

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 4

August 2022

end of an era

Thanks Tony!

Rhiân Williams

Tony Hazelton, the proprietor of the Hall Village Motors, which is known by everyone as the Hall Servo, has been keeping the vehicles of Hall and district – and beyond – safe and on the road for almost 20 years. But now it is time for a new chapter in Tony's life and he has sold the business and is looking forward to new adventures.



Tony at the garage.

Tony took over ownership of Hall Village Motors from Andy and Pat Fulton and continued the operation of a business that has now been a fixture in Hall Village for over 80 years. According to the National Trust, the Hall Service Station was built by Jim Rochford, a local Hall resident, in 1938 and he operated it until 1974, except for two breaks, one of which was to serve in the Second World War. Jim had purchased the property from George Kinlyside who was a jack of all trades being a blacksmith, wheelwright, coachbuilder, tank builder and local undertaker.

Of the many good things about getting your vehicle serviced at the Hall Servo – excellence in mechanical repair, convenience, accountability and personalised service – one of the best was that Tony was always happy to stop for a chat. No matter how big or small the mechanical need Tony made all his customers feel that their vehicle and custom

mattered - an all too rare but nonetheless much appreciated thing these days! For those of us with older vehicles it was also very much appreciated that Tony always looked for safe and affordable options to keep vehicles on the road and in tip top condition.

Whilst Tony is leaving the Hall Servo he will continue to be involved in the Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade, where he has served as Captain for a number of years. The brigade has been operating almost as long as the Hall Servo. It was first established in the summer of 1943-44, becoming the third of the four official brigades operating in the ACT. And it's good to know that Tony, along with all the volunteers, will still be helping to keep the community safe!

Tony would like to thank the people of Hall for their custom over the years and hopes they will support the new owners of the business, Jared Spratt and Blake Bartley, who he has every confidence will continue to look after their customers really well and offer the great, value-for-money local mechanical servicing that the Hall Servo is renowned for.



Jared and Blake.



Tony at the fireshed (back row, third from left).

Tony is taking some time before deciding on his next business venture. He and his wife are looking forward to visiting their two sons, one of whom is in Canada and the other in Germany. I have no doubt there will be motor bike rides to be enjoyed, renovations to complete, triathlons to compete in, adventures in cooking to be had and many more good things as well.

Thanks Tony! You have been a great true local! And the very best wishes for all the adventures that lie ahead.



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Mushrooms at Hall School
Paul Porteous



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St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

Rev. Peter Malone

Corner of Victoria St and Loftus St, Hall

75 years in Hall and still going!



We had a great day at St Michael's on Saturday 16 July. We filled a huge skip with autumnal debris and a range of material that had been laying around on our property for way too long!

There's nothing like a spring clean in winter to lighten the spirit!

As you will read in the Hall School Museum article, next May is the 75th Anniversary of our much-loved little church. We are keen to connect to local families who had an involvement with St Michael and All Angels over the years so if you are part of those families now or know of others who are, please give them my contact details:
Rev. Peter Malone – 0429 350 207 or peter@mikeandbarneys.org.au
We look forward to working with the museum to celebrate this significant occasion.

And here is a *SAVE THE DATE* mention. We are really pleased to announce that this year we will be holding a joint church Christmas Carols in Hall on **Saturday 10 December** from 4-6pm. Stay tuned for full details in the next Rural Fringe.



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Village of Hall and District
Progress Association Inc

Annual General Meeting

7pm Wednesday 21 September 2022



Subject to any government health direction, the Annual General Meeting of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association will take place at the Hall Pavilion on Wednesday 21 September at 7pm.

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, using the nomination form available on the website www.hall.act.au.

Nominations must be received by **12 noon on Monday 19 September** by the Public Officer by post at **PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618** or email at info@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 at hall.act.au, by direct bank deposit or in cash through a special interest group (the museum or the men's shed) or in person at the AGM.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Please support your local Progress Association.

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Defibrillators in Hall Village and rural surrounds

Paul Newall

A defibrillator can save someone's life if they have a cardiac arrest. The sooner you use a defibrillator, the greater the person's chances of survival.

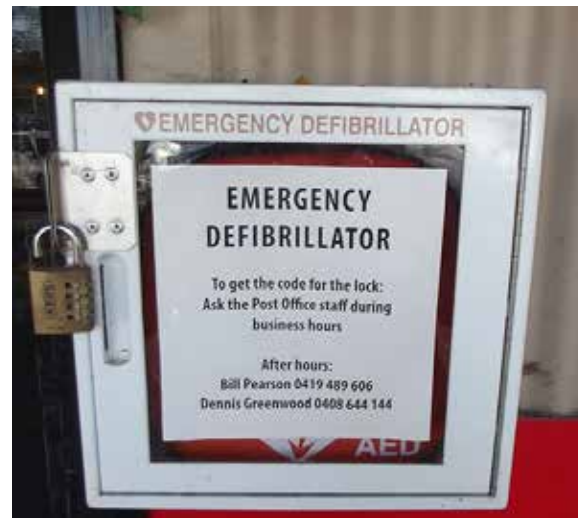
A defibrillator is a device that uses electricity to re-start the heart or shock it back into its correct rhythm. It is used when someone has a sudden cardiac arrest. This is when the heart suddenly stops pumping. The defibrillator analyses the heart rhythm and decides whether an electric shock is needed.

Automated external defibrillators are found in public places and can be used by anybody in an emergency. They guide you through each step of the process. They won't give the person an electric shock unless it's necessary, so you can't harm someone by using it.

Each year, more than 30,000 Australians suffer a cardiac arrest. If it happens outside a hospital, their chances of surviving are less than one in 10. Giving the person immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and using a defibrillator early on can greatly increase their chances of survival. The most important thing is to use the defibrillator quickly.

Do you know where your nearest defibrillator is?

In Hall, there is a defibrillator outside the door of the Hall Post Office (provided by the Rotary Club of Hall) and shortly there will be a defibrillator in the courtyard outside the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre (provided by the Village of Hall and District Progress Association). Maybe there are more.



The Committee of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association (VHDPA) has discussed an awareness campaign for the locations of and access to defibrillators within the village and the rural surrounds. If residents are aware of the location of these devices, precious time may be saved in responding to cardiac incidents. It may also promote the uptake of the acquisition of defibrillators by residents, businesses and community groups, and thereby creating an even more supportive network of devices. Obviously any awareness campaign relies on the goodwill of the owners of these devices being prepared to have them included in a community list and be prepared for access requests to be made in the event of a cardiac emergency.

So, what do people think?
Is it a good idea?
If you have a defibrillator, would you be prepared to have its location and access phone number/location listed publicly?
Thoughts on how this could be managed if it went ahead?

Please email me at:
Paul_Wallaroo@outlook.com with your thoughts on these questions or if you wish to discuss.



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Wallaroo Solar Farm

Ben Cranston

The proposed Wallaroo Solar Farm, located at 246-248 Southwell Road in Wallaroo, NSW, comprises 260,000 solar panels and battery energy storage. Approximately 100MW (AC) of renewable energy would be generated and supplied directly to the national electricity grid. The Wallaroo Solar Farm would be capable of providing enough clean, renewable energy for approximately 48,000 NSW and ACT homes.

The developer, Wallaroo Solar Farm Pty Ltd, is a partnership of Canberra based New Energy Development and Spanish-Japanese Univergy Solar.

Wallaroo Solar Farm is currently completing the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) as part of the State Significant Development Application, while at the same time progressing the grid connection studies and application.

The EIS is made up of various assessments and reports that will be submitted to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

These include:

- social impact assessment
- biodiversity development assessment
- cultural and archaeological assessment
- visual impact assessment
- traffic impact assessment
- noise and vibration assessment
- hydrological assessment
- hazard and waste assessments.

As part of the Environmental Impact Study, Wallaroo Solar Farm held community consultation days in Holt, and at the 'Cottage' in Hall, at the end of July. We are encouraging the wider community to attend the consultation days to discuss the project, provide feedback, voice concerns and learn about the community benefits of the project.

For those who couldn't make it to either of the community consultation days, we encourage you to have your say by visiting:

www.wallaroosolarfarm.com.au/survey

or by scanning the QR code:



Wallaroo Solar Farm is committed to ensuring the local community receives an ongoing benefit from the project. Therefore, we have partnered with *Local Volts* to provide discounted energy from the project to all residents within a 5km radius, as well as establishing a Community Benefit Fund.

The Community Benefit Fund's main feature will be to help local community and environmental groups fund projects that will benefit the local community.

Location of Wallaroo Solar Farm.



President's page



We were very lucky to have some respite from the cold and wet weather for the village workday on 19 June when 32 volunteers did a truly remarkable job of removing dead shrubs, cutting overgrown grass, and removing weeds and undergrowth on the Hall Reserve. The volunteers worked for four hours from 11am until 3pm with a very welcome sausage sizzle break. I would like to thank all who were there on the day, as well as those who assisted in the following weeks removing green waste in their own trailer or ute.



Peter Howard subsequently arranged for ACT Parks and Conservation to bring a loader and truck to remove the remaining piles.



Hall Village Motors

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Thank you to:

Dianna Aston	Bill Pearson
Margaret Monahan	Julie Higginsbotham
Rob Durie	Sonny Pirota
Tony Morris	Jim Kershaw
Emily Flowers	Bob Richardson
Margaret Morris	Jan Klaver
Gregory Flowers	Peter Toet
Sandra Newberry	Ben Lane
Dennis Greenwood	Mardie Troth
Brent Newberry	Serah Melhuish
Jo Hall	Helen White
Steve O'Brien	Olga Minion
Jodi Hamilton	Aaron Whittaker
Barbara Palmer	Darrel Minion
Paula Harsant	Robert Yallop
Jonathan Palmer	Brent Minion
Ken Heffernan	

Thank you all for your contribution to this effort.



Input from 42 people to an initial survey about the Reserve indicates strong support for greater attention being given to the reserve with clearing, maintenance and planting. Not surprisingly, there are a diversity of views from the 42 people who responded about garden beds, seating, tree planting and possible uses for the reserve. The Village of Hall and District Progress Association will seek further input from Hall residents and stakeholders as we seek to create a space that we will all enjoy.

On 11 July, I received a response to our letter of 22 April to Transport Canberra and City Services Minister Chris Steel reiterating our request to arrange for the relevant ACT Government authority to work with the Progress Association on the assessment, design and completion of appropriate works on residential storm water drainage infrastructure. The Minister has

committed that TCCS will engage a suitably qualified consultant to undertake detailed analysis and provide mitigation options to improve storm water drainage in Hall and we have subsequently confirmed with the Minister that any analysis by a consultant happens in consultation with those affected and the Progress Association so that TCCS is responding to the real issues. We appreciate the support of our local Yerrabi MLAs have followed this up with Minister Steel. We will continue to push for action until work is completed on the storm water drainage.

Having received a disappointing response in April from the same Minister Chris Steel about the speed limit on the Barton Highway from the NSW border to Clarrie Hermes/ Kuringa Drive intersection, the Progress Association contacted Federal Member for Fenner, Dr Andrew Leigh, and the NRMA to request their assistance with the safety of this national highway. Following the Federal election, we also contacted the Federal Member for Eden-Monaro, Ms Kristy McBain to request her assistance. The NRMA has agreed to make representations on behalf of the Progress Association to the Australian and ACT governments. Responses have yet to be received from Dr Leigh and Ms McBain. In six days between 6 and 12 July, there have been two motor vehicle accidents at the Barton Highway/ Gladstone Street/ Wallaroo Road intersection.



While the Progress Association continues to push for a safer speed limit, people travelling from Hall and Wallaroo are encouraged not to try and cross from Gladstone St to Wallaroo Rd but to travel north on Victoria St and turn left onto the Barton Highway then right onto Wallaroo Rd. Similarly, people travelling from Wallaroo to Hall are encouraged to turn left onto the Barton Highway and then turn right onto Victoria St. Those travelling north towards Murrumbateman from Hall are encouraged to enter the Barton Highway

If you have any ideas or concerns for our community, please talk to me or any member of the Progress Association Committee, give me a call on **0407 012 160**, send me an email at **robert.yallop.care@gmail.com**, or send a message to **info@hall.act.au**.

Robert Yallop President

from the northern end of Victoria St. Those travelling south towards Canberra from Wallaroo are encouraged to turn left onto the Barton Hwy and turn right onto Victoria St and join the Barton Hwy from the southern end of Victoria St. Although a slightly longer route, these directions avoid the largely blind Barton Hwy/ Gladstone St/ Wallaroo Rd intersection and will be safer.

It was great to hear Craig and Hayden Starr talking with ABC radio about the suburban development of Casey and, especially how the protection of endangered flora and fauna have protected Gold Creek Station and Hall Village from being gobbled up into another Canberra suburb. Alastair Crombie was also interviewed about the history of the Ginninderra/ Hall Village and district and how the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre continue to be an incredible repository of historical knowledge and artifacts of our region.

I would also like to thank the Hall Men's Shed for the tremendous work that they are doing to repair the footbridge over Halls Creek. So many of us use this route as part of our beautiful Hall walk.

In 2020 and 2021, we had to postpone the Annual General Meeting of the Progress Association due to COVID-19 restrictions. Subject to any advice from ACT Health, the Annual General Meeting of the Progress Association will be held on Wednesday 21 September at the Hall Pavilion. The meeting will start at 7pm. Any person who is a resident or rate payer of the Village of Hall or the surrounding district (2618 postcode) or any person who is approved as a member of one Progress Association's special interest groups – the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre or the Hall Men's Shed – is eligible to be a member of the Progress Association. I would encourage everyone to be a member of the Progress Association and contribute to what happens in our village and district.

The AGM will also elect the Committee and Office Bearers of the Progress Association and nominations can be made to the Public Officer of the VHDP no later than 12 noon on Monday 19 September on the nomination form by post at **PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618** or by email at **info@hall.act.au**.

One of the many things that, for me, makes Hall a very special place to live is the wildlife who are our neighbours. For many months, I have been delighted to see a couple of kangaroos who spend their time enjoying the grass playground of the Hall School Museum site and the Hall Reserve.

Our schools program

The June issue of the *Rural Fringe* featured an article about our new interactive space for children, known fondly as *Home Sweet Home*. Volunteers have established a pre-electric domestic setting that would have been typical in the 1930-1940s Hall Village. This space, along with our bush school and a village tableau, provide a context within which young visitors can experience local history and identify the many and various changes in technology, lifestyle and family pursuits that have taken place over the past 80 or so years.

During Term 2 we had several schools visit the campus and our new space proved to be a real highlight, with students (and their teachers) keen to look, touch and learn about the past. Term 3 is also looking to be busy with four schools expressing an interest in coming on an excursion and four schools making bookings for our popular *Heritage in a Suitcase* program.

The popularity of the program has created a dilemma for us ... we need to recruit volunteers to assist with the implementation of the activities! If you would like to assist please contact us at museum@hall.act.au

Family History Month

August is National Family History Month, which is celebrated across Australia and New Zealand and co-ordinated by the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (familyhistorymonth.org.au/).



This is an opportunity for us to showcase our Family and Local History Program.

Our team of volunteers operate our local history library-resource centre, research local people and places and prepare or collect histories of districts pioneers and the properties they occupied. Some local history books are available for purchase.

A major research project on the occupants of the Hall Cemetery is close to completion.

The museum hosts the nationally significant Lyall Gillespie collection and has worked with the Southwell Family Society to create an on-line Southwell Family Archive. Our library includes a growing number of unpublished family histories kindly donated by family members. The centre's collection includes a very large photo archive containing images of many local families, places and events which can be viewed in the library.

Stories of several hundred local people and places are available on our website museum.hall.act.au under 'Rediscovering Ginninderra' and 'Bush Schools of the Canberra region'.

A new exhibition, *Family Selections*, will highlight some European families who settled the Ginninderra region, to complement our existing exhibitions *10,000 Years on Hall Creek*, *Ginin-ginin-derry to Hall*, and *The Brooklands Story*.

Drop in one Thursday morning or Sunday afternoon and see what we have on offer!

St Michael and All Angels – 75th Anniversary May 2023

We have begun discussion with Rev Peter Malone about the 75th Anniversary of St Michael and All Angels Church, which was dedicated by Archdeacon C. S. Robertson on 22 May 1948. The *Canberra Times* reported on the event:

'Following the arrival of their Excellencies the Governor-General and Mrs. W. J. McKell ... church-people encircled the building to the front porch where Mr. J. C. Moore addressed the petition for dedication to the Archdeacon Robertson' *Canberra Times*, 24 May 1948, p2.

Stirred perhaps by the 300 or so Hall and district residents in attendance, the Archdeacon commented in his address: 'We greatly appreciate the fact that people of other denominations have joined with us today ... We are long past the stage in thinking that the denomination to which we belong is the only church. The majority of people today realise that the various religions are paths by which we approach God. The people of other denominations will welcome the building of this church because of the influence it will have in building up Christian culture and Christian living in the community.'

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The Governor-General read the lesson, and the procession was led by Mr. Curtis Moore bearing the processional cross, followed by the Hall Church officers and the Church wardens of St. John the Baptist's, St. Paul's, and St. Peter's (Sutton). Canon Blanche (Yass), Rev. W. Holliday (Queanbeyan), Rev. A. A. Smith, Rev. J. Holmes, Rev. G. F. W. Pyke, the Ven. Archdeacon Robertson, the Vice-Regal party, and the congregation.



At the time of the dedication £500 was still owed for the building. In this circumstance the church could be dedicated, but not consecrated. The debt had been reduced to £200 by the end of the day, and a number of local families gave special furniture and fittings.

'Yesterday, the Rev. G. F. W. Pyke conducted the first baptism in the church. The infant was Alistair Cameron Kennedy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Kennedy of Wakefield Gardens, Ainslie, formerly of Hall, and received a prayer book from the Archdeacon, testifying to the occasion. Following the baptism the Communion vessels were blessed. They were the thank-offering gift of Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy'. (*Canberra Times op cit*)

The Moore family was prominent in support for the new church; other family names associated with the cause included the Gribbles, Borehams, Currans and Mundays. Anglicans began gathering for worship at Kinlyside Hall in the thirties, and the foundation stone for their church was laid in 1941, on the centenary of St Johns, Reid. Original plans for the building were drawn up by leading Canberra architect Ken Oliphant.

A short history – *St Michael and All Angels* – authored by (then) Hall resident and church stalwart Neil Manton was published by the church in 1999. Together with the church we are considering a small display to mark the anniversary. Descendants of the

Church of England families who created the church in Hall are warmly encouraged to get in touch with Rev Peter Malone : **0429 350 207**.

2022 annual meeting 18 August

We are delighted to announce that prominent heritage architect Eric Martin AM will be the guest speaker at our annual meeting on Thursday 18 August at 10am.

Eric has more than 45 years' experience as a professional architect in the private and public sectors, with extensive experience in managing a wide range of projects. He has developed a national and international reputation for his work in the areas of accessibility and heritage buildings.



An impressive list of heritage and conservation projects includes work on Old Parliament House, The Lodge, the Civic merry-go-round, the Shine Dome, and Green Cape lighthouse. The company that he directs has had a significant role in researching the European cultural heritage of the 'West Belconnen' development. A most impressive range of publications and presentations can be accessed at emaa.com.au/about-us. Many of them relate to very practical issues of disability access.

Some readers may remember that in the aftermath of the closure of the Hall School Eric was engaged by the ACT Government to develop a Master Plan for the school site, which subsequently informed discussions about future options for the site. More recently, he has given advice to ACT Government on our application for funds to improve disability access to our main building.

How to prune roses

Many people face rose pruning with great trepidation, knowing that the job has to be done but having little idea how to do it, many worrying that they may kill the plant.

Fear not, I will show you the way. It's not a science and with a little guidance, you will be a pro.

There are a few basic strategies to address when pruning roses.

1. Remove dead wood and obvious dead branches – roses tend to get scruffy during the growing season, branches have a mind of their own and can also grow very prolifically. Take out all branches that cross other branches (choose which one is most annoying to the shrub shape), reduce the 'mess' of branches in the centre of the rose, allowing air and light to penetrate the whole shrub.
2. Remove any sickly looking branches, these do not tend to produce robust, beautiful flowers, so get rid of them.



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3. Create a 'vase' shape, that is a relatively hollow centre, with branches around the outside. I tend to decide on five or six branches to keep.
4. Provide adequate room between your rose bushes, if they are planted too close, your plants will be compromised and they will not bloom as well as they should. They may also be prone to pests and diseases, due to the fact that the air cannot move through to keep the plants dry.
5. We have had a particularly wet few years and you have probably noticed lots of black spot – it is best to remove all these leaves to reduce the fungal spore transfer. Consider a fungal spray if your roses have been badly affected.

Equipment

- gloves – these are essential, good leather is the best
- secateurs – make sure they are sharp
- saw – a small hand saw
- spray bottle – for metho, this prevents spreading disease from one rose to the next
- mechanical secateurs – if you are lucky to own these they speed up your job
- petrol tools – trimmers and small chainsaws are a useful extra for certain roses.

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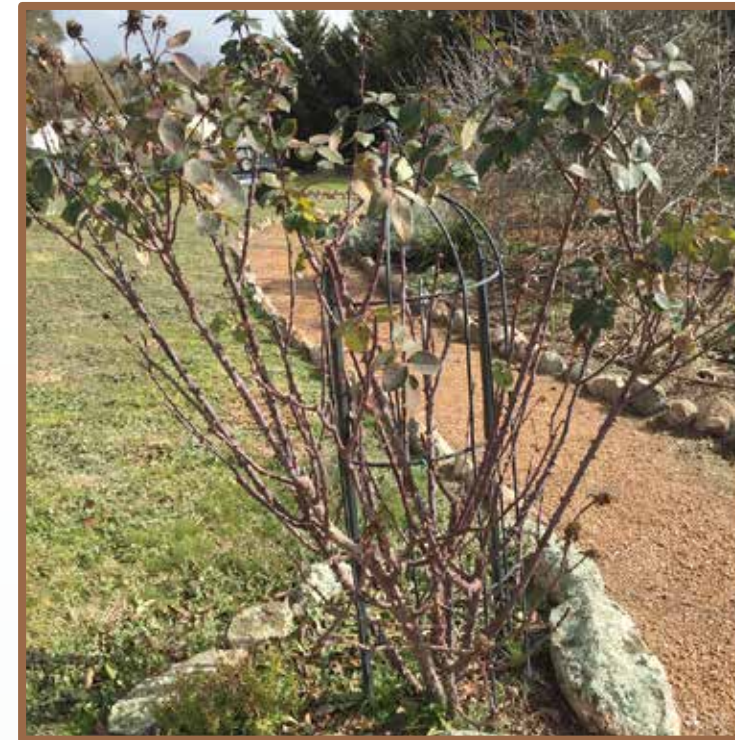
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Here is a rose bush that I will prune as an example:



Stand back and examine the shape. Remove the 'messy' branches to allow you to see what you are doing. It doesn't really matter how much you remove in the first instance, it's really just so you can clear a space to prune branches further down.

Make sure you remove all the leaves and half opened winter flowers.

Now that you have provided a clear view of the bush, you are now able to be brutal with your rose pruning.



garden

Lisa Walmsley



Select strong healthy branches and make sure they have plenty of space to grow. Here your main objective is to take the busy-ness out of the plant, that is, simplify it.

Make sure the branches you cut are taken off right at the bottom of the branch; don't leave a stub.

One of the biggest mistakes people make is not cutting enough off their roses, with most shrub roses, once pruned they will not stand much more than 30 to 40cm from the ground.



Drill Dance in Hall

Two DrillDance teams from Hall have been training like there's no tomorrow at the Hall Pavilion in preparation to represent Canberra and the ACT region at the NSW DrillDance State Championships in Goulburn, NSW held in June this year and the National DrillDance Championships in Adelaide in July.



Sharon Isherwood

one group and not as individuals to achieve the precision aspect of the drill or dance. This allows the members to learn about sportsmanship, respectful relationships and working together to achieve a common goal.

Our weekly training is conducted on Wednesday evenings at the Hall Pavilion and we do also have some weekend training as well; leading up to big events such as State and National Championships.

Our Junior and Senior team have members from all around Canberra, Queanbeyan and the region with qualified coaches teaching skills and techniques from basics to more complicated movements. The junior team consist of members from 8-13 years old. This season the Junior Team learnt two routines and competed against teams across NSW. The senior team members range from 18 years and older with various experience and include new members to marching and some who have been marching for over 40 years!

DrillDance teams perform exciting and challenging routines in categories such as Dance, Prop and Precision Drill-Team.

Teams choose their costumes and music to match the theme of each routine. DrillDance provides opportunities for physical activity, improved posture,



DrillDance, also known as marching, is a modernised and upbeat version of the marching girls from years ago. In the ACT and region, we currently have two teams, the Realm Junior team and the Realm Senior team. Under the guidance of qualified coaches, our members learn new skills and techniques which are then put together into fancy routines, to the beat of music suited to the theme or requirement. The bonus is, we teach and learn skills and discipline such as team work that our members will carry through their life. Our teams currently perform Basic Drill, Thematic Dance, Technical Drill Routine and Thematic Drill.

Training as a team is an important element of success as the members must be able to march as

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coordination and teamwork as well as for meaningful physical activity, good deportment, poise and mental stimulation, it can also provide social contact for people of similar age group and/or similar interests and the friendships formed are an important part of the sport.

Like any sport, DrillDance has many challenges and barriers to being successful. The pandemic in particular hasn't been kind to our teams being able to welcome new team members and has also made it difficult in being consistent with training. Another big challenge is finding a training venue and a place we can call home. Finding a suitable space to train in (about the size of a basketball court) has been a big challenge but we are glad to call the Hall Pavilion home.

Our teams compete between December and April each year (although with the pandemic, this has stretched out the season to July this year). Being competitive against other

teams, sees our members learn team skills, humility, commitment and being respectful. It also drives our members and coaches to always work towards perfecting their skills, their memory and confidence.

The Realm Junior and Senior teams have performed at the Hall Village Christmas Fair last year, Irish Woolfest, Boorowa; Goulburn's Lilac Time Festival Parade; Burns Club at their Scottish Event and Floriade and we look forward to performing at more events around the Capital, including the Hall Village Christmas Fair again this year!



Alison Smith spends two hours a week coaching a junior team and another two hours training with her senior teammates. Approaching the state and national titles, the girls will step up their regime to at least twice a week, if not more. Then they'll spend almost every weekend and throughout the school holidays preparing and helping the juniors.

The sport is currently going through a resurgence with many former marching girls who are returning to rekindle their love of the sport, putting on the boots and uniform and marching in a team.

DrillDance ACT & Region is seeking members to join our wonderful teams. We are actively recruiting genders of all ages eight and above. Depending on which team is right for your age group, members will learn dance, marching skills, etiquette, coordination and balance in a fun filled, low-medium impact fitness environment. DrillDance is different. It is unique. Bringing these two things together allows us to form friendships for life. If you are interested in joining go to our website canberradrilldance.wixsite.com/realmrilldanceact/home and register your expression of interest or contact Alison Smith or Tracey Allen Branks at drilldanceact@gmail.com.

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Local author

Hugh Watson

Hugh Watson dropped in on Trudy to thank her for selling more than 60 copies of his novel *The Silo* – a compelling thriller set in the brutal world of country politics in the fictional town of Gwydir in NSW. The book has had strong reviews including:

'*The Silo* is a book of our times, bristling with the nefarious, astutely observed and assuredly written. Hugh Watson proves himself to be a savvy observer of society, warts and all, but he leaves us with the hope that only goodness can bestow. Here is a stark view of Realpolitik.' (Barbie Robinson, *Living Arts Canberra*.)



Local author Hugh Watson with Trudy Mansfield at Hall Post Office and Gift Store.

Ten percent of sales are going to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.



Hugh has had book signings in Cooma, Yass, Merimbula, Bega and Wagga Wagga as well as at several bookstores in Canberra.

The Silo and Hugh's first novel, *Home Grown* – a terrorism thriller – are available for purchase at Hall Post Office and Gift Store.

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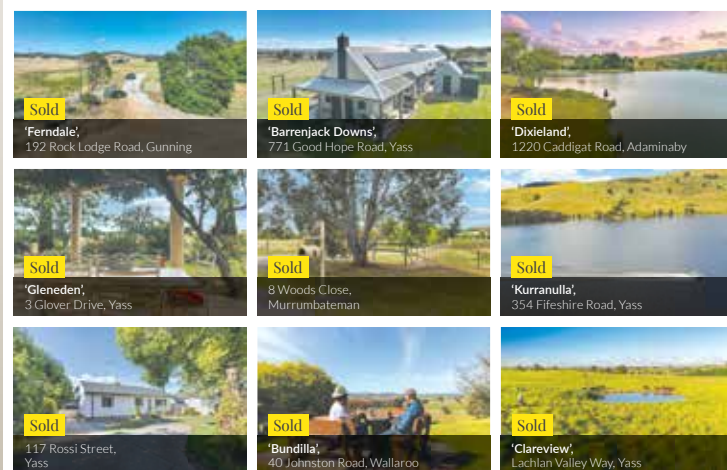
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Hall Men's Shed

by Kevin Stone

In the words of the men's shed Overseer, 'We are a busy group'. And that just about sums it up, because as has been reported before, members have been doing voluntary work for the community and enjoying making things for the preschool, the latest being wooden planter boxes filled with topsoil. It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm the children showed when they were planting tulip bulbs and now will be waiting with great delight to see the flowers in all their colourful glory. Brian Charge and his very willing helpers are continuing to make toys and other items for the preschool children, who are always so appreciative of everything they receive. There is now quite a special bond between the men's shed and preschool, largely as a result of the time and effort the guys put in and it's a win-win for all.

You may have noticed the footbridge over the creek at the Showgrounds has been repaired. It was certainly in need of some maintenance and will be a lot safer thanks to the work done by yes, the men's shed volunteers. The design of the bridge is essentially as it was originally but now all the timbers and bolts, which were paid for by the shed, have been renewed and should last for many years to come.



Bruce Murray, Graham Smith and Darrell Minion.

But they didn't stop there, because quite a bit of work was also put into repairing and repainting some of the steel and timber picnic tables at the Showgrounds.

Other projects that have been undertaken, or are in the process of being worked on, include making repairs to a house gate in Flynn, plus restoring furniture, a rocking chair and an old casement window by Alan Boyd who seems to be a master in this regard.

But it's not all work, because on the first Thursday of each month a barbeque is held and always well attended by many of the members and museum volunteers with the most recent one being no

exception in spite of the cold weather. Once again our caterers Eric Detheridge, Rob Durie and Garth Chamberlain did a great job cooking the sausages and rissoles and there were also plenty of salads for everyone.

Another special bond that's been created is the one between the museum and the shed, and recently we were invited to a morning tea of scones, jam and cream, along with a guided tour of the wonderful exhibits. Not only was the morning tea absolutely delicious but the museum volunteers do a fantastic job in showcasing Hall history. It's always a delight to have people so passionate and able to speak about the exhibits and almost bring them to life. Here's hoping we get to do it again because the exhibits change over time, and let's face it, any excuse for a morning tea!

Graham Waite from TADACT, Technical Aid to the Disabled, gave an interesting talk on 21 July about assisting disabled people in the ACT by constructing and/or converting equipment to help those people to be independent.

So yes, there has been plenty happening with the shed. New members have been joining on a regular basis and the shed has grown in membership to around 75 over the past 12 months. Not everyone attends each week, otherwise we'd have to move meetings to a larger venue, but those who do have a good time and are more than happy to have a chat. Men's sheds can play a big part of some people's lives, not only to learn or pass on skills but a way of meeting new friends. The Hall Men's Shed is certainly no exception with well organised social and physical activities in a very caring environment.

The shed is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am till around 12.30pm at the Hall Primary School site on Palmer Street.

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Champions of Change

A collaboration between Landcare and Southern Tablelands Arts

On a freezing and wet day last winter, two novice film makers, Kim Morrison and Rhiân Williams met with Dalton local and Landcare stalwart – Janet Heffernan – to find out about the Southern Pygmy Perch. These tiny native fish were once widespread throughout the 440,000 kilometres of the Murray Darling Basin. However, in New South Wales, they are now only to be found in about 44 kilometres of the upper reaches of four creeks, where carp and other introduced fish have not reached.



The story of Janet's tireless efforts to save the Southern Pygmy Perch – *Nannoperca australis* – was one of five locally produced documentaries focused on the local landscape and environment in the Upper Lachlan and Yass regions and showcased in the Champions of Change Film Festival. All the films featured local citizen scientists who are engaged in diverse projects such as regenerating the land, composting, preserving and protecting native species and developing solutions to improve the land and ecology.

The film making project was a collaboration between Southern Tablelands Arts (STA) and Landcare and was designed to shine a spotlight on the stories of community members doing amazing work across the STA region and inspire a sense of hope about what can be achieved.

As part of the project a group of emerging filmmakers attended workshops with acclaimed filmmaker Brian Rapsey in Goulburn, where they learnt filming techniques and editing skills. Each filmmaker was then paired with a local citizen scientist to create their short documentary.

On the day that the filming began with Janet, she showed the filmmakers a dam which was filled with the native plants the Southern Pygmy Perch need to flourish. It was hard to hear Janet speaking over the chorus of the hundreds of frogs calling. The tiny dam was singing and teeming with life. It was a marked contrast to the utter silence of a local creek, where there were hardly any native plants. It was a startling lesson in the need to listen to as well as look at the environment.

Check out the *Champions of Change* films at the following link:

[southerntablelandsarts.com.au/
champions-of-change-film-festival](http://southerntablelandsarts.com.au/champions-of-change-film-festival)

Rhiân Williams

Springfield Rural Fire Service

Rebecca Morrison
President



Changes to fire danger rating system coming

The way we determine and communicate Fire Danger Ratings is changing. A new Fire Danger Rating System is being developed using the latest science to be more accurate and relevant to where you live.

The new system will be used across the country, so whether you're at home or traveling, you will see the same system being used. Community feedback was used in the design process to help make it easier to understand and provide you with clearer advice about how to stay safe.

The new Fire Danger Ratings have four levels (instead of six) – Moderate, High, Extreme and Catastrophic.

There'll be actions for each level, so you'll know what to do to protect your life, family, and property.

You'll start seeing the new fire danger ratings online and in your local community from September 2022.

The new fire danger ratings

There are four levels of fire danger in the new system:

- Moderate – Plan and prepare
- High – Be ready to act
- Extreme – Take action now to protect your life and property
- Catastrophic - For your survival, leave bush fire risk areas.

Fire Danger Ratings will be issued on days when there is a fire risk.

Each fire danger will have a clear set of messages, including the actions the community can take to reduce their risk.

Fire danger rating signs

The new bush fire danger ratings will be used from September. You'll be able to check the daily fire danger for your area on the RFS website.



We'll also be updating the hundreds of local fire danger rating signs in communities across the state. You can also use the Fires Near Me NSW smartphone app to check the fire danger for your area.

Get Ready Weekend 2022

Keep an eye out for news regarding one of our favourite community events of the year, the *Get Ready Weekend*. It's a chance to come together with the neighbours and start preparing for the upcoming Fire Season. We will be able to talk to you about the new Fire Danger Ratings as well as how you can prepare your home with a Bush Fire Survival Plan. We are hoping to organise a get together at the sheds on Friday 16 September – keep an eye on our Facebook page for details! In the meantime, you can jump online and start thinking about what you can do in the next couple of months to Be Ready rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/getready

Rebecca Morrison

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Letters from Ukraine

This is the second in a series of 2017 emails written by local resident Olga Minion, all the more poignant to read given the current war.

In 1922, my father Anton and in 1924, my mother Maria were born in different parts of country Ukraine.

In 1941, my mother at the age of 17 and my father aged 19, together with thousands of other young Ukrainians, were forcibly removed from their homes and sent to Germany as forced slave labourers.

In 1945, almost at the end of the war my parents met and were married in a group ceremony with hundreds of other couples.

The next four years saw them interred in a German Refugee camp where my sister and I were born.

In 1949 following five months on a crowded ship we all arrived in South Melbourne and then were forwarded on by train to Bandiana Migrant Camp.

Following my parents' deaths I decided to visit Russia, Ukraine and Poland. I did this in 2017 accompanied by my sister.

I am sharing the emails that I sent to friends and family from Ukraine during those visits with readers of the Rural Fringe.

Holiday Odyssey 26 Sep 2017

Hi all,

Well we have arrived in beautiful Lviv. A bright, vibrant city buzzing with people and alfresco dining.

After our dramas getting into Kiev we also had dramas getting out. The allowable weight for our luggage was only 20kg and I was just under 2kg over so had to take stuff out of my case. They didn't weigh the hand luggage. Also as today apparently was Jewish New Year there were literally thousands of Jewish people cueing for planes. They didn't tell



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us that as a result they had changed terminals so we ran around in a mad panic being sent from one place to another until we found our gate. The plane was a small propeller plane but the flight was good.

Right from our arrival in Lviv we loved it. Gorgeous buildings, narrow cobblestone streets, trees and flowers. Lviv means City of Leo and Leo means lion. The lion is on their coat of arms and large stone lions protect lots of buildings in the city.

Lviv is the largest city in Western Ukraine, with a population of one million. The population was higher but things changed dramatically in 1946 when Stalin and the Polish leader decided to forcibly expel all Poles from Lviv. Many Jews were also killed, a very small number surviving.

In the 1990s, given the bad state of the economy, the Orange Revolution of 2004 and the Revolution of Dignity many people also left to work in Europe. However after 2000, many of these people returned to Ukraine and they brought with them not only lots of money but a knowledge and understanding of life in countries such as Italy, Germany, Spain, Greece etc. living and working in Europe they learned a lot. They also started to invest in Ukraine. It is said that Lviv is the most European city in Ukraine and the

most Ukrainian city in Europe. Kiev was 80 percent destroyed during the war, but Lviv survived almost unscathed. The Nazis moved through the city very quickly. There were no battles in Lviv. The centre of the city is UNESCO listed.

During the late 19th Century Austria ruled Lviv and this is obvious in the beautiful architecture of the era. The political situation changed seven times during the 20th Century. The independence movement started in Lviv with the patriots.

After checking into our hotel we started our tour of the city. We were picked up by our guide and spent a very busy six hours checking out the sights. Of course we saw the obligatory churches, beautiful and gilded, although this time most of them were Catholic not Orthodox. I won't bore you describing them as you must be sick of hearing about churches other than to say they were absolutely beautiful and they were ALL called 'Church of the Assumption'. I can't believe how important the Virgin Mary was to religion. Much more, apparently than Jesus. Apart from Christ's figure on the cross there are very few icons of him.



Bunker coffee shop.

We spent a couple of hours walking through the market square and there is so much to see there that we could have spent much longer. Initially this was the perimeter of the city and was surrounded by a brick wall. You can still see remnants of the wall in the foundations of current buildings. The whole area is cobblestones and the main road into the square was part of the 'Silk Road' to China. The area was populated 650 years ago by Armenian traders and merchants and their many courtyards and beautiful buildings are still there today. They are now bustling cafes and shops and for the first time we are seeing lots of alfresco dining. The Armenian Church is also the 'Church of the Assumption'. As they were traders they travelled a lot and so brought many eastern traditions to Lviv. There is a huge bell tower in the square that people can climb. Sophie wants to do it but with 408 steps why would anyone be silly enough to do that.

In ancient times people were buried close to churches in 'consecrated' ground. In the Armenian quarter there are stone graves flat on the ground. They are engraved with each person's details and people walk over them as when the engraving is gone all your sins are forgiven.

On the edge of the square is the George Hotel, once the most famous and expensive hotel in Europe. It was the first hotel to include toilets in hotel rooms. (Thank goodness for that.) It was also the hotel that made famous the Chicken Kiev. It is also famous for having its rooms bugged. Very big and fancy although now not as good as it was.

We were taken to see a restaurant called *The Bunker* where the guards are dressed as Ukrainian partisans and you need to know a password to get in. Very cute. Lots lining up to get in.

The square also has one of the 'most famous coffee houses in the world'. It is a coffee shop where you go down dark stairs into a mine. They pretend that they mine coffee underground. You have to put on a miner's hat and there are tables and chairs underground. It is very dark, with red glowing lights. They have a coffee drink called fire coffee. Lots of people sitting in the dark. Very interesting.

Also apparently a Ukrainian man opened the first coffee shop in Vienna and was the first person who put milk and sugar into coffee and so traditional coffee was born.

... continues on following page



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Letters from Ukraine

... continued from previous page

We visited a pharmacy that has been continually trading since 1775 with a series of private owners. It is still trading today. It is such a museum of ancient medicines. It has in a glass case the first kerosene lamp used in the world. One of its glass doors still has a bullet hole that it received during the war.

Following that we went to a folk museum which was a little village that showed how people lived 100 years ago in the country. The houses would be similar to those that Dad would have lived in, in his childhood. There were horse stables, bee hives and other examples of country living. Apparently Ukraine is one of the biggest exporters of honey in the world.

There was a small wooden church on the grounds and when we went in there was a Mass underway. The sad thing was that there were only two in the congregation. So we more than doubled the priest's attendance. It was a very moving ceremony and we stayed until the end.



Our first meeting in the Motel in Pochaiv with two of our Ukrainian aunties.

We then went to one of the most visited places in Ukraine, the old cemetery which is now a National Museum. It contains the most amazing statues and graves. It is no longer active except for those people being buried in family crypts. The city is organised in four sections and the cemetery the same way. Because of the many years that Polish people lived in Lviv, many monuments and crypts are of Polish people. It costs a lot to be buried here and the cemetery appears full but money will always find room. Whilst they don't have definite figures it is believed that up to 500,000 people are buried in this cemetery.

During the Soviet period a lot of the statues were damaged or destroyed so there is still a lot of restoration happening.

We then visited the war cemetery. There is a Polish section and a Ukrainian section. The Polish section was destroyed by Stalin in 1946 when he brought in tanks to flatten the graves. They have been restored with white headstones and it all now looks like a respectful war museum.

The Ukrainian section has grey headstones and is very big. Row upon row of young people. There is a new section for those who died in the war in the Middle East with lots and lots of flowers.



Mum's brother's grave in the abandoned family cemetery.

We returned to our hotel about 8pm after a lot of walking so we were quite tired.

Interesting facts:

There has been no census for many years as the government does not want anyone to know how many people have left Ukraine. They believe that there are 44 million people in the country. The country lost three million citizens when they lost Crimea.

There is an extensive tram system but all the cars drive on the tracks

as there is no room. Also cars park in the middle of the road as there is no room for parking at the gutters.

The weather has been very kind to us. Yesterday was 19 degrees and today is to be 20C. Mr Google told us it would be 8-10C so we came prepared for the cold. Our last day in St Petersburg was 17C. We have really only have had one cold day.

Today we have a free day so we are going to have a leisurely look around.

Until next time,
Olga

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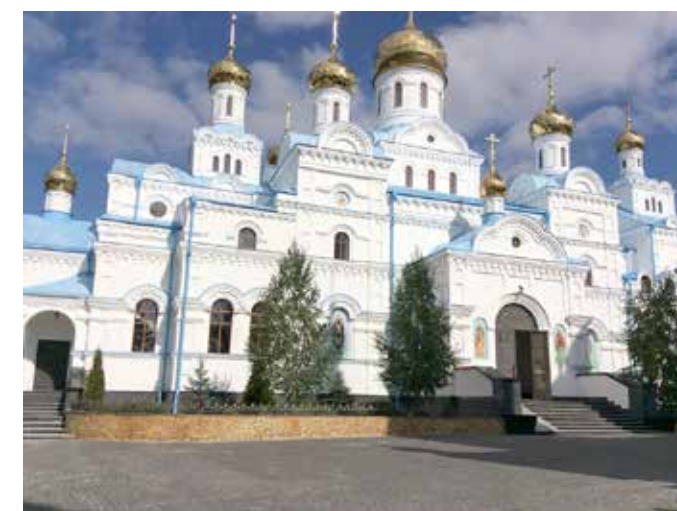
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From the Editor

I am finally starting to properly enjoy this winter in Hall as it starts to draw to a close with brighter, sunnier days and some early wattle flowering. Even with the long hard slog of the pandemic in the background. All of us have either had it or know many people that have. Staff shortages will continue to affect us all for some time to come I expect. And we just have to do our best to try and avoid catching or spreading it, which, apart from mask wearing, seems largely impossible if we want to live anything like a normal life.

But there are many things happening in our little corner of this world, normal and extraordinary. For example:

- We had a fabulous workday to clean up the Reserve, such a lot of hard work put in by a great crowd of volunteers. It is looking so much better.
- Bless the Hall Men's Shed for the much-needed repairs to the footbridge over Hall's Creek. It is a treat to be able to cross safely as part of the Hall Walk.
- It is fascinating to read the second chapter of Olga's epic visit to Ukraine a few years ago.
- We wish Tony all the very best in his next adventures after serving us so well at the Hall Servo. Good luck to Jared and Blake.
- I had no idea what DrillDance was all about until reading Sharon's article.
- The upcoming 75th Anniversary of St Michael and All Angels in May 2023 will be an important celebration.
- And a comment from Gail, our layout artist: 'A wonderful rose pruning article – thank you Lisa, for a clear explanation and excellent photos!'

Such an eclectic variety of content this edition! Thanks to all for sending the news and photographs our way, we love sharing it with you.

Until next time,
Jo Hall

The Rural Fringe acknowledges the Ngunnawal people who are the traditional custodians of the land of Hall Village and District and acknowledges their continuing relation to their ancestral lands. We pay our respect to the Elders of the Ngunnawal Nation past, present and future.

The Rural Fringe – ISSN: 1329-3893

The Rural Fringe is a community newspaper published in 660 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
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Letters to the editor

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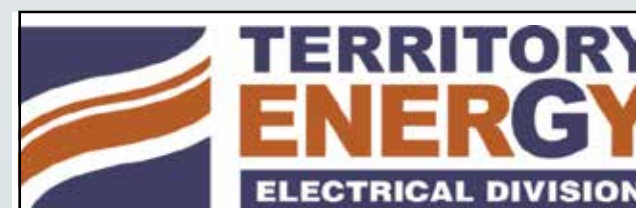
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Proudly supporting the Hall community

Sri Chimnoy Gungahlin Gallop



The Sri Chimnoy annual 'Gungahlin Gallop' features a number of run distances, starting and finishing at the Hall Oval. Held on Sunday 17 July this year, Matt Robbie won the 31km race, breaking the race record with a time of just 2:10:01!

Ryan Hawkins on the 10km trail.
(photo au.srichinmoyraces.org)



The 10km run (up One Tree Hill and back) was won by Etienne Blumstein-Jones among the men and Bronte Clifford for the women. Congratulations to all the winter runners! Full results at au.srichinmoyraces.org

