

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district

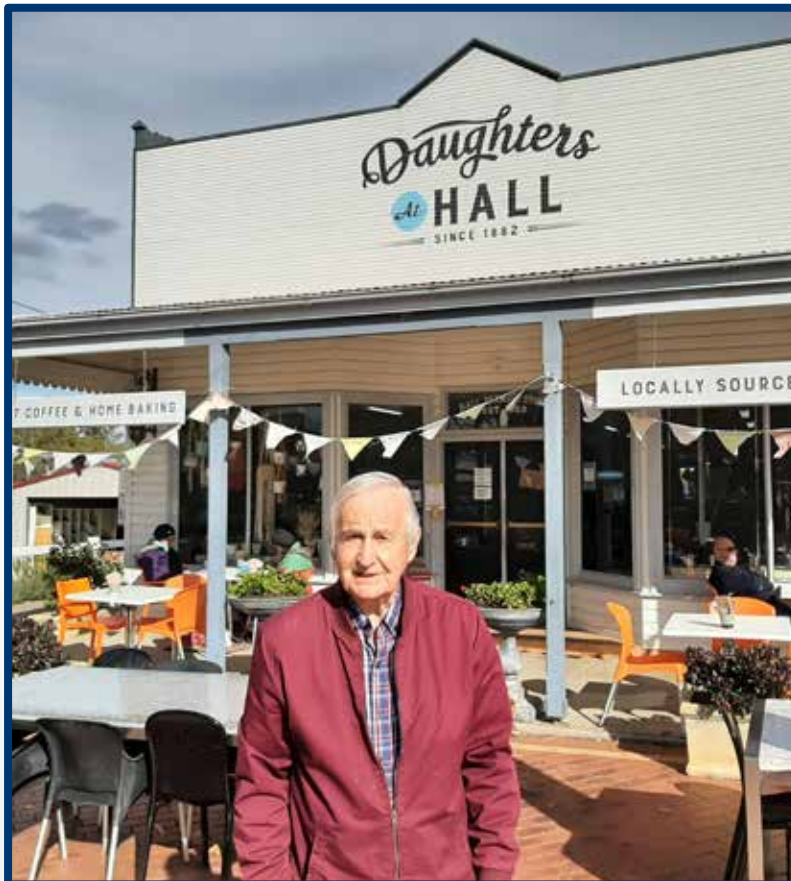


VOLUME 28 ISSUE 4

August 2021

Queen's Birthday Hall Honours

by Jo Hall



Professor Neil Manson of Spring Range Road for significant service to tertiary education, particularly to physics.



Robert Yallop of Victoria Street for significant service to international humanitarian aid organisations.

The Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List acknowledged three remarkable residents of Hall and the District as Members (AM) in the General Division of The Order of Australia for their significant service in different fields.

Congratulations to Toni, Neil and Robert!

It is another opportunity to learn more about the amazing people we have living in our community and the contributions they have made.

See their stories on page 4.



Professor Toni Makkai of Wallaroo Road for significant service to tertiary education, and to public administration.

photo: Keegan Carroll

... continues on page 4

Out and about... about

Local band *Willie and the Correspondents* played to a full house at the National Press Club on 23 June. Before they played, ABC reporter Jane Norman gave a lovely tribute to recently retired ABC Chief Foreign Correspondent Philip Williams (see June edition of the *Rural Fringe*). Philip and the band then played two sets of mainly original music including four new songs written during the last year.



Their next gig is on the Sunday afternoon of the October long weekend at the Tathra Hotel.

St Michael's and All Angels Anglican Church

Sometimes it's the simple things in life that help us get through otherwise difficult times. From the attached photo you can see that at St Michael's and All Angels we recently gave ourselves a fillip by putting in place a new concrete entrance in the middle of the church grounds. This now provides easy disabled access to the church and the upgraded toilet facilities.



We've also had an increase in part-time ministry staff, with the Revd. Peter Malone and lay minister Will Frost joining Revd. Emma Street and Revd. Helen Dean to serve the communities of Charnwood and Hall. With this boost we are keen to support the local Hall community and be more involved in events in the village.

Everyone is very welcome to join us at our 11am service each Sunday and if you would like to have a chat about any aspect of our ministry don't hesitate to call Peter on **0438 461 333**.

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Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc

Annual General Meeting
7pm **Wednesday 18 August 2021**
Hall Pavilion



The Annual General Meeting of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association will take place at the Hall Pavilion on Wednesday 18 August at 7pm (Subject to ACT Health directives on COVID-19)

All positions of members of the committee including office-bearers will be declared vacant and new members of the committee will be elected. Please consider nominating for a position on the committee before 12 noon on Monday 16 August, using the nomination form available on the website www.hall.act.au.

This is your opportunity to make a difference.

We have made it easier to become a member of the VHDPA – \$10 membership applications or renewals are due each financial year by paying online, by direct bank deposit or in cash through a special interest group (the museum, the men's shed). We look forward to seeing you then.

Please support your local Progress Association.

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Toni Makkai is a criminology expert working at the Australian National University's Centre for Social Research and Methods. She said the government's focus on increased mental health funding wouldn't help people with severe drug addictions who need intensive respite treatments. 'Quite a substantial number of people who get involved with drugs don't have a mental health problem. Some of them do, but not all of them,' Professor Makkai said. 'And so you can't kind of just say, well, we're rolling out mental health services therefore we're addressing drugs; you're not. There are different kinds of issues and responses.'



Before her current role, Toni was the dean and director of the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences and chair of the college executive for seven years. She was the first female director of Australian Institute of Criminology, a position she held for five years.

It is her work with the Ted Noffs Foundation and the Farm in Galong that she's most proud of. 'What we are doing at the Farm is offering a therapeutic community environment to bring women who are having serious difficulties adjusting following either having been in prison or having been in drug and alcohol treatment services. They don't have many life skills and they've often had their children taken away from them and they've got all sorts of chaos in their lives.'

The women usually come to stay at the Farm at Galong for 12 months and learn life skills, vocational skills and get assistance with reuniting with their families.

Australia needs to increase funding for such drug and alcohol treatments and also early interventions like pill testing, Toni says. Through her research and work, Toni has come to realise that the criminal justice system is

important to target drug traffickers and dealers, but it's less effective for drug users. 'The vast majority of people who get caught up in the criminal justice system are actually users. They're often arrested on possession charges and they have an addiction problem ... if you want to get to the root cause that's what you've got to deal with. The criminal justice system in a way is a response at the end of the road, rather than trying to intervene early and to divert people off that road into a more productive road.' This is why she threw her support behind Pill Testing Australia as a way to connect young people with peer counselling before they had a serious addiction problem.

Experimental physicist **Neil Manson** is known as 'the father of diamond spectroscopy' for his work with diamond impurities, and the unusual properties these impurities bestow, which have a myriad of applications, from brain surgery to quantum computers. Director of the Research School of Physics, Professor Tim Senden, said 'Professor Manson's greatest attribute is to inspire students by sharing knowledge in a humble way, and frequently humorous way. Neil's joy of science research is contagious, and he has the remarkable gift of making people feel welcome and included.'

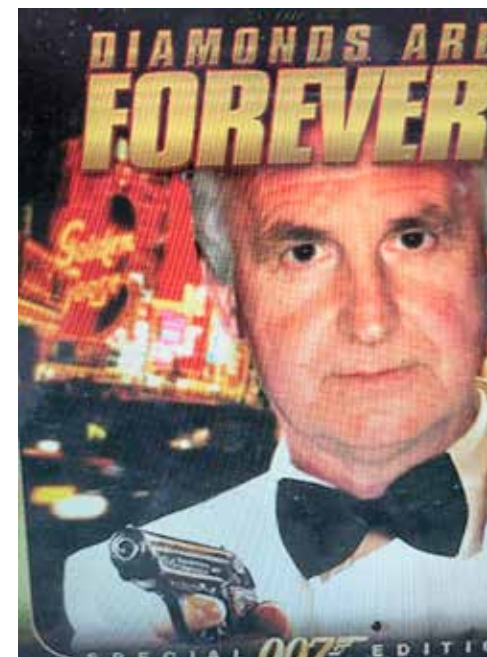


I can attest to this, as (over a coffee at *Daughters at Hall*) I was enthralled by Neil's explanation of the colour effects in purple diamonds, caused by the combination of a nitrogen atom with a 'vacancy' in the carbon lattice of diamond – known as a Nitrogen-Vacancy or NV centre – which has turned

out to have remarkable qualities. It allows you to measure magnetic fields, electrical fields, temperature and stress at a molecular level, which has many medical applications. It can also be used as a qubit – the heart of a quantum computer.

Neil has used his experimental approach and critical thinking abilities to more accurately explain the basic properties of this NV centre in a 2006 paper which challenged the prevailing theories of the time and paved the way for further research and applications. One of hundreds of papers he has written.

One spin off has been a new quantum computing company, Quantum Brilliance, led by Dr Marcus Doherty at the ANU. Former student Associate Professor Matt Sellars is now the head of the Solid-State Spectroscopy group, which has recently set records in quantum memory and qubit coherence times.



One of his students felt Neil's face was more fitting than Sean Connery!

February next year will mark an astonishing 50 years for Neil at the Australian National University, where he works every day, regardless of being 10 years retired. Neil, also known as Mr NV, is still working to further refine the theory, and loves the freedom of doing pure research nowadays.

Neil and his wife Patricia arrived from Morayshire's whisky centre in Scotland – via Los Angeles, London and Melba – to their home on Spring Range Road. We all miss Patrice's bubbly presence and it was a real privilege to find out a little more about Mr NV Manson (he is thinking of changing his name from NB Manson) and his fascinating contributions to science.

Robert Yallop's community work began in his youth in Australia, but in 1978, Robert moved to India to work with villages in Maharashtra State, followed by work throughout South-East Asia, and six years in Egyptian villages. In 1991, Robert began his work with CARE Australia, setting up their humanitarian relief in Iraq following the First Gulf War.

Robert moved to Hall from the Middle East in 1996 and worked as part of CARE Australia's executive team, overseeing all international operations. Robert managed 16 country offices in the Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe and Middle East regions, implementing development programs and directing thousands of staff. In just one example, CARE worked with village health volunteers in the Eastern Highlands and Morobe Provinces of Papua New Guinea to improve maternal health services for remote villages. In over 40 years of aid work, Robert responded to some of the world's greatest tragedies, such as the Rwanda genocide in 1994 and the Balkan's crisis in 1998, when 344,500 refugees suddenly fled Kosovo to Macedonia, where, under Robert's direction, CARE Australia managed the two largest refugee camps of Cegrane and Stankovic II.

'Obviously, helping people very directly with food, water and shelter in a refugee camp makes a difference, but then there are the changes that come about in policies and those changes can make a real difference in the long term.' For example, CARE trialled an approach to working with communities in Ratanak Kiri in North East Cambodia to enable ethnic minority children to start learning at school in their mother tongue before learning Khmer, the national language. This increases the ability of children to do well at school. This approach has since been adopted as national policy by the Government of Cambodia and replicated across the country.

Robert is thankful for the support of those around him. 'For me, this honour really reflects the effort of hundreds of my colleagues, especially the national staff in the countries that I've worked in, from which I've learnt so much over the years, and who have such incredible dedication and commitment to what they are doing.'



Robert on his way to a remote village in Papua New Guinea, inaccessible to vehicles.

Robert says that international aid is not 'charity' but is in the interests of Australia and all wealthier nations. 'If we didn't understand our interdependence before, COVID-19 has shown very clearly that our health, our prosperity is only as secure as the health, the stability and the prosperity of the poorest communities and countries around us.'

[Editor's note: I should mention that Robert and I are married; we met in Egypt.]



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Environmental Concerns over Barton Highway upgrade

As you may be aware the Barton Highway is currently undergoing a major upgrade to make it a two-lane highway all the way to Murrumbateman. The first stage between the ACT north to the intersection of Kaveney Road is well underway. The upgrade will clearly have significant environmental impacts.

The Ginninderra Catchment Group and the Murrumbateman Landcare Group are concerned that environmental matters are not being properly considered during the construction of the upgrade. In particular we are very concerned that the current proposed road alignment through the Hall Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR)

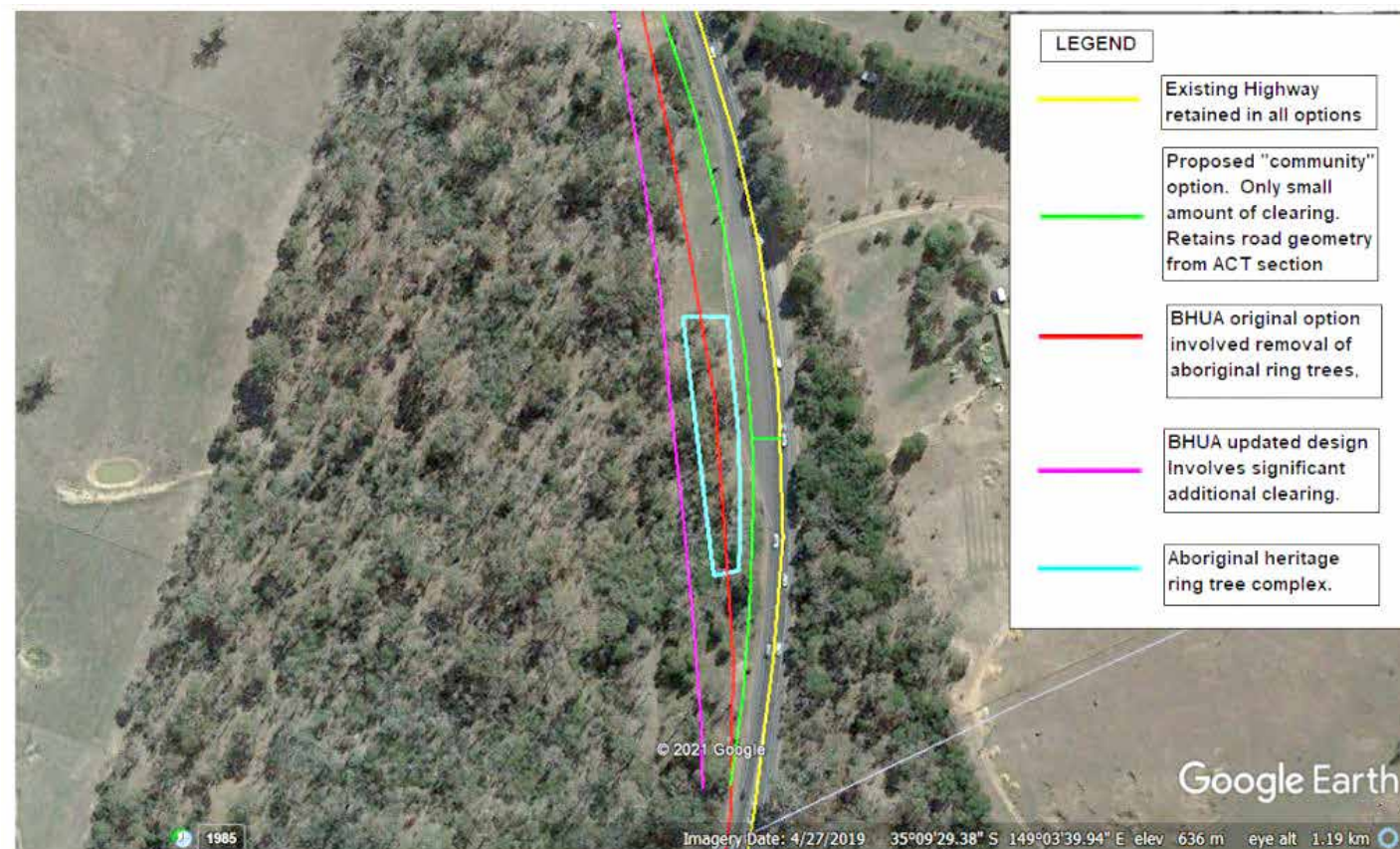
proposes to clear significant portions of the TSR to allow for a new northbound carriageway. The new carriageway cuts through the Hall TSR and takes a kind of direct route through the TSR rather than following and widening the existing traverse of the Hall TSR to allow for the duplication.

The original design which is outlined in the Review of Environmental Factors proposed removing the large trees adjacent to the rest area to allow for the new northbound carriageway. However, these trees were identified by the Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council to be very significant to Aboriginal people as they are what are called ring trees. These are trees where Aboriginal people bound two branches together so that they eventually merged and formed a ring within the tree. Ring trees thus constructed were possibly used as boundary trees to identify territorial boundaries or to provide signposts that the surrounding area was of cultural or had significant

natural resources. They are very significant and a very ancient marker post. Our current generation is always keen to preserve original markers for when the ACT was first surveyed and these are regarded as needing to be preserved. The ring trees are of the same significance to aboriginal people marking ancient tribal boundaries and areas of significance.

What is a Travelling Stock Reserve?

When grazing or moving stock around the state, the grazing industry uses a network of parcels of Crown land called travelling stock reserves (TSR). In addition to grazing and moving stock, the TSR network also has other values such as biodiversity conservation, Indigenous and European culture and recreation. According to NSW Local Land Services, there are more than 6,500 TSRs on Crown land in NSW, covering an area of around two million hectares.



by John Connelly

As a result of the significance of these trees the design of the road was changed so that the trees would not need to be destroyed. However, the road was moved further into the Hall TSR with the view to leaving the trees as an isolated remnant stranded in the median strip between two busy carriageways of traffic. This alignment required even more clearing of the Hall TSR than the original 2011 design.

The Ginninderra Catchment Group, Murrumbateman Landcare Group and the Onerwal Council consider that the updated design is only marginally better than the original 2011 design and are of the firm opinion that the new northbound carriageway could be fitted along the existing road alignment without too much impact on either the ring trees or the Hall TSR. In addition the ring trees are home to a population of squirrel gliders which will clearly be significantly impacted if the trees are left as an isolated remnant in the median strip of the upgraded highway.



are committed to protecting the environment 'to the fullest extent'. We would question what the purpose is of community consultation when the very first statement made is 'we will not be making any changes to the design.' Their clear attitude is an adherence to their design with no possibility of making any changes.

We have investigated possible road alignment options and consulted the Austroads documents which provide guidance to road designers Australia wide

(Austroads is the collective of the Australian and New Zealand transport agencies, representing all levels of government). The opening page on their website states that road designers should be moving away from 'rigid road design principles to a more context-sensitive design' philosophy. We consider that if ever there was an instance where the context-sensitive design principle should be applied it should be in this instance.

This article is designed to bring the proposed very poor environmental outcome to the attention of Hall residents.

If you wish to support our

efforts to have the road design altered, you should e-mail the Barton Highway Upgrade Alliance to express your concern.

For details see:

roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/barton-highway

More detailed information about the proposed options both from the Barton Highway Upgrade Alliance and the GCG/YAN group can be obtained by e-mailing John Connelly (percyconnelly@yahoo.com). In addition the GCG/YAN group would be happy to organise a community meeting of Hall residents with the Barton Highway Upgrade Alliance to allow for public discussion of the matter. This could be held in the Hall Pavilion at a suitable time.



Ring tree photo: Canberra Times

The Australian and NSW governments have committed a combined \$200 million to upgrade the Barton Highway with the work being delivered by the Barton Highway Upgrade Alliance – a partnership of Transport for NSW, Seymour Whyte and SMEC. The Ginninderra Catchment Group/ Yass Area Network (GCG/YAN) and the Onerwal Council have been in negotiations with the Barton Highway Upgrade Alliance to press for the design to be modified so that the new road is made along the existing road alignment and only very minimal clearing of the Hall TSR to take place. However, right from the start of the negotiations Barton Highway Upgrade Alliance was very adamant that 'no changes to the road design could be made'. This in spite of the fact that their regular six monthly newsletters emphasise that they



The Village of Hall and District Progress Association (VHDPA) Committee has continued its focus on the financial governance of the VHDPA and its Special Interest Groups, to ensure transparency and accountability. The funds of the VHDPA and Special Interest Groups belong to our members, and it is very important that they are managed properly. We have reviewed the objects and activities of the VHDPA and Special Interest Groups to ensure that the activities we all do are included, as required by the Associations Incorporation Act. Ten years since its establishment by the VHDPA to promote and encourage the restoration, preservation and display of early machinery and equipment, the Hall and District Collectors' Club (HDCC) now has 83 vehicles under the ACT Government concessional registration arrangements and has regular outings and displays classic vehicles at Hall Village events. The HDCC has recently taken the opportunity to incorporate and is no longer a Special Interest Group of the VHDPA. We hope that they continue to prosper.

Hall Memorial Grove

Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) has begun to tidy up the parking around the Memorial Grove on the corner of Gladstone and Victoria Street. This is to improve amenity of the Memorial, reduce compaction and bogging of the ground, and improve pedestrian safety - particularly with bus drop-offs where schoolchildren cross the road from parked cars on the verge corner. The plan is to replace broken bollards on Gladstone Street opposite Kynefin and place parking restriction notices in front of the memorial grove entrance. Residents wishing to know more can get in touch with the City Presentation Unit, Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.



Mulch laid in preparation for bollards to be replaced.

Peter Toet President

Pavilion maintenance

Your VHDPA Committee has successfully obtained \$15,390 of grant funding from the Stronger Communities Programme - Round 6. The Stronger Communities Programme provides each of the 151 Federal electorates with \$150,000 to fund small capital projects. These projects aim to improve local community participation and contribute to vibrant viable communities. Federal Members of Parliament (MPs) identify potential projects and invite applications from their electorate. The VHDPA was invited to apply by the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh, Federal Member for Fenner.



Painting the Pavilion

Funds were requested for repainting the Pavilion building, repairing plumbing and the stove. Painting started on 13 July and should be finished in early August.

General Meeting

A general meeting of the VHDPA was convened on 16 June 2021 to consider a Special Resolution to change the Association Rules. The changes focused on improving financial oversight and governance as recommended by the Association's Reviewer. The new rules are available on the website, 2021-06-16 Rules of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc, as are the draft minutes of the meeting: www.hall.act.au/meeting-minutes.html

VHDPA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the VHDPA is scheduled for 7pm Wednesday 18 August 2021 in the Hall Pavilion subject to ACT Health directives on COVID-19. All committee positions will be vacated, and nominations for office bearers and committee members are welcomed. Nominations should be submitted to the Secretary before 12 noon on Monday 16 August. Nomination forms are available on the website. Now is also the time to renew your membership, or join, your association of Hall Village and District.

Cottage and Pavilion – change in management arrangements

In May, Tony and Margaret Morris signalled their retirement from management of the Hall Pavilion and Community Cottage and expressions of interest were sought from the community to assist. The committee has welcomed the offer from Andy and Bill Pearson to look after the cottage while the Pavilion will be looked after by VHDPA Committee members. Tony and Margaret have lived in Hall since 1965 and have been part of the VHDPA from that time. Their efforts were instrumental in obtaining the Pavilion for community use. Since then, the building has evolved from a simple galvanised iron shed through several widespread renovations and improvements until now with internal lining, improved acoustics, new lighting, gas heating, renovated kitchen and modern toilet and showers. It is a very popular venue for events. The cottage was formerly the Headmaster's Cottage and was adapted for community use following closure of the school and after-school care in 2006.



The Community Cottage.

The VHDPA extends its heartfelt thanks to Tony and Margaret for their amazing volunteer contributions to the community.

Speaking of recognition of contributions to the Hall and wider community. The Hall community should be very proud that three of its residents have been recognised as Members of the Order of Australia, AM,



in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List: Emeritus Professor Toni Makkai of Wallaroo; Professor Neil Manson of Springrange; and Robert Yallop of Hall. Congratulations to Toni, Neil and Robert. Robert has been a member of the VHDPA Committee since 2019.

Halls Creek timber bridge at the showgrounds

The Men's Shed has initiated repairs to the timber crossing on Halls Creek which is in disrepair. The crossing is very wobbly at the moment.



MLA Leanne Castley and her assistant, Felicity, recently visited Hall and had a brief tour of the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre and the Men's Shed. Leanne then had a cuppa at the Daughters' and a discussion with Shaun O'Connor from the Hall Traders. Although the time available was very limited, it was apparent that Leanne gained a little better understanding of the organisations within Hall and the role of the Progress Association.

It is pleasing to see that the Kuringa Drive upgrade is progressing well, the traffic lights at Owen Dixon Drive are operating and the lovely rock wall on Kuringa Drive is almost finished. The changes shall provide a much safer entry to Belconnen suburbs for Hall residents, including access for cyclists. The long-needed duplication of the Barton Highway is continuing.

Please stay SAFE and CONNECTED.

The sound of galloping horses

by **Kevin Stone**

Are you going to buy a horse?

This was the first question my daughter asked when I enthusiastically told her about watching the two-day polocrosse carnival in Hall recently. And, no, was my answer, because I haven't ridden one for about 50 years, so I don't know who would be more frightened, me or the horse!

This was the first time I've watched polocrosse, and think it's one of the most exciting action-packed family orientated team sports around! Big statement I know, but I came across it after seeing the promotional sign on my way into Hall to pick up a copy of the latest *Rural Fringe* and I'm glad I took the time to check out what was happening.

The first thing I noticed (after doing the COVID-19 check-in) was a very young child who told me he was seven and had the oldest horse there, and by my reckoning, the biggest. He was part of one of the junior teams competing in the two-day carnival, and as I watched the teams, I could see they were thoroughly enjoying themselves out on the field. I later learnt that the age range of the competitors was anywhere between 5-80 years, with the teams often a mixture of male and female and even from the same family. One of the men I spoke to had his son and son-in-law with him on a team, with his daughter and grandson on another.

The sport, which is a combination of lacrosse and netball on horseback originated in Australia around 1939 and the Hall Club, which is part of the Southern Highlands Zone, started in 1975 by locals Mick De Britt and Lesley Coulton. Although different breeds of horses are used, the Australian Stock Horse is by far the most popular, mainly because they are specifically bred to be athletic, agile and have a good temperament.

But it's not only the wonderful horses, because it was really impressive to watch the incredible skills and horsemanship of each rider, who somehow manage to gallop at full speed and then stop almost instantly, pivot, twist and turn their horse while using the stick with an attached racquet head to pick up the ball and throw it through the goal posts. One of the teenagers told me that the riders not only use the reins, but the whole body to manoeuvre their horse into position. And the horses somehow seem to know what's expected of them. It's truly amazing to watch!

A couple of things stood out about the spectators: families and friends were gathered around talking and laughing together and everyone seemed to be interested and engaged in the sport.



The Hall competition was held over four fields, with good food and drinks available, plus great commentary which made the sport and rules easier to understand for a first-timer like me. But there were plenty of friendly and enthusiastic people, more than happy to chat about the rules and skills displayed and how much enjoyment they get from this wonderful sport.



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Polocrosse carnivals are held in Hall twice a year, so it won't be back until early 2022, but I'd encourage people to go and have a look at it, because polocrosse is such a great sport and it's a chance to cheer on our 'Hall Heroes'.



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Hall and District Axemen's Club

by Shaun O'Connor

The Hall and District Axemen's Club (HADAC) continues to attract new members through training and demonstrations.

In March, The Hall Axemen were invited to do a demonstration at the Canberra Craft Beer and Cider Festival. A terrific display was shown with axes, saws, and chainsaws to a crowd of over 500 people. The event was such a hit that we have been asked to come back again next year.

Seven Hall Axemen attended this year's Royal Sydney Show, and a few accolades were given. One was Cheyanne Girvan who won the women's underhand competition. Austin O'Connor chopped extremely well over the 11 days of competition and was chosen in the U21 NSW team. Austin O'Connor and Tarlo Odum were recognised as up-and-coming axemen and from their performance at Sydney have been chosen to go to the Royal Adelaide Show to compete for NSW. The Hall club will have seven axemen attending Adelaide.



Hall lads at Sydney.

HADAC recently tendered for a grant from ACT Sports and Recreation for a combined use concrete pad outside the old pony club where the current chopping area is. The combined use



Cheyanne



Austin

Shaun and Layla



was to be a hard stand area for chopping and a Pony Club wash bay and the Collectors Club show area. Unfortunately, HADAC was denied the grant, mainly due to a time frame issue, having said that, HADAC has been encouraged to reapply for the second round of capital infrastructure later this year.

The following are shows penned to go ahead; Harden (September), Murrumbateman Field Day (October), Hall Street Party (October) Queanbeyan Show (November).

I would encourage anyone, young or old, who is interested in wood chopping to contact me. A great opportunity to learn different lifelong skills, keep fit, be part of an exclusive Australian sport and meet loads of interesting people.



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Are you your own best friend?

by **Robyn Monteleone** hypnotherapist

In Henry Ford's words 'Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you're right'. And how we come to believe whether we can or can't, can be complicated. We absorb what other people tell us, what other people say about us and what other people think about our abilities. Sometimes, we can brush off that outside influence to make up our own mind and sometimes we get stuck believing what other people say about our abilities.

Our whole life experience impacts how we think about ourselves, which impacts what we say to ourselves. When people around us are feeling down and they start talking about themselves with a negative rhetoric, we tend to rally around them to let them know how important they are to us and remind them of their skills, abilities and value in the world. Similarly, if you find yourself talking more

kindly to other people than you talk to yourself, perhaps it's time to re-evaluate your self-talk.

If you catch yourself using words such as 'you're a loser' or 'I'm stupid' or something similar, stop for a moment and ask the question 'Would I say that to a friend?'. If you wouldn't say it to a friend, don't say it to yourself. Be your own best friend, not your own worst enemy.

If you think of yourself as 'fat' or 'boring' or 'unlucky', that's the way your life will play out. Change your self-talk and your perspective about what you can and can't do and you can start to make changes. Over time, even small changes for the better add up exponentially.

If you find you're having trouble with how your self-talk or undervaluing yourself, hypnotherapy can help you make changes to improve your life.

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Here we are, in the dead of winter

by **Lisa Walmsley**

Some folk in the middle of winter tuck right in, find something that occupies their time indoors and that's where they stay until the great outdoors starts to thaw.

On the other hand, I love winter; everything about winter. Thank goodness for seasons, life would be very dull if every day was the same.

I rug up, make sure I have enough clothes on and head into the garden.

Winter is the time when the garden hits cruise control, it gives you time to catch your breath and observe what really needs to happen. Watering, mostly doesn't need doing, most pests are dormant and hopefully the leaves are raked up and mulched or composted.

Your roses and fruit trees do need attention and now is as good a time as any.

Roses really did get too big last summer with all the rain, so don't be frightened to go hard this year and prune all your shrub roses back to about 30-40 cm from the ground, with about five main branches; in the shape of a glass, leaving the centre open for light and air penetration. Hybrid T and shrub roses should never be taller than you, tall leggy growth will eventually replace flowers.



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Your fruit trees were most likely also prolific and plentiful last summer and most of us had more fruit than we could eat – a lovely problem to have. Fruit trees don't like to have excess wood in them as this takes the energy away from fruit production. Prune these like a wine glass and take out all dead wood and cross branches. I also have a rule with fruit trees, they must not be taller than me, I need to be able to reach the fruit. If you only do one thing in pruning your fruit trees, cut them down to your height.

It's likely that your fruit trees will not be as prolific as last year as trees tend not to have the energy to produce big crops every year, but sometimes they can surprise us.

Citrus, lemons, oranges and limes do not thrive in our climate, they hate repeated frosts and really don't like wind. So if you insist on having them, like me, think very carefully about their placement. A warm sheltered location is critical to a successful tree and crop.

In the veggie garden, it's a great time to plant your everyday greens. All your lettuces, rocket, spinach, silverbeet and all the Asian greens thrive in our cold winters. Coriander loves our winter and tends to run to seed when it's warm, so grow it now.

Root vegetables thrive in winter as well and will be ready to harvest before you start thinking about planting spring vegetables. Spring onions and celery are a vegetable mainstay that you can plant now and pick all year.

I really like to mulch my vegetable garden as it serves a multitude of purposes. Not only retaining moisture and keeping weeds at bay but also assisting in keeping the soil at a more even temperature. The micro bugs that live in our soil and provide all kinds of health benefits to our plants thrive and multiply in mulched soil, improving growth, production and yield.

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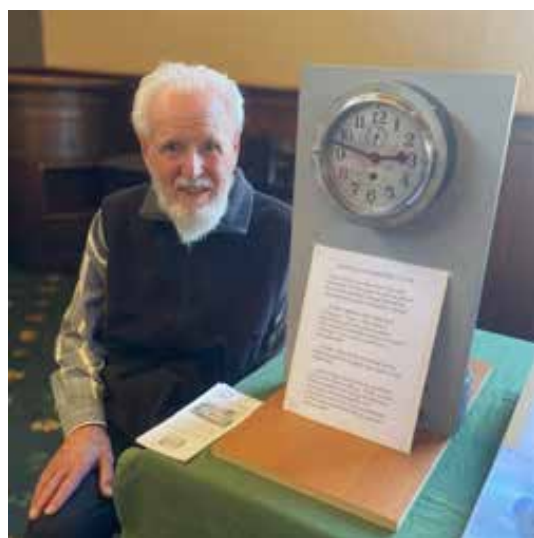
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A very timely event of the 2021 ACT Heritage Festival

from **the Festival Reporter**

On 24 April the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors Chapter 182 opened its very interesting display of early clock and watches at the Canberra Irish Club, as part of the 2021 ACT Heritage Festival.

The event was well attended and there were many very interesting pieces on display – with knowledgeable experts on hand to explain their workings. Among the displays it was delightful to see our own clock expert Alf Wilford and his wife Heather, also representing the Hall Museum and Heritage Centre with a Japanese Submarine Clock from the collection, on loan to the event.



Alf Wilford and the Seikoshia Clock.

The clock was made by Seikoshia, Tokyo, a branch of what is now the Seiko Corporation. It was donated to the museum by a Hall resident whose father had obtained it while serving in the Australian forces occupying Japan following World War II.

Alf is no slouch when it comes to overhauling and describing clocks and is also a published author, including on the topic of Japanese clocks. The earliest of these did not have hours marked like clocks of today. Rather, they divided the daylight and night time parts of the day each into six intervals of time or toki named after various animals. Japanese manufacture switched to a European timekeeping system in 1873.



Alf explaining the workings of a Grasshopper Clock made by Norm Banham.

New generation of Bushrangers shines

Jeremy Watson president



There was a changing of the guard at the Hall Bushrangers this year as we sadly lost a large cohort of our regular first graders due to interstate work, injury and family commitments. That opened the door for an influx of fresh faces and, for the first time in the club's history, included a women's team.

After a few rocky early rounds and some narrow misses, the recipe looks to be right now with our men's and women's team putting out some brilliant performances in recent weeks. Long, cold and dark winter nights spent training every Tuesday and Thursday for the last few months are translating to the field for both teams.

A 50 point masterclass for Cooma as a fitting farewell for ex Club President Neville Betts who recently passed away, followed by a gutsy win in the snow country at Jindabyne have been highlights in recent weeks.



Brad Jones celebrates after a marvelous chip and chase in Jindabyne.

Off field, the new players have brought fresh energy to the social and fundraising activities in the club. Get down after work and you'll see a rotating roster of friendly faces selling Friday night meat raffle tickets at our major sponsor Casey Jones each week.



James Murphy scoring vs Cooma.

Down at the ground we're sadly still lacking in the most basic of facilities. We remain the only club in the competition without changerooms which arguably might pass muster if we had just the men's team. However, the addition of our lovely ladies to the club should really see an end to getting changed outside. There will be a renewed push for facilities down at the oval in the coming months and any community support or ideas for what shape they should take would be most welcome.

Jeremy Watson president@hallbushrangers.com.au

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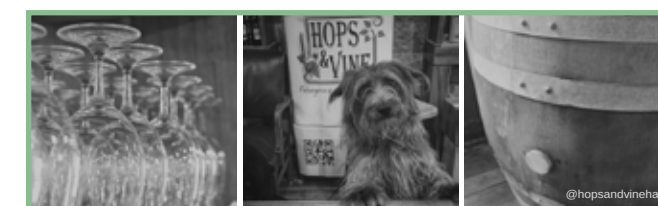
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Weight management in dogs

Did you know that obesity is the most common nutritional disorder seen in cats and dogs? Many of us don't even realise that our dog has become overweight as it often takes place gradually over time.



As much as we love to spoil our pets, that extra treat in the morning and the odd bowl of leftovers every other day can have serious and detrimental effects on your dogs health and well-being. Research shows that being as little as 20 per cent overweight can greatly increase the risk of your dog developing serious health conditions such as diabetes mellitus, pancreatitis, arthritis and painful joint problems, urinary stones or heart disease.

Not only does carrying excess weight have a negative impact on your dog's general wellbeing, happiness and overall quality of life, it can also significantly shorten their life expectancy compared to a healthy-weight pet.

What causes weight gain?

Weight gain is the result of an increase in body fat. This is usually caused by feeding too much or a decrease in exercise and in many cases it's a combination of both. But there can be other contributing factors too, such as:

by **Hall Veterinary Surgery**

Age – Older dogs are less active, have less energy, and require fewer calories, which is why nutrition formulated for his age is vital to his weight and overall health.

Desexing status: desexed dogs have a decreased metabolism, meaning they require 30 per cent less food overall than their un-desexed counterparts.

Overfeeding: dogs with unlimited access to food understandably eat more than they need – this includes table scraps and extra treats from family members.

Quality of food: many supermarket type commercial foods are loaded with salt and fat. This improves taste, which means your dog will usually love it, but it won't love them back.



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Breed: some dog breeds are typically more food motivated and less active than others, making them more likely to gain weight.

Medical problems: weight gain can be associated with medical disorders that may require veterinary treatment.

So what can I do?

Accepting that there is a problem and committing to getting your pet back to a healthy weight is step one. To understand your pets current condition, their goal weight and how to get there, we recommend booking an appointment with your vet. Weight loss should be gradual and steady in order to be safe. Once you know your pet's goal weight, there are a number of methods you can implement to help them get there.

Diet: proper nutrition plays a very important role in treating an overweight dog, speak to your vet about the best weight management diet for your pet. Use the correct feeding guide and measure your pets daily meals with a measuring cup or scales. Make sure to account for any treats, dental chews etc. in their daily feeds.

Exercise: promoting regular exercise will not only assist you in decreasing your pets weight, it will increase their overall happiness and quality of life.

Weigh ins: regular weight checks will let you know whether you're on the right path, allow you to adjust feeding amounts and also help to keep you motivated

by showing you how far you and your pet have come. You are always welcome to pop in and use our scales for weight checks, no appointment needed.

Activities: as well as regular exercise, playing games or activities is a fun way to get the whole family involved in your pets weight loss journey.

'Puppy Ping Pong' is a game that will not only get your dog moving but will also help to reinforce their recall! Have family members stand apart and take it in turns to call your dog to encourage them to run to you, reward the behaviour when they get to you with a small amount of boiled chicken breast, carrot or other healthy treat.

'Find It' is great for exercise and mental stimulation. Cut up some carrot or pumpkin into small pieces and throw them around your backyard. Your pet will be on an adventure lead by their nose to try and find the food you threw.

Tips and tricks: make swaps where you can, for example try swapping your pets schmacks or pig ear for a carrot. Rather than letting your pet Hoover their biscuits straight from a bowl, disperse their food over a large area or use a treat ball to make them work for it!

If you're unsure if your pet is a healthy weight or you'd like more information on weight management, please give us a call on **(02) 6230 2223**.

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Museum Musings

museum



Rotary Club of Hall Community Service Award

We are always pleased of course to get positive feedback from visitors and others about our efforts. We are particularly grateful to the Rotary Club of Hall for the special recognition they have bestowed on the Centre's Volunteers. The citation for the Community Service Award to the Centre reads:

The village of Hall has existed since the 1880's, long before the ACT was proclaimed in 1913 when the village was included within the ACT boundary. The Hall Village public school started in 1911 and continued until its closure in 2006.

After the closure a community minded band of 15 people formed the Friends of the Hall School Museum with the vision of retaining and maintaining its abundant history. The Museum was later renamed the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre as the scope expanded to include the history of the local area, family history, an education program and the extensive Indigenous history of the region.

There are now thirty two active volunteers, together with many Friends of the Centre. The volunteers have worked tirelessly over thousands of hours undertaking research projects, restoring and displaying precious artefacts, and producing exhibitions annually. They also provide information and education to visitors young and older.

The Rotary Club of Hall wishes to formally recognise how much we appreciate the volunteers by presenting them with this community Award.

Thank you Rotary! New volunteers are always warmly welcome of course. If you would just like to 'suck it and see', then drop in for morning tea on a Thursday morning for a chat and look around.

Hall Cemetery project

In May 2021 our unofficial genealogist Robin Astbury instigated a project to profile all persons buried in Hall Cemetery. At least 350 burials have been detected so far.



The aim is to create a Memorial Folder accessible to any visitor to the centre. The proposed title is *Who's Who in Hall Cemetery*.

The profiles are being created with whatever information can be found. Some local pioneers are easy as their stories have already been posted on 'Rediscovering Ginninderra' on our website. Most are yet to be written, and this project may be the prompt for others to enlarge upon what is discovered here. More recent burials are more problematic as we may not have any information on them, unless information is included in Lyall Gillespie's research notes or in family history books in our possession. Another source which has already produced a few results is our own volunteers who are related to folk buried in the cemetery.

Where relatives are still residing locally they might like to memorialise their dear departed by inclusion in the project. Eulogies/obituaries are a great source of already available information, or family members might like to write a fresh life story. One cause of outsider burials is that Hall Cemetery is the cheapest burial option in Canberra. Or, as in the case of Bryce Courtenay, in his dying days he chose it as a serene location for his eternal rest.

In every case searches are made through Google and Trove. This is wonderful for notable persons as

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someone has most likely already produced an obituary (sometimes pages long). Even the tiniest discovery provides some information to enlarge upon birth and death dates. Headstone photos are available from two online sources – *BillionGraves* and *FindAGrave*.

The inspiration for the project came from the five volume series *Our Backyard* produced by Toowoomba and Darling Downs Family History Society where members supply stories of their relatives buried in Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery, which is literally in its backyard; the society is located in a parcel of land excised from the cemetery.

Cameron clan gathers

On Saturday 9 June a book launch was the occasion for a gathering of the Cameron clan at the centre. The book – *Highlands to the Limestone Plains* – a family history of the 'Glebe Camerons', by descendant Cameron Archer, was launched by historian Keith Amos. The Commissioner Clan Cameron Australia, James Lachlan Cameron was in attendance, to give us some context on the clans and Highland clearances, while bagpiper John Uren set the atmosphere. A large gathering of Camerons and others attended the event, and our volunteers served afternoon tea when the formalities concluded.



Cameron Archer (author), John Uren, James Lachlan Cameron (Commissioner Clan Cameron Australia)

The extended family of the Glebe Camerons descended from patriarch Donald Cameron and his wife Ann, who landed in Sydney on 2 January 1839 with their eight children. Five more were born in Australia. Mary, the twelfth of them, was Cameron Archer's great great grandmother. Today of course the Cameron descendants number in the many thousands. 'Cameron' was not an uncommon Scottish name. Other Cameron families established themselves at Majura and in the Waterholes district, Michelago; hence the reference to the 'Glebe Camerons'.

The emigrant ship 'Boyne' which brought them to Sydney carried Highlanders mostly from the Parish of Kilmallie and surrounding district near Fort William. There were 93 Camerons on board, including the surgeon and the 'schoolmaster'!

Why 'Glebe'? A 'glebe' is land assigned to the support of a priest – by the state, or by a wealthy individual. Robert Campbell and his son Charles both gave land to support St John's Church, Reid, established in 1845. Robert's gift is recognised in Canberra's remnant 'Glebe Park'. In 1841 Charles gave 200 acres in Ginninderra, including three acres for a church and cemetery, when required. St Paul's church was eventually built there in 1861 'for about £130', mostly subscribed in Devon, England. For a while a school was conducted there during the week. The name has survived in the present Parish of St Pauls Ginninderra – 'connecting people with God since 1860'. A cemetery opened in 1872 and had at least 18 burials. Both church and cemetery were closed in 1904 – and bull-dozed to make way for the suburb of Evatt in 1971. The cemetery site is opposite Copland College on Copland Drive, where a memorial plaque carries the names of those known to be buried there.

St Paul's church and school, the Glebe, Ginninderra.

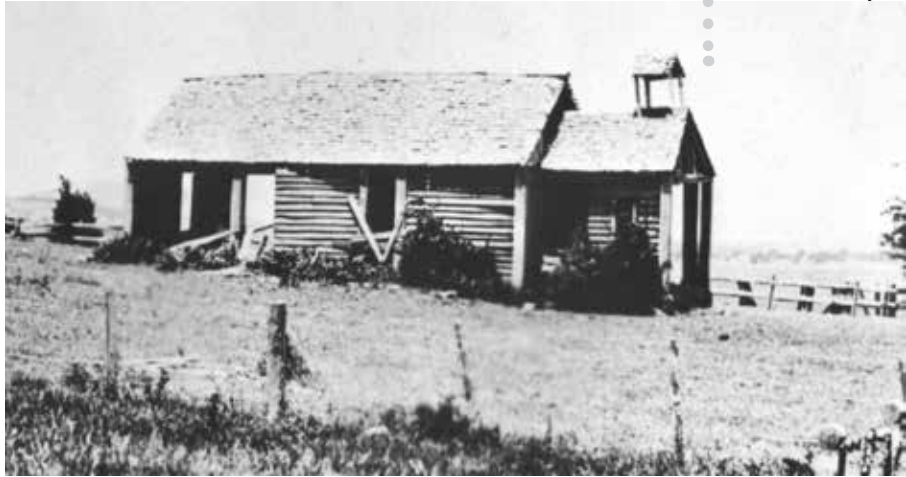
The Cameron family were early tenants of The Glebe, but only after Donald's early death from an overdose of 'firewater' – 'During Christmas week he sent into town for a supply of firewater and the overseer brought the spirits from Queanbeyan. The two boys (his sons) folded the sheep on the evening of 23 December 1853 and then went to the hut for their supper. Their father was on the bed with a bottle near him and he did not speak. Next morning, they had to prepare their own breakfast and when they came home in the evening, they found their father dead. The following morning the lads had to tramp seven miles to Emu Bank to report the death'.

One of his sons, Donald Cameron (jnr), 25 when his father died, then leased the Glebe land from the Church of England until his own death in 1883. He became a farmer and teamster, owning a horse team and a bullock team. By 1880 he had added 300 acres to the initial 200 acres, which fronted Ginninderra Creek. Over time he grew wheat, oats, corn, potatoes and pumpkin. He was active in the Free Selectors Association and the Presbyterian Church, and an avid cricketer. He is one of five Camerons from three generations buried at the small Glebe Cemetery, including his wife Elizabeth and his mother Ann. Ann Cameron never gave up her Gaelic language and spoke no English in her lifetime. She died in 1883.

... continues on page 22

Museum Musings *continued*

As well as the church and cemetery of St Pauls, the Cameron family is closely associated with nearby Emu Bank, where Cameron Avenue and the Cameron Offices memorialize the family. 'Emu Bank' was the name of an 'out-station' of the Palmerville/Ginninderra estate, from where a large flock of sheep would be pastured. Not long after arriving in the Ginninderra district the Camerons were in charge of Emu Bank (now close to the site of Belconnen Library) and another out-station at 'Goat Hut' (Coppin's Crossing), seven miles away.



St Paul's church and school, the Glebe, Ginninderra.

Highlands to the Limestone Plains begins in the Scottish highlands, explaining why tens of thousands of poor crofters left home for Australia in the years 1837-1840, and follows Donald and Ann from Kilmonivaig to Ginninderra. Each of their 13 children is profiled. One of them, Ewan, achieved some prominence as the first teacher at Weetangera school. While the story of Donald and Ann and their children is central to the book, it also has plenty to say about the mid-19th Century Highlands and the Limestone Plains, and includes a thorough account of the original owners.

Cameron Archer, 2021, *Highlands to the Limestone Plains*, ACA Books. Available at the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre. Price \$20.

From the Editor

How remarkable that our humble district can produce three residents named on the Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List as Members (AM) in the General Division of The Order of Australia. Such talent and dedication in and around our village. Of course we have many other local heroes that we like to highlight in the *Rural Fringe*. Please keep sending stories in so we can all learn more about those we live amongst.

After more than a year without a case in the ACT, the latest outbreaks of the Delta variant in Sydney and Victoria have made us feel very vulnerable, monitoring to see if any cases break through the regional NSW,

and hoping we can escape lockdown ourselves. Meanwhile, against the backdrop of an agonisingly slow vaccine rollout in Australia, it is at least pleasing to see the ACT has relatively high uptake.

With all the uncertainty around it is a delight to see so much activity in Hall, from the axemen to the museum, rugby to gardening, hypnotherapy to polocrosse! Oh, and a reminder that 18 August is the Progress Association AGM, please come along.

Until next time,
Jo Hall

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The Rural Fringe is a community newspaper published in 700 copies every second month by the Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc (VHDP) and distributed free to mailboxes of the 2618 postcode. It is also available online at www.hall.act.au This publication is funded by the advertisements so readers are encouraged to support the businesses advertised.

Contributions

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to contribute to this publication, particularly local community groups, however it is at the discretion of the Editor as to whether submitted articles are published or not.

These deadlines ensure publication by the 10th of every second month.

February issue deadline is 10 January
April issue deadline is 10 March
June issue deadline is 10 May
August issue deadline is 10 July
October issue deadline is 10 September
December issue deadline is 10 November

It is the policy of the VHDP that articles which are dominantly about the profit making activity of any group or individual can only be accepted for publication if the same issue carrying the article has a paying advertisement of similar size.

Contributions to: ruralfringe@hotmail.com
or: PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618.

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large (quarter page)	\$80	colour	\$120
medium (eighth page)	\$40	colour	\$60
small (three sixteenth page)	\$30	colour	\$45

Other information

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2020 *poetry*

by Harry Redfern

How will we remember 2020?
Such bad news aplenty.
For five years before – a drought,
Farmers face hardship – no doubt.

With 2020 came bushfires with the fear
For lives and homes as the flames drew near.
Bush birds, wildlife – and the bush itself
Perished as the flames engulfed.

Then came the smell of stinging smoke,
To blur our vision and to choke.
It made the air around us gritty,
At the coast, the country, and the city.

Clitter clatter came the hail
To damage our cars, and those for sale.
Roofs, skylights and some crops,
Were shattered and flattened before it stopped.

A sickness no one had seen before
Came knocking at Australia's door.
From overseas, where some had been . . .
The Pandemic called COVID-19.

Be careful! Don't stand too close!
This COVID can spread just like a ghost!
Try not to touch things, but if you do . . .
Wash your hands and count to twenty-two.

Lockdown! – we can no longer meet.
Keep your distance in shops and street.
State borders are restricted too.
Crossing for the special few.

On the news we are told
Each day of the sickness toll.
The Pandemic . . . like the weather,
We are all in this together.

So play on! . . . or go to work,
This is no time to shirk.
Through COVID, flood, fire and drought,
We will survive. No doubt!

out & about in Hall



One lap of the Showground and then off up One Tree Hill.

The competitors in the 10km race set off.



The Start and Finish of the event at Hall Showground.



The runners starting the 2.2km event.