about the development can be found at ginninderraproject.com.au.

Finally, in response to concerns about excessive noise on weekend evenings at the Hall Pavilion, the Committee has agreed new arrangements for the hiring of the Pavilion. These include new signage in the Pavilion reminding patrons of the conditions of hire relating to noise, an earlier curfew of 11pm for music to be turned off, and investment in a new booking system which will streamline administration, including automating reminders about conditions of use and advising the ACT Police of the details of weekend hires. Most importantly there will be an escalation process for nearby residents in the event of excessive noise, including the ability to call for the attendance of security guards (with the cost of attendance deducted from the bond for the hire). The impact of these changes will be reviewed over the coming months.

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Rediscovering Ginninderra

The Museum's annual 'blockbuster' exhibition 'Rediscovering Ginninderra' was a popular event during the Canberra & Region Heritage Festival. All the visitors enjoyed the various displays including the blacksmithing activity by Alf Wilford and Kingsley Southwell on the day of the opening and the wonderful models of the old Ginninderra buildings created by Vicki Coleman and the team. There was a lot of interest in the stories and photographs of the early families from the area and the children who attended the Ginninderra School in 1908.



▲ Alf Wilford at the forge & Kingsley Southwell at the anvil.

There has been a number of follow up return visits by people who wanted to spend more time looking at the displays and reading the stories.

The exhibition will be open, as will all the museum displays, on the normal opening hours of Thursday mornings from 10am till 12 noon and the first Sunday of the month from 10am till 4pm.

Hall Peace Garden

On Anzac Day the 'Hall Peace Garden' was officially opened with a small ceremony. I gave an introductory speech which was followed by a short address by Joan Christie on behalf of the Hollingsworth family.

It was then appropriate that the granddaughters of Susan 'Granny' Hollingsworth, who planted the Peace Tree in 1919, unveil the commemorative sign and cut the ribbon. The ceremony concluded with the Ode, a minute's silence, the Last Post, the Rouse and Reville with the raising of the flag.



▲ Granddaughters of Susan 'Granny' Hollingsworth; Joan Christie, Tinecka Charles, Eileen Wignall, Penny Baker, and Sally Hall. Missing from the above photo is Pat Kinlyside from Melbourne who was not able to attend the ceremony.

The Peace Garden is located in a quiet place behind the pre-school and is available for the Hall community to visit and enjoy this special space.

Visitors

A number of group visits from View Clubs and Probus have kept the volunteers busy over the last months. A large group of Year 2 primary school students from Gold Creek School visited the museum in May. The theme of their visit was 'Learning about previous generations helps us to understand about the past and the present'. Under the direction of Mardie Troth, the museum volunteers arranged for the displays to reflect this theme so that the teachers and students would get the most benefit from their visit.

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University of Canberra Students

The museum was the setting for the University of Canberra's first year 'Museum Conservation and Heritage' students to have their annual workshop.



Some of the students discussing and drawing their chosen objects from the collection.

Twenty one students with their Course Convenor spent the day at the museum. After visiting the many displays they got down to work selecting an object each from the 'Memory Lane' collection and recording its history and then drawing and photographing the selected item. Five museum volunteers were on hand to facilitate the visit and assist the students with details of the objects. The feedback from the students and Course Convenor was excellent with positive remarks about the museum, its collection and the knowledgeable and helpful volunteers. It is planned that this association with the University of Canberra will continue with the museum assisting students at all levels of their tertiary studies with the access to items from the collection for their assignments.

Website

The museum website has been updated to incorporate a calendar of future events which will give on-line visitors information on key dates in the coming months. Additional webpages have also been constructed to accommodate the wealth of information that is gathered as part of the annual exhibitions. This year information and photos on the 'Rediscovering Ginninderra' exhibition will be added to the museum's website.

The museum is at the former Hall Primary School site in Victoria Street. Entry is free, but your donations are greatly appreciated. The exhibition, and other current displays are open on Hall Market days : 10-4pm; Thursday mornings 9.30-12.30 pm; groups by appointment **0408 259 946**. Further details can be found at: **museum.hall.act.au**

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Sandra Southwell-Stevens

by Jo Hall

. . . continued from page 1

In 2007, Sandra earned the Order of Australia medal 'for service to the community as a foster carer of children and pre-adoptive newborns, and through support for young families'. This award also recognised Sandra's voluntary work to help new



mothers care for their children as part of a program called 'Good Beginnings'. She would visit once a week for a couple of hours, find a chair to sit in because most were broken, and help give the new mothers a bit more confidence in feeding and caring for their babies in homes with not much heating or little food but where the grog

and stereos were obvious. 'I'd see a change in them' she tells me 'they'd greet me at the door and be nicely dressed.' Some of the husbands could be tricky and a bit threatening, they were suspicious that I was interfering or they might lose a baby to the system, but I'd win them round, help them fill in forms that could help, that kind of thing.'

Sandra's father Macks Southwell attended Hall Primary School, as did Sandra and her sister Jenisse. Sandra loves the tight community at Hall. As a teenager she was a member of the Monomeeth Club and used to enjoy playing tennis. Some of her children also went to Hall Primary School. Sandra is an active member of Wattle Park church. At the time that Aunty Jean ran Hall Premier Store, Aunty Grace Brown (who lived on Gladstone Street) would bring the shopping out to Spring Range Road with the mail. And, I discovered, Sandra's father wrote articles for the *Rural Fringe* under the pen name 'Gundy'.



Hall is full of extraordinary people. Like many of you, I often see Sandra out and about with a baby in her arms or in a pram and wanted to know a little more of her story. It is a great pleasure to recognise Sandra's years of service in the *Rural Fringe* and makes me proud to know among us we have someone who is protecting and nurturing the lives of so many.



▲ Bedellick School, painted by Sandra's mum

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Vale Robert (Bob) Watson

18 November 1947 – 5 May 2016

Bob, who worked with Telecom, came to Hall circa 1978 and took up residence at Sunny Corner with his first wife Maureen. Their son Graham attended Hall Primary School. Bob was the president of the early Hall Volunteer Fire Brigade after he saw the need following the disastrous fire in February 1979. Bob worked hard to make the volunteer Fire Brigade what it is today and was instrumental in getting the Fire Shed in Hall village. In about 1985 Bob and his family purchased a rural block at Murrumbateman but he still maintained close ties with his friends at Hall. 'Watto' spent quite a bit of time helping Andy Fulton renovate his Bedford truck and Andy remembers him as a 'regular good bloke'.

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Vale Peter Ormay

13 April 1938 – 19 May 2016



Hall Pavilion was the selected venue to celebrate the life and say farewell to local identity Peter Ivan Ormay on 26 May 2016.

An Ode to Peter

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Identifying many a gumtree.*

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From the editor

It is always a huge relief when the *Rural Fringe* goes to print and makes it into your Post Office box or gets delivered to your 2618 address. Let me describe the process of how our eclectic team of volunteers – myself, Gael Condi, Andrew Purdam, Bob Richardson and Kevin Stone – put it together. Early in the month before it is due, one of us, usually Gael, remembers to send out a note to all contributors and advertisers to send in photos, articles or any news for content by the deadline of 10th of the month. We have a number of faithful and reliable contributors who respond within the timeframe (Lisa's lovely gardening articles for example arrive without reminder, it is a delight) or at least tell us something is on the way so we can hold space. Meanwhile either Gael or Andrew nominate to take on the layout job for that edition. And Bob is busy taking photos and digging up news on a continuous basis.

Around the 20th of the month, panic usually sets in that there is not enough material and we start trying to think of events not covered and encourage people to contribute. We fit this work into a few hours here and there dotted around a free evening or bit of a weekend, whenever we can find time. If one of us has a crisis or is exceptionally busy, one of the others steps up to take up the slack. It is not a huge amount of work for any one of us, but the process involves a bit of give-and-take and goodwill.

Things arrive on the *Rural Fringe* hotmail address to which we all have access. I get involved in decisions about the front page and other content, which usually means I am chasing up articles or asking Bob to. Sometimes I check a story, edit articles or write them. The major work is in the layout itself. It means trying to fit the words, photos and advertisements in an appealing layout, often starting when we only have about half the content. Do we have enough for 24 pages or will it be 20 pages this time? If it's all going smoothly then we have a draft at the end of the month. I do an edit of a hard copy draft and Kevin does the proofread on the same hard copy and then it is back to the layout artist to finalise. Bob usually takes it to the printer (Instant Colour Press)

in Belconnen on a memory stick for them to make the 660 copies in the first week of the month it is due and then we ask the Progress Association to put it up on the website. I pay the Post Office and the printer. Once a year I invoice all the advertisers, to whom we are very grateful for their support, our only source of income. The accounts are audited every year along with the accounts of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association and I report to the Annual General Meeting.

We are missing John Carson who was our 'feature writer' but recently left the district. If you'd like to help out in any way – for example looking after the advertisements, invoicing and accounts; as an alternate layout artist (we use InDesign); as editor; roving journalist; or feature writer we would really, really welcome you to lighten the load on our committed team, just call me on **0417 693545** or send an email to **ruralfringe@hotmail.com**. Or sending in a regular article would be a huge help. Or an occasional piece of news and photo. It is your *Rural Fringe* and we rely on your contributions.

We love our newsletter and we hope you do too. Volume One, Issue One came out in February 1994 under the editorship of Shaun Robson and it has come out every two months since then. We hope there will be many more.

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 dominantly 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

Other information

Editor: Jo Hall

Sub-editor: Bob Richardson

Enquiries to the Sub-editor on 0407 071 245 or ruralfringe@hotmail.com

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Out and about ... about



Autumn colours around Hall

photos: Paul Porteus



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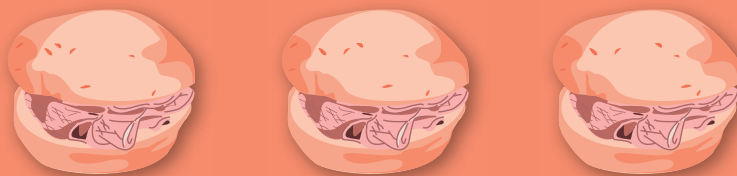
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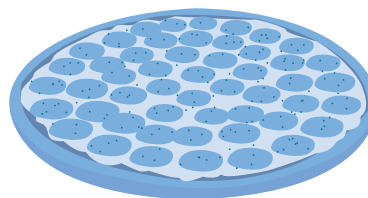
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