

# RURAL FRINGE

*Journal of the Hall district*



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## A Tale of Two Villages

by **Allen Mawer**

The Hall Museum's latest exhibition, which opened during the ACT Heritage Festival, builds on and adds to work displayed in previous exhibitions. For the first time Hall residents can view in one place the early development of their district and village.

The Museum presents its *Tale of Two Villages* as a walking track that takes the visitor from Aboriginal beginnings as Ginninginniderry on to white settlement at Palmerville. It then chronicles the emergence of a proto-village at Ginninderra, now Gold Creek, and its gradual eclipse by Hall in the 1880s.



Michael Pettersson, MLA, opens the new exhibition

The story is told through boards that show the transition from one to the other of stores, schools, churches and post offices. Along the track there is a pub break at a model of the Cricketers' Arms, which for half a century lubricated the citizenry of both villages until King O'Malley, opponent of 'stagger juice', took its licence away.

The walls of the Hall Room are covered by a mural that shows Victoria Street as it was in 1913. It is used to provide a setting for memorable events in the Hall story. Aspects currently featured are the first land sale, held in 1886, and the war waged against rabbits in the early twentieth century.

The largest exhibit is a century-old rabbit poisoning cart restored to working order by Kingsley Southwell. It incorporates a replica of George Kinlyside's wheel-regulated Patent Pollard Distributor which visitors are invited to operate.

... continued on page 3





# A Tale of Two Villages

at the opening . . .

Michael Pettersson, MLA, viewing a photograph of the scarred tree, then visiting the scarred tree at the creek. Such tree scars result from the removal of bark or wood by Aboriginal people in the past for the manufacture of canoes, shields and other items.



Pam Grace, John Starr and Bevis Brown



Paul, Vanessa Gillespie and Allen Mawer

## other displays . . .



# A Tale of Two Villages

... continued from page 1

Allen Mawer did an expert job of curating the exhibition and he recognised the vast efforts of the many volunteers in his speech at the opening ceremony:

'I take this opportunity to commend to you my colleagues, without whom none of it would have been possible.

- Kingsley Southwell, who against my advice undertook to restore our rabbit-poisoning cart, which had suffered from years of exposure in the garden of Blundell's Cottage. He proved that it could be done.
- Tony Morris, who quietly went about mounting the exhibits in the face of any amount of unsolicited advice.
- Alf Wilford, who meticulously did our signage and artwork, as he has done for most of our exhibitions. He also made us some rabbits.
- Our magnificent eight who researched the institutions and people of the district from aboriginal occupation through white settlement to the coming of the Commonwealth. Marion Banyard and Olga Minion did the churches. Jenny Holcombe and Jan Peelgrane tackled schools, Judy Roberts tracked the tortuous history of the stores, Phil Robson gave us the Cricketers' Arms, Alastair Crombie did communications ancient and modern and Ken Heffernan went foraging for Aboriginal edibles.

The support group was just as indispensable. Most members of the Friends contributed in ways that do not carry an identifiable stamp, but as we all know ducks do not swim serenely without a lot of paddling going on out of sight.

And a thank you to our recently departed colleague Val Wiseman, who suggested that we should explore an environmental aspect of the district's history. The display entitled *The Rabbit Wars* is dedicated to her.'

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## Your community association

'Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much' Helen Keller

Thanks to all who attended the General Meeting of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association on 31 May in our well-heated Pavilion, when two important decisions were taken. The first was to agree constitutional amendments, which were needed as many of the members of the Special Interest Groups of the Association (the Hall Museum and Heritage Centre, the Hall Men's Shed and the Hall Collector's Club) are not residents of the village of Hall and district.

Village of Hall and District Progress Association AGM

Wednesday 15 August, 7pm at the Pavilion

The criteria for individual membership was expanded to include members of these Special Interest Groups. The second decision was to endorse a Committee Member Handbook. This Handbook helps clarify the role of the Committee, set out community expectations for the values and

behaviours that Committee members will uphold and observe and elaborates some basic terms of reference for the Committee. We hope both of these decisions will lead to easier membership processing and smoother operations of the Committee. The Progress Association has been part of this community for more than a hundred years, and is believed to be the oldest community association in the ACT. It has a long and proud history of representing the needs and interests of the community and is recognized by government for its capacity to represent the village and district. If you are not already a member please consider joining us! See the website [www.hall.act.au](http://www.hall.act.au) to download the Constitution, the Committee Member Handbook or a membership form!

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Broadband for Seniors is a Government funded initiative.



## Vale, Val Wiseman

Christmas Day 2016. Val was diagnosed with endometrial cancer. She had surgery at the end of January 2017 to remove what were by then extensive tumors. The beast, 'Fred' as it became known, continued to grow rapidly, and a second round of surgery was undertaken. Six weeks later Fred was growing fast, causing intense pain and obstructing her gastro-intestinal tract. Throughout, Val was adamant that she'd had a good life and had no unfinished business. She was offered further surgery, but she decided 'If Fred can run faster than I can why try to outrun him?' She died on 24 February, and now resides, very appropriately, in our little bush cemetery.



Val. was born Valerie Ruth Rudder, youngest daughter of Raymond and Eliza Rudder. Raymond was a dairy farmer at Upper Orora near Coffs Harbour, and Val. grew up on the farm and the nearby beaches of the north NSW coast. Val. excelled at school and, in 1961, won a Commonwealth Scholarship to study at the University of New England in Armidale, NSW. She started her studies there in 1962, aged 16. Val's original intention had been to study zoology but, in her first year, she met Prof. Gwenda Davis, head of Botany, and the two become close friends. Gwenda was a leading expert in Australia's native flora, particularly eucalypts, and from her Val. gained a lifelong passion for Australia's native plants and environment. In her first year at UNE, Val. also met her future husband, John. The two married in Coffs Harbour in 1964, at the end of Val's final undergraduate year. Although Val. had the opportunity to go on to further study, she chose instead to focus on family. In 1966, she and John built their home in Armidale. In the same year, she also completed her Diploma of Education, becoming a teacher at Armidale High, where she taught general science – chiefly botany. She loved the subject, and must have been a good teacher because, although she had to cease teaching when her first child was born, the school asked her back within weeks. Val. and John had

three sons: Rob (1969), Andrew (1970) and Peter (1972). The family grew up on the north side of Armidale, close to the university. The nearby paddocks grazed their cattle, and on their large block, Val. and John established a garden. Val. was also active in the creation of Armidale's Arboretum in the mid-1970s. The family moved to Canberra in 1977 and in the following year purchased land on Wallaroo Road, west of Hall. The property was named 'Tallerack', after a handsome West Australian mallee gum. The land had been sheep country for over a century and had been grazed bare, but Val. recognised the potential for revegetating the land,

and immediately cordoned off one area of redgums. Val. returned to education from the mid-1980s, teaching botany at the Canberra School of Horticulture, the Australian National University and the University of Canberra. She and John also became active in the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP). In 1989, Val. began her work in natural resource management for which she will be best remembered by many. She joined Greening Australia (GA) in 1989 as Executive Officer of its ACT office. Within days of starting, the Hawke Government announced its One Billion Trees Project, to be overseen by Greening Australia. In her new role, Val. built a network of farmers, Landcare groups, policy-makers and schools, in order to plant trees across the ACT and southeast NSW. She also established a new

plant nursery for Greening Australia on Acton Peninsula to create tubestock for direct planting, and recruited a pool of enthusiastic volunteers to run it. Soon afterwards, she acquired GA's first machine for direct seeding, to help re-establish native trees on a broadacre scale. Val.

also organised staff and volunteers to collect seed from local tree species, and she shared the seed-collection techniques with local farmers. While GA had been commissioned to plant trees, Val. recognised the importance of establishing complete plant communities, including grasses and understorey species, and she made these a part of GA's approach in the 1990s. As well as re-establishing native trees, Val. was also instrumental in establishing weed eradication programs. A particular focus in the ACT region was the management of willows-her efforts eventually led to them being declared a weed, and the establishment of a national willow management plan. While Val. left GA in 1996, she continued to play an active role. In 1997, she was instrumental in the rehabilitation of the Upper and Middle Murrumbidgee, done by removing seedling willows and revegetating the eroding river banks-a project run by GA but guided by a committee chaired by Val. Alongside work in the field, she set up community groups and policy structures to



support revegetation, and was energetic in encouraging people to form Landcare groups. A key group in which Val. took a leading role in was the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Committee – an umbrella group which brought together the ACT and NSW governments,

councils, community groups and non-government organisations. Val. initially represented GA when the committee was formed in 1991 and chaired it from 1996 (after she left GA) until 2008. This committee developed the first catchment plan for the Upper Murrumbidgee,

which later evolved into the first Murrumbidgee Catchment Plan (to which Val. also contributed). Val's energy and experience saw her elected to the Australian Landcare Council, advising the Federal Ministers for Environment and Agriculture. She also chaired the ACT's Catchment and Landcare Subcommittee, which assessed applications for Landcare projects. Val. believed firmly in grassroots action, being active in the Hall Landcare Group and other community organisations. Her own property in Wallaroo became a laboratory for testing different approaches to revegetation, with direct planting, direct seeding and de-stocking all explored, along with methods for capturing seed and preventing losses to rabbits. In 1999, the National Landcare Program awarded Val. the title of *Individual Landcarer* for her many contributions. After her retirement, she and John toured outback Australia extensively, planning trips to see wildflowers in bloom and recording the plants which gave her such joy. In her blogs, she shared her botanical knowledge with other 'grey nomads', attracting a wide readership. These blogs are a prominent resource on the *ExplorOz* site, all 150+ of them! The index is at: [exploroz.com/Members/61493.4/MyBlog.aspx](http://exploroz.com/Members/61493.4/MyBlog.aspx) In her final years, Val. remained active in her own garden and volunteered with the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre.

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The chemicals we are all exposed to in our daily lives can end up in our body. Some we can readily excrete but others can linger. Even the ones we excrete can still have harmful effects as they pass through us, providing a daily exposure and chemical load on our body. We have little control over many of our exposures for example, from the air and water, but we do have complete control over the products we purchase which contain chemicals.

Frighteningly, a 2004 study by the Environmental Working Group (EWG) revealed an average of 200 chemicals in the umbilical cord blood of newborns. It found pesticides, fire retardants, stain/grease resistant coating chemicals for example, Scotchguard, Teflon, industrial and waste by-product chemicals, and persistent organic pollutants such as PCBs which were banned from use in the 1970s and 80s. Google *EWG body burden* for more details.

Obviously, if a newborn who has just taken their first breath already has 200 chemicals in them, then we all do. Some of these chemicals are known to cause birth defects, developmental problems for babies/children, and in all ages can cause cancer, brain and nervous system problems, damage the liver and kidneys, interfere with hormone function, and many other health problems.

What can we do to reduce our chemical exposure?

Anita Kilby naturopath



First, take a close look at the products you use. Read the ingredients list. Is it a chemical cocktail? Is there something else that can be used to do the job which doesn't contain chemicals or has less potentially harmful chemicals? What ingredients are safer?

Individual chemicals are tested for safety and given a classification, the 'safe' level is determined and that can then be used freely in products. However, we are not exposed to just one chemical at a time, we are exposed to dozens every day. The combined effect on our body of chemicals in our soap, shampoo, moisturiser, toothpaste, makeup, deodorant, perfume, sunscreen, washing powder, bathroom cleaner, insect spray, food additives, fire retardants in our furniture etc. has never been studied. How those chemicals all react with each other in our body has never been studied. We are all, in effect, a walking chemistry experiment. We don't know how that chemical soup affects disease development and progression.

It makes sense to choose products that have less man-made ingredients and more plant-based ingredients, or at least safer chemicals. There are now many brands

of safer household products that you can easily swap to. Sometimes they may cost more but you can look at that additional cost as an investment in your health, saving your health costs in the future.

It can get confusing as sometimes the chemical name of safer ingredient sounds just as bad as a harmful ingredient. You often need extra resources to decode the safety of ingredients. You can Google it of course, or the EWG's Skin Deep Cosmetics Database provides an overall hazard rating for ingredients in personal care products, [safecosmetics.org](http://safecosmetics.org) is another good website, or there are apps and books to help as well. An Australian based book and app is **The Chemical Maze**.

General tips:

- Just because it claims to be 'natural' or 'organic' doesn't mean it's good quality, better, safer or even organic – always check the ingredients and look for 'certified organic' labels – ACO, NASAA, Aus-Qual, Demeter, OFC, SFPQ, TOP.
- You'll find a list of online suppliers of generally healthier products at [www.cleanabode.com.au/](http://www.cleanabode.com.au/) stockists. But still check their ingredients list.
- Avoid products that list 'fragrance' or 'parfum' as an ingredient in personal and household products – they could contain anything, it could be dozens of things, and they are often endocrine (hormone) disrupting chemicals. Air fresheners and room deodorants are huge offenders. A better source of scent is from pure essential oils.

- Avoid non-stick cooking products, swap over to stainless steel, cast iron, oven-safe glass, or ceramic or enamel coated pots and pans for example, Le Creuset, Neoflam, Pyrex.
- To reduce leaching of chemicals into your food, try to avoid heating or eating food and drinks from plastic/Styrofoam plates/cups and containers. Never use any cling wrap in the microwave.
- Each week look at one product you use, read the ingredients and perhaps research them, look at alternate products with safer ingredients, buy one and see how you like it. Sometimes you find a decent product in the supermarket, often you'll need to look elsewhere.

For more information on this enormous topic you could start by browsing the consumer guides on the EWG website ([ewg.org](http://ewg.org)). Delve a bit deeper with a free online summit on identifying and reducing toxins in the home that starts on 25 June. Sign up at:

[thetoxichometransformation.com](http://thetoxichometransformation.com)

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## Memorable Tenth Anniversary Concert

by **Alastair Crombie**

Well over 300 patrons enjoyed an afternoon of fine band music under a sunny sky at the re-scheduled ‘Twilight’ concert. The Bands, under the direction of Adam Power (Victoria Street Brass and Canberra Youth Brass) and Kevin Knapp (Canberra Brass) put on a show full of toe-tapping brass band music which included a lot of popular favourites. This Lily was superbly gilded by soloist Katie DeVeau who sang to the accompaniment of Canberra Brass ‘Moondance’, ‘Roses of Picardy’ and ‘Fly me to the moon’.

The finale was a surprise item - the combined bands playing ‘The Hall March’, by Les Smith, after



Patrons were able to punt in the raffle, with a selection of prizes very kindly given by the concert’s long-standing sponsor – Barnett Lilley and Associates – and other local enterprises. The new ‘1882 Bar and Grill’ supplied a ‘Dine



David Kilby's shoes

and drink’ voucher and also provided lunch for the band members; Homeleigh Grove gave an Olive Selection, Capital Wines a Produce Platter and Wine Tasting for two, and another new Hall business

Jelly Bug Treasures, provided a Bird Feeder. Our warm appreciation to these local businesses for supporting this community event.



photo: Bob Richardson

Thanks also to the Rotary Club of Hall, who very kindly stepped up when the Preschool found itself unable to staff the sausage sizzle (school holidays!); Rotary did the BBQ and has passed on the takings (just over \$400) to the Preschool. Every sausage was accounted for.

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# Museum Musings

# museum

**Alastair Crombie**  
Honorary Curator



## Thanks!

Firstly, a very big thank you to all those who contributed to, came to, or otherwise supported our big 'double header' – the launch of our new exhibition 'A Tale of Two Villages' and our Tenth Anniversary Brass Band Concert with Canberra Brass. Around \$400 was raised for the Preschool Parents (with many thanks to Rotary Club of Hall for running it) and \$2500 for the museum over the weekend – an excellent result.



Tony Morris in a corner of the Gillespie Collection room

## School group visits

Our Education Program is attracting visiting school groups – this week from Gold Creek and Giralang. We now have a dedicated space for conducting 'active learning' sessions with primary students – who also spend time at the old Hall school and learning some traditional games. Our program is designed to fit with the National History Curriculum and visiting groups are helped by museum volunteers. Occasional helpers welcomed!

## Queanbeyan Museum group visit

We keep good relationships with our 'country cousins' at Yass and Queanbeyan. On 9 May a group from the Queanbeyan Museum came for a visit; we piled over there last year. Both Yass and Queanbeyan are very well established and have Council support, but they are both envious of space and setting that we have!

## Gillespie Collection 'significance assessment'

Most readers will know that the Centre is now home to the fruits of a lifetime of researching, writing and collecting by Lyall Gillespie, our best-known local historian. The Collection fills a class room, and embraces personal and research diaries,



University of Canberra students on a fieldwork assignment at Hall

several files of research notes, photos and slides, audio tapes, books, Aboriginal artefacts, farming implements and more. We are now seeking a grant from the National Library for an independent expert to make a 'Significance Assessment' of the collection – to report to us on the value of the collection in the big scheme of things.

## Volunteers trickling in . . .

We have an active group of just over 20 volunteers. New recruits are always very welcome. Just walk in one Thursday morning or email us at: [museum@hall.act.au](mailto:museum@hall.act.au)



Lace making at Hall Museum on 22 April



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# Wonga Pigeons and Willy Wagtails

## May 2008

watchful eyes by Dagmar Parer

I have a very assertive Wonga Pigeon (*Leucosarcia melanoleuca*), also called a Topknot Pigeon, who comes every morning to pick at the offerings scattered to the ground from the parrot feeder. He'll even assert his dominance over a group of seven magpies and defend the bread titbits thrown out for the birds. That takes courage! He'll fan out his tail and wings, bob up and down, and make a dash at any magpie coming too close.



Wonga Pigeon

He has a mate, who sat diligently on a nest of eggs in our mulberry tree, and although I was very wary not to pick mulberries on her side of the tree so as not to disturb her, her eggs did not hatch. Maybe in the rainy spell we had the nest got wet or the eggs got cold. Such a pity as a clutch of Wonga Pigeon babies would have been a welcome addition to the garden. As an aside I had a great crop of mulberries this year due to the rain we had and made eight jars of mulberry, which didn't set that well, but is still yummy on toast or banana bread.



Willy Wagtail

Another garden resident I'm particularly fond of is the Willy Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) family. Their evocative night call always brings up memories of past hot summers, sitting outside at night under a full moon waiting for the evening to cool, listening to the Willy Wagtail warble. I just love it. Luckily for me the wagtail family seem to reside in an area of the garden close to our bedroom, so I hear his night call quite clearly and often have to restrain myself from going outside to sit under the stars, take in the full moon and the softness of the hot summer night and listen to the lovely warble of the Willy Wagtail.

Small and mostly black, Willy Wagtails have a white belly and eyebrow. They wag their fan-like tail as they hop about feeding on insects. Wagtails are a common sight in parks, gardens and farms around Australia. A close relative of the Willy Wagtail is the Restless Flycatcher (*Myiagra inquieta*), another tireless member of the insect-control patrol.

Wagtails can be aggressive, especially when they feel their territory is under threat. Excitable little birds, they will defend their patch from much larger animals, even cows!

Most of us have seen Willy Wagtails hopping about in the daytime, wagging their tail from side to side. But did you know these chirpy birds will also serenade the moon? Listen on moonlit nights for a bird singing 'sweet pretty creature'. This is the wagtail's call.

## Centenary Trail upgrade

On Wednesday 2 May representatives from the VHDPA met with the ACT Centenary Trail Coordinator to discuss the upgrade of a section of the trail between Gladstone Street and Clarrie Hermes Drive.

The group raised the issue of cyclist safety along Victoria Street. Discussion centered around the provision of a suitable bridge over Halls Creek and construction of a dedicated cycle/walking trail on the eastern side of Victoria Street. It may be possible to also make provision for horses.

The Coordinator undertook to repair parts of the existing trail, erect some warning signs, some weed control and to clean up illegally dumped material beside the trail.

Further meetings will discuss planning and advancement of the proposed upgrade. Funding will be provided from a dedicated Centenary Trail Upkeep and Development Budget allocation.

This is the summary by Nadia Rhodes (Parks and Conservation) of issues identified:

### Bridge crossing over Halls Creek

- Engineer approved
- Preferred to be located on Eastern (polo x side) of the roadway

- Needs to be of adequate width for walkers, cyclists and horses
- Horse friendly design (consider boardwalk materials and reinforcement)
- Will require hand railings due to height
- Abutment to bridge will require some construction
- Official Yield signs at either side

### Potential Trail realignment

- Preferred to remain on one side of the road (Eastern) to reduce the hazard of crossing multiple times
- Will need construction
- Signages
- Drainage will need to be considered as the road easement has a shaped spoon drain (natural materials)
- Need to consider distance of trail from road and trees

### Road crossing near Highway (if trail has to remain to cross at this point?)

- Need to install adequate signage to warn trail users of upcoming road crossing

### Embankment between Victoria St and Clarrie Hermes

- Repair potholes in trail
- Install dumping signs
- Rubbish pick up to be organised through TCCS on a regular basis

### Carparking at trail head (Hoskins St)

- Was never intended as a carpark but has multiple cars regularly on the road verge
- Install signage to alter behaviour to encourage car parking at Hall School as originally intended.

Contact: Peter Howard or Tony Morris if you need further information.



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## Taming the party dog

Excitable dog behaviour such as jumping on people and mouthiness are very common behaviours, especially amongst young dogs. While a chihuahua pup might not cause much damage when it jumps at your visitor, the hurtling missile of fun in the shape of the adolescent labrador can cause injury. Jumping up, attention barking and even mouthiness are often linked to the pet's level of excitability.

Times of high arousal lead to excitement and frustration in the pet – so daily greetings, playing, requesting food or meeting someone while out on a walk are all triggers for an explosion of inappropriate behaviours such as jumping up and mouthiness. These behaviours can be given a safer and more appropriate outlet.



### Jumping up

If your dog jumps up to greet you, how about teaching a totally different behaviour, such as to retrieve a toy, sit calmly and give it to you. That then gives the excitability an outlet and means that the dog has something in its mouth other than your hand.

### Mouthiness

A pup's choice of tool for investigating and interacting with the world is its mouth. They'll use it to explore everything including grabbing your fingers, hands, arms, clothes etc. If you squeal when

they nip you this can be misinterpreted as a game, with you as the squeaky toy. To prevent this, make hand movements around dogs slow. Also, resist the urge to roughhouse play with your dog using your hands — and ALL members of the household need to adhere to this rule.

Provide appropriate chew items for your dog such as raw hides, raw carrots and chew toys.

### Barking for attention

For dogs that bark for attention, immediately withdraw your attention by turning your back on the dog. Saying 'No' to the dog in this instance actually rewards the barking as the dog can just as easily interpret the 'No' as 'Hello'. Dogs are masters of body language, so removing your facial contact with the dog is far more effective at diminishing this behaviour. However, remember that you still need to reward the desirable behaviour. When your dog is quiet, reward that with calm, low key praise.

### Support

Some dogs seem to understand what is expected more easily than others. A visit to a behaviour-oriented vet can help you with these problems through personalised training strategies and behaviour consultations. Hall Veterinary Surgery's website, [hallvet.com.au](http://hallvet.com.au), has a range of help sheets for you to download, or you can have a chat to a trainer or a veterinary behaviourist about your concerns.



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## Hedges

I love hedges.

Large, small, evergreen, deciduous, loose form, tightly pruned, flowering, native, formal and informal, they are all fabulous.

I have designed, planted and pruned every kind of hedge and they all serve a purpose in the gardens they grow.

Hedges can conjure thoughts of fear in many folk, with visions of three metre monsters requiring endless pruning with massive cherry pickers and enormous hedge trimmers. These too, cause me to break into a sweat, these are the kind of hedges you really must try to avoid, they are very tricky to maintain and very expensive.

Hedges can be used in many ways, as a replacement to a fence, to delineate between two areas, to provide a garden bed edge, as a wall, to frame a space, for pure aesthetics, to frame a path, to make a room, create order and the list goes on.

Everyone has a spot for a hedge in their garden.

Plants that make great hedges that I like:

Small formal: *Buxus sempervirens*

Medium formal: *Teucrium fruticans*

Large formal: *Viburnum odoratissimum*, *Prunus lusitanica*, *Pittosporum sp.*

Small loose form: *Nandina 'Moonbay'*

Medium loose form: *Spiraea cantoniensis*, *Lilac*, *Loropetalum*

Large loose form: *Garrya elliptica*, *Viburnum Opulus 'Sterile'*, *Viburnum x burkwoodii*



It's very easy to have a garden full of wonderful plants that create all manner of excitement and interest,

but the space can feel a little 'bitty' and lack continuity. One way to pull a garden together is to add a hedge. Even a garden edge of grasses adds a new element that makes the garden feel more complete.

So the trick is to select the right hedge for the right spot, be careful to make sure you plant the right size and style for what you require. Once selected and planted, cut

the top out of the plant, a challenge for many, as you have just paid big bucks for a lovely sized plant, but an essential job for the hedge. This encourages the plant to thicken up and grow more laterals instead of rushing to the sky. Trim the top and sides, gently as it grows to the desired height, then maintain at that height. Some plants may require this every season while others may only need it once a year.

Find the plant that suits your style and maintenance regime and I guarantee you will soon be loving your hedge as much as I love hedges.

As I write this the most wonderful storm is billowing over my part of the district, I do hope you are all getting this much needed rain and that we continue to get more.



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Throughout winter we will be offering specials on our *Dermafrac* treatments. Details of these will be available on our website and/or Facebook page.

Winter is also the perfect time to enjoy the Youth Intensive facial. With dehydration being topical with current clients, this is a 75 minute facial with extended massage that will leave your skin feeling intensely nourished.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Until then, stay warm!

Warmest regards,  
Sue, Jordana and Jodi.

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## Winter house fires

It is the law in New South Wales that all residents must have at least one working smoke alarm installed on each level of their home.

Have you checked your smoke alarm?  
[www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=879](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=879)

House fires can happen at any time of the year. Most house fires start in the kitchen and heating appliances in lounges and bedrooms are another key risk.

Tragically 21 people will lose their lives in residential fires across NSW every year. Half those deaths may have been prevented if the homes had working smoke alarms and people had practiced their home escape plan.

To give you and your family the best chance of surviving a house fire:

- Test smoke alarms regularly.
- Know two safe ways out of every room in your house.
- Write down and regularly practice with everyone in your home your fire escape plan.
- Ensure the keys to all windows and doors are accessible in case you need to escape.

Smoke from a fire will make you confused. You cannot see in smoke. This is why practicing your escape plan matters.

When asleep you will not smell smoke and it will, in fact, put you into a deeper sleep.

This is why smoke alarms save lives.

Once you get out of a house fire, stay out! Dial Triple Zero (000) immediately.

### Some tips to help prevent fire:

- Keep looking when cooking! Never ever leave cooking unattended.
- Clean your chimney! If you have a fireplace make sure the chimney is clean.
- Check electric blankets for damage or frayed cords before placing on the bed.
- Clean your clothes dryer's lint filter each and every time you use it.
- Never leave candles or any other open flames unattended.
- Only ever use fuses of recommended rating and install an electrical safety switch.
- Never smoke in bed.

To find out how safe your home is visit the *Home Fire Safety Audit*, an easy-to-use online self-assessment

**Rebecca Morrison**  
President



tool that allows members of NSW community to assess home fire awareness and identify fire risks throughout the home.

Visit: [www.homefiresafetyaudit.com.au](http://www.homefiresafetyaudit.com.au)

### 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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## From the Editor

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair..."  
from a *Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

The *Tale of Two Villages* exhibition is a fabulous testament to the skills and growing awareness and respect of our community of Hall's long history back through to Aboriginal beginnings. Congratulations to our Hall Museum and Heritage Centre. Ten years of Twilight Concerts is a significant milestone in the evolving use of the former school site in Hall. We now have the camaraderie of the Hall Men's Shed, Broadband for Seniors, karate, the Cottage meeting space and tennis courts as well as the activities of the Hall Museum.

It was with great delight that our family noticed that a large wombat has taken up residence on the corner of Victoria Street and the Barton Highway. Having observed it on both sides of the road we were worried for its safety and that of the road users until we realised it is using the culverts as tunnels. Still, please keep an eye out at night. Between the wombat, occasional echidnas and the kangaroos that are often grazing each side of Victoria Street, not to mention the rabbits and foxes, driving that little stretch of road from the Creek to the Highway at dusk feels a bit like an obstacle course in our own little wildlife sanctuary.

Winter has arrived in Hall, hopefully not the winter of despair to which Charles Dickens alludes, but one warmed by a shared enjoyment and appreciation of our little gem of a place to live.

Until next time, Jo Hall

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## 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.

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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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## Out and about

### Local band fundraising for Tathra bushfire relief

by **Hugh Watson**

Local band *Willie and the Correspondents* (formerly West Texas Crude) appeared at a major fundraiser for the Tathra Bushfire Relief fund. Band Together on 26 May at the Sapphire Coast Turf Club near Tathra. 30 bands including the *Hoodoo Gurus*, *1927*, *Ol' 55*,



*The Badloves* and our own *Willie and the Correspondents* gave their time to raise money for those who lost everything in this devastating bushfire.

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After hours contact: Bill 0419 489 606  
Dennis 0408 644 144



Members of the 'Hall Honeys' attended the official opening of World Bee Day by Minister Mick Gentleman at the Slovenian Embassy on Sunday 20 May.

### Hall Honeys

photos: Bob Richardson



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Winter brings short days and long dark nights so with that we will be closing early over the winter months.



Remember *Daughters @ Hall* for all your home baked cakes, scones and muffins.



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Lemon butter available in the fridge thanks to our lovely customer Louie.



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