

# RURAL FRINGE

*Journal of the Hall district*



VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2

April 2018

## ***Cry “Wayback!” and let slip the dogs of sheep.***

by **Alan Jenkins**

The whole final day of the 75th National Sheep Dog Trials at the Hall Showground was, to paraphrase Wellington after Waterloo, the nearest run thing you ever saw in your life.

Here might end the weather observations save for mention of its extremes. An unrelenting, at times oppressive dust storm tinted with smoke all day from the north-west. The Trials' first stroke of luck in fact.

Taken aback by that very rarest of moments when a dog scores a perfect 100, a heritage tree shed a large chunk of itself without planning permission, crashing and smashing to the ground on the arena's eastern side near spectators, children and cars.

Nobody injured or killed: the Trials' second stroke of luck and next year's wood for the Collector's Club fire.

Had the storm blown the other way, the dust blizzard from the fierce contests of the Yass Polocrosse across the creek would have blasted a near-record crowd from the showground wearing an astoundingly thick taste of country life, several days' worth of face, skin and hair scrubbing, a lost cause the clothes, the pet dog's eyesight and the windward side of the car duco.

Yass Polocrosse were ceaseless with the sheer amount of water they doused onto their fields. Nearby Casey owes a unanimous vote of thanks and gratitude. Kinlyside's relieved it was never built.

Sunday's weather aside, everything else mostly went according to the week's (very pinpoint) plan, many times bettering expectations.

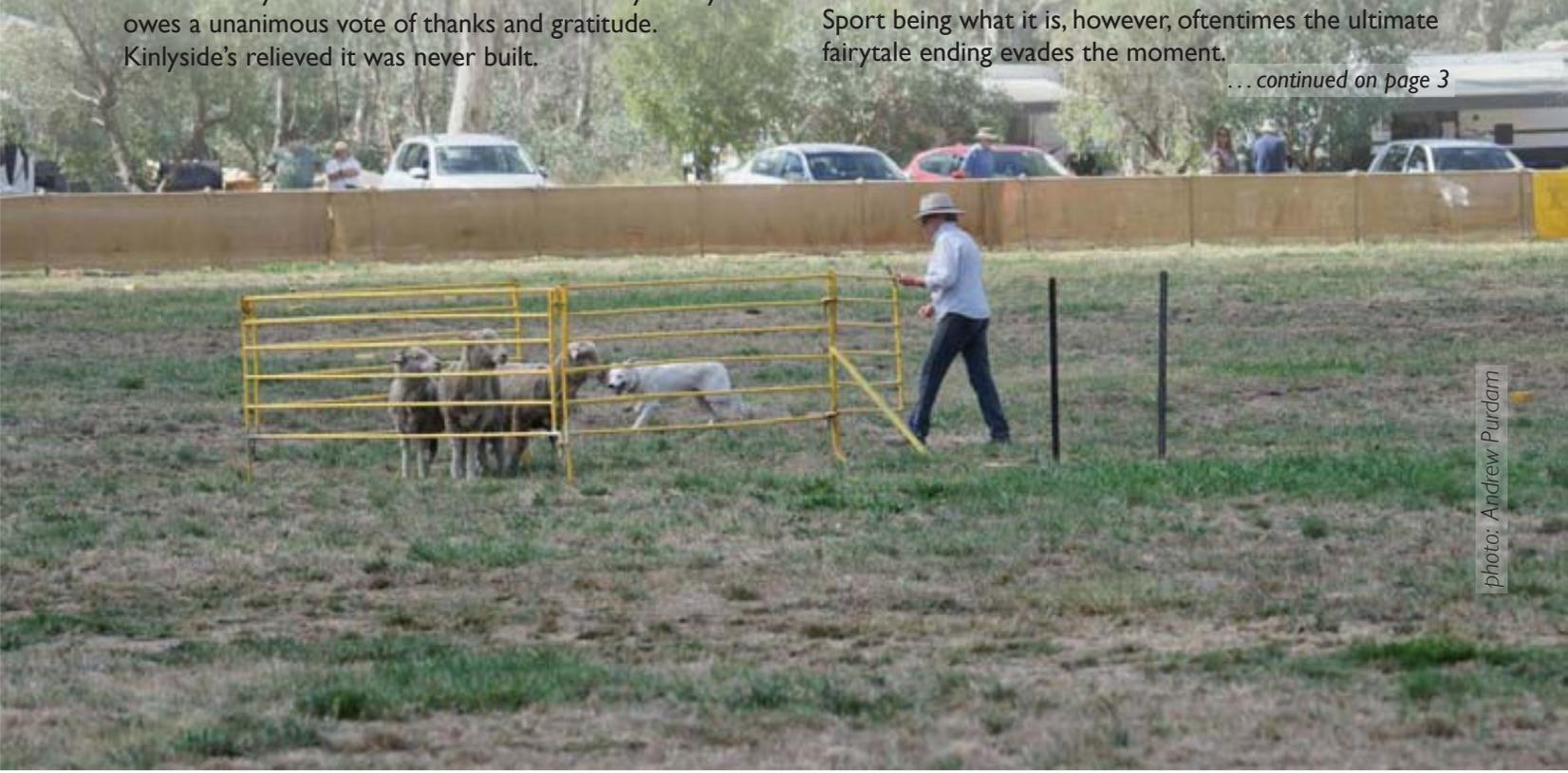
The contests at Australia's and what was once the world's peak competition delivered their usual razor-thin margins and blink of the eye action, the nation's best 200 sheep dogs receiving no easy time of it from the finest, most even and combative sheep ever to graze the Halls Creek valley. Home ground advantage to the ewes, most notably the showground dust.

So soon after their International Day, forty-one percent of the human competitors being women attracted weeklong national and at times live media coverage not seen at the Trials since the Queen presented the trophies in 1970, local Channel 7's black and white telecasts of the early 1960s or the ABC's live radio broadcasts nationally and on relay to New Zealand from 1953.

Saturday morning revealed 10 women among the 17 triallists left standing, 49 dogs to be whittled down to eight for the next day's final. At hand a real prospect of a woman lifting the Queen's Trophy in an all women's final (and screaming Sunday news headlines all the way to the Netherlands and the UK, where a growing social media audience was reportedly following on).

Sport being what it is, however, oftentimes the ultimate fairytale ending evades the moment.

*... continued on page 3*



# National Sheep Dog Trial Championships



*Bill Paton & Lindsays Pindi*



*Rivlin Ben*



*T.K.Kitty*



*Rivlin Ben*

*Nan Llyod travelled from Kojonup, Western Australia, to compete. Nan has seven kelpies, farm working dogs that do not specialise in the nationals format.*



## 2018 National Sheep Dog Trial Championships

### Main results

- 1st Queens Trophy, Duke of Gloucester Sash  
John Perry with Boco Raffa
- 2nd Barry Paton with Patons Sting (equal second)
- 2nd Mick Hudson with MGH Jess
- 4th Geoff Gibson with Swampoak Myah
- 5th Charlie Cover with Oakdean Bloke
- 6th Barry Paton with Dodgers Sting
- 7th Tony Elliot with OK Cooper

### 2018 National Improver Champion

- 1st The Governor-Generals Sash and National Improver Trophy Bill Davidson with MGH Blue
- 2nd Laurie Slater with Zeefree Troy
- 3rd Charlie Cover with Windeyer Reba



*Hall Pre-schoolers visit the sheepdogs.*



According to the Hall pre-school teacher, Jane Marshall, one of the most highly anticipated events on the pre-school calendar is the Dog Trials. The children prepare colourful paintings of farm life which are then displayed at the Pavilion during the Trials. As a reward for their efforts, each artist is presented with an individually inscribed medallion. Some kind triallers allow children to pat their champion dogs before the pre-schoolers sit down to enjoy morning tea. The Hall Ladies' Dog Committee has organised this occasion for eight years and due to its popularity, is keen to continue the tradition.

*Dog's Dinner chefs.*



*At the Dog's Dinner.*



# National Sheep Dog Trial Championships

... continued from page 1



Sunday's remaining three women and their dogs were then brought undone by perhaps the greatest individual and team performances of any sheep since the world's first Trials at Wanaka, New Zealand in 1867.

Four sheep retire to the clover paddock instead of hill as dog trialling's near equivalent of Chainsaw The Bull, Nureyev, Bannister and Comanici. Testament to Gold Creek Station's Craig and John Starr who have since scanned the eartags of the entire troupe and are finely adjusting next spring's Lambplan. Gird your loins, sheepdogs, for 2021.

In a weekend teeming heavily with public events in Canberra and the Yass Valley, the 75th National Sheep Dog Trials enjoyed by severalfold the largest crowd of its 40 year residency at Hall, spilling like a king tide into village businesses and the polocrosse carnival.

It was never going to better the 1945 Trials at Manuka Oval, opened by Prime Minister Ben Chifley and closed by the Governor General before a final day crowd of more than 4,500, yet it tucks comfortably inside the event's historical peloton as Hall's best yet.

To a man, woman and dog, the triallists leave Hall glowing about their best competition experience ever at a standalone dog trials in Australia. Debate will politely subside within the sport as to which trials is the nation's pre-eminent. Legacy Canberra, the whole reason why the Trials commenced in 1943, went home with nearly \$1,000 in the tin. All intend to return for 2019.

Late on Sunday evening, trusting its faith and thanks to the village once more for setting up, running and packing away the 'event' side of things, the Trials left behind the community's wheelchair, perambulant carer and respirator, venturing towards its 76th with all the suppleness and pout of a similarly aged Mick Jagger.

Hall and district's hefty shoulder to the wheel in 2018 raises the odds ever so slightly that the National Sheep Dog Trials might even outlive Keith Richards.

The village's next meeting of HOCOG, the Hall Organising Committee of the Olympic Games, is set down for Thursday week.

## hall SCHOOL MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTRE

A new exhibition for  
2018 ACT Heritage Festival

### 'A Tale of Two Villages'

Official opening

**Saturday 21 April 2018**

**at 10.00am**

*All welcome!*

The exhibition will also be open on:

**Sunday 22 April 10.00- 4.00**

**Every Thursday 9.00-12.00**

and **first Sunday of each month**

## PANKHURST WINES



We are in the middle of harvest and would like to let the locals know we are celebrating our 30th vintage.

Canberra Wine Week 7-15 April

**Sunday 8 April, 10am to 5pm**

Taste the *History of our Vines* - a special vertical tasting of some of our wines accompanied by cheese platters, at the cellar door

**Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 April**

Harvest Festival - Live music and lunch  
**12noon - 3pm** at the cellar door

**Monday 9 - Friday 13 April**

Pankhurst Wines Showcase @ Casey Jones.  
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See our website for details:

[www.pankhurstwines.com.au](http://www.pankhurstwines.com.au)

Allan and Christine Pankhurst

ph/fax: 6230 2592

mobile: Allan 0418 605 304

56 Woodgrove Close Wallaroo NSW 2618

All residents of Hall and surrounding area are cordially invited to the introduction of the

### **'Hall District' Tartan**

to be held at *Capital Wines Cellar Door* in Hall (Gladstone Street) on **Saturday 12 May at 3pm**

Queanbeyan Pipes and Drums will play for the occasion, and many products of the Hall Tartan will be on display and sale.

*More information, see page 14*

Invitation to help

### **Friends of Grasslands**

controlling weeds at Hall Cemetery, Wallaroo Road

**Saturday 14 April**

**8.30 – 11.30am**

All are welcome to come and help with weed-control and restoration work in the grassy woodland block surrounding Hall Cemetery. We aim to reduce the weeds competing with the native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs. We pull out, cut off and/or behead the weeds, and usually have a few qualified people spot-applying herbicide. The work is not hard, and a lovely morning tea is included.

Please email [john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au](mailto:john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au) by Thursday 12 April if you expect to come along, so he can provide enough refreshments, munchies and tools. On the day, you'll need to wear protective clothing, hat and footwear (and gaiters if you have them) to suit the weather and the work, and it is helpful to bring your own drinking water.



This will be our second autumn session for 2018. The photo shows two members of the group who were cutting out blackberries on 3 March.



## **Tenth Anniversary Twilight Concert at Hall**

***Musical Reflections – celebrating a decade in the life of Hall village***

Date: **Sunday 22 April**

Time: **1.00 pm**

Place: Lawns of the **Hall School**

MC: **David Kilby**

Canberra Brass under director Kevin Knapp, with Victoria Street Brass, and Canberra Youth Brass. Guest vocal soloist Katie de Veau

Refreshments available or BYO picnic.

A major fund raising event for the Hall Museum – raffle, bucket collection.

**Proudly supported by Barnett, Lilley and Associates.**



## **Rugby at Hall Oval**

**Saturday 7 April**

**Hall Bushrangers v Goulburn**

Reserve Grade Kick-off 1.30pm

1st Grade Kick-off 3.00pm

**Saturday 21 April**

**Hall Bushrangers v Uni/Norths**

Reserve Grade Kick-off 1.30pm

1st Grade Kick-off 3.00pm

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# Hall Honeys



The Hall Honeys group has 11 starters at present. Helen and Bob lost their hive recently to the wax moth. Usually the bees can drive the moth out but a number of factors saw the wax moth take over. We have ordered a new hive. Most of our members are opting for flow hives which are easy to manage and deliver honey via a spigot direct to your storage container.

In the photos here, Andrew, David and Leigh started with an old Land Development Agency sign from the tip shop, and added mostly tip shop bits to build it.



Helen White and team extracting honey.



Inside a flow frame hive.

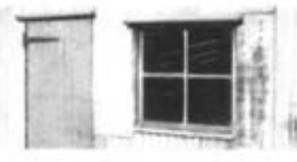
Greg Flowers built some different hives.



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Saturday	8.00 – 1.00
Waxing and Tinting	
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Saturday	8.00 – 1.00



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## Hay fever and allergy relief

Anita Kilby naturopath

In Canberra we are all familiar with allergic reactions like hay fever – itchy red eyes, sneezing, nasal congestion, and maybe headaches and feeling generally unwell. Often those with hay fever are also prone to eczema or asthma throughout the year, which tells us that it's not just pollens that they are reacting to. Some allergic reactions are so severe that they can cause life-threatening anaphylaxis, often in response to shellfish, nuts or bee stings.

We know that antihistamines can help reduce symptoms, so there is often an issue with excess histamine release or clearance, which can be due to a genetic factor (allergies can run in families). Histamine is released from immune cells called mast cells when they come into contact with an allergen (something the immune system has identified as a problem it needs to defend the body against). Antihistamines reduce the release of histamines.

Mast cells release many other immune factors aside from histamine to attract immune cells to the area to attack and destroy any invaders. This is an important defence mechanism which can become over-reactive to substances we come into contact with which aren't normally a threat and can lead to allergy symptoms. It's not only about histamine.

If we have other factors that raise our background inflammation levels, such as chronic low-grade infections,

food intolerances or poor gut health, then the addition of a seasonal allergen can tip inflammation over our tolerable threshold and produce symptoms. However, if our background inflammation levels are low then we can sometimes tolerate those allergens and not experience allergy symptoms despite being exposed to them. Like the straw that breaks the camel's back, we blame that last addition for causing the symptoms when it was actually the cumulative effect of several other issues that set the stage for the final straw.

To reduce reactivity, it is important to identify what may be driving an increase in inflammation in the body. It may be totally unrelated to allergies, such as a diet low in omega 3 fats (which have an anti-inflammatory effect throughout the body), or exposure to toxins from normal household products that your body hasn't been able to clear effectively, or a number of other causes. Commonly, food intolerances play a significant role in raising inflammation levels as they put the immune system on high alert making it more reactive. Food intolerances can be identified with testing or with an elimination diet. A skin prick test can identify food allergies but won't identify food intolerances.




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There are some exciting developments for those with anaphylaxis. Research at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, lead by Dr Mimi Tang, is providing astonishing results. In their trial, 82 per cent of children with anaphylaxis to peanuts were able to tolerate and consume peanuts after 18 months of treatment with a particular probiotic combined with consumption of peanuts, starting with a minute amount of peanut then increasing over time to 16 whole peanuts! Four years after treatment 80 per cent of those children were still able to consume peanuts regularly without an allergic reaction. Don't be trying this at home! The treatment is commenced in a hospital in case an anaphylactic response occurs. The success of the trial means that they will be looking at further trials for other common allergens.

For those with standard allergic reactions (not anaphylaxis), the probiotics used in Dr Tang's research are available for use after consultation with a naturopath or other knowledgeable practitioner. Combining this with an appropriate inflammation reduction strategy can lower the reaction threshold and reduce the severity of symptoms. Specific probiotics can be used to treat a variety of conditions and generally work by helping to improve the balance of bacteria in the intestines. This whole process takes a few months to implement so don't wait until spring to get started – do it now.



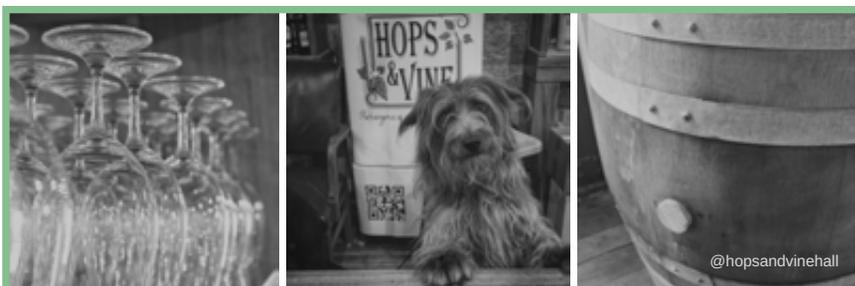
Paul Newall



The Palethorpe family

To add insult to injury, whilst collecting rubbish in other areas we discovered some very thoughtful people had actually dumped rubbish just outside our fence line on Clean Up Australia Day ... how very thoughtful!

**Rod and Judy Roberts**



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## Clean Up Australia Day

A sincere thank you to those few residents who gave up their Sunday morning on 4 March to participate in this year's Clean Up Australia on Wallaroo and adjoining roads. As you can see in the photos we collected a significant amount of material which in our minds should not have been there in the first place. Thank you also to the Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade for their assistance.



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# Do you have a bushfire survival plan?

[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan)

## Springfield Rural Fire Brigade AGM

14 May at 7:30pm

at the Fire Shed in Pateman's Lane,  
Murrumbateman

It's been 44 days since there has been any significant rain across Victoria and on the morning of Sunday 18 March temperatures were forecast to be 10 degrees Celsius above normal for this time of year. Emergency Management Commissioner Craig Lapsley was on ABC Radio saying that, given the weather and other conditions in the state, 'If a fire was to start and we weren't able to get it in that initial attack, it will run and it will get away from the fire suppression efforts fairly easily.'

As I write this column on the afternoon there are now significant fires burning across Victoria, homes have been lost and fire fighters are working hard to get the fires under control. One of the areas affected is the Surf Coast Shire who generously sent us a copy of their community engagement activity *The Fire Game*. Our thoughts are with them at this difficult and dangerous time.

Sydney has been experiencing heat wave conditions with temperatures reaching 40 degrees today and there is a total fire ban in our local region and beyond. As I write this there are *Emergency Warnings* in place for a fire near Bega with reports that dozens of houses have been destroyed and there are *Watch and Act* warnings for other fires throughout the state.

Those who have experienced a bush fire often say they were unprepared for the noise, the heat, the dark, the embers and the speed. As a fire burns it draws in more and more of the surrounding air. This creates an updraft and as it grows it sucks in all the available oxygen. Some fires grow so big they literally create their own weather – the rising columns of hot air create clouds called pyrocumulus. On the ground the fire is feeding on whatever fuel source is available and if the conditions are right it can become a raging monster consuming everything in its path.

There is no negotiating with a fire. Be prepared with a Bushfire Survival Plan and make sure every member of your household knows what to do. Know your risks and know your neighbours.

And remember Springfield Rural Fire Brigade would be delighted to visit you at your property and conduct a free property inspection to help you assess your bushfire risk and readiness.

Rebecca Morrison  
President



### In the event of a fire -

If your life is at risk, call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

Continue to stay up to date with the bush fire situation by

- checking [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)
- listening to your local radio station or
- by calling the NSW RFS Bush Fire Information Line on **1800 679 737**.
- If you live in the area but are away from home, it may not be safe to return to your property.
- For information on road closures, check: [livetraffic.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://livetraffic.rta.nsw.gov.au)  
Roads may be closed without warning.

*Help us help you to stay safe!*

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# Experiments in Happiness

An occasional column  
by the Smiling Kangaroo



## 'Treasure your relationships, not your possessions.'

Anthony J. D'Angelo

I went to my favourite café the other day, only to discover it seems to have become everyone's favourite place and I couldn't find a table. It isn't very big and as I surveyed the tables to check if anyone might be about to leave I noticed a truly astonishing thing. No-one was speaking to any of their companions. They were all engaged with their various smart devices. At every table!

They are not alone. We are all increasingly addicted to the distraction that is our phone. A recent study found that 90 per cent of those surveyed had used their phone during their last social encounter. Yet this isn't good for us, or our relationships. Another study, which randomly assigned people to either leave their phone on the table at mealtimes or to put it away found that the distraction of a phone left on a table whilst eating meant people enjoyed their meal less and felt the interaction less rewarding and that on average they spent 11 per cent of the meal time on the phone.



Last year as part of the ABC Radio's Digital Detox Challenge people overwhelmingly reported feeling ignored and alone when family and friends checked their phones when they were together.

Now smart phones are great things but our use of them isn't always as smart as it could be and is in many cases leading to our own unhappiness. When we are with other people if we are constantly interrupted we are distracted and less able to focus on the people we are with. And unfortunately this sends the message that we think we, and our phone and its interruptions, are more important than them.

I can already hear the howls of outrage – I need my phone for work, or the kids, or in case my mother needs me, or a myriad of other reasons which are about things that might happen and which mean we are not fully engaged in the moment we are in. Being happier is about being present in the moment and not constantly distracted. If we choose to be constantly distracted this impacts not only our happiness but the happiness of others as well.

Helen Keller once said 'The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart'. Our relationships are amongst our best and most beautiful things but, unfortunately, we don't always treat them that way.

So as an experiment in happiness try turning the mobile phone off next time you have a meal with your family or friends and maybe ask them to do so as well.

*Be brave – life is joyous!*

*The Smiling Kangaroo*

P.S. And if you're keen to explore the Digital Detox idea further check out the following links:

[www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/features/digital-detox/](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/features/digital-detox/)

[www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-17/could-you-handle-a-smartphone-and-social-media-digital-detox/9058260](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-17/could-you-handle-a-smartphone-and-social-media-digital-detox/9058260)

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Go to [www.canberraequinehospital.com.au](http://www.canberraequinehospital.com.au) to view it!

# 1882 Bar & Grill opens in Hall

After months of hard work, our renovations are complete and we're finally open. We're really happy to have already met a lot of locals who've popped down to enjoy a nice meal or just a refreshing ale.



The team from the Shearing Shed Hair Salon.

We're finding our feet and tweaking along the way. Feedback is always welcome – we'd like to improve wherever we can to ensure 1882 Bar & Grill is somewhere you're happy to catch up with family and friends. Chat to one of our friendly staff next time you're in.

We look forward to seeing you again or meeting you for the first time soon.



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## Stations of the Cross

Friday 30 March



The local churches come together every year to symbolically retrace the steps of Jesus to his crucifixion with the Stations of the Cross along Victoria Street on Good Friday.



**Ray White**

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## Singing Cicadas

April 2008

Cicadas have been singing at our place this summer and what a glorious summer sound it is. Hearing their song also means that our neighbourhood is now wooded enough, after years of people diligently planting trees, to support a large and vocal cicada population. Cicadas are great singers, but why do they produce this deafening sound?

Well, it's the males who are singing and they are doing it to attract the females. They can get very loud and the species that sings the loudest in Australia is the Double Drummer (*Thopha saccata*) who can produce a sound intensity in excess of 120 decibels at close range, which is approaching the pain threshold of the human ear. I can vouch for that for one year, on returning home through the Araluen Valley, I had to block my ears because the sound of the cicadas singing was so loud that it was hurting my ears.

Cicadas don't actually 'sing' but produce their loud sound by contracting and releasing a certain part of their body, the tymbals, a pair of ribbed membranes at the base of their stomach which, when contracted and relaxed, produce a pulse of sound and the singing we hear. In order to intensify the sound, the males of a species congregate in one area and so collaboratively increase the volume of their 'singing'. Some entomologists think this is done to deter the birds that predate on cicadas but no-one really knows for sure why cicadas form such tight groups and sing so loudly and so intensely. But the thing that is known, because it has been measured, is that each of the 220 species of cicadas in Australia, in the family *Cicadidae*, has its own distinctive call and only attracts females

of its own species with that call, even though similar species may co-exist and sing in the same area. It is said that the calls of the different cicada species are distinctive enough from each other for the human ear to be able to readily pick out the different species living in an area. Well maybe

a cicada specialist can, but my ear is not attuned enough to cicada songs to be able to tell any difference between the songs sung at our place. The cicadas in our area could possibly be one, or any, of the following three species; unfortunately I haven't caught any for positive identification, but the options are the Hairy Cicada (*Tettigarcta crinata*), the Greengrocer Cicada (*Cyclochila australasiae*) or the Redeye Cicada (*Psaltoda moerens*).

Once the cicadas have attracted and mated with the females the serious business of producing the next generation begins, and the female cicada cuts a slit into the bark of a tree and lays between 400 to 600 eggs. About 10 weeks



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later the little hatchlings drop to the ground, dig their way deep into the soil and stay underground for five to 17 years. Yes, cicadas have a very long life cycle, most of it spent underground as nymphs sucking the sap out of tree and grass roots. When they are ready to emerge they dig tunnels up to the surface and go through a moult on a nearby tree branch, where they shed their nymph castings and emerge as an adult cicada. What triggers them to come up after all those years underground is still unknown, but it is believed that their life cycle is somehow attuned to rain. Few cicadas emerge in drought years. The amazing thing is that when the time comes for the cicadas to emerge they all emerge at the same time. Once emerged, they have to wait for a day or so for their new bodies and wings to harden and then they're off. I've found quite a number of cicada shells this summer, much to my grandson's delight. Five days or so after emerging, the males start singing and congregating, and about 10 days after that they mate and the whole cycle starts again. Luckily though, the adult cicadas get a chance to hang around for another four weeks or so after mating before their time is up.

Adult cicadas live on the sap of trees and they feed by piercing the surface of plants with their mouth stylets and then sucking up the plant sap. Unless there are a huge number of cicadas healthy adult trees can usually cope with cicadas siphoning off their sap.

Though cicadas are sap sucking beasties, they become a tasty morsel for a range of animals, though

their prime predator is birds. But they are also carried off by wasps as food for their young. Cicada-killer Wasps hunt for cicadas in trees and when found, the wasp quickly stings and paralyses the cicada. The heavy burden is then flown or dragged to the wasp's underground nest where an egg is laid on it. Having provided its unhatched larva with fresh food, the wasp then seals the nest. Sometimes the Cicada-killer Wasp returns to the exact spot where it captured its prey to feed on the sap that now leaks from the hole made in the tree by the cicada.

As cicadas are harmless to humans and do not bite, kids in the past caught cicadas and kept them as pets in shoeboxes so as to hear them sing close at hand. However, that's a bit cruel and not recommended, as cicadas need their daily feed of fresh plant sap and without it die within two days. Best, if one does catch a cicada, to only keep it for a day and then release it. But it's not only Aussie kids that have kept cicadas as 'pets'. The ancient Greeks and Chinese kept cicadas in cages as songbirds. They must have supplied them with a steady source of juicy sap in order to keep them alive.

I'm happy enough to just hear them sing in our trees on a hot summer's day, appreciative of the fact that the neighbourhood is now wooded enough to support these operatic fellows. I hope I'm around in 17 years time when this year's batches of nymphs emerge to sing their little hearts out.

Though the summer brings delights such as cicada songs, it also brings casualties. Every now and then birds bombard themselves

against our front windows; some die from the impact, some survive – ruffle their feathers and fly off again. This time though a young Crimson Rosella did neither but lay there squawking. He obviously needed attention and the Hall vet clinic kindly checked him over, but he had broken his spine and unfortunately could not be helped. Events

like that sadden me. We have Crimson Rosellas flying through our garden every day. They come to the parrot feeder we have hanging near where we breakfast on our front deck, so we hear their lovely chirping as they join us for breakfast in the garden. I do wish though the youngsters would learn not to fly into our windows.

This article is an extract from the online book *Visitors to an Australian Garden* (available at [www.hall.act.au](http://www.hall.act.au)) – a collection of articles originally published in the *Rural Fringe* from 2007 to 2009.



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## Hall District Tartan

by **Betty Johnston**

The one person who has had the greatest influence in the development of this unique fabric was Queen Victoria, who had great impact on promoting the tartan. Victoria's love of tartan inspired Prince Albert to design the Balmoral tartan that is frequently worn by the Royals.

The tartan has survived many turbulences in all of its development, with such events as the Proscription Act of 1745, where the wearing of tartan was outlawed by the English Parliament. This resulted in a lost generation of weavers. The Highland Clearances also impaired its development. Despite these setbacks the tartan has endured and survived.

Today, it has not only survived but has distinguished Scotland, the tartan becoming the most worn national costume throughout the world.

The Hall Tartan was inspired by the event of a Scottish ball that was held there nearly two years ago. The village ladies thought it would be a great idea to have their own identity in the way of a special tartan.

The historical journey of the tartan began far back in time. Its origin is not an exact science as to when it all began, but the Scots continued an enduring tradition and today holds its popularity stronger than ever.

It is well documented that by the 16th century the tartan had developed and gathered momentum in popularity. The tartan has become a unique identity that parallels a signature for all those who wear it or use it as an identity. Tartan gave every clan and district a sense of belonging.



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# tartans

This project involved many months of consulting, trialling and eventually having a test weave created. After registration approval, small apparel from different weavers and other manufacturers were produced.

The colours for the Hall District tartan are historically linked to its history. These colours will be explained at our introduction afternoon.

When my husband and I were in Scotland last year we had the privilege of seeing a few weaving mills in production. This involved viewing all the different processors of the development of tartan from raw wool to dyeing, and weaving. It was so encouraging to see that Australian fine wools are the choice of fibre for most of their wool products.

When we inspected the finished products in the mill shops, we were so impressed with the softness of their blankets we decided to trial a run of blankets with the Hall tartan. At this point in time the blankets are a limited edition, but if they prove popular we could have more woven on demand.

Also the sheer fineness of the wool used for their tartan stoles/scarves could almost be mistaken for silk. Such is the quality of the Scottish products.

I explored another product which fascinated my fashion sense. The ladies' tartan handbags are produced with the combination of tartan and deer leather, a very compatible combination of materials.

These handbags are bespoke and hand crafted by an eighth generation tanner.

The introduction of the 'Hall District' tartan will be held at Capital Wines cellar door in Hall (Gladstone Street) on Saturday 12 May 2018, at 3pm. All residents of Hall and surrounding area are cordially invited to this special occasion. We will also be privileged at having the Queanbeyan Pipes and Drums play for the occasion.

Many products of the Hall Tartan will be on display and sale. The products will range from lightweight garments, for example scarves, sashes, ties, handbags, blankets and other items.

We invite anyone attending the Hall tartan introduction to wear an item of tartan, to reflect the spirit of the occasion.

*The House of Tartan* has been part of the local Community supplying, designing, and producing registered tartans for Australia. Our 17 registered and accredited tartans have no doubt contributed to an awareness in all Australian states of our Scottish heritage.

Among our very local tartans are Australian National, New South Wales State, Australian Police, Southwell, Yorston, Reeves, Hall District and the Canberra tartan.

Anyone wishing to know more or would like to see the different tartans are welcome to see us at our studio near Murrumbateman.



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## Dog safety

Well-adjusted dogs add so much to our lives and to our families. They provide companionship, fun times, exercise and help teach our children about responsibility and caring for others.

However, even the nicest, well socialised dog can use aggression to distance themselves from a threat and keep themselves safe. There are also dogs which suffer anxieties that make them more reactive to normal situations because they perceive these as threatening.

You, your family and your community can take simple steps to reduce the number of dog bites that occur. As well as the physical and emotional trauma caused to victims of dog bites, many dogs lose their homes or their lives after a bite that should never have occurred. Let's set them up to win!



Here are some ways to keep the families and family pets in your community safe.

### Safety around dogs

Dogs are more likely to bite in situations that frighten them. They want to escape the threat and aggression works for them to keep them safe. Physical discomfort or previous scary events may make them less tolerant. Try to put yourself in their paws and understand how we can prevent many incidents that result in dog bites.

Here are some tips to help dogs feel safe around people:

- Always ask permission before petting or touching someone else's dog. Let the dog come to you. If they don't want to, that's their prerogative. Leave them alone.
- Never hug a dog. They may feel vulnerable or trapped.
- Notice their body language. Most of the time, we encounter friendly, wiggly dogs in public but be cautious if a dog stiffens or is not wagging in a loose and friendly way.
- Never approach a dog you don't know. If you are approached by a strange dog, stand quietly, hands at your sides and avoid eye contact. A dog's natural instinct is to chase, so if you turn and run, a dog may chase you.
- Never corner a dog. All dogs have a sense of personal space, so watch their body language as you approach.
- Do not approach dogs in cars, kennels or on a tether. They may feel vulnerable when they can't run away so their only defence might be to lunge or bite in an effort to increase their distance from the perceived threat.
- Don't reach over or through fences or barriers to pet or touch a dog.
- Never approach or startle a dog while they're sleeping, focussed on something or with their puppies.
- Never yell or make loud noises around dogs. Their hearing is very sensitive. Speak to them calmly.
- Never get between dogs who are fighting or reach towards their heads as you may get bitten.
- Leave dogs alone when they are eating, whether the dog is eating from a bowl or chewing a treat, toy or any other high-value item. Like people, dogs don't like it when people get between them and their food.
- Never tease, chase or harass a dog.
- Don't enter a property containing a dog unless the dog's person is with you. Dogs can be defensive of their family's attention or their home territory.




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### The dog-safe family

- Children should always be closely supervised around dogs, even the family dog.
- Supervising children around dogs not only protects the children from accidents but also protects the

- dog from harm by children who don't always know that touching animals in a certain way can hurt them.
- Never leave babies unattended around dogs. Dogs may not understand about being gentle with babies or even know what a baby is.
- If you're expecting a baby, start early to get your dog used to the changes a baby will make to their lives.
- Don't attempt or allow your children to attempt to remove anything (toys, food or other objects) from your dog's mouth. Instead, find something of equal or greater value to offer your dog as a trade.
- Teach your children about dog safety early and promote dog-safe practices.



## Good dog habits

- Socialise your dog and make them a part of your family activities early on. Even after their first vaccinations, take them out to safe places so they can become comfortable through gentle exposure to the many situations of their world.
- Take your puppy to preschool and adolescent classes that use only positive reinforcement training techniques. Learn to teach your dog appropriate behaviours in a humane, effective and ethical way. Get the whole family involved.
- Don't allow children to play rough with your dog, as they can accidentally hurt the dog or encourage it to become mouthy. That doesn't mean you shouldn't play games like fetch and tug. Teaching your dog to play games using healthy rules will help them to learn self-control.
- Avoid reprimanding or any form of physical punishment because it will make your dog fearful and increases the risk of aggression. Make your motto *Don't do that, do this instead* and make a habit of moulding good behaviour through rewarding a desirable alternative.

- Provide lots of exercise for your dog through play and frequent walks. Walks provide great exercise for you and your dog as well as social opportunities to meet other dog lovers. Regular activity not only enriches their lives but also reduces frustration or boredom. Interactive play increases the bond between you and your pet.

- Make sure that your dog has lots of human interaction every day. As social animals, dogs thrive on social interaction and love to be a part of the family.
- Avoid tethering your dog. Tethering removes a dog's ability to flee and may make them feel vulnerable. If they can't escape a perceived threat, the only option is to use aggression.
- Never let your dog roam free. Letting your dog roam freely greatly increases their chance of injury from cars or other animals. A roaming dog may become confused or frightened, leading to aggressive behaviour.

- Use caution when introducing your dog to new people, new dogs or new situations. Your goal is to provide the dog with a succession of happy experiences so their social skills will continually improve. Listen to their body language.
- If your dog's behaviour changes (for example, it becomes irritable), bring him in for a check-up. Behaviour changes can be a symptom of a medical problem.

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Murrumbateman winery Four Winds Vineyard recently won gold at the DBA Design Effectiveness Awards in London for its redesign of its wine range, which resulted in an increase in sales of almost 50 per cent over 18 months.

This is the third international award in the last 12 months for the label range which was named Overall Supreme Champion at the Drinks International Wine Design Challenge and Supreme Champion at London's 2017 Harpers Design Awards.

The DBA Design Effectiveness Awards awards recognise projects which demonstrate design's tangible effect on business, from increased gross margin to job creation.

Four Winds Vineyard's owner, Sarah Collingwood, said 'We have been overwhelmed by the response to the new label design. It has helped us secure wider distribution for our wines and a greater profile within the industry and with our customers'.

The decision to redesign the Four Winds Vineyard labels was founded in a need to better reflect the ethos and personality of both the winery and the family who owns and operates it. Visitors to the cellar door are overwhelming positive about the down to earth, friendly and authentic nature of the winery.

The labels were inspired by the Four Winds Vineyard Instagram account (@fourwindsvineyard), which showcases evocative photos of daily life on the vineyard.

The photos on the labels were taken to capture windy days at the winery, with each wine featured by a different windswept scene, bringing the brand name to life.



## FOUR WINDS VINEYARD



The awards are run by the Design Business Association in London, Four Winds Vineyard was the only wine label in the 54 finalists. The awards celebrate the tangible effect design can have on a business, not just on the design itself. In order to be recognised in these awards, winners must demonstrate hard numbers about return on investment (ROI), sales growth, brand awareness and customer traffic.

'Being a small family-owned and operated Australian business, we are thrilled to receive this award, in the company

of other finalists such as Unilever, Proctor & Gamble, Mars, Dubai Airports and GSK', said Collingwood. 'We are proud of our collaboration with Denomination, the drinks specialist design company in creating this packaging.'

'We are also proud to be part of the growing Murrumbateman cool climate wine region. This packaging redesign helps us increase sales of our wines but also awareness of this wonderful wine region.'

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# Produce gardening

by **Lisa Walmsley**

Something that I get a lot of pleasure out of, is designing and building gardens that produce food.

In my own garden in the last few weeks I have made red currant jelly, crab apple jelly and elderberry syrup. And yesterday we ate our first pink lady apple and I can honestly say, it was the best I have ever had. Last year I slow cooked all my excess tomatoes then put them in containers and froze them for later use. All winter I had tomatoes to add to casseroles, soups and bolognese. I also made lots of basil pesto, specifically because I love pesto pasta.



These things don't take much time to produce and don't take up much freezer space and I love the value of knowing exactly what's going into my own food.

Eating a sun ripened, warm strawberry is like nothing else, your taste buds have a party and the big reward with strawberries is the more you pick the more strawberries the plant will produce.

Everyone wants to pick something they have grown themselves, it's basic human nature and one of life's little pleasures and you are guaranteed to have awesome flavour.

My garden is not very big and I don't have acres of produce but my little plot is still able to produce my family lots of delicious morsels all year.

I must admit, I have fantasised my whole gardening life of having picture perfect raised garden beds

surrounded by gravel paths, walls full of espalier fruit trees and strategically placed garden seats that conjure up thoughts of Versailles in France.

The reality is quite different; I have beds that are at ground level, no gravel paths (those are on the list) and the walls are slowly under construction. The beds started as pure clay, so it's been a slow grind improving the soil to a level that is good for vegetables, lots of manure, some ash from our fire place, gypsum and dashes of veggie mix.

I also have lots of weeds in my vegetable garden and it's easy to lose heart when weeds rampage around your garden stealing valuable space, nutrients and

water. Yes, I do weed, but they are opportunistic and grow very quickly. I don't like to use *Roundup* in the vegetable garden, so hand weeding is the only option.

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## A Tale of Two Villages – new Exhibition

For some time we have been a Hall museum without a Hall display. We are busy putting that right. In fact 'A Tale of Two Villages' will also tell the story of pre-settlement indigenous life, the establishment of 'Palmerville' and its morphing into Ginninderra. As usual the material in the display will be backed up with folders containing additional information. The exhibition will be launched on 21 April at 10am and open over that weekend

### Concert lives!

While we were sorry to have to postpone the 10th Anniversary Twilight Concert due to the poor weather, we are delighted to say that it has been re-scheduled as a midday concert on Sunday 22 April, starting at 1pm. Patrons will have the opportunity to visit the Centre's brand new exhibition, 'A Tale of Two Villages', which will be launched the previous day. Canberra Brass have developed a particularly attractive program for the event and we will be hoping for a big audience. The concert is a major fundraiser for the Centre.

The **Hall Heritage Walk** run in conjunction with the National Trust in the morning attracted 30 walkers who enjoyed a very pleasant ramble through the village and surrounding paddocks, guided by long-time resident Tony Morris.



### Family History Unit

Thanks to the good work of our ANU Intern, Masters student Katrina Marshall, the establishment of a Family History Unit is well under way. We get a small but growing number of enquiries from people seeking information about pioneer families of the district to which they are related. While we have a good



Who are they? We have not yet been able to identify the people in this photo. Can you help?

deal of information, and often images, about such families, it has been scattered throughout our various collections. The Family History Unit will bring this information together – identifying the files, books, photographs, and so on that may be of interest to a particular researcher.

### Education Program

The Centre has also been busy – under the direction of former Hall Principal Mardie Troth – in finalising a Schools Program that is now to be promoted to all ACT schools. Groups of up to 60 children are divided to participate in a range of activities:

- Experience what it was like to be a student at a small rural school between the two world wars.
- Active learning encounter within a local community environment from the past
- investigate our 'Stones that Speak' exhibition – a wonderful collection of Aboriginal artefacts from the nearby region. The stone tools provide an insight into the life and skills of Canberra's original inhabitants.
- Become a history sleuth and trawl through our latest exhibition 'Tale of Two Villages' – telling the story of the transition from Ginninderra to Hall.

If you would be interested in assisting with the program from time to time please let us know. Further information available on our website.

**Bush Schools - on-line database**

While special events come and go, in the background the Centre’s database of information and images relating to the old bush schools of the district keeps expanding. The latest to be added are Williams Creek and Nelanglo schools, north of Gundaroo in the Yass River valley. Other recent additions are in the district between Wee Jasper and Yass – schools such as Warham (Waroo), Cavan, Yumburra West and Wee Jasper. There are now entries for over 60 schools.

While each is unique there are some common themes. The following observation of Cavan school could have referred to any one of them:

‘From the very open state of the miserable building used as a school, nearly all the children have suffered from cough and catarrh, so that I fear the school has been closed for a time, and this makes me very anxious that some building should be erected before next winter – or a total failure will ensue. The average of the present quarter will be low from the sickness just mentioned, and also because shearing and harvest will demand the help of any lad who can be made serviceable in the shearing shed or harvest field for we have no surplus labour’.

The database can be found at:  
[museum.hall.act.au/schools.html](http://museum.hall.act.au/schools.html)

**Council to ensure newly established B&Bs comply with food safety regulations**



Yass Valley Council will inspect tourism accommodation in the local government area to ensure newly established bed and breakfast (B&B) establishments, that provide meals to their guests, comply with food safety and handling regulations.

Council requested a report be compiled on the Yass Valley B&B market at the December 2017 meeting. This was based on the rise of AirBnB phenomena, which has resulted in local accommodation places becoming established but not approved or registered by Council as food premises.

‘At present, there are a number of approved tourism accommodation/B&Bs in Yass Valley, which receive regular food premise inspections,’ said Council’s Director of Planning, Chris Berry. ‘But on the other hand, there are premises we have, identified through AirBnB, that do not receive food premise inspections.’

‘Premises involving the preparation and handling of food have the potential for a public health risk if correct procedures are not followed and it is very important Council manages this risk.’

Council staff will contact those not registered as food premises to organise inspections. The first task is to determine the level of risk associated with food preparation and handling. If no food is provided then inspections will not be necessary.

‘It is important we protect the tourists coming to our local government area. We want them to have a wonderful time while they are staying here. A bout of food poisoning on a weekend away does not leave anyone with fond memories, and that is all we are trying to avoid,’ said Mr Berry.

For more information on the inspections, please contact Council on **6226 1477** or email [Council@yass.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Council@yass.nsw.gov.au)



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## editorial

### From the Editor

I like to think that more is certain in Hall than death and taxes - the national sheepdog trials and the Good Friday Stations of the Cross procession for example. But of course both of these events depend entirely on the goodwill and energy of the organisers and supporters, something we can be confident of in Hall, but never take for granted. The sheepdog trials was a great competition and drew record crowds this year and great publicity for our little village and district including featuring on *Australia all over* with Macca for some weeks. Macca attended our Dog's Dinner, a lovely occasion that brings together the triallers and the community of Hall. Thanks go to the many volunteers who helped organise the sheepdog trials and all the associated events. The sheepdog trials mark the change of the season for me as we head into autumn and look forward to the new exhibition at the Museum, yet again the work of many Hall volunteers.

Until next time,  
Jo Hall

### The Rural Fringe – ISSN: 1329-3893

The Rural Fringe is a community newspaper published in 700 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 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](mailto:ruralfringe@hotmail.com) or PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618.

#### Advertising rates (per issue)

large (quarter page) \$80	colour \$120
medium (eighth page) \$40	colour \$60
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#### Other information

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

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George Kinlyside's blacksmithy and coach building works, Victoria Street.

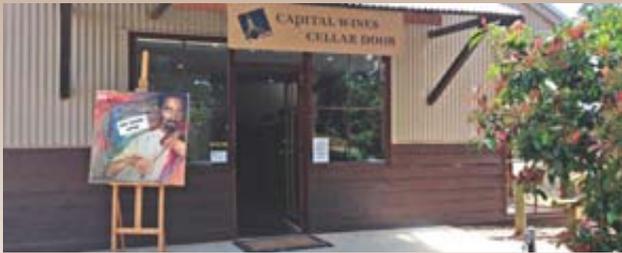
# Out and about **Out** about

'A Tale of Two Villages' exhibition will be launched on 21 April at 10am at the Hall Museum, and open over that weekend.

'Banksia', Victoria Street (no longer standing).

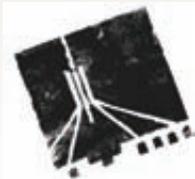


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# Daughters At HALL

SINCE 1882



We have been open for 3 years now, loving each and everyday.

Lots of things have changed over the 3 years, the renovation is a long process still happening, newest addition are the concert tables made by Jake Plunkett

Positioned in the windows best spot in the cafe on any day, they hold a precious collection of Jenny's glass bottles some dating back to 1936, also see if you can find the flat rocks, collected over the years by Nanny (Anne O'Connor) and a very special piece of the Grand Canyon. Thanks Jake well made and interesting

The biggest change to the café is not in anyway an improvement.

The beautiful smiling face of our lovely Jess sadly missed by of course me her mum, friend and partner in business. We all wish her the best with her adventure new career and home in Melbourne. You brighten up so many peoples days, now it's your turn to shine.



It's been a busy month with Halls 136th Birthday, Bike riders 42 for Coffee. Sheep Dog Trials, 230 customers in one day! thanks so much for all the support, Wedding photo's, Easter Baking, New recipes.

Made at the Daughters at Hall, some really delicious Fig jam, Plum jam, Chili sauce, and lots more. Cookie jars, Body Scrub, and Coffee soap for yourself or a lovely gift.

Also available

Milk Bread and the Papers daily.



## Closed

Good Friday Easter Saturday Easter Sunday Easter Monday Anzac Day