

Hall Post Office

A time of change

#### **VOLUME 30 ISSUE 3**



Most of us will have noticed a big change recently at the Hall Post Office. Although her face is familiar having worked there for a couple of years, our

new Post Mistress is Karen Hughes. Karen bought the business on 1 April from Trudy and Gavin, who owned it in two locations for 15 years.

Karen plans to add more post office boxes and maintain the busy parcel post, as well as stocking many gift lines, cards and knick knacks. She will also sell furniture that she restores herself, a creative passion she really enjoys. The horseshoe and reindeer Christmas trees she makes and sells are amazing.

Also available in the shop will be Sweet Pea and Poppy chocolates from Murrumbateman Chocolates, Bison Homewares from Pialligo, candles in flavours

such as Black Opium and Murrumbidgee, Inspirational Teas, Compendium Books from WA, local fresh flowers each Monday from Kinloch Kilby at Bootstrap Farm, Ruby Red Shoes books, Twigseeds Little Affirmation cards, wicker baskets, tea towels and books.

Business hours are from 7:30am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Karen's daughter Jody will help out in the mornings and Kym Bryce a few afternoons a week. No passport photo service will be available.

The new ownership marks the end of an era at the post office with Trudy moving on to a new career. Before owning the post office in it's current location, Trudy and Gavin ran





by Jenny Whittaker

the Premier Store and Post Office on the other side of Victoria Street, for many years. Trudy took the post office part of the business and reopened it next to the old church eight years ago. When the



opportunity recently arose to sell the business she took it and is completely changing the direction of her career. Thanks Trudy and Gavin.

An interesting coincidence is that Jenny Berron also bought the Premier Store from Trudy on 1 April, although eight years ago, renaming it Daughters at Hall. Jenny worked with her daughter Jessie to change the direction of the shop to predominantly an indoor/outdoor coffee shop able to supply catering, home baked goods, gifts, collectables, book exchange, woodwork crafts made by the Hall Men's Shed and all sorts of items of interest lining the walls. Jenny's dad Brian makes the pickles and although

> her mum, Anne, did a lot of the baking in the early days Jenny is now the head chef claiming to have made nearly 100 different cheesecakes, very few of the same type twice! I've heard that the pumpkin cheesecake tastes like caramel - I'll definitely need to try that one. Jenny's son Sam is also on the staff, so it really is 'all in the family'.

Jenny has a staff of 21, a lot of them locals. As a full circle kind of symmetry, Trudy and Gavin's daughter Scarlet now works there and recently made her very first cheesecake on her own.

So it's a big welcome to Karen, farewell and good luck to Trudy, and keep up the good work to Jenny.

#### Commemorative church window

The next time you are walking on the reserve in Victoria Street opposite the school, have a seat on the bench that faces St Michael's and All Angels church. You'll see a window on the western end of the church. A local family donated the commemorative window and organised the placement of the seat in the reserve directly opposite facing the window so people could sit and admire the beauty of the window, gather their thoughts or seek comfort in times of need.





At a current exhibition in the Hall Museum and Heritage Centre celebrating St Michael's and All Angels 75 years of service in Hall Village, there is more information relating to the window.



*Opening hours:* Monday Tuesday Wednesday – Friday Saturday – Sunday

6.30am - 3pm 8am - 3pm y 6.30am - 3pm 8am - 3pm



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### Wattle Park Uniting Church



#### *Hymns and History* Wattle Park 140th Anniversary Celebration

Change of date – now on 18 June 2023 at 11am.

As there would have been an unfortunate clash with another church event in Hall on 21 May, we have changed the date for the Wattle Park celebration.

The service will be a celebration of old Methodist hymns interspersed with snippets of Wattle Park history.

Everyone is invited to join us for a light lunch and a chance to catch up after the service.

In other news from Wattle Park, locals may have noticed that we have had some dangerous old cypress trees removed along the southern side of the church. This was after a couple of other trees came down during a storm 18 months ago and we were concerned if the others fell they would damage the church building.

We are going to landscape the area with natives and are also planning to repair our internal roads and to have our stone front gate rebuilt after the highway work.

Our regular services continue at **10.30am** every **Sunday morning** (except 18 June which will be at 11am).



June 2023

### Hall Axemen's Club



The Hall and District Axemen's Club has been very busy over the last few months. With strong attendance numbers at our weekly training sessions, a couple of team-building woodcollecting trips, a recently re-vamped committee with some of our newer members, and plenty of regional shows to compete at, including the illustrious Sydney Royal Easter Show, often referred to as the 'Wimbledon of woodchopping'.

#### 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show

Well done to all Hall Axemen who competed. Great to see our juniors doing well and some of the women making debuts in various events.

#### Austin:

1st (4th Division) 275mm Underhand hcp 1st (4th Division) 275mm Underhand hcp 4th 250mm Junior (U18) Standing Block hcp Austin also represented NSW in the U21 Interstate Relays, placing 2nd.

Shout-out to Shauno, Pete, Layla and Meg who made a handful of semi's and finals between them.

#### Cooma, Gerogery, Moss Vale, Hawkesbury and Royal Bathurst shows

Fantastic to see our members getting to shows, especially our WOW (women of woodchopping) and placing in events. The ladies underhand cut at Moss Vale had seven women, and the ladies underhand cut at Hawkesbury had 10, and all four ladies chopping at Bathurst were HADAC members. Great work ladies!

Congratulations to Phoebe on her debut chop and to Pete and Brad for multiple podium finishes against strong competition.

#### 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 for more information.

Insta: @hallaxemen

#### Fb: @The Hall and District Axemen's Club

Email: hallaxemen@gmail.com

### St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

On Sunday 21 May, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the dedication of St Michael & All Angels Church. At the time of writing the celebrations have yet to happen, but we are planning a joyful service of celebration and thanks to all those who have gone before us and who worked so hard to build this beautiful church in the heart of the village.

As the Village of Hall and the number of settlers properties around the region grew in

the late 1800s, so did the need for centres of worship. As Hall became a hub to the area, the Anglican – or Church of England as it was - community gathered through the 1920s and

30s in the local hall known as Kinlyside's (later Rochford's) Hall in the main street of the village. That building now houses Hops and Vine.

Looking back, we can only imagine the hard work, discussion and fundraising that led to the development of plans for a church building and laying of the Foundation Stone for St Michael & All Angels in 1941. Building materials lay unused on the site for the duration of WW II, but only three years after the end of the war, villagers, farmers, visitors and clergy from all denominations joined the celebrations at the dedication and opening of St Michael's on 22 May 1948.

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Sanctuary banner and clergy, Bishop Mark Short and Reverend Peter Malone. photo: Beryl Pedvin

church banner.

#### by Beryl Pedvin

The cost of building in the 1940s was raised not only through people's offertory at church, but also through the time honoured hard work of hosting dances, organising gymkhanas, and baking for cake stalls and suppers. In addition, the cost of many of the fixtures and furnishings were donated by local families. Often these items were donated in memory of family members, but other items have been gifted for the beautification of the church and grounds. As part

of our celebrations, we have produced a brochure listing memorial items within the church and in the grounds. the dedications or memorials upon them, and, where we know it, a little about the people themselves or other background

information. A lot of the family names on those memorials are still well-known in this district - Moore, Gribble, Kinlyside, Curran, Boreham and many others.

the young nearby church of St Barnabas combined, and together they now comprise the Parish of Charnwood or Mike and Barney's as it is sometimes known. While the two congregations meet separately, much of parish life is shared.

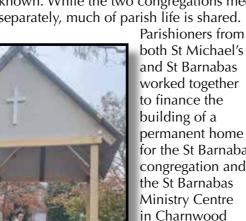


The new lychgate dedicated by Bishop Mark. photo: Bob Richardson

our regular services at 11am, or after church from about 12.30pm, when parishioners usually linger over morning tea till about 2pm.

For more information about services or to arrange a special visit please contact our Priest-in-Charge Rev'd Peter Malone on 0438 350 207 or church warden Beryl Pedvin on 0408 488 526.

In 1981 St Michael and All Angels and



both St Michael's and St Barnabas worked together to finance the building of a permanent home for the St Barnabas congregation and the St Barnabas Ministry Centre in Charnwood was opened in November 2002. Residents and

visitors to Hall are

welcome to visit St

Sunday – either for

June 2023

Michael's on any

Philip Williams, AM

Hall district resident Philip Williams recently received a Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

for 'Significant service to the broadcast media as a presenter and journalist'.

He was presented with his award by the Governor General at Government House on Thursday 20 May.

Philip Williams retired as Chief Foreign Correspondent for the ABC after 45 years as a journalist and 40 years with the ABC. An outstanding foreign correspondent, he grew up in the Canberra



region and began work at the local ABC station in 1975. In due course he was appointed the ABC's Bureau Chief in Japan.

By 1992 he was getting beaten up in the midst of a riot in Seoul. In May 1998 he was in Jakarta when President Suharto lost power. In the subsequent riots he was confronted by heavily armed Indonesian soldiers and escaped by jumping over a wall. In 2001 he reported on the 9/11 terror attacks in New York, and in 2003 the invasion of Iraq. His reporting from the streets of Baghdad resounded to the sound of explosions and gunfire.



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In 2004 he covered the Beslan school siege in Russia, in which hundreds of people, including 186 children were killed by Chechen rebels. His work in the Beslan school siege is still used in ABC training



as they break new ground on trauma education. Also, in 2004 Philip covered the Boxing Dav Tsunami with first-hand reports from the devastated region.

In 2010 he covered the Haiti earthquake. In mid-2011 he was on his way to the Tour de France when he was diverted to Norway, where a right-wing extremist had perpetrated a car bomb attack in Oslo and a massacre on Utøya island.

In 2014 Philip reported on the Ukrainian riots and the shooting down of flight MH17 over Ukraine. Again he put himself at great personal risk between the Ukrainian forces and the Russian-backed rebels to report on both the sad loss of lives and the escalating conflict. He was on the scene following terrorist attacks in London, Spain, Paris and Russia.

He was London Bureau Chief before his appointment as Chief Foreign Correspondent in 2016, the year he reported on the Fiji earthquake. Since then he has covered the rise of Donald Trump, the Arab Spring and the subsequent Syrian crisis, Brexit, the bushfires in southeast Australia and the Black Lives Matter demonstrations, coronavirus and the Presidential election in the United States often at great personal risk to himself.

During the 2019-20 bushfires Philip was a constant presence on our screens reporting from the south coast.

Philip is an Ochberg Fellow, taking part in training programs in the United States specialising in the issue of trauma in the media.

Philip and his wife Carol own and run the Wallaroo Winery and function centre on Brooklands Road. Residents of the Hall district for over 30 years, their three children all went to Hall Primary School.

Philip is a member of local Hall country/folk band Willie and the Correspondents which has helped raise over \$300,000 for bushfire relief, cancer treatment, farmers in drought and other charities over the past 25 years. The band has played at the National Folk Festival, the Tathra Bushfire Relief Concert, Majors Creek Festival, Kiama Folk Festival, Hayrunners Ball for Drought Relief and at venues large and small throughout eastern Australia.

This is a well-deserved award for this modest man who has brought the world to Australia for many decades.

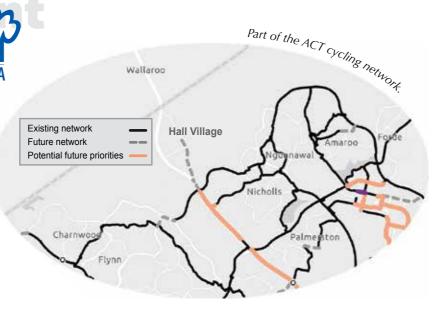
# President's page

The frost is now a regular feature as I take my early morning walk these days. Nevertheless, the frosty mornings don't seem to deter our kangaroo neighbours who I regularly encounter in the streets of Hall.

Congratulations to the congregation of St Michael and All Angels Anglican Church in Hall Village on the celebration of 75 years. The lychgate dedicated by Bishop Mark Short is an appropriate addition to the church grounds. The Hall Heritage Centre also incorporated a small display of memorabilia from St Michaels during April 2023 as part of ACT Heritage Festival.

The ANZAC Day Commemoration at the Hall War Memorial was a very special event. The ceremony gave an opportunity for us to reflect on those from our own Hall village and district as well as friends and family who have served. Thank you to Dennis Greenwood and Bill Pearson for organising this special commemoration.

On questioning by Yerrabi MLA James Milligan about progress by the ACT government on storm water drainage in Hall, ACT Transport and City Services Minister Chris Steel has again confirmed that comments received from Hall residents affected by stormwater flooding were assessed and subsequently the scope of works of the flood study and options study were expanded. The additional scope of works on these studies is still expected to be delivered by 30 June 2023. The Progress Association will follow up with the project manager in early July to arrange for the options resulting from the study to be shared with residents, businesses and other stakeholders in Hall Village.



Following discussions by the Progress Association with Simon Copeland of *Pedal Power ACT* and Yerrabi MLAs Andrew Braddock and Michael Pettersson, Andrew Braddock has advised us that safe cycle and pedestrian access to Hall Village is included in the proposed cycle network in the ACT Active Travel Plan. The Progress Association will continue to work with Yerrabi MLAs, *Pedal Power ACT* and other allies to secure safe cycle and pedestrian access for students, residents, commuters, visitors and others in Hall Village. You can provide your comments on the Active Travel Plan and the proposed safe cycle and pedestrian access to Hall Village through the ACT *Your Say* website at **yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/ active-travel-plan**.

The Progress Association is very pleased to welcome Dr Wilson Lo as he relocates his Sports Medicine practice from Bruce to Hall Village. Dr Lo first contacted the Progress Association in November 2022 to let us know that he was thinking about relocating to Hall Village and asked if we felt that his services would add to the village. The Progress Association sent an enthusiastic response to Dr Lo and subsequently met with him at the April



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Committee meeting to share thoughts of how his practice could add further value to Hall Village and District.



Dr Lo was part of the General Practice in Hall Village in the early 2000s and his sports medicine practice brings together experienced practitioners from numerous disciplines including sports doctors, an orthopaedic surgeon, Physiotherapists, podiatrists, a dietitian and an exercise physiologist. Dr Lo also runs a martial arts and dragon dance academy.

With approval from the ACT Government Property Group and the Heritage Unit, the Hall Men's Shed is doing an excellent job of constructing an extended







June 2023

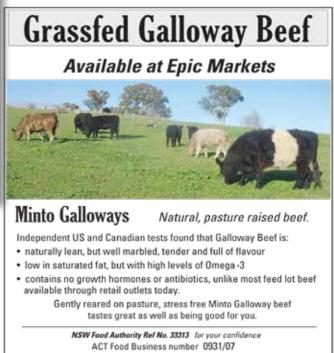
#### Robert Yallop President

deck at the Hall Cottage, especially to cater for the growing number of attendees at the shed's morning teas and lunches.

The Hall Men's Shed and Hall Heritage Centre are both tremendous assets for our village and district.

The Progress Association Committee is very dismayed to hear that the ACT Government has notified Craig Starr of the termination of the lease for the Kinlyside Nature Reserve and Offset Area currently managed jointly by the ACT Government and Craig Starr. The Committee has advised ACT Minister for Land Management, Mick Gentleman, of our concerns that cessation of the careful management of the area by Craig Starr may result in environmental degradation and loss of habitat for at-risk species including the Golden Sun Moth, proliferation of invasive species into areas surrounding Hall including weeds that have previously been brought into Kinlyside on the machinery of ACT Government contractors, and increased bush fire risk particularly at times of extreme fire danger when the 'trail closed' signs on the Centenary Trail at Hall are consistently ignored by walkers and cyclists.

The Progress Association Committee generally meets every month. 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**.



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# Heritage Happenings

#### **Hosting ANU students**

Dr Anna Edmundson and a group of 15 graduate students in Museum and Heritage studies visited in March as part of a course on 'Exhibition design and delivery'. Students are required to select a project from the centre's collections which will give them practice in aspects of designing and implementing displays and exhibitions.



At the beginning of the three hour visit volunteers gave short presentations on the many different areas of the centre's work before leading groups to have a close look at our wide-ranging displays. As always, it was interesting and helpful to hear their reflections on what they had seen. The results of their projects are to be presented to the centre and we will be free to adopt them if we wish.



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In April, on a return visit, the students presented proposals for us to consider:

- a new site map and information brochure to replace our aging product;
- an alternative foyer entry exhibition, including a 'Welcome' message; and
- ideas for a 'corporate' branding image.

Now we look forward to helping them with the project that is selected for further research and completion.

This course focuses on the process of exhibitions design within the context of museums, cultural collecting institutions and heritage agencies. It examines contemporary innovative exhibitions and their designs, technologies, audience development, project management and stakeholder consultation. Practical skills such as writing for exhibitions

(from proposals, education kits, labels to catalogues), object handling, hanging and public program development will be developed. Importantly, the exhibition developed as part of this course will actually be shown at an appropriate venue (such as a museum or heritage site).

Upon successful completion, students will have the knowledge and skills to:

- 1. design and deliver a small exhibition including exhibition planning, community liaison, research techniques, installation, and texts related to exhibitions;
- 2. apply interdisciplinary problem-solving skills as they relate to exhibition development;
- 3. implement appropriate consultation methods and develop working relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders; and
- 4. contribute to the design of exhibitions for a diverse range of venues (which may include travelling and online exhibitions) and audiences.



#### Garden working bee

In 2018, with assistance from Greening Australia staff we set up a memorial garden just outside the centre's entrance in Palmer Street. It is dedicated to one of our much-valued former volunteers -Val Wiseman who worked tirelessly for Greening Australia and Landcare.

During our recent garden working bee the memorial garden got a much-needed revamp, along with the rest of the precinct's environs.



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#### **Open Garden**

On the weekend of 6-7 May the centre provided catering services for an open garden event at Yellow Box on Spring Range Road.







davecathie@yahoo.com.au

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Anzac Day holds a special significance in our household as my grandfather, an Anzac in the AIF, served in Egypt, and my husband's grandfather, also an Anzac who landed at Gallipoli on the morning of 25 April 1915. We especially think of them on this day, as do so many of us here in Australia think of their loved ones. We have seen our share of wars.



Andrew Purdham plays the Rouse on the accordion.



A unique mix of chalk paint, upcycled furniture, giftware and homewares, new and old treasures, local handmade items and Pressed Tin Panels® for sale. Also classes available for painting/upcycling furniture.

#### 10 Victoria Street, Hall phone Tammy: 0412 360 140

#### Opening hours:

10am–4pm Monday Closed Tuesday Wednesday Closed 10am-4pm Thursday Friday 10am-4pm Saturday 10am-4pm 10am–4pm Sunday



by Jenny Whittaker



As we walked down to the flag raising ceremony at the Cenotaph on the Hall oval, I could see a large crowd gathering. While only a short commemoration, it has become a very popular way to honour those who have served our country in war. I was struck by the number of young people and children in attendance, many laying wreaths, and respectfully listening to the proceedings.

The Minister for Veterans Affairs and Families requested a representative choose an Anzac service in Canberra at which to lay a wreath. Hall Village was chosen as it is so family friendly, and a beautiful yellow and blue wreath was laid by the Jurd family, the young boys of the family in matching blue shirts and yellow trousers which also perfectly matched the colours in their wreath.



Jurd family laying a wreath on behalf of the Minister for Veterans Affairs and Families.

It is always emotional to read the Ode, and hear the haunting notes of the Rouse echoing in the quiet. A slight breeze ruffled the flag as it was raised, and the minutes silence gave time to reflect on the horror of war, the losses sustained and the damage done to those who survive. Many in attendance wore medals, some on behalf of those who didn't return home from war.



Cowell family laying a wreath.

After the service I spoke to many people who came to Hall for the ceremony as they appreciate the simplicity of the commemoration, the 'low key' atmosphere which feels welcoming to all their family, and the chance to give their children an introduction



Ron Parker from Casey, and Shelley Parker from Belconnen, love coming to Hall.

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Yvonne Robson and Garrie Greenwood wearing hand knitted poppies from the Hall Heritage Centre.

to war and sacrifice. Thanks to Bill Pearson and Dennis Greenwod for organising the event again this year, Andrew Giumelli of Hall Rotary for raising the flag, Andrew Purdham for the piano accordian playing, Andy Fulton's family for providing the WWII Jeep, Peter Toet and Yvonne Robson from the VHDPA and Rotary clubs respectively for laying wreaths on behalf of the village, and to all those who attended a simple but moving Anzac Day in Hall.



The late Andy Fulton's WWII jeep.

# Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade

We were pleased to welcome local residents to our recent Fire Awareness Information Evening. This was a great opportunity to discuss how to prepare homes and properties for the fire season, the importance of fire plans, and what to do in the event of fire in the local area.



The key message of the night was *know and be prepared*.

- Consider how the RFS can **access** your property: gates, fences, tree-lined driveways (fire trucks need a 4x4m clearance).
- Know if you will stay or go.
- If you are going to stay and protect your property, make sure you have **sufficient supplies**



#### Amy Goldstraw President

**and equipment**: food; water; personal protective equipment (cotton, long-sleeved shirt, jeans, boots, gloves – at a minimum); communications (battery-operated radio); and firefighting tools (a hose that can reach around your house, buckets, sponges to block downpipes – ember fires will be the biggest risk to your home in a fire).

- If you are going to leave, know what you want to take, leave early and know where you are going and what services are available to you, especially if you are taking pets or livestock.
- Know the fire danger rating. On a catastrophic fire danger day, the RFS recommends you leave fire risk areas regardless of your fire plan.

Thanks to Mitch Butler and Jacob Boddy from Yass Fire Control Centre for coming along to share their insights.

You can access much of this information on the RFS website: **rfs.nsw.gov.au**, including a PDF Bushfire Survival Plan.

If you have any questions about fire preparedness, fire permits, RFS membership or Wallaroo Brigade activities, please feel free to reach out to our Brigade Executive or the Southern Tablelands Zone. We also train every second Wednesday and the last Sunday morning of every month. Please feel free to drop by the station and have a chat.



6230 9587 3/8 Victoria St, Hall

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#### Find us on Facebook



The brigade continues to train throughout winter in order to ensure we are prepared when the fire season begins (generally 1 October). This includes supporting the local community with agricultural burns where a permit has been granted.

Unfortunately, we have also already attended a number of vehicle fires and motor vehicle accidents this off season. We encourage everyone to continue to be careful on our roads.



@venetiamajor

June 2023

# **fire Safet** 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 nshepherd@shepelectric	<b>0418 628 095</b> al.com.au
Senior Deputy Captain: Geoff Morris geoffmor@hotmail.com	0407 188 192
President: Amy Goldstraw amy.goldstraw@gmail.co	
Secretary: Mike Textor twa43887@bigpond.net.	<b>0408 825 281</b> .au
Treasurer: <b>Peter Vincent</b> tyndarah@bigpond.net.a	<b>0415 630 560</b>
Yass Fire Control Centre: southerntablelandszone	<b>02 6266 3100</b> @rfs.nsw.gov.au





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dream

# 'Selected Southwell Stories' exhibition

A temporary exhibition, 'Selected Southwell Stories', was opened at the Hall Heritage Centre in April for the ACT Heritage Festival and can be viewed until the end of the year.

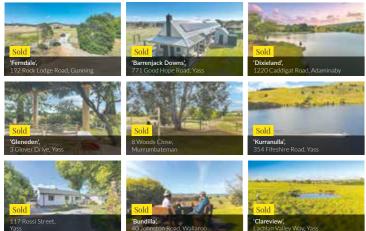
Four Southwell brothers emigrated to Australia from Sussex, UK between 1838 and 1858.

- Thomas in 1838, and his extensive family settled on Ginninderra Creek on the property he named 'Parkwood' and became significant members of the Methodist church.
- William in 1842, who settled on 'Park Farm' in Ballan, Victoria and built Ballan's first hotel, the Ingliston Arms.
- Mark in 1858, settling on a property in the Weetangera area, but then left the district.
- John in 1858, who settled on the property 'Rosevale', near Sutton and his son George, who worked for many years at Coolamine Station in the Brindabellas, before purchasing 'Fernhill' at Lyneham in 1911.

With many thousands of descendants, it is impossible to cover the whole family, so a number of interesting stories were selected, covering Farming and Haulage, Religion and the introduction of Methodism, the Lives of Women and Settlement of the Lyneham area and the evolution of Southwell Park.



Ceramic rolling pin presented to Thomas and Eliza on their departure in 1838





#### by Peter Browning

A number

of objects have not

been previously displayed, such as a concertina played at the Coolamon Ball, immortalised in the poem by that name by Bunty Morris and Jane Southwell jnr's wedding dress crocheted by her, while her grandmother Jane crocheted items for St Ninian's church.



The Southwell Park story with concertina in case.



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# St Francis Church and Provisional School, Ginninderra 1872

Hidden away in the Gold Creek Village development, near the junction of Gold Creek Road, is a small historic Catholic church.



In the days before a church was built, Catholics usually assembled at James McCarthy's Glenwood station, or at Rolfe's Tea Gardens, where a mass was performed by a visiting priest.

The St Francis Church, Ginninderra was erected in 1872 for Catholic worship and education. It ceased to be used as a school in 1881, but continued as a church until 1910, when it was superseded by the St Francis Xavier's Church in Hall.

Allen Mawer and Alf and Heather Wilford, volunteers at the Hall Heritage Centre, have researched the 1872 church and Alf has produced a scale model, which is now on display in the Hall Heritage Centre.



The church, of about 25' x 18' in dimension, was erected on land given for the purpose by Mr Florence McAuliffe and by whose exertions the principal costs of erection, about £70, was collected. McAuliffe had taken over the Ginninderra blacksmith shop from James Hatch in 1864, and by 1870 was also the owner of three small adjacent blocks, which he farmed. The land provided for the church was taken from one of these blocks. [Queanbeyan Age, 28 March 1872].

The new building was erected under the supervision of Rev. John Gallagher from Yass, in the Goulburn Diocese. Families of the congregation of the St Francis Church in the early years included the Rochfords, Hibbersons, McCarthys, Rolfes, Butlers and Cavanaghs.



#### by Peter Browning

## CENTRE

The Public Schools Act of 1866 permitted the establishment of schools by private persons' in remote and thinly populated

districts. Known as 'Provisional' schools, they could operate with less than 25 pupils, and the promoters were required to nominate competent teachers. These provisions were used by the Catholic church to establish a large number of essentially 'Catholic' schools in rural districts, and there is some evidence that St Francis was, initially at least, a school of this type.

In 1881 the Diocese decided that the church would only be made available for educational purposes at a greatly increased rental, and the school board declined the offer. As a result, the Ginninderra school operated for two years in a tent, while the new Ginninderra Public School and residence was built.

After St Francis ceased to be used as a church, the new St Francis Xavier's Church in Hall was also opened by Rev. John Gallagher, on 10 April 1910, who was by then Diocesan Bishop of Goulburn.

The original St Francis is the oldest extant building with Catholic associations in the ACT, but it had ceased being used for church purposes before the establishment of the ACT. The building was transferred from church ownership as late as May 1928.

While the building is still standing it is scarcely recognisable, as it has been added to and used variously as a residence and craft-art gallery over the years. The future of the church is very uncertain and we must ensure that it is protected.

Ginninderra students outside St Francis church.

### **Growing Saffron Crocus**

Most cooks would be familiar with saffron, its wonderful earthy flavours and gorgeous yellow tones in your cooking along with its exorbitant price around \$10,000/kilo!

But many of you probably don't realise it is the stigma of a purple flowering autumn crocus that happens to grow really well in our little part of this world.

The spice is a red, thread like stigma of the saffron crocus (*Crocus sativus*). The flowers only produce three tiny threads each – which when you weigh them, weigh virtually nothing. The

threads are incredibly flavoursome which many find justifies its expensive value.

One gram of dried saffron can take as many as 150 flowers and a whole paddock may only produce a pound or two per season.

Having said that, no one needs a pound of saffron. Most recipes have only a few threads or a tiny pinch of this spice.

I love growing saffron in my garden, it's very satisfying and you only need a small patch to supply your family with fresh, delicious saffron for a whole year.

You cannot harvest the threads from any autumn crocus, they are a specific strain, so make sure you have *Crocus sativus*. They are readily available from most nurseries and online.

Saffron crocus are native to the Mediterranean, they are dormant in the summer and sprout in the autumn with their leaves first, followed by the gorgeous purple flower.

When you get your bulbs, plant them in well drained soil. Sometimes it's worth adding some sand if you have heavy clay. Saffron thrive in a light growing medium.

### gardening by Lisa Walmsley

Bulbs should be planted about 10cm deep and 20cm apart. The depth is important as the bulbs multiply by growing new bulbs above the old ones, so if you plant them too shallow there is not enough space for the next years bulb to develop.

After the foliage appears and becomes established the flowers will emerge. One bulb is capable of producing many flowers.

It takes about 5-8 weeks for the first flowers to appear after planting and they will keep producing for about three weeks. Make sure you check them regularly in the

build up to flowering and then harvest daily. It's easy to miss their flush, and super disappointing if you do, so watch them closely. Mine appear in May, so I start stalking their area late April.

> It's important to have them in a spot where you know exactly where they are when they are dormant as you don't want to accidentally dig them up.

Dig them up and divide them every 4-6 years and simply replant – this will aid in avoiding overcrowding and keep the bulbs deep in the soil away from heat and cold.

When I harvest my threads, I place my tiny collection on a plate in a warm spot on a windowsill. In a few hours the threads are dry – once completely dry, store in an airtight container.

Like anything you grow at home, you can really taste the difference and not just because you grew it. Because of its price this spice is commonly a victim of food fraud. Corn silk can be cut, dried, dyed red and sold as saffron!

Growing your own eliminates this problem and guarantees you are cooking with the real thing.

# Men's Shed en's shed

One of our regular Hall Men's Shed attendees recently passed away. John Wiseman, who lived on Wallaroo Rd for over 40 years, was a member of the Hall shed for at least 10 years and was a regular at the shed gatherings. Those of us who attended his funeral were assured it was a good celebration of his life and this was followed by a burial at the Hall Cemetery and a wake at the pavilion at Hall.





De-nailing the decking boards for the deck.

### Nan's advice

Tash, my wonderful Pilates and exercise instructor at *Arthritis ACT* gave me some very valuable advice recently when I happened to mention I was feeling a bit down.



I couldn't put my finger on what was causing that feeling, but I thought about the advice she gave me from her Nan which touched my heart and completely changed my attitude for the better.

Her Nan said that sometimes we need to fill our tea cup with those little things which make us smile, feel warm and happy because our cup can drain quicker than we expect. However, when this happens it just means our body is telling us we need to stop and focus on us and the things we know will fill up our tea cup.

And Tash added her own advice that it's important we take time out for ourselves because we sometimes forget the importance of slowing down and enjoying the things we love. So it's not until we fill our cup up do we feel the fullness of ourselves again.

So how's your cup? Does it need a top-up? Are you trying to cram so many things in your day that you have less time for yourself?





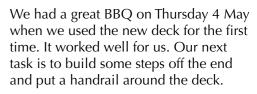
June 2023

by Aaron Whittaker

hn Wiseman







The guys doing bread boards from recycled timber are continuing to do so and there have been some donations received at *Daughters at Hall* where the bread boards are up for sale. This will be a source of income for us.

#### by Kevin Stone

My cup is full to overflowing now after spending some very enjoyable time at the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre, with many interesting items and photos to view and which I've written about elsewhere in this issue of the Fringe. And best of all I took a trip back to my hometown Adelaide and caught up with good friends while revisiting some fantastic places that always bring back happy memories.

So Nan's advice certainly worked for me, because I quickly upgraded to a larger cup, then a coffee mug, and finally a whole set!

Yes, the colder weather is well and truly here, but there are plenty of wonderful places go to, either within the Canberra district or maybe to where it's a bit warmer. Even if a trip isn't in your plans, a phone call, cuppa or meal catchup can sometimes work wonders.

There are also several good walks around Hall and Canberra, and it's often nice to have a chat to the neighbours in your area. All it takes is a bit more winter clothing, the will to get out there and you'll soon be glad you did it! Well, glad when you get back home with feelings of satisfaction, happiness and the warmth!

And my Pilates and exercises? Well, I'm still as uncoordinated as before, but at least I now do them with a big smile!

# Springfield Rural Fire Service

#### Rebecca Morrison

It's been a very busy two months for Springfield with a number of activities to attend and incidents to be called out to. We are always so proud of our members and their dedication and commitment to serving you in our community.

We were excited to have had six new members complete their Basic Firefighter (BF) course recently, ensuring that we have even more people ready to jump in the truck and deal with whatever comes our way. Congratulations to those members – we are really pleased to have you as part of the crew.

Sadly, we have also been called to a number of serious incidents recently, including the tragic multiple fatality on Good Friday. As first on the scene, our crews confidently and calmly dealt with the horrific accident and were able to provide assistance and manage the situation as required. We are thankful for the support services provided to those members and the way in which our region and the NSW RFS has helped those impacted. We are very proud of all our members and their selflessness to serve in countless ways.

If you come across an incident, please call Triple Zero (000) giving as much information as you can about the location. Maybe download the *Emergency*+ app to your phone. You can call Emergency Services directly from it and it provides all the location details you will need, together with other useful resources.



02 6241 8888 | www.canberraequinehospital.com.au Cnr Barton & Federal Hwy, Lyneham ACT 2602

# Morrison President

#### Welcome to winter

And with it all the extra safety considerations you should prepare for to keep your family and property safe. Some tips for this season include:

- Have an adequate number of suitable smoke alarms installed throughout your home and ensure they are tested regularly.
- Make sure your family knows two safe ways out of every room in your home.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- If you have a fireplace make sure the chimney is clean and there is a screen placed in front of it when in use.
- Check electric blankets for frayed cords before placing on your bed.
- Clean the lint filter on your clothes dryer each and every time you use it.
- Keep wet clothing at least one metre away from heaters or fireplaces and never leave unattended.

You can find more advice on the NSW RFS website.



#### Planning a pile burn

If you're planning to burn on your property, you need to let us know before you light up. Notifying us of your planned burn can reduce unnecessary emergency calls. It's also important to let your neighbours know at least one day ahead.

We've made it easy for you to notify us using the online form on the *Fire Near Me* app or the NSW RFS website: **rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire -information** /**BFDP/burn-notifications** 



All we need to know is who you are, where you are and when you intend to burn. We will tell you the conditions that apply to your burn and send you through a confirmation.

If online isn't for you, please call **Yass Fire Control** on **02 6226 3100**.

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June 2023



#### Vale Isaac Hampton

In January we mourned the passing of a young and valued member of our brigade, Isaac Hampton.

Isaac joined Springfield RFS in 2018 and was an active member, including deployments during the horrific fires of 2019-20, earning a NSW Premier's Bushfire Emergency Citation for his service. He was always eager to volunteer when he could and was a



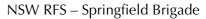
well respected member of the brigade.

His humour, dedication and love for the outdoors together with his desire to be part of his community will be genuinely missed. A young life well lived but finished too soon.

If you would like to find out more about our brigade, please get in touch with me directly. We train on the second Wednesday of every month at our Patemans Lane Shed. We welcome new members, both those wanting to become volunteer firefighters or those wanting to contribute to their community in some way.

> Rebecca Morrison tomandbecmorrison@hotmail.com





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## Hall Bushrangers

The Hall Bushrangers are proud to be the number one country club in the ACT, fielding both a men's 15 side in the South Coast Monaro 2nd Grade comp, and a women's 10s side in the ACT women's 10s comp. Kicking preseason off early, the Bushrangers were working hard from the start of the year, putting in all the work to hopefully pay off throughout the season.

The mens side welcomed their new coach, Anthony 'Box' Hayes, and came flying into the season with a cracking effort against the Cooma Red Devils. The season started strong for the men, coming away with a 47-0 win, which was well celebrated on their bus trip home. The men carried their celebrations on through to Round 2, where they proved their might against the Yass Rams. In a pressure filled game, the mens team left victorious with another commanding win of 38-0. Two for two and the men were feeling pretty good about themselves coming into Round 3. Round 3 was a bit of a doozy, losing a number of their players, and their newly appointed head coach to Covid. The men took the field in the pouring rain to tackle another strong side, ADFA. Through the rain and mud, the men's team were ever-so slightly victorious after a crucial penalty, securing the win at 15-14. Though the score wasn't as bold as previous games, the side kept their heads, working hard into Round 4 when the men boarded the bus down the Clyde. Down at Broulee, the men's side were met with a feisty merged Batemans Bay-Broulee Boars team. Playing in the sun, the men scored numerous tries, ending Round 4 with yet another victory, sealing the win at 45-15. A long bus trip home celebrated local resident, Michael 'Pup' Wilkinson, after his 150th game for the club. Luckily enough, the men were given a bye in Round 5 to recover from the celebrations and prepare for Round 6. After winning four for four games, the pressure is on for the men to keep their streak!

On a tangent, the women's team was led by their coach of the previous two seasons, local, Shaun O'Connor. The ladies had two massive trial match hit-outs, with a tight 10-12 loss against Forbes Rugby, and a shocking 43-5 victory against the Leeton



R.E.C.

#### by Tahlia Cvitanovic

Phantoms. With style, the ladies headed over to the ANU to kick the season off against the Uni

North Owls, where they were met with a team comprised of the premier 15s women. Playing their hearts out, the team took a rough 46-7 loss, knowing they had played a much more sophisticated side than most of those in the 10s competition. Giving their all in training the next week, the ladies prepared for a home game hit-out against Yass Ewes. Losing their captain and half-back to University, the women's team poured their soul into a physical game with the Ewes, coming out the other side in a 17 all draw. Though slightly defeated, the women's team marched forward into Round 3 to tackle a massive game against the Goulburn Dirty Reds. After a substantial 70-0 loss last season, the team was ever more eager to put hits on. Even through the rain and mud, they gave a shocking effort, but unfortunately came out second best with a 21-45 loss, holding their heads high knowing the valiance of their efforts. Feeling proud of themselves, the women prepared to face another Canberra team who started a majority of their premier 15s side, Canberra Royals. After a tough first half, the ladies fought back and faced another loss, though the scoreboard reflected 26-27, the team was proud knowing they had come so close to defeating a well composed team. After struggling with several losses, the girls trekked down to Yass to tackle the Ewes yet again. This time, the ladies came out victorious with a whopping 47-5 victory. With their newfound victory, the women are coming in hot, with hopes to carry out the same fate in their next game!

Round 6 sees both teams home for a massive double header against the Jindabyne Bushpigs and Miss Piggies. The Bushrangers are dedicating this home game to their loved ones and spreading the love on Partners Day down at Hall Sportsground. It's bound to be one hell of a show from both teams! For all our Ranger fans out there, on the 3 June the boys are headed to Taralga and the girls to Goulburn. We would love to see you there and are ever so grateful for all of the support given to the club! Ra Ra Bushranger!



## Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre

VILLAGE

Last month I had an enjoyable day in the Harden-Murrumburrah area and visited the Harden Museum. There is so much to see there, and it does make me appreciate the creature comforts we have these days. In fact, I'm never guite sure why people say things like 'the good old days'!

More recently I went along to our Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre, somewhere I haven't been for a while. But I'm so glad I did, because it's such a fantastic place to spend some time looking at all the historic items on display.

The museum was officially opened in 1986 and what started off mainly as a school museum has expanded to take on a broader local history role. It's different from the one in Murrumburrah, but certainly no less attention-grabbing, and you can be guaranteed of a warm and friendly greeting by the volunteers who are only too happy to provide information about the exhibits.

And there are so many interesting items to look at. For example, there's the Family History Unit, where there is a great collection of publications, maps and plans, photographs and other documents relating to local pioneer families.



The exhibitions are sometimes changed or moved around, but one the museum is custodian of is the wonderful Lyall Gillespie Collection of research papers, diaries, books, artworks, maps, artefacts and photographs of Canberra's pre-eminent local historian.

> It's a pleasure taking time to look at the Home Sweet Home display, where a home setting shows how families lived prior to electricity. Once again, it can be an eyeopener, and sometimes a bit of fun trying to describe some of the items to young ones of friends or family members, especially grandchildren.

The volunteers seem to have so much knowledge and the school museum area is almost brought to life with many original documents, photos and school books. No doubt young ones would get a real surprise when they see some of the equipment their parents and grandparents used and the way the desks are set out.

What hardships the teachers and students experienced years ago. No air-conditioned classrooms! Well, maybe an open door or window in the summer! And don't dare misbehave!



While you're there, ask about the self-guided heritage drive or bike tours and you can always wander around using the heritage walking guide. The easy to follow brochures not only include several places of interest in the Hall Village and outlying areas, but useful information even some local residents may not know about.

Our fantastic museum is in Palmer Street, with opening hours every Thursday 9am-12 noon and Sunday 12 noon-4pm, with groups by appointment. There's disability access with easy parking and entry is free, although donations are greatly appreciated. It's always a fantastic place to visit, not only for local Hall residents, but people from other suburbs and visitors to Canberra.

For more information, visit the website: museum.hall.act.au

# From the Editor

Anzac Day is a day we recognise those who served in all wars. It is only as I've gotten older that I realise the enormity of the cost of war – I cannot begin to understand the loss felt by families who lost loved ones in conflict, or the suffering of those who returned from war zones with physical or mental illness. It is said that my grandfather, on returning home from service in Egypt in World War 1, spent six months living alone, in a tent on Bribie Island in Queensland. Apparently several attempts were made by friends and family to get him to come back to Brisbane and back to working life but he wouldn't leave. Surely a case of post traumatic stress.

Seeing pictures of the bombing in Ukraine brings home just how lucky we are in Australia to have avoided conflict (in recent times at least) on our shores.

At the Anzac Day flag raising ceremony in Hall I heard a father explaining war to his children. As they were fairly young children they probably haven't seen the latest battles from around the world on TV. For me, as a child, the nightly ABC news told of the daily dreadful happenings in Vietnam. I remember this going on for years and I could never understand why there never



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seemed to be even a glimmer of a chance of it ending. When I was old enough my parents explained the politics of it – no more naïve thoughts of good vs bad, or a simple shoot'em up battle with a clear winner at the end. No, war is not simple, or as cut and dried as good vs evil.

I hope my grandsons are never conscripted to serve this country. I selfishly hope that they never choose to join the armed services in case they are called to see action. (can I say that without sounding unpatriotic?) I don't even want them to see war, or the effects of war. Let's hope our politicians and military top brass make good decisions to continue to keep Australia conflict free.

> Until next time, Jenny Whittaker





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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 (VHDPA) 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 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

or: PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618. Advertising rates (per issue) large (quarter page) \$80 colour \$120 medium (eighth page) \$40 colour \$60 small (three sixteenth page) \$30 colour \$45

#### Other information

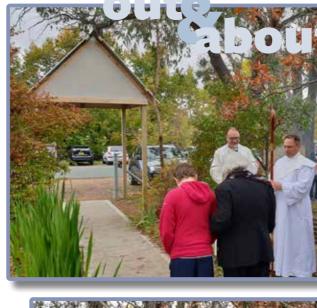
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June 2023

## Dedication of the Lychgate at St Michael and All Angel's Church on 22 May.

The youngest and the oldest parishioner there on the day, walking through the gate.

photo: Robert Yallop





Angus in awe of the backdrop of the dam at the northern end of the polo fields. photo: Larry Appley