

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district

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mutual protection

Hayden Starr's golden sun moth

by Jo Hall

Many *Rural Fringe* readers will be familiar with Gold Creek Station, entered via Victoria Street on the way into Hall from Canberra. Originally a much larger property extending to present day Ngunnawal, John Starr worked as manager for the Bruce family in the 1970s. In 1990, John took on the lease of the 4,000 acre property, running Merino sheep and Hereford cattle. Since then, the land has been gradually reduced to around 1,000 acres as the ACT Government has progressively resumed land to build the new suburbs of Gungahlin.

But part of the property was always a special and wild landscape in terms of its nature, wildlife and trees – Kinlyside. It is one of the best natural habitats in the Australian Capital Territory and as the leaseholder, John was in charge of protecting it. Recognising early on the different land classes across the property from steeper country with shallow soils to fertile flats, John, and now his son Craig, runs much less stock on the 'lighter country', and destocks these areas during drought or over winter when pasture feed is low. After drought they allow native grasses on these areas to fully recover before reintroducing stock, and persistently fight the weeds like serrated tussock grass. Their approach to farming has seen the 201 hectare section of his property gazetted as Kinlyside Nature Reserve and biodiversity offset area. John's long history of caring for the land was recognized when he won the 2015 ACT Landcare Award for Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices. Kinlyside Nature Reserve is not open to the public and still managed and farmed sustainably by Craig.

Twenty years ago, after protracted consultation and lobbying, the Hall community, through the Village of Hall and District Progress Association won a very significant struggle to have a 'buffer zone' around the village recognised, and rule out any direct road connection into Gungahlin. This was enshrined in the Hall Village Master Plan (May 2002). While the buffer zone still extends right around the village, the major

concern of residents at the time was the development of the suburb of 'Kinlyside', which was gazetted in October 1991. Had the development proceeded, housing would have come up to the back of the Showground and very close to Hall Street. The creation of Kinlyside as a Nature Reserve, entirely surrounded by land designated 'Hills, ridges and



Hayden Starr with his golden sun moth sculpture

'buffers' means there will be no suburban development. This action will avoid impacts to Kinlyside's box gum woodland and habitat for the endangered golden sun moth and pink-tailed worm-lizard.

Enter Hayden Starr, Craig's son and John's grandson. Hayden is the Senior Content Producer at the Australia Institute. He is an artist and not a farmer, and held his first solo exhibition this year. As an artist he likes to capture the spaces around us and for him Gold Creek Station and its land has always been a special place as he spent so much time there. 'It helped create who I am,' he told me, in a recent chat with him and Craig. 'I really liked being outdoors and in nature.' The significance of the golden sun moth at Kinleyside was not lost on Hayden – he sees it as a story of mutual protection 'we protected the land for the sun moth and the sun moth protected the land for us' he said.

... continues on page 3

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Sold 'Glenden', 3 Glover Drive, Yass	Sold '8 Woods Close', Murrumbateman	Sold 'Kurranulla', 354 Fifehire Road, Yass
Sold '117 Rossi Street', Yass	Sold 'Bundilla', 40 Johnston Road, Wallaroo	Sold 'Clareview', Lachlan Valley Way, Yass

Hall Cemetery work party

5 November 9 to 11am



All this rain has resulted in the Cemetery woodland covered in water. As Friends of Grasslands' John Fitzgerald reported in September "you could bog a duck!" The unwanted grasses, thistles, plantains and sticky weed are growing madly so to help try and keep them in check there will be a regular work party on **Saturday 5 November** from **9am-11am**. All welcome, you need to bring your own working tools and dress sensibly.

Inquiries & registration: john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au

Hayden Starr's golden sun moth

... continued from front page

With the help of a grant from the Belconnen Arts Centre for an 'Art in Place' program, Hayden set about creating the sun moth sculpture. He got most of the materials for it from the farm, seeing the material relationships as part of the art itself. 'I found a piece of corrugated iron, full of holes and covered in lichen, and I thought 'perfect'. You can see the years it has been in the paddock, it is such a concrete connection to the land.' Hayden enlisted the help of his grandfather John, so there was the connection to family as well which he described as really special. Including the LED lights to shine the moth gold, provided a juxtaposition of the technical, blended with the clunky, rusty iron. 'It tells something of the history of the land and how people came to be here; it also reflects my relationship with the land. It is a reflection on farming and on colonisation – on why the moths lost their land in the first place. I've tried to express this not through an idealised sculpture, but by something rusty and a bit worn out to reflect the contradiction.' Sun moths live for two years as larvae, eating grass roots. The moths themselves only live for a couple of days. 'The rusty material really expressed the temporality and vulnerability of the sun moth – both as a moth and as a species.'

Such symbolism was easy to grasp having had this artwork explained to me so thoughtfully and I left my brief chat with Hayden and Craig in awe of both Hayden the artist and Craig the farmer. And very proud of the three generations of John, Craig and Hayden Starr and the ongoing protection of Kinlyside on our doorstep.

St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

Corner of Victoria St and Loftus St, Hall



As winter rolls into spring, it's time to look toward to the joy of Christmas. At St Michael's and in our wider parish of St Barnabas, Charnwood, we are looking forward to a number of activities as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Our church celebrations begin at the end of November with Advent, a season of reflection and preparation for Christmas.

Hall Christmas Fair

Saturday 19 November

Look for our stall of cakes, jams, and other homemade goodies in the Pavilion kitchen at the 2nd annual Christmas Fair at Hall Showground.

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday 4 December

at St Barnabas, Charnwood – starting at **7pm**

In this simple service the story of Christmas is told through short Bible readings and well-loved Christmas carols.

Christmas Carols @ Hall Pavilion

4-6pm Saturday 10 December

The Hall community is warmly invited to join in singing wonderful Christmas carols together and enjoy the music of the Canberra Brass, the Hall joint Church Choir and the Strange Weather Gospel Choir.

Christmas services

After the severe limitations of the last two years, we will be very happy to welcome residents and visitors to our Christmas services this year:

Christmas Eve at 10.30pm

Christmas Day at 10am

or at our regular services at 11am on any Sunday.

For more information please ring Beryl on **0408 488526**

President's page



This is a brief version of the President's Report to Members of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association presented at the Annual General Meeting held on 21 September. The full report is available on the hall.act.au website.

Due to pandemic lockdowns in 2021, the Annual General Meeting of the Progress Association was delayed until 17 November 2021 when the current committee was elected. This report covers the last 10 months since the 2021 AGM.

In my first 'President's Page' in the *Rural Fringe* in February 2022, I shared a number of items that the Progress Association Committee considered for attention, including:

- a request from Hall and Wallaroo residents to petition the ACT Government to extend the 80 km/h speed limit on the Barton Highway from the Clarrie Hermes Drive intersection to the NSW border
- the somewhat neglected state of the Hall Reserve exacerbated by infrequent mowing, dead foliage and vehicle ruts from parking and driving on the reserve
- the perennial problem of storm water drainage and erosion of the laneways in Hall Village that has been neglected by the ACT Government for more than 20 years and was greatly exacerbated by the much wetter than normal 2020 and 2021 La Niña seasons.

Since then, the association has had one success, one work in progress, and one as yet to have any positive outcome.

On 19 June, 32 volunteers did a truly remarkable job on the Hall Reserve of removing dead shrubs, cutting overgrown grass, and removing weeds and undergrowth. The resulting green waste completely filled the skip provided by the Hall Community Fire Unit, a dozen trailers and utes provided by various village volunteers and finally about 10 large trucks, their loads removed by ACT Parks and Conservation with assistance from their front-end loader. The Progress Association Committee will have conversations with residents and stakeholders about further work including reclamation and plantings.

On 14 January 2022, on behalf of the Progress Association, I wrote to Chris Steel, the Minister for Transport and City Services, requesting urgent attention to arrange for the relevant ACT Government authority to undertake the assessment, design and completion of works on storm water infrastructure and associated works to rehabilitate and maintain the laneways in Hall Village. The request to the Minister was also copied to all MLAs in Yerrabi. In April, the association undertook a media campaign to highlight the lack of action on

storm water by Minister Steel and, together with MLAs Leanne Castley and James Milligan and Hall Traders' President Shaun O'Connor, we briefed various media including WIN TV News, RiotAct, ABC TV News, ABC Canberra Radio Mornings, 2CC Radio Drive, *CityNews* and *Canberra Weekly*.



Surveying the lane.

After six months of representations to Minister Steel and Yerrabi MLAs, on 11 July, the Hall Progress Association received a response from Transport and City Services Minister Chris Steel committing that TCCS are engaging a suitably qualified consultant to undertake detailed analysis and provide mitigation options to improve storm water drainage in Hall. This analysis will be comprehensive, including the total topography, water movement and existing infrastructure as well as the lane ways. The consultants will develop a hydrological model working to Municipal Infrastructure Standard MIS08. Once the model is completed, Capital Works will consult with ACT Heritage about what can be done consistent with the Hall Village Master Plan and the Hall Precinct Code out of which a design options study will be completed with concept drawings and high-level costings. From the design options and costings, Capital Works Planning will develop a Business Case for Treasury to be considered within the ACT Government Budget process. The Business Case will be prepared in early 2023 for consideration in the 2024 financial year ACT Budget.

There is still a long way to go before Hall Village has appropriate storm water infrastructure. However, we are now on the journey.

To date, the Progress Association has been less successful in securing a positive response from the same Minister Steel to a request by Hall and Wallaroo residents to reduce the speed limit on the Barton Highway between the NSW border and Clarrie Hermes/ Kuringa Drive to 80 km/h. On 15 December, the Progress Association wrote to Minister Steel to raise serious road safety concerns over the Barton Highway speed limit. On 29 March, Minister Steel responded to the request advising that the design and configuration of this part of the Barton Highway

complies with the current speed limit of 100 kph. Subsequently, the Progress Association has contacted all Yerrabi MLAs, Hon Andrew Leigh (MHR for Fenner), Hon Kristy McBain (MHR for Eden-Monaro), Ms Emma Harrington (CEO Membership and Motoring of NRMA), Robert Giltinan (Director of Policy and Public Affairs NRMA). All have expressed support and are taking various actions to advocate on behalf of the Hall and Wallaroo residents.

In its role as Licensee of the Hall School Site and the Hall Pavilion, the Progress Association Committee has updated the management processes, hire charges and community use arrangements for the pavilion and cottage. The Progress Association has continued management of ongoing maintenance of buildings on the Hall School Site where the unusually wet weather has presented significant challenges with leaking roofs and water damage.

The Progress Association Committee paid for the purchase and installed an automated external defibrillator (AED) at the Hall Museum site in the quadrangle door alcove. The committee is also mapping the location of AEDs throughout the Hall District of Wallaroo, Nanima and Spring Range and, when completed, will share the information in the *Rural Fringe*.



L to R back row:

Ralph Southwell, Tony Morris, Aaron Whittaker, Robert Yallop, Peter Toet, Jan Klaver.

front row: Margaret Monahan, Toni Makkai, Olga Minion, Phil Robson, Lee-Ann Brodrick.

I would like to thank the Progress Association Committee and Office Bearers for their efforts through-out the year. Whatever has been accomplished by the association has been achieved by the work of Aaron, Heather, Jan, John, Marg, Olga, Paul, Peter, Phil and Tony.

At the AGM held on 21 September, the 2022-2023 committee and office bearers were elected as follows:

President: Robert Yallop

Vice President: Olga Minion

Treasurer: Phil Robson

Secretary: Jan Klaver

Committee members:

Lee-Ann Brodrick	Ralph Southwell
Toni Makkai	Peter Toet
Margaret Monahan	Aaron Whittaker
Tony Morris	

The Progress Association has been part of this community for more than 100 years and is believed to be the oldest community association in the ACT.

Please continue to share your ideas and concerns about Hall Village and District with your Progress Association Committee members or to info@hall.act.au



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Wallaroo solar installation consultation

renewable energy

by Jo Hall

After the Village of Hall and District Progress Association requested a specific consultation for Wallaroo residents, on 5 September Ben Cranston (New Energy Development) and Michele Furguson (NGH environmental consultants) met with 14 locals at the Pavilion to discuss the proposed Wallaroo Solar installation. This followed earlier community consultations held in Holt.



Ben Cranston (New Energy Development) and Michele Furguson (NGH environmental consultants) met with locals.

The proposed Wallaroo Solar installation comprises 180,000 solar panels and battery energy storage. The developer, Wallaroo Solar Farm Pty Ltd, is a partnership of Canberra-based New Energy Development and Spanish-Japanese Univergy Solar.

The Wallaroo Solar installation is currently completing its Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The EIS is made up of various assessments and reports that will be submitted to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

These include, among others:

- social impact assessment, conducted by NGH environmental consultants
- visual impact assessment
- traffic impact assessment



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In terms of responses to a survey conducted as part of the social impact assessment, 94 responses have been received (77 from Dunlop/MacGregor or other ACT suburbs) and 17 from Wallaroo/NSW. Ben reported that two thirds of the responses are supportive or neutral regarding the development.

Various concerns were discussed during the meeting – particularly around roads and traffic; noise; glare; environmental issues; and the impact on land values in the area. It was noted that many studies are not yet completed, but are on track for completion soon.

Eighteen months for construction is anticipated, with a peak construction period of nine months (later clarified by Ben to be 9-12 months). The aim is to commence in May 2023. The current plan is to have between 14 and 24 B-doubles (60 tonne trucks) per day travel along Gooromon Ponds Road during construction. The plan is to have 200 tradespeople bussed in from Yass/Canberra rather than travel in individual vehicles. Residents voiced concern that the Gooromon Ponds and Southwell Roads were never built for such a volume of traffic and that the bridge on Wallaroo Road has a 5 tonne limit. There is an alternative route from Dunlop which is largely an unused track although it is a gazetted road. Nevertheless, use of this has been discounted by the developers as approval would not be granted. In addition, concerns about the ability of these long B-doubles to safely cross the Barton Highway and turn towards the ACT was also raised (noting also the Progress Association has been seeking a reduction in the speed limit on this stretch of the Barton Highway) and safety concerns with the crossover with school buses on the route.

These concerns are to be addressed through the traffic impact and other assessments. The proponents advised that a geotechnical assessment and dilapidation report will be completed before construction starts and the developers will be required to repair the roadways to better than original condition at completion of construction. They also advised that specific time zones will be designated when trucks will be allowed to travel in order to avoid school bus and peak traffic.

After construction, ongoing noise will be generated from the site by the 16 large batteries and also the noise from the solar panel trackers, as the panels will follow the sun from east to west. However, it is anticipated this noise will dissipate by the time it reaches the boundaries of the site and is not likely to present a disturbance.



In terms of reflection from the panels, a glint and glare assessment is being undertaken, but the reflection coefficient is not yet known.

The impact on land values was discussed. Michele reported that NSW Government research data shows no appreciable impact on land values, but does show a reduction in the number of buyers showing

interest. There is a logical link between lower interest and lower price.

There may be compensation offered to immediate neighbours in terms of landscaping and solar energy. A Community Enhancement Fund will be established, to focus on residents within a 10km radius of the site. It is proposed to include two representatives from Yass Valley Council, two community representatives and one company representative. The makeup of this group is still to be confirmed with Yass Valley Council. It was unclear from the meeting what benefits Yass Valley Council will gain from the development although a specific payment is currently being negotiated. Within a 7km radius, residents will be able to purchase electricity at a cheaper rate (20-30% reduction from standard rates) through an initiative called 'Local Volts'. This includes Hall Village.

The Development Application has a 30-year term, after which time everything will be removed from the site, except some underground cabling, unless a new DA is approved. It is unclear what will happen to the kangaroos currently on the site. Native trees will be planted around the perimeter. Sheep will be farmed and horse agistment will continue within the site boundaries. It was noted that the Bicentennial Trail will continue to run adjacent to the site.

A local resident observed that this development is coming under much more scrutiny than other developments that have proceeded in Yass Valley. All assessment reports will be made publicly available.

Please visit www.wallaroosolarfarm.com.au for more information.

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Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade

Volunteering for the Community

by **Shona Jenkin**

Our fire season in the Southern Tablelands commenced on 1 October. With a significant chance of a La Niña event bringing above-average rainfall this spring and summer, we are expecting a wet start to the fire season. Increased rainfall combined with warmer weather is likely to lead to high fuel loads for grass fires in our local area in coming months.

As the fire season goes on, high temperatures can dry this fuel out fast. Grass fires start quickly, can spread rapidly, and have the very same potential as bushfires to threaten homes, crops, livestock and lives.

We encourage you to prepare your property and your fire plan in readiness for this fire season. This could be key to protecting your life and those of the ones you love. Visit rfs.nsw.gov.au to learn more.

2021/22 Fire Season

Over 2020-21, wet conditions have thankfully meant fewer fires in our area. Nevertheless, Wallaroo Brigade has responded to 18 calls over the last 12 months, including eight fires, seven motor vehicle accidents/rescues, and as support in emergency medical situations. In March, the brigade attended a fire involving large earthmoving equipment upgrading the Barton Highway (pictured below).



We have also attended a number of motor vehicle accidents connected with the Barton Highway upgrade – we encourage you to take care when driving through this particular section of road.

The brigade continues to train regularly to ensure we are prepared to respond quickly and professionally when called upon. The dedication of our members was recognised recently when members of the brigade received National Emergency Medals and Premier's Citations for service during the 2019-20 Black Summer fires. Jacob, Peter and Aaron Vincent, who have given 52 years of combined service to the brigade, are pictured with their National Emergency Medals, presented by NSW RFS Superintendent Peter Alley.



Officially open for business!

On Saturday 24 September, we were thrilled to finally officially open our upgraded shed. Brigade members have worked hard over a number of years to add a kitchen, toilets, meeting room facilities and extra parking bays, as well as a forecourt and training resources. These upgrades have made a significant difference to our ability to train in a safe and controlled environment, particularly on those dark winter nights! The shed is also better able to support the community both

time and dedication is greatly appreciated as critical to the success of this upgrade.

Brigade contacts

If you have any questions about fire safety, preparedness, RFS membership or Wallaroo Brigade activities, please feel free to reach out to our Brigade Executive or the Southern Tablelands Zone.

Captain: Neil Shepherd

0418 628 095 nshepherd@shepelectrical.com.au

Senior Deputy Captain: Geoff Morris

0407 188 192 geoffmor@hotmail.com

President: Amy Goldstraw

0410 763 936 amy.goldstraw@gmail.com

Secretary: Mike Textor

0408 825 281 tw43887@bigpond.net.au

Treasurer: Peter Vincent

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men's shed

Spring at the shed

by **Kevin Stone**

Spring has finally arrived in all its glory, with the days having more sunshine and noticeable warmer. It's certainly been an encouragement for more of the men's shed fellas to don their working gear and join in helping out the usual ones who have been diligently pottering away, regardless of the weather.

Whether it's a Tuesday or Thursday, there's plenty of activity in the main shed and annex, with bandsaws and other electrical and hand held equipment getting used quite regularly. It does make lighter work when the combined efforts of the men join in, and the results speak for themselves, especially when you see the refurbished combined seat and tables that have been stripped back, repaired and repainted and are now back at the showgrounds in time for outdoor activities. They're hard to miss, because they

certainly stand out with some bright colours on the tabletops!

Some of the men may prefer to work on their own, and others really appreciate being able to sit with a cuppa and chat, but that's what the shed is all about. And whatever is happening, there's no shortage of morning tea, which seems to get more bountiful each week! A light lunch is all that's needed afterwards, that's for sure!

But there's no stopping Brian Charge, along with his willing and able helpers Bruce and Roger, constantly working on toys and other items for the preschool children who always appreciate everything they receive.

So much so, that recently the children put on a lovely mini concert for the shed. How delightful they all looked, dressed in a variety of costumes that brought plenty of smiles to the guys' faces. It was wonderful to see Spiderman, a ballerina, Tinkerbell, SpongeBob, Rapunzel, Bob the Builder and a couple of princesses dance around the tables before enjoying some morning tea provided by the shed. Healthy food of course! Many thanks go to the teachers, including Pete the Cat, and parents for the time and effort that went into making the children look so fantastic.



Brian Charge planting one of his flowers.



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Creating a free Auslan StoryTime Library

Local children's author, Rhiân Williams, has started a crowdfunding project to create an Auslan Story Time Library so that deaf children and others can enjoy great Australian picture books read in Auslan.

Picture books are usually the first books read to children, mostly because of the pictures. But also because the stories are short and easy to follow. By reading picture books to a child the adults around them show children that reading is important. For deaf children and others it is critical to ensure there are opportunities to experience stories read to them with Auslan. It is also particularly important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who experience hearing loss at much greater rates than non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.



In creating the crowdfunded project Rhiân has gifted permission for the use of her two picture books – *Ten Little Figs*, a 2021 CBCA Notable Book and shortlisted Speech Pathology Book of the Year and *Emergency Vehicles to the Rescue*, which has just been shortlisted in the 2022 Educational Publishing Awards.

All money raised will go to the production of the Auslan StoryTime videos that will be produced using professional, qualified Auslan signers. The Auslan videos will then be available free to everyone, everywhere in Australia.

Story times at libraries, kindergartens and playgroups are cherished childhood experiences. Stories and storytellers help us see who we are and who we can be – deaf children need to see themselves in those pictures too!

Rhiân welcomes any ideas for how to promote this project and you can support the crowdfunded by visiting:
www.gofundme.com/creating-a-free-auslan-video-storytime-library

For more details contact Rhiân at:
hello@rhianwilliamsauthor.com.au

Spring in the vineyards

by **Allan & Christine Pankhurst**



Spring heralds the new season for the vineyards in the Wallaroo area. Pruning is finished and minor repairs to the trellis system are being undertaken before the buds burst, which we normally expect to occur in late September and early October.

With so much rain over winter, the soil moisture profiles are full and currently it is too wet to take a tractor into the vineyard for fear of getting bogged or at minimum compacting the soils.

And recently the Bureau of Meteorology has announced another La Niña event is coming – the third in a row! I understand that the last time there were three La Niñas in a row was back in the mid 1970s. Interestingly, the growing season last year was the first ever that we did not irrigate the vineyard. I wonder whether that will occur again this season?

Despite the wet weather, we have prepared the vineyard for spring, and it is looking great. We couldn't be more ready for budburst.

So apart from expected wet conditions, what lies ahead of us this season? Each year brings a different challenge for the local vineyards. Last year with wet conditions we had to fight off fungal attacks in the vineyard, which at Pankhurst Wines we managed to do successfully and had great quality fruit at harvest. We also experienced a huge increase in European Wasps which enjoy eating the grapes as they ripen. We will be combatting the wasps this year with an organic chemical lure that is not toxic to bees – an important feature as we strive to achieve certification with *Sustainable Winegrowing Australia*.

So come on spring!



Changes to fire danger rating system

Rebecca Morrison
President, Springfield Rural Fire Service

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.

There'll be actions for each of the four new Fire Danger Ratings, so you'll know what to do to protect your life, family, and property.



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 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.

Rebecca Morrison
tomandbecmorrison@hotmail.com



NSW RFS – Springfield Brigade

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.
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Heritage in a Suitcase program

The Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre has been offering a successful education program for local primary schools for several years, but when the pandemic hit in 2021 schools were unable to attend our on-campus activities.

This was quite disappointing, not only for the schools and students, but for all the volunteers who were keen to be involved, so we decided to set up a *Heritage in a Suitcase* program. Vintage artefacts, information and discussion cards, theme-based children's books and equipment for olden-day games have been deposited into a number of aging suitcases and are offered to schools for a small weekly fee.



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by **Mardie Troth**

The resources have become very popular and during the most recent school term they were booked out! We are now hoping to duplicate what we already have so more students can enjoy learning about how life was from times gone by.

However, we need some assistance.



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If you have any of the pictured or listed artefacts and would be happy to donate them to the centre, we would love to have them for our *Heritage in a Suitcase* program.



wash board	small (child's) bed lamp	old money box	old set trouser braces
shaving brush	lady's boot hook	sheep-bone jacks	milk dipper
meat safe	wooden pencil box	butter knives	lightweight aluminium kettle
Gladstone bag	hanging scales	tea strainer	Weights

We also need:

- * milk bottles pre-decimal (pint)
- * simple old handmade wooden toys
- * film capsules and negatives
- * fly spray can
- * metal candle holder – with finger stall
- * pre-decimal stamp album
- * rotary telephone
- * rope quoits and wooden spike stand
- * laundry ('Reckitts') blue bags
- * old table mincer (working order)
- * old milk jug cover with beads
- * old keys – large
- * cane hoops – large
- * ladies embroidered handkerchief
- * pre-decimal coins
- * old suitcases – medium size, approx. 60cm (l) x 40cm (w) x 30cm (h)

Let us know by email to museum@hall.act.au and we can collect the item or arrange for it to be delivered to the centre.

Linda Buchan Wilson Clynk

30 December 1954 – 10 July 2022



Linda was born in the village of Glencoe, Scotland on 30 December 1954, the fourth of five daughters of Jean and Jock Wilson. The family immigrated to Australia in 1960 – a trip of six weeks duration by ship, all in the one cabin. The Wilson family arrived in Canberra and made their first home at Mt Stromlo where Linda's father Jock worked for the Department of Forestry. The young girls attended Yarralumla Primary School and were known as part of the 'Bush Kids Group'. Each afternoon these Bush Kids left the classroom ten minutes earlier than the rest of the children in order to catch the bus back to their 'out of town' destinations. They later moved to O'Connor where all the girls attended Lyneham Primary and then Lyneham High School. Following high school, Linda attended secretarial college and then went on to join the Commonwealth Public Service, firstly at the CSIRO and then at the Australian Development and Aid Board and later at the Department of Immigration.

In 1974 Linda met the young and handsome Danny Clynk at the Western District Rugby Club and romance quickly blossomed. They were married in August 1975 and made their home in Kaleen where they welcomed two sons, Daniel and Rowan. They lived happily in Kaleen for 15 years before Linda thought they were in a bit of a rut and she began plans to move the family to the Village of Hall for a complete change. Although Danny needed some persuasion to make this move, they both quickly acknowledged that this was the best decision they had made.

The block of land in Gibbs Street purchased by Danny and Linda had previously been the horse paddock between Jan, Mick and Evie. Linda called this purchase 'winning the real estate lottery' because of the wonderful neighbours that they found themselves!

Linda, along with Danny, Daniel and Rowan embraced their new life in Hall and quickly made friends. Rowan attended Hall Primary School and both boys enjoyed the company of many other young locals while exploring the village and surrounds. Linda and Danny

established a beautiful garden which included many amazing weeping maples as feature trees. The Clynks were warm and engaging and hosted many wonderful parties, barbecues and pizza nights.



Linda had many interests which included travelling, gardening, genealogy and cooking, however family was her greatest passion. She was delighted to welcome Rowan's wife Jen to the family and Jen's love and support has been, and continues to be immeasurable. Linda was the very proud grandmother of Amela and Erica and took great delight in their company and particularly in spoiling her girls. Family very much included her dogs, staffies, of which there were several over the years.

In later years Linda and Danny travelled extensively with a total of 38 overseas trips in 20 years, and numerous others within Australia.

vale Linda

Linda was extremely proud of her Scottish heritage and spent many happy times in the Glasgow/Lennoxton area there with her extended family. She and Danny explored Scotland extensively, travelling right to the very top of the country to experience the history and the rugged landscape of the Orkneys. She was extremely knowledgeable about Scottish and indeed UK history.

Linda was deeply interested in genealogy and was an expert at navigating the websites of libraries and other institutions to delve into historical records. She extensively researched the history of her ancestors. She was never selfish with her expertise and knowledge and gave invaluable advice and practical assistance to others who were just beginning to explore their family history. Linda was an expert in overcoming 'roadblocks' in this type of research and she helped many others move forward with their research. If Linda could not solve it then it was virtually unsolvable! While sailing on Howlong Bay, Linda met a nurse from Broken Hill and a discussion about genealogy developed. This lady asked if she could contact Linda after the holiday, and if she would help her with finding someone missing from her life. Linda agreed, and spent many hours researching records and solving issues until she broke through and was able to help in reconnecting a father and daughter. Her kindness, patience and persistence will certainly not be forgotten by that very grateful family.

Following a trip to Bali, Linda became ill and was subsequently diagnosed with lung disease in 2019. Gradually over the following two years her health declined, eventually taking her life in July 2022.

Linda had a rare gift for unconditional friendship and love, and a straightforward optimism about life no matter how rocky things looked. She carried this approach through to the end, bearing her illness with acceptance and bravery. She was extremely grateful for what she had in life. Her approach to life was utterly unpretentious, centred on family, friends and celebrating everyday events as they unfolded, whether good or bad. Linda is deeply missed by her family and many friends.

Vale Linda.

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The Old Yanconians' Union Regional Dinner — Canberra

Are you an 'Old Yanconian'?

It's surprising how many people living in Canberra and the surrounding district went to the Yanco Agricultural High School over the years. Apparently there are approximately 80 or more in the area who attended the school, whether it was for a short time or longer.

Around 35 went along to the Old Yanconians' Union (OYU) Regional Dinner, held at the Gold Creek Station on 22 July to celebrate the centenary of the high school, which John Starr attended some years ago. Not everyone was from our area, some travelled from places such as Wee Waa, Toronto, Griffith and Albury, and they all enjoyed the speeches, smorgasbord and a chance to catch up with friends they may not have seen for some time.

Graham Bollington, President OYU welcomed all and the Dinner MC, Robert Harris, thanked John and Craig Starr for offering their fantastic venue, read out the list of apologies and delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.

The Gold Creek Station two course banquet was delicious and also generous in the selection of choice and serving sizes, so no-one went away feeling hungry.

During the first course everyone was invited to give a short talk about their life's journey. There were



by **Kevin Stone**

certainly some tales to tell because they talked about life at the school, where it was hard going, but as with the passage of time those hard times fade into distant memories and often turn out to be funny stories. For example, talking about looking forward to a baked lunch

got a laugh, especially when someone mentioned it was baked beans!

Several dinner guests stood up and gave a brief overview of their life since leaving Yanco, starting with a former Australian Air Force officer who had piloted the multi-role fighter F/A-18 Hornet aircraft! That caused some hoots and laughter, plus many probably thought 'well, that's a hard act to follow'.

But no, because everyone has a story, and everyone was treated with equal respect, so it was interesting to hear the wide variety of career paths taken. They ranged from someone with an economics degree; civil engineer with a small business; teachers, one who taught at Yanco; one in the Navy; ACT Rural Fire Service; BMW senior sales executive; chiropractor; police officer; telecommunications (satellites) communications expert; sports media journalist; NSW Police correction officer; driving instructor; property owner/bus operator; USA Department of Defence employee; CSIRO public accountant; a scientist; draftsman-engineer ... the list goes on. One person modestly said he was a 'jack of all trades, but master of none'!

One man spoke about how Yanco set his 'moral compass', in other words, his ability to judge what is right and wrong and act accordingly. He also said he had a wonderful time there and used the education to full advantage.

There seemed to be only about six or seven who had stayed on farms, but what they talked about was just as interesting. Still, when others had spoken of the hardships and tough times they experienced, it's no wonder so many moved to our area for better opportunities for them and their families.

Overall, there were so many wonderful stories and it was a joy and privilege to hear them, in fact a bit overwhelming at times.

There was general agreement that not everyone was cut out for being at a boarding school and it would have been hard for some, especially if they had to get up at 4am to milk cows, take care of the chickens or work in the piggery before starting schoolwork and finishing late at night.

As mine host, John Starr had the honour of being the last person to stand and give a very brief 'Starr' history lesson so far. John started by saying that he was at Yanco from 1954-56 but not everything was learnt in the classroom, which means that he was probably one who was involved in the 4am starts or other farm work duties. But he has grabbed the opportunities that came his way and over the years has done many things, including wool classing, contract harvesting and so much more in relation to farming. John has always been prepared to work hard, all day and night if necessary, and grateful for the knowledge gained from other farmers over the years. He came to Gold Creek at the start of the cattle boom in 1970 and has continued that work ethic since then. But these days he takes things a little easier, welcoming local and international tourists who get to experience a sample of rural life as well as helping his son Craig organise various functions at the station.

Overall, from the comments at the dinner, there was no doubt although the students had to work hard at Yanco, they received a great education and many made life-long friendships.

John Morris, Chairperson, gave an update on the YAHS Foundation and how it benefits the school and school community through a range of scholarships, bursaries and prizes (yanconiansfoundation.com.au). Grahame Morris then presented an overview of his time as former Chief of Staff and senior adviser to ex-Prime Minister John Howard, followed by the Toast to the School, with closing remarks and very rousing rendition of the YAHA Way Cry led by Robert Harris.

It was so interesting to hear about this wonderful school, from its humble beginnings to where it is today. There is a good website (yancoag-h.schools.nsw.gov.au), but here is a condensed version of the brief history, written by W. H. Barwick, Head Teacher, English and History, 1988-2006.

The establishment of a residential State High School at Yanco (near Leeton, NSW) in 1922 was the product of several important developments in education and agriculture.

The pastoralist Samuel McCaughey (also known at the 'Father of Irrigation' and later Sir Samuel) purchased his North Yanco property in 1900 where he built the McCaughey House, now part of the Yanco Agricultural High School.

The 70 residential and 12 day students enrolled in the first intake found conditions difficult, with hurricane lamps giving light and meals cooked on an open fire in the first few months. Farm equipment was also limited, so students cultivated the fields with spades and hoes.

The 1930s Depression meant that parents chose to keep their sons at home to work on farms, so a fall in enrolments was inevitable. And the Second World War brought a further decline in teaching staff and students as many enlisted for the armed forces. However, new optimism for school development with an annual gala day and other fund raising events took place which allowed new facilities to be built, including a war memorial swimming pool in 1961. Other sporting facilities for basketball and tennis, plus a sports hall were constructed over the next 30 years and with the increased federal and state funding for education there was a considerable expansion in facilities.

One of the big changes to the school came about from society's attitudes to single-sex education, and 15 girls were enrolled in 1993 in each of Years 7 and 11. A substantial building program was undertaken around that time and has been ongoing for many years.

The school provides a fully academic and practical public education with an emphasis on agriculture for any student within New South Wales and a comprehensive coeducational experience in a residential setting for students from more isolated areas in the state.

The academic, agricultural and sporting traditions of Yanco are long and extensive and the school has achieved a measure of distinction in public examinations and competitions. As a consequence of these endeavours, Yanco has continued to be held in high esteem by the local and rural communities of New South Wales.



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Hall – a recollection from George and Genevieve Hohnen

Geoff Hohnen spent some of his childhood in Hall, where he and his older brother Charles attended the single classroom Hall Primary School, taught by Mr O'Sullivan. He has kindly shared this extract from his father's memoir about the Hohnen's time in Hall, hand written in a school exercise book around 1982, but not discovered until 30 years after he died. Geoff now lives in Point Frederick NSW.

In 1951 we were living in Lefroy St Griffith (ACT) and through the Office I heard of a house for sale in the village of Hall, some 10 miles out on the Yass Road. I forget the price – £2,000 odd I think, we went out to see it and found a large cement block house after the country style with verandas all around, in Palmer Street at one end of a 2½ acre block of land. There were a number of large pine trees and yards of hedges, as well as an old chip tennis court. Both Gen and I fell for it as we felt much could be done to make it a comfortable home. The ceilings were high and the rooms large. There was electricity but no running water other from a tank which caught the rain water. Bathroom and laundry facilities were very primitive. The toilet was a pan service outside.



I realise how brave Gen was to tackle such a place with three small boys (one Robert a babe in arms). Anyhow we got into it and first of all had a good Raeburn stove installed in the kitchen (of the specie which is fired by coke and heats the water). Then I found a couple of good young plumbers who proceeded to connect up the laundry, kitchen and bathroom to the tank outside as well as to provide for the disposal of waste water down in the garden. As we needed plenty of water and a good pressure, I purchased one of those tall tank stands which an elderly neighbour cemented into position for me. Then for £5 I managed to persuade an operator with one of those high loader vehicles to come out and lift a tank onto the stand. With two other tanks at ground level and an electric pump, we had a pretty good supply of water. The roof area was large so that so long as it rained we were pretty right. I employed a Dutch painter to paint the outside of the place. I wanted a pink colour, using a lime wash after the fashion of his country. I suggested using cochineal for the colouring.

He did this and it turned out pretty well. The inside also was redecorated too and gradually we were making a comfortable home. Something had to be done however about the outside toilet and spurred on by an old friend from the insurance world, I managed to persuade Karl Schreiner, at the time the major building contractor in Canberra, to come out

and price tiling the bathroom and adjoining toilet (previously used as a pantry) installing proper equipment and hooking up to a septic tank. He undertook the job for £750 – a lot of money in those days, but we were the proud possessors of a beautiful bathroom of red tile with white floor with toilet of similar colouring. Now, with some of the other improvements we were most comfortable.

Charles and Geoff went to the little Hall (Primary) School just up the road and they also took piano lessons from a lady a short way out towards Yass (Miss Morris). They both had bicycles and were cautious riders. I had purchased a baby grand piano from a civil servant who was leaving the district and retained it until I decided to sell

when we later moved to Sydney – something I have twice regretted. The tennis court came in for much use as we gradually got it into fair order. By degrees we came to know some of the families about the district and made some very good friends. I was appointed to the local Show Committee and met other country people.

Finally of course, the show was transferred to proper grounds allocated near Canberra City and became the – I think – Royal ACT Show. I remained on the Council for some years and for a time was one of the guarantors to the Bank for a loan to erect our first pavilion.

It was comfortable living at Hall – with further improvement including the introduction of a slow combustion cooking stove followed by an electric one for use in the hot weather. Water was always something of a problem in the summer. We had quite a good strawberry garden until mid-summer.

Also an English mulberry tree. Gen used to boil them up and place them in the refrigerator to be eaten with ice cream, we were never altogether out of water as when short of water, we called the Dept of Interior who would send a water cart out and empty it into our tanks. For a time this was free of charge but subsequently they made a charge.

I used to enjoy the drive to the office of a morning and the return of an evening. I had to get to the stage of having two cars so that Gen had one in which to visit town for shopping etc. So our first little Morris Minor acquired a big brother – a Morris Major. Subsequently followed by a Morris Marshall.

We had an old ex postmaster named Carter living in a small cottage at our rear with his daughter Barbara – a school teacher. They were good neighbours. On one occasion while I was away at the office, a large snake visited the back of the house. Gen called Mr Carter and with the aid of a .410 shotgun which I had acquired against such a possibility, promptly despatched it.



Hall, 1955

was also covered with small blood spots. He was terribly lucky. An inch or two lower and we could easily have been decapitated. After the Police came, we carried on to work.

Rain rain, go away

by Lisa Walmsley

Never let it be said. What a scandalous thought! Don't ever say, 'we have had too much rain', but, we have had too much rain.

Over the years that I have been gardening, there have been all the weather extremes. From droughts that last years, frosts to –12C, temps for weeks in the high 30's, smoke for months, devastating, unrelenting wind (hot and cold) and lots and lots of rain, with the resulting floods.

Each extreme has its own set of pros and cons, and all have to be dealt with in different ways. Lucky we gardeners are a tough lot, adaptive, resilient and quite often excited by the opportunity to do a new project in the garden under difficult conditions.

I have spent a lot of this winter in gum boots and dealing with mud on a daily basis is not only tiring but messy. Our soils are saturated, our dams are full and plants can only take up so much water, once it's maxed out water starts pooling and flooding everything in its path.

Weeds start to take over and general maintenance in the garden becomes a problem as its just too wet and soggy.

Too much rain can stunt your plants and also lead to poor production. Plants need oxygen in the soil to thrive and water logging robs them of that.

Plant diseases like bacteria and fungal problems thrive when conditions are constantly wet. It can also impact plant growth and blossom production.



Things to consider if your garden is soaked

Turn off your irrigation systems; not only would they waste water, but plants simply can not take up any more water, and for now our soils are full.

I love to go for a walk in the garden when its really raining – the way water flows through a garden can be very telling. With recent heavy rains if you find water is funnelling into your garden, you may have to create a small swale (mound) or trench to divert the water in another direction.

If you find any plants wilting, they will be drowning, if you can, dig them up and put them elsewhere or pot them up until you find a better spot.

Compaction – this is a major problem in all our soils and lots of rain is a contributor. A short term remedy is to mulch the area (not too thickly) with a long term view of planting the space out. Aeration, using a coring machine is a great tool to reduce compaction, opens up the soil and adds oxygen. Improving drainage is critical in the garden to grow successful, healthy plants – watch the way water flows and amend as required.

Watch for critters – wet weather is a magnet for plant eating bugs, slugs and pests. These creatures are happy to eat anything in their path, dead, decaying or alive. Beer is a great 'trap' for slugs and snails – pour some into a saucer, they will drink it, get drunk and die. Other bugs can be hand picked off the plant, sprayed or you could find an alternative treatment that's more organic.

Things will change and we will have to be dealing with another garden challenge – lucky we are all up for it – bring it on!

Letters from Ukraine

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

Holiday Odyssey 7 October 2017

Hi all,
Well today (together with meeting relatives in Ukraine) was the culmination of 18 months of constant research. It proves that if you persevere things will happen. Lots of you will know that for many, many months I have been trying to locate the burial place of our brother Ivan who died as a baby during the war.

Some months ago with the help of Google and other friends I was able to track his resting place to a small village in Germany called Wardenburg. Through the magic of email I was able to arrange a meeting with the church administrator and the Pastor. Mum always wanted to put a headstone on her son's grave but following the war did not know how to find information on where he was buried. I always



With Pastor and others in Wardenburg.

thought it would be impossible to find details of a small baby when so many people died during the war, however I managed to obtain a birth and a death certificate for Ivan and an address of the small cemetery where he was buried in Germany.

Mum was taken from her home in Ukraine during the war as a 17 year old girl and placed into forced labour in Germany. She was initially bartered to a farm where she was treated very badly and then bought by a second family who were very good to her. Her baby boy was born in a shack in a paddock whilst she was working and the 'farmer lady' helped look after her baby son Ivan whilst she had to work very long hours. Tragically Ivan died accidentally when he was seven months old. The youngest son of the family she worked for, was 14 when Ivan died and he remembers clearly what happened. He was the only one with Mum and his father when the baby was buried and still remembers how traumatic it was.



Church in Wardenburg.



Ivan's grave

flowers on the grave. So lovely and so moving, we were all in tears. What a nice man the Pastor was. I really regret not doing this when Mum was still alive.

Following that the two of them took us to the daughter's house for lunch. We were joined by her husband and son. They provided the most beautiful meal for us. They had brought in a friend of the family to cook whilst they were meeting us at the church and had asked a young neighbour who could speak English to come along as an interpreter as their English was limited.

After lunch they took us to the farm where our father was also a forced labourer. It is now a housing estate but gave us some indication of where he had been. They then took us to the farm and the actual house that Mum and our brother had lived in and where our brother had died.

They were just so warm, hospitable and helpful we just couldn't believe it. To do that when these things happened so long ago is truly special.

Even though they were on different sides during the war, Mum had kept in touch with her farm family over the years sending gifts, letters and Christmas cards. She believed that families from both sides suffered from the war. They lost one son and another son lost a leg. The family brought out a box that contained all the letters and cards that Mum had sent over the years, in their envelopes neatly numbered by year. Over 40 years worth of communication, that included photos of our weddings and our children. Can you believe that? Also a little child's jumper that Mum had provided the wool for when they couldn't get wool in Germany following the war.

It was such a good day apart from the very heavy rain and the cold.

Tomorrow we are off to Bad Fallingbostel to see a museum about a refugee camp where our parents spent four years following the war.

Till then,
Olga

Note: I arranged on return to Australia with the help of the Pastor in Germany to get a head stone placed on Ivan's grave.



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'Hall Heritage Centre'

This may be our last 'Museum Musings'! We have decided to change our name – to 'Hall Heritage Centre'. 'Heritage happenings'?! When the community, through the Progress Association, took over management of the school museum in 2011, we inherited the name 'Hall School Museum'. In 2015 because by then we had grown and diversified significantly, the name was changed by adding 'and Heritage Centre'. We are now of the view that 'Hall Heritage Centre' embraces all of the many activities that we are involved in – including the school museum – and is shorter and simpler than the name it replaces.

Grants announced

The centre has been successful with two grant applications to ACT Heritage. We were awarded \$10,000 towards the cost of constructing a fully compliant disability access pathway and entrance to the main building from the parking area on Palmer Street. This grant is to be matched by funding from the ACT Property Group, who own the site.

We have previously invested in a ramp to enable disability access to the old school, a 'porta-ramp' for access to the Gillespie building, and an accessible toilet. We will continue to improve accessibility for people with disabilities wherever practicable.



Peter Browning, Deputy Honorary Curator and Heritage Minister Rebecca Vassarotti, at All Saints Church, Ainslie. photo: ACT Government

Bush Schools of Canberra Region

A second grant (\$7,192) will enable us to curate and make much more accessible our large collection of material relating to the district's one-teacher bush schools. A decade ago we mounted two exhibitions on these bush schools and have continued since then to collect photos, maps, documentary records, teachers' stories, etc and have added further schools to our on-line database. We now have database entries for eighty schools and around 600 teachers, and are regularly contacted by interested web surfers – with requests, or offers of information or photos.

Schools in the Yass district for example include Warham, Euralie, Good Hope, Mundoonan (Aboriginal School), Peak View and Yumburra West. To the west of the Murrumbidgee one could find schools at Naas, Top Naas, Gibraltar, Church Rock Valley, The Mullion, Barnes Creek and Uriarra. All of them have been mapped and their stories researched.



The Mullion school, Mountain Creek Road.

Australia's bush schools maybe had their heyday in the 1880s and 1890s, when children were still walking to school, or sharing a pony. Soon buses were to make it possible to collect children from scattered properties and take them to central schools.

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The centre already has a good grasp on the bush schools of the Canberra district. This grant will enable us to bring the collection into good order and create a new display that will make it much more accessible.

Meanwhile, if you have connections with any of the region's bush schools, we would love to hear from you!

Conservation Clinic – 'Taking care of your Treasures'

Heirlooms and other treasures can be found in all families – documents, photographs, clothing, crockery, medals, etc. Most of them will deteriorate over time, sometimes gracefully like their owners, but sometime catastrophically, when insects or water invade. If you would like to get some free professional advice on practical things that you could do to conserve your treasures, you can bring them along to our forthcoming Conservation Clinic. You will be able to get advice on such matters as proper storage, handling, display and copying.

The clinic is being organised in partnership with Family History ACT and the professional peak body, the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM). Ian Batterham, Lecturer in Conservation at the University of Canberra, and President of the ACT Branch of the Institute, will staff the clinic with two colleagues from AICCM – Monica Connors (National Film and Sound Archive) and Natalie Ison (Museum of Australian Democracy).

'Taking care of your Treasures' will take place at Hall Heritage Centre (note our new name!) on Sunday 13 November, 1-3pm. Consultations will be free, but there will be opportunity to make donations to the centre.



Ian Batterham (right) engaged in a paper conservation task.

Barnett Lilley & Associates leave town

Partners Stephen Barnett and Scott Lilley transferred their successful Braddon business to Hall in 2008 but are now departing after 14 years. Stephen recounts that the move to Hall was almost destiny. His family moved to Canberra from Melbourne in 1967, and their first home was in Hall, a cottage almost directly across the road from the new office they built.

He later became a regular visitor to Hall when his family doctor, Philip Barraclough ('Dr Phil') moved his surgery from Kippax to Victoria Street, Hall. As Philip was GP to Stephen, his wife and their three children, rarely a month would go by without a visit to Hall.

When Dr Phil moved his practice back to Belconnen in 2007, Stephen saw an opportunity. As a mature business with a long-standing client base, Stephen was convinced that his clients would not be put off by his firm leaving the city and moving to quieter pastures. Nonetheless, several other options were investigated before it was ultimately decided that Hall was it. They purchased the premises, built new offices and moved in 2008. Stephen's business partner Scott Lilley, living in Evatt, was happy with the move, enjoying greatly reduced commuting time each day. It is notable that many other 'office based' enterprises have since followed them to Victoria Street.

Before building began, plans were shared with the Progress Association, when a number of questions about the building were discussed and information shared. In August, members of the Progress Association and other community members were invited to an 'office warming'.

Good relations with the new venture were further strengthened in 2010 when Barnett Lilley and Associates became the first (and only) sponsor of the museum's annual Twilight Concert with Canberra Brass – now institutionalised as 'Brass on the Grass'. Every year for the next 12 years 'BLA' has anchored this popular Hall event. Beyond the usual financial contribution, they promoted the event to their client list, donated cases of wine for a raffle, printed promotional material, and more. The concert became the museum's biggest and most reliable fund-raiser and working with them has been a real pleasure. We thank them most sincerely for their steadfast support and wish them both all the very best for their retirement.

Stephen and Scott still own the building at 9 Victoria Street and will shortly be looking for a tenant. What about a medical practice?!



(L to R) Scott Lilley, Doug Widdup (book-keeper), and Stephen Barnett. (photo Scott Lilley)

From the Editor

I still remember the joy of the first rains in Hall after the terrible bushfires of 2019-20, just before the pandemic took over our lives. It is harder to remember just how parched and crisp everything was back then, just two and a half years ago, because it feels like it has been raining ever since! With a third La Niña officially underway, we can expect more above-average rainfall in the months ahead. Such extremes testing and challenging us, as Lisa Walmsley kindly calls it in her helpful gardening article.

It is with some excitement then to see that the stormwater drainage issues long facing Hall Village are receiving some government attention after systematic lobbying from the Village of Hall and District Progress Association. Paul Porteous has captured several remarkable images of flooding around the village in late August (opposite page).

Thanks to everyone for their contributions to this bumper edition of the *Rural Fringe*, which we had to extend to 28 pages. Please keep sending your news, photos and items of interest, we love sharing everything.

Until next time,
Jo Hall

Letters to the editor always welcome

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Dear Editor.

A couple of weeks ago as a result of an accident with a large mulcher, Darrell seriously injured a finger on his left hand, including breaking the bone in three places. This injury resulted in two days in hospital and three days as a patient of Hospital in the Home.

Prior to the accident we had pruned numerous trees, and lots of branches covered our whole front lawn. As Darrell was no longer able to remove them, the wonderful men from the Hall Men's Shed arranged a working bee of eight men and five utes and removed all the branches and delivered them to another Hall resident who safely mulched them up.



We would like to thank Brian Banyard for organising the working bee and Doug Anstess and his wonderful group from the mens' shed for helping us out.

What a great community we live in.

Many thanks,
Darrell and Olga Minion.

The *Rural Fringe* acknowledges the Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri peoples 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 First Nations past, present and future.

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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.

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June issue deadline is 10 May
August issue deadline is 10 July
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December issue deadline is 10 November

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

Contributions to: ruralfringe@hotmail.com
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out & about



Hall causeway.

Flooding in Hall Village

photos: Paul Porteous



The bike path over the creek.



The recently upgraded bridge (thanks to the Hall Men's Shed) holding out nicely over Hall Creek.



Tawny Frogmouth in Spring Range.
Photo: Rhian Williams

Out and about . . . & about



King Parrot



photos: Paul Porteous



A short wattle season in Hall this year.



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