

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district

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December 2022



Hall Village Christmas Fair

by Jenny Whittaker



Wonderful weather for the Hall Village Christmas Fair meant that the event went ahead full steam and was a great success! A great variety of stalls, sellers, displays and activities meant that there truly was something for everyone.



Entering from the top entrance, and after a quick chat with volunteer entry marshal/garbage monitor elf Graeme Bryce, I spotted a couple of the Hall Rural Fire Brigade volunteers with their big appliance on show for all to admire. The kids, big and little, always get a thrill from the big toys, and the big noise when the lights and sirens are activated.

... continues on page 3



Remembrance Day in Hall

The 11 November gave us a beautiful evening for our well-attended Remembrance Day service at the Jim Rochford Memorial Grove. It was a welcome moment for the community to



Jim Davey the Piper.



Kingsley Southwell laying a wreath on behalf of the Hall Heritage Centre.

come together and remember the fallen and reflect on the wider atrocities of war. The backdrop of the sun on its way down, the haunting notes of the bagpipe and Andy Fulton's jeep provided a moving setting. Colonel John Herlihy CSC (Retd) gave the address, we had prayers from our local churches, and 'be still my soul' was sung by the Churches of Hall Choir. After the Ode of Remembrance, Andrew Purdam rendered the Last Post on the harmonium and Edward Jenkins did a fine job of raising the flag. Thanks to the Rotary Club of Hall and particularly Dennis Greenwood and Bill Pearson for organising. Lest we forget.

Spring has sprung!

The wonderful rains have brought with them an incredible surge of plant growth and numbers of native animals and birds. Too cute are the pair of Tawny Frogmouths with a young chick, nesting in a tree overlooking the sheep trial arena. And it was really exciting to see a young Gang Gang squarking in a tree in the local horse paddocks. At night I can occasionally hear what I think is a Powerful Owl in the reserve on Hall Street. And the huge number of parrots! Unusually for us we are seeing Spotted Pardalotes. They love to hang on to our flyscreens, feeding on the insects caught in the spider webs. Who knew that being slack at housework was good for the local fauna? And the yellow tailed cockatoo eating the neighbours banksia seeds and then hakea nuts, swinging around like a circus acrobat. We're waiting for this season's first sighting of the resident blue tongue from our woodpile.

While this is terrific for all us bird watchers and critter spotters it also means that they are coming into the village and onto our roads in greater numbers. Not being very traffic savvy, these beautiful creatures often lose the war when running the gauntlet to cross the road.



An Eastern bearded dragon in Wallaroo.

Over the past few weeks in and around the village I've seen a squashed blue tongue and squashed rabbit in the middle of the road, an echidna in the gutter near the edge of the Barton Highway medium strip (sadly by the time I got to her – yes it was a her – she had succumbed to her injuries) and a car drive over a moving shingleback, but luckily missed hitting it. (I pulled to the side of the verge and waited nervously for it to

cross the road, ready to leap out of the car and act as traffic marshal if needed.) Last year I carried a turtle to safety after watching it lumber across the road in front of me, but be warned, these guys pee very stinkily if upset!

I think all these animals and birds have a better chance at survival if we slow down. The very long grass

on the sides of the roads means that as they move in search of food they appear quite suddenly, very close to the lanes of traffic. The parrots are so beautifully camouflaged they are almost invisible, and are a bit slow and lumbering when taking off in fright when a car approaches. That stick on the road might just be a lizard, and that lump, an echidna.

Hall Village Christmas Fair

... continued from front page

Continuing on I mooched around stalls that had an eclectic mix of local artisan made goods. The creative ability of people never ceases to amaze and I can only wonder at their skill. One of the stallholders was even crocheting while talking to me and manning (personning?) her stall! The chaps from Harden had brought their upcycled timber wares and are market regulars. I encountered henna tattoos, felted toys, horseshoe Christmas trees, clothes, decorative shortbread, flowers, tie dyed tops, coffee, ice cream, twirly potato on sticks, dogs, kids having a great time, elf Bob Richardson smooching with Santa, jewellery, George Southwell with a microphone acting as MC when needed, Asian food and so much more.

To the sounds of the busking guitarist I continued past the Hall Heritage Centre stand where I caught up with volunteers displaying their wares of homemade jams, biscuits, slices, Christmas cakes, colourful crocheted pretties and homegrown rhubarb. A bit further on I stopped to watch wood carving and talked about the best types of Australian timber for that job. The heady aroma of pizza greeted me as I ventured onto the oval. Barbara was serving out front, with more volunteers tending the oven, cooking up delicious pizzas and raising funds for Hall Village projects.

Time for a cuppa which I sipped as I admired the Hall Collectors Club vintage car and motorbike display and decided that my favourite was the shiny red sports car (midlife crisis?).

The Hall Pony Club BBQ smelt very tempting and doing a great trade, but I was headed over to the woodchop area. Shaun O'Connor and other Axemen Club members had finished demonstrating throwing the axe for the day, but spying his chainmail sock covers as he packed up made me realise that this woodchopping gig is 'safety-first'. Saying that, it's a family affair as young Mollie was telling me that her sister, brother, father and mother are all happy choppers. Another group volunteering their time to put on a good show.

A fair highlight was the arrival of Santa in a very Christmassy red vintage Packard car. I missed this but lots of very happy kids didn't and Santa was a fairly popular chap for a while. He was even handed the baton to conduct the Canberra City brass band's final number!

Heading back to the rows of stalls I hadn't yet visited, I spotted a Santa hatted helper amongst the felted wares on Zina Richardson's own stall. Zina herself was the epitome of Event Organiser Extraordinaire, visiting the stallholders making sure everyone was happy, that all was running smoothly and generally keeping the show on the road. Zina thanks volunteer Elves Tony and Graeme for their hard work both in the lead up to the event, and with setting up and packing down on the day of the fair.

Between commercial stallholders and the volunteers of Hall and surrounds, the Christmas Fair was certainly an interesting, colourful and diverse event for all concerned. I know I enjoyed it immensely.

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We are promoting defib awareness in the Hall/Wallaroo/Spring Range region. While this list may not be complete, we would encourage the inclusion of any others that currently may be held in the community, and, indeed, the acquisition and installation of more defibs, and inclusion in this 'awareness' list.

Please email Paul Newall at: **Paul_Wallaroo@outlook.com** if you would like to add your defibrillator to the list!

Hall Village Post Office

Location: Street facing, immediately to the right of the front door. Padlock is unlocked.



Hall Museum

Location: Tucked in rear entrance alcove to the museum reception building. If you find the toilet block, turn around and it is behind the fire hose on the wall of the museum alcove.



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Dear Hall Region Community,

Amidst all the ongoing dramas currently occurring throughout our country and the world, may you find peace and joy as we celebrate together this Christmas season.

Revd Peter Malone

Hall Community Christmas Carols

Saturday 10 December, 4pm till 6pm

Hall Pavilion at Hall Showground

The churches of Hall Village – St Francis Xavier, St Michael & All Angels and Wattle Park Uniting – in conjunction with the Village of Hall and District Progress Association.

Come along, bring family, neighbours or friends for an evening of carols presented by the Churches of Hall Choir, Strange Weather Gospel Choir and Canberra Brass.

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday 4 December, 7pm till 8.30pm

St Barnabas, 10 Charnwood Place, Charnwood

The story of Christmas is told through six short Bible readings and favourite carols in a candlelit setting. While most of the Covid restrictions have been lifted, we will hold this service at St Barnabas again this year to allow plenty of space for everyone who attends. We should even be able to have a cuppa afterward!

Service of Solace

Sunday 18 December, starting at 4pm

St Barnabas, Charnwood

A service of quiet reflection for those whom the season of Christmas is a time of sadness or loss.

Christmas Eve

Saturday 24 December, 10.30 pm

at St Michael & All Angels, Hall

Christmas Day

9 am at St Barnabas, Charnwood

10 am at St Michael & All Angels, Hall



Two big thank yous

First, a huge thank you to the Hall Men's Shed who recently built and erected a solar powered star at St Michael's. This was to coincide with the Hall Christmas Fair and will be taken down just after the celebration of Epiphany on 1 January.

Second, we were very pleasantly surprised to find someone recently mowed the lawn of St Michael's. With all the rain it had gotten a tad overgrown so we are very grateful to whoever did this kind community service.

Kabaddi: 'Like Rugby without the ball'

by **Jenny Holcombe**

Last month Ian and I were delighted to discover the traditional sport of Kabaddi, which was a central attraction when the Canberra Punjabi Sports and Cultural Association (CPSCA) held their Khed Mela (Sports Festival) at the Hall Showgrounds. A referee described it to Ian as like rugby without the ball. It was fast moving and fascinating to watch. Lucky for us, a kind gentleman explained the aims and some of the rules: a single raider enters the gate of the opposing team's field. Ranged against him, at some distance from the gate, are four men, arms linked together in a moving curving line. To win the point, the raider, under time pressure, must touch one of them and escape back through the gate before he can be wrestled to the ground by one of his opponents and prevented from leaving. The umpire awards the point immediately and a new raider enters the other team's field, and the process is repeated. This bald description doesn't give any idea of the skills or the excitement or the fun involved. We couldn't help thinking that local people could be enjoying this if they had known about it.



We had a warm welcome from Sunita, wife of the director. Sunita encourages engagement of other Australians in the activities of the CPSCA.

I note from the website, **cpsca.org.au**, Canberra Punjabi Sports & Cultural Association:

'CPSCA was formed to support the Punjabi language and the community; promote traditional Punjabi sports, culture and food; felicitate visiting Punjabi artists; conduct/engage in multicultural community activities and tree plantings; liaise with the ACT Government, the High Commission of India and the Federal Government; and advocate on community related issues including culturally appropriate.'

Over the last three years CPSCA has planted a thousand native plants in Canberra parks.

As I write this item for the *Rural Fringe*, my thoughts are with Pam, Paula, Richard and their family and the many friends of Andy Fulton from Hall and beyond. Hall became Andy's extended family and almost all of us have benefited from Andy's care and generosity. Vale Andy.

This year's Christmas Fair organised by Zina Richardson was an even greater success than the last year. The move to the Hall Pavilion and Showground provided much more space for stall holders and attendees as well as a more suitable space for crowd and traffic management and parking. Such events are an important attraction to Hall and enhance the nature and charm of Hall in the ACT consciousness. Thank you Zina.

Unfortunately, in mid-October, we were all very much surprised by a badly managed event on the football field that resulted in serious safety issues, nature strip and drain damage, bogged vehicles and noise issues.



Following the event, the Progress Association contacted ACT Events about the scheduling and organisation of such a large event in Hall

without any contact with the Hall community and without basic event requirements such as traffic management, crowd control, parking, noise abatement and security. After communication with Events ACT and the Sport and Recreation team in Transport Canberra and City Services, we hope that we have found a way to prevent any recurrence of such a mismanaged situation and that any new events being proposed will be coordinated with ACT Events. The Progress Association will at least be notified although without the power of veto.

Work continues towards addressing the need for appropriate stormwater drainage infrastructure in Hall. As I have been reporting throughout this year, the Progress Association made a number of representations to ACT Transport and City Services Minister Chris Steel and, in early August, TCCS contracted consultants to undertake a detailed flood analysis and provide mitigation options to improve stormwater conveyance and prevent gravel washout from the laneways at Hall Village. At the end of August, TCCS launched a survey of Hall residents and businesses to inform the consultant's modelling and design options study through feedback on their experience of the flooding issues and the impact on your property.

As the TCCS survey was very limited in scope, on behalf of the Progress Association I wrote to all residents and businesses in early September with an invitation to provide further comments and information that they felt needed to inform the modelling and design options for me to compile and send to the responsible Capital Works Project Manager.

We have been informed by TCCS that 65 Hall residents/businesses completed the online survey: over 60% of the properties in Hall. We also received additional information from 13 residents that was provided to TCCS.

We have subsequently been advised by TCCS that, based on the additional comments received, they have realised that the stormwater drainage issues are much greater than scouring of the gravel in the laneways and, as the Progress Association had always requested, a comprehensive plan for stormwater drainage is required. The ACT Government is now working with the consultant to vary the scope of works to include identifying flooding hotspots for the entire village, and to develop flood mitigation options to alleviate the identified flooding.

The completion of the online survey and the additional comments provided by residents have made a significant contribution in highlighting the importance of this issue. The Progress Association will continue to work until the stormwater drainage needs are appropriately addressed.

Efforts are continuing to enhance the amenity of the Hall Reserve following the very successful work day last June. On Sunday 20 November 13 volunteers came together to continue the clean up including clearing grass from areas that the government mowing teams cannot reach, destroying weeds, getting rid of branches that have broken in recent



months and removing the last of the green waste. Over the coming months, shrubs will be planted in five existing clusters on the reserve and 'like-for-like' planting will be done to replace dead (non-habitat) trees. Thanks to Jonathan Palmer for arranging the bushfire skip and, with the assistance of Danny Clynk,



in developing the planting plan. Also thanks to Dennis Greenwood, Jonathon Palmer and Bill Pearson for feeding the hungry volunteers with wonderful pizza, fresh from the community

oven. Thanks to Katherine McGlip from Ginninderra Catchment Group for providing technical information and the plants and trees.

I regret to report that, to date, the Progress Association has had no success in getting action from ACT Transport and City Services Minister Chris Steel on the safety issues of the Gladstone St/Barton Hwy/ Wallaroo Rd intersection. Although the request made by the Progress Association on behalf of Wallaroo and Hall residents would require nothing more than moving four speed signs less than three kms north, Minister Steel has rejected the request made by the Progress Association and also requested by Commonwealth Minister Catherine King, Minister Kirsty McBain, NSW MP Wendy Tuckerman and by the NRMA. Yerrabi MLA Leanne Castley has now formally raised a series of questions with Minister Steel and we are awaiting the outcome of this latest approach.

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**.

Very best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas Season.



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Kiltartin Museum in Galway to commemorate a local family

by **Peter Browning**

Hall Heritage Centre



The Hall Heritage Centre has been contacted by an Irish researcher who had been studying the lives of girls placed into the Loughrea Workhouse in County Galway in the 1830s, many of whom were sent to Australia, including to Yass, for the 1830s edition of 'Farmer needs a Bride'. On investigating the cause of their placement, it was discovered that some were the children of transported 'Whiteboys'.

The 'Whiteboys' (na Buachaillí Bána) was an Irish Catholic agrarian organisation whose members wore white smocks in their nightly raids as they sought to address rack-rents, tithe collection, excessive priests' dues, evictions and other oppressive acts. To the authorities they were rebels, but to other they were heroes. Even membership meant transportation for life.

This led the researcher to 26 'Whiteboys' convicted in County Galway in March 1832 and transported on the *Eliza II*, including Thomas Cavanagh, a tenant farmer from Tynagh. Thomas' skills as a ploughman were sought after and he was assigned to GT Palmer at Maitland, then Palmerville and finally to Campbell at Duntroon. He obtained his Conditional Pardon in 1847 and became a tenant farmer at Duntroon.

The 26 are soon to be commemorated with a service in the Kiltartin Museum in Gort, Galway. A replica travel box with the men's names on it will be placed in the museum and in it will be put booklets on the lives of these men. Their stories are being posted on the Galway Community Heritage webpage heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/as-per-ship-eliza-1832.



Kiltartin School Museum Gort, Galway

Thomas left behind his wife Jane with three children under six – Ann, Hannah and Patrick. Although some families became destitute and the children were placed into the workhouses, Jane Cavanagh, a laundress, managed to keep her family together for 17 years through the 'great famine', until the family could finally join Thomas at Duntroon in 1849 on the convict family reunion ship *Panama*. Thomas would have been a complete stranger to his family.

The Cavanagh family is typical of the many families who re-established themselves in the colony, taking up the opportunities on offer not available to them in Ireland, but suffering many hardships along the way.

The family joined Thomas on his tenant plot at Duntroon, but as Patrick was also a skilled ploughman he soon leased a small farmlet on nearby 'Springbank'. Jane Cavanagh lived to see her three children married and settled, but sadly drowned in 1857 in the Canberry (Molonglo) River, aged only 48, and was buried with considerable drama in the Queanbeyan Riverside cemetery.

After the land reforms of 1861, Thomas Cavanagh selected Portions on Spring Range Road, which he called 'Fairview' and Thomas, with son Patrick, farmed this property until his death in 1871, aged 68. The farm was then sold to Samuel Southwell, who took the name 'Fairview' for his property.

Thomas and Patrick also purchased land on the other side of 'One Tree Hill', where the family farmed until the 1890s. However, the Cavanagh family acquisition

of property is typical of a family of that era, having many good years, but battling drought, pests and rural recessions. During the 1890s recession the farm was sold and absorbed into Gold Creek and Horse Park and the family moved to 'Eastview' and 'Strayleaf' at Mulligans Flat.

Five generations of the Cavanagh family farmed in the district over 130 years, including Thomas, Patrick and Mary, Clarence and Esther Smith of Weetangera, Michael and Mulligans Flat schoolteacher Ethel Harris, Ernest and Beatrice Smith and finally John and Joyce Brown and their children, until the farms were resumed for Gungahlin in the 1990s.



Patrick Cavanagh

The family was actively involved in the community, including many social and sporting activities in the area, such as Ginninderra's Farmer's Union, Roman Catholic Church, Mulligans Flat School, One Tree Hill Coursing Club, One Tree Hill Jockey Club, One Tree Hill Picnic Races, Ginninderra Race Club, Mulligan's Flat Tennis Club, Ginninderra School of Arts, sheep dogs and various cricket teams.

Poor Jane Cavanagh met a sad end in 1857 – background to her burial and the gravestone.

Samuel Schumack recorded:

"One evening in the spring of 1857 we were on our way home from school when we heard that Mrs Cavanagh had been drowned in the Canberra River. We could see a crowd on the bank and we hurried to the scene and arrived just as her son Patrick took her body from the water. His father, Thomas Cavanagh, was in a state of collapse.

A sensation was caused when the priest would not allow her to be interred in the Roman Catholic burial ground in Queanbeyan, and after some delay Patrick and a few friends buried her there.

The priest had the body removed and buried outside consecrated ground, but Patrick and his friends re-interred the body within the cemetery and mounted an armed guard at the graveside, declaring that they would shoot any person who disturbed it. They kept guard day and night for a short period, and eventually an agreement was reached with the priest and church authorities.

A few years later a nice headstone was erected in her memory in Queanbeyan cemetery."



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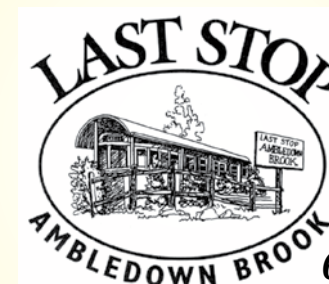
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men's shed

Another great year for the shed

by Kevin Stone

Recently the Gungahlin Branch of the Country Women's Association of NSW (CWA) commissioned the Hall Men's Shed to design and manufacture a park bench seat, which Alan Boyd, one of our very capable members was only too glad to undertake. But he wasn't the only one, because Alan was assisted by others and they made a wonderful product from recycled Australian hardwood.

The bench seat, complete with a plaque, will be presented to the Gungahlin College by the CWA in early December as a commemoration gift of their 100 years.

By having the seat at the college, students will have the opportunity to not only take advantage of the seat, but reflect on the importance of using recycled material and significance of the CWA and men's shed in their community.

Alan is certainly a man of many talents when it comes to working with wood. But so are several others, including Brian Charge, who along with his willing helpers have been diligently making items for the Hall Preschool.

This time this industrious team has made over a dozen beautiful cutting and presentation boards, all assembled from recycled timber, so there are enough

for the children, teachers and other special people. The boards have been given one coat of cooking oil, and the kids can put on the finishing two coats so they'll have an involvement in the project.

Many thanks to Alan, Brian and everyone who have put in so much time and effort to produce such fine wooden products that will be used and appreciated for years.



But it's not only major projects because there are many others, and the men can often be seen keenly getting stuck into whatever they're working on and proudly show what it is. Others are happy to come along for a cuppa and chat, and without doubt everyone appreciates the morning teas.

Sometimes it's hard to hear an individual conversation at the long outdoor tables because there are usually several happening at the same time. But that's good, because it shows how welcoming and enjoyable the men find going to the shed can be.

And of course there's the monthly barbeques! The resident 'chefs' do a fantastic job and there's always plenty of meat, salads and bread so no-one needs to miss out or go away hungry. It's also good to see the guys pitch in with the cleaning up, so it's not left to a few.

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There are now 70 paid up members, which is quite an achievement for Hall and the district. But it also shows how successful the shed is and how important places sheds are for men's physical and mental health.

And as it's December, the shed Christmas Party will be upon us before long. It will be held at the Gold Creek Station and if it's anything like past years, will be a huge success. It's a chance for us to reflect on the year and look back with some pride of our achievements. The venue always puts on a good show, so it's something the members enthusiastically look forward to. Not sure if Santa will be making an appearance though!



Thinking of Christmas, did you happen to notice up in the trees in Hall any cute koalas adorned with red hats? Yes, that's right! The guys have made several and it's their contribution to the Festive Season.

So yes, overall 2022 has been another great year for the shed.



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Local band hits the road

by **Hugh Watson**

Local Hall band *Willie and the Correspondents* which some may remember as *West Texas Crude* formed in Hall in 1994.

Back then it comprised Hugh Watson and Andrew Purdam from Hall, Philip Williams from Wallaroo, Stephen Webb from Murrumbateman and a revolving line of lead guitarists including a young Damian Schroeter from Hall. The first gigs were at Hall Primary School and then 'The New Blue Do' and 'Christmas in July' in the Hall Pavilion. They also played in the Hall main street at a number of street parties and at numerous fundraisers for various charities. In all, they have helped raise more than \$300,000.



In the early days practice was in Hugh's garage in Palmer Street.



Matthew Herbert from Hall joined the band in 2000, Matthew bringing not only his incredible lead guitar licks but also a voice to take on the lead vocals. They began recording and in 2010 released their first album: *Writing on the Wall*. A second album *Take Your Chances* was released to a sellout crowd at a fund-raiser at the Abbey in 2012.

There have been a few personnel changes over the years and the current line-up came together in 2014 with Matthew Herbert (lead vocals, guitar and various other instruments), Hugh Watson (guitar and vocals), Philip Williams (blues harp and vocals), Greg Turnbull (drums



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and vocals) and Peter McDonald (bass). They have played at the National Folk Festival, Majors Creek Festival, Kiama Folk Festival, the Tathra Bushfire Relief Concert, the Hayrunners Ball for Drought Relief and numerous times at Smiths Original in Civic at the Tathra Hotel.

In 2016 they changed their name to Willie and the Correspondents. For 2020, a US West Coast road trip had been planned and booked with six gigs between San Francisco and Seattle. Then Covid struck; so no trip.



They still practice regularly in Matthew's garage studio in Palmer Street, Hall. Though not a substitute for the US trip, they did a mini-trip at the end of 2022 with a gig at Smiths Alternative on Friday 25 November and a gig at Tathra Hotel on Sunday 27 November.

They have no intention of slowing down after 28 years. New songs are being written all the time.



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Murrumbateman Road businesses collaborate to beat partial road closure woes

Along Murrumbateman Road six businesses have joined together to create a six pack of products to help make up for lost trade due to the partial closure of Murrumbateman Road.

Owner of Dionysus Winery,Wendy O'Dea, said that their cellar door has been trading for over 20 years and the recent partial closure of



Murrumbateman Road has resulted in some of their quietest weekends.

'We want people to know that the small businesses along Murrumbateman Road are open and accessible. Customers have thought that they were not able to get to us but this isn't the case,'Wendy said.

Murrumbateman Chocolate Co. owner, Yasmin Coe, lamented that their trade has been disrupted by the partial closure of Murrumbateman Road.

'The confusion over the roads has been distressing. However, we are open and accessible.We have a wonderful, friendly team and we love welcoming visitors out here,' she said.

Vintner's Daughter co-owner Stephanie Helm said that recently they closed their doors early due to a lack of visitors.

Sarah Collingwood CEO, Four Winds Vineyard

'We would usually see a steady stream of visitors to the cellar door but road closures have obviously deterred people from making a trip out to Murrumbateman,' she said. 'We are open and keen to show you all the wonderful things that we have out here.'

Dionysus Winery, The Vintner's Daughter Winery, Clonakilla, Tallagandra Hill, Murrumbateman Chocolate Co. and Four Winds Vineyard are the six businesses collaborating on the 'quick fix for flooding' six-pack. The pack includes;

- Clonakilla – Hilltops Shiraz
- Vintner's Daughter – Chardonnay
- Dionysus – Pinot Noir
- Four Winds Vineyard – Sangiovese Rose
- Murrumbateman Chocolate Co. – Chocolates
- Tallagandra Hill –Vermentino

All of the businesses along Murrumbateman Road are open for business as usual. The partial closure of Murrumbateman Road is between the intersections of Patemans Lane and Nanima Road, all other access points are open. The heavy rains have caused damage to the culvert at Broken Dam Creek. It is expected that the works will be completed by Christmas, weather permitting.

This six pack costs \$187 and can be purchased from. **fourwindsvineyard.com.au/product/a-quick-fix-for-flooding-six-pack**

If you are visiting the businesses you might consider the below itineraries that would avoid the partial road closure:

Nanima Road, Gundaroo loop: Murrumbateman Chocolate Co., Tallagandra Hill, Gundog Estate and Grazing at Gundaroo.

Murrumbateman loop: Vintner's Daughter, Clonakilla, Dionysus Winery and Four Winds Vineyard.

More details about all the local wineries can be found at **www.canberrawines.com.au**

Contacts:

Yasmin Coe – **0417 065 209**,
Murrumbateman Chocolate Co.

Stephanie Helm – **0439 486 419**,
Vintner's Daughter

David Faulks – **0416 330 897**,
Tallagandra Hill Winery

Sarah Collingwood – **0402 278 371**
Four Winds Vineyard

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'117 Rossi Street'
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The Big Wet

You would have to have been in another country or perhaps another planet for the last few years to not have noticed the profound difference a big wet few years has had on our part of the world.

I think we all had to resist the temptation to whinge about the weather after so many years of managing without water at our disposal – it is only a blink ago that it was so, so dry.

Water is oozing out of the ground. Around the district, vehicles have been bogged, with tractors and trucks parked beside them, also bogged. We have bogged the mower, and that is a nightmare, it wreaks havoc on your day. Don't leave solid roads (even they can be precarious).

What has been interesting to observe is the slow, growth response, even though we were getting plenty of rainfall, growth has not followed quickly. Then literally, when it heated up a little, everything jumped out of the ground. I hope you have a good mower, it's going to be a big mowing season!



Darrel's mower bogged at the Reserve on cleanup day.

What this weather has allowed us to do is move away from only thinking about gardening in dry times. Our climate is incredibly cyclic and we have to be adaptable and resilient and grow plants that are the same.

Mother Nature will always do whatever it is she wishes. I think if we all continue to garden according to best practices, you can't go too far wrong. Also, if the temperature does in fact increase incrementally over the years, potentially our gardens will be happier, with less frosts, which has been the case this year.

Best garden practice tips for all weather

- Prepare your soil – add organic matter (and gypsum and lime if required).
- Maintain soil nutrients and pH – good soil grows good plants and pH should be neutral (6.5-7).
- Mulch – use an organic mulch. It feeds the soil, as well as suppressing weeds and keeping moisture in.
- Plant according to the cultural requirements of each plant. Put the right plant in the right place.
- Water – irrigate when it is dry.

It is also going to be a massive weed season; every conceivable weed, even the ones that have lain dormant for 20 years are miraculously going to come to life in various parts of your garden. Mulching will of course reduce this but not eliminate the problem. My only suggestion is to not let them get away (especially don't let them go to seed). Yes it's slow, sometimes hard, tedious and boring, but you will get on top of them and they definitely become less as time goes on.

In a big wet year such as we are having, pests and diseases are likely to appear. Be vigilant, and if chemical sprays are not your thing, find alternative, more environmentally friendly treatments (Internet search can help).

I have spotted aphids already and not just on roses, they seem very comfortable on milk thistle and may bush as well. A simple solution to treating them is to squash them by hand (gently) on the plant – apparently they do not like to see their friends dead, and move on. Also encourage lady beetles, they love aphids. (If you spray – natural predators such as lady beetles will also die.)

Be persistent during the establishment of your garden and you will reap the rewards for years to come.

gardening by Lisa Walmsley

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November 2022

Hall & District Axemen's Club

2022 has been a massive year for the Hall Axemen and women. The return of the rural agricultural shows have seen our members represent Hall all around Australia.

Hall members have competed in Australia's greatest shows, against Australia's best Axemen and women and achieved some impressive results. As we ramp up for the 2023 season, the Hall Axemen and women are in full swing.



Axe kids

The Hall Axemen will be training a new generation of woodchoppers in our inaugural Axe kids program.

Who: Anyone under the age of 21 (parents and guardians also welcome)

Time: 10:00am-1:00pm

Date: Sunday 27 November 2022

Location: Hall Showground

Cost: Free!

Register through our socials!



Women of Woodchopping

The Royal Canberra Show 2023 woodchop (25-26 February) has provisional approval to host the inaugural Australian Women's Underhand Championship title.

This is the first time in Australian woodchopping history that a women's title will be run, with a strong number of competitors being from the local region.

The Show Society is still looking for woodchopping sponsors, so please get in touch if you, your business or someone you know would like to get involved.

Royal Melbourne Show 2022

Congratulations to Austin, Chey, Gus, Lucy, Mick, Sarah, Shaun and Tom who all competed at the Royal Melbourne Show 2022:

- Austin: 1st place in the Open 300mm Underhand, 2nd place in the under 18 275mm Championship, 3rd in the under 18 250mm Standing Block.
- Chey: 1st place 275mm Ladies Underhand, 1st in Jill & Jill Sawing.
- Mick: 1st place Jack and Jill Handicap, 2nd place 4th Division 250mm Standing Block.
- Sarah: 1st place Jack and Jill Handicap
- Tom: 3rd place 250mm Novice Standing Block, 3rd place 275mm Open Underhand.
- Gus: 4th place under 18 275mm Underhand.
- Lucy: 3rd place under 13 250mm Underhand.

Hall Christmas Village Fair

Our Woodchoppers are back for your entertainment at the Hall Christmas Market on 19 November 2022.

Come watch us as we demonstrate our skills, have a chat with some of our members or maybe give us a high 5!



Become a member

We are always accepting new members and happy to give a helping hand and guidance to those who want to learn. Get in touch via our social media pages or email us hallaxemen@gmail.com to find out more information.

Conservation Clinic – happy customers

Our pioneering 'conservation clinic' was a successful venture, with plenty of happy visitors. Dire warnings of severe storms may have dampened appetite for being out and about at that time, but those who ventured out to the Hall Heritage Centre (HHC) with their treasures were well rewarded. Amongst the items presented for conservation advice were bank notes, fabric, old documents and photographs.

Expertise was supplied by the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM). AICCM ACT President Ian Batterham and a group of his Institute colleagues manned the tables for three hours responding to a range of questions about the safe keeping of valued items. Joining Ian were Gerald Preiss (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies), Natalie Ison (Museum of Australian Democracy) and Monica Connors (National Film and Sound Archive). Amongst their areas of expertise are digital preservation, paper and photos, and 3D objects. HHC collection management worker Maren Innes, a UC conservation studies graduate, also assisted.

It is extremely generous of these professional conservators to give so freely of their time and expertise; it is greatly appreciated. It was a real bonus for us that the Institute donated some conservation materials for use in our own conservation work.

Two of the centre's volunteers offered their reflections: 'It was interesting being part of the conservation clinic and chatting to many of those who had brought some treasures with them – including the odd fascinating one like a family tree scroll which went back to William the Conqueror ... quite a few people

had old photos and documents. I saw one letter which was written in the late 1800s and beautifully written' (Karen Moore). 'I was pleased with the advice I had about my old faded photos and the generosity in putting them in archival sleeves for me. Also I was given some references to follow up about photographers. Really practical tips from Gerald about slides too!' (Marilyn Folger).

While the clinic was hosted by HHC it was planned and organised in partnership with our good friends from Family History ACT. Gina Tooke and Cheryl Bollard represented FHACT at a desk offering a range of family history resources. Their presence added interest for the visitors and was greatly appreciated. Many of the visitors had not visited the centre previously, and took the opportunity to have a look around. Hopefully, this joint venture event will become another 'annual'.

Annual Address – Eric Martin AM

Eric Martin, a veteran of both professional heritage architecture and community heritage in the Canberra region, gave the 2022 Hall Heritage Centre address on 27 October to a large and very engaged audience. Eric also formally proclaimed that new name for our proud voluntary organisation centred upon the Hall School heritage precinct.

Eric's central message was about the critical need for historic heritage buildings to have a continued use or occupation if they are to survive for the benefit of future generations. For a heritage architect, this means respecting the elements of significance but also finding ways to compatibly modify a place to allow for continued use. Sometimes this requires compromises, but heritage places across the world survive because they are not static. One question to Eric was precisely

about the Ginninderra Blacksmith's Workshop where there has been conservation work for stabilisation, but which has limited ongoing use. We were led to think whether there could be a greater role for volunteers in the care and presentation of historic places which cannot be lived in.



Alastair Crombie, guest speaker Eric Martin, and Ken Heffernan.

The address reminded us that new technologies, like solar panels that have been so popular in Australia, can typically be positioned in ways that do not detract from the significance of heritage

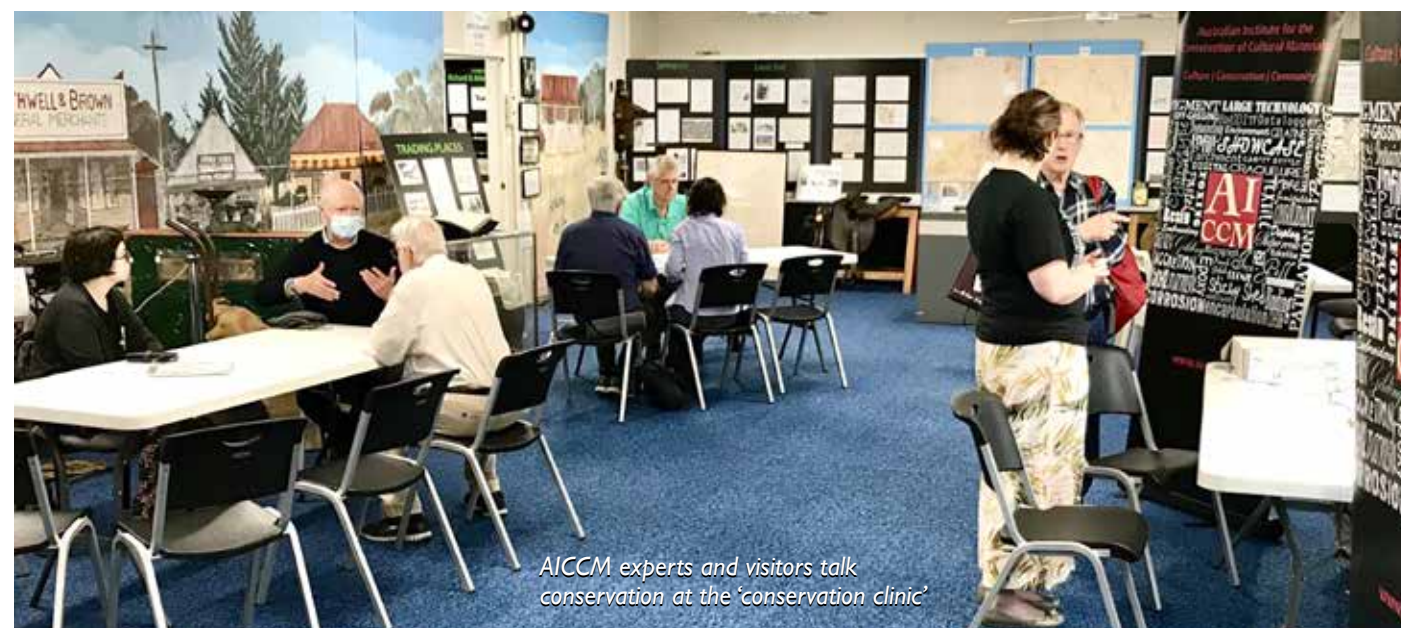
by **Alastair Crombie** and **Peter Browning**

streetscapes. Also, as a modern community we must improve access to places for people with a disability, and finding access solutions that respect heritage values has been a key aspect of Eric's Australian and international practice over decades.

The practical world of heritage management is a complex balance of issues, and Eric raised many very practical challenges that professionals face. These included the need to update guiding documents to deal with technological change, the need for access to heritage expertise, and the value of studies that fill information gaps and allow heritage building of value to be identified long before an owner has expectations of demolition or incompatible change.

While many areas for improvement were canvassed, Eric and members of the audience noted the great challenge that heritage and environmental management faces in obtaining sufficient resources in the face of so many competing community priorities. Nevertheless, the energy and activity of passionate community volunteers can help demonstrate the value of such investment, and as such, the address was beautifully suited to an audience with a great sensibility to the long story and values of their local environment.

Audio of the address can be downloaded from the centre's website : www.museum.hall.act.au



AICCM experts and visitors talk conservation at the 'conservation clinic'

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Are you holding on to stress

How do you do stress? How do you know when you are stressed? Have you ever allowed yourself to become aware of what happens when you are stressed?

When I'm stressed, I've noticed there are certain behaviours that I do. When I'm doing something out of a sense of duty that I may not want to do, I get digestive upsets. One Christmas, I was even in bed with a fever, before recovering to go on and travel for Christmas. When I'm moderately stressed, I tend to stay up late watching movies and then get overtired and lose sleep. And the other way I know I'm stressed is when I become unfocussed, I have a lot of things on my 'to do list' but I can't concentrate to get them done and tasks take much longer than they 'should' because I'm getting distracted.

Research shows that we hold stress in our bodies if we don't have effective methods of letting go of the stress. It starts out innocently enough; we might put on a stiff upper lip, tell people 'we're okay' and go about life as if everything IS okay. Thoughts and phrases such as – 'push it aside', 'other people are worse off than you', 'soldier on', 'if you don't stop crying I'll give you something to cry about' are phrases we might say to ourself or hear other people say. These phrases are deflating and don't validate how we are feeling, don't allow us to

process our stress and can be laden with guilt because we are not living up to other people's expectations of behaviour and living.

Sometimes labelled as 'negative emotions', emotions such as anger, fear, sadness and disgust are unconscious triggers to take action, to survive, avoid danger or strike. After the moment, if we keep looping back to that stressful time, if we don't effectively process the emotion, the emotion will stay with us.

Here are five ways you can process emotions:

- Firstly, acknowledge the emotion and breathe through the experience of it. Anger can safely be released by beating into a pillow, going outside and screaming at the world or using the energy to go for a run, walk or workout.
- Have a good cry to release sadness.
- Recurring fear and anxiety are isolating. Breathing through the feeling with slow, deep breathes from the diaphragm, where our bellies are moving in and out helps to move through the moment. A combination of breathing and a good hug can do wonders.
- Some people talk through their stress – venting allows us to have a whinge and then get on with it. A note to our male readers: allow the woman in your life to vent without providing a solution. The magic is in the venting; it's likely she doesn't

need saving, she just needs your ear and possibly a hug afterwards. And if you want to encourage someone else to talk, activities where you are side-by-side rather than face-to-face encourage more meaningful discussions because they are less confronting. You may find you have better discussions whilst driving or making dinner or cleaning the kitchen together or gardening.

- Writing down thoughts can be very cathartic. Write from a free flowing perspective, no judgement, just writing down what comes to you. The writing is not for public consumption, it's simply a way of downloading and getting out what's on your mind.

In the words of John Newton 'We can easily manage if we will only take, each day, the burden appointed to it. But the load will be too heavy for us if we carry yesterday's burden over again today, and then add the burden of the morrow before we are required to bear it.'

How do you know you've released the emotion?

- Your body and spirit may feel lighter.
- You don't need to talk about it anymore.
- Your thoughts will be able to move on and you'll stop looping back to that event or series of events.
- You may even be able to forgive, if a person is involved in the event.

by **Robyn Monteleone**
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From the Editor

Gosh how we will all miss Andy Fulton. Our thoughts are especially with Pam, Richo and Paula at this time. We hope to print a tribute to Andy in the February *Rural Fringe*, so if you have a photo or story you would like to share please send to us by 15 December thanks. Andy's smile will always be with us.

I am delighted to welcome Jenny Whittaker to the Fringe team of volunteers. Jenny will be editing the February edition and hopefully be taking up more of the editing role from me. After 11 years, it is time to give someone else a turn and I'm grateful Jenny has put up her hand!

Olga Minion has also been kindly helping out, securing two new local advertisers for the *Rural Fringe*. Welcome to Jelly Bug Treasures and Kan Kreate, thanks Olga! And thanks to all of our advertisers and contributors who make this publication possible, and all our readers. A special thanks also to the volunteers Gail, Kevin and Andrew for their hard work during 2022.

The Christmas Fair was a great day out and has launched the Christmas Season for us. We at the *Rural Fringe* send our best greetings to you all and hope you may find yourselves enveloped with the love of family and friends, including family and friends who have passed. Happy Christmas!

Until next time,
Jo Hall

Letters to the editor always welcome

email: RuralFringe@hotmail.com

post: P.O. Box 43
Hall ACT 2618



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.

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
or: PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618.

Advertising rates (per issue)

large (quarter page)	\$80	colour	\$120
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Other information

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Thank you to all our readers and advertisers for supporting the *Rural Fringe* in 2022.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year from your Fringe team of volunteers:

Jo	(editor and accounts)
Jenny	
Kevin	(proofreader)
Gail	(layout artist)
Andrew	(layout artist)

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Magpie nest off Cricketer's Lane.

photos: Paul Porteous

November rains made the creek higher than last time.



out & about

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