

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district



VOLUME 30 ISSUE 4

August 2023

Rotary Club of Hall Changeover dinner

by Yvonne Robson

On Tuesday 27 June the Rotary Club of Hall (RCH) held its annual Changeover Dinner. This is when the outgoing board members from the previous year hand over the leadership of the club to an energetic new board. The changeover is also an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the previous year.

for the past two years and President-elect for the past year in preparation for the role of President. He has also held Rotaract and Rotary leadership roles at the District and National levels. Andrew is the youngest ever President of the RCH at 26 years old and is looking forward to finding new ways to engage younger people and increase the diversity in Rotary.



The new board comprises (left to right) Roger Powell (Vice President), Steve Fielding (Treasurer) David Rendell (Secretary), Rob Woolley and Paul Tyrell (Joint Immediate Past Presidents), Yvonne Robson (Director Capital Region Farmers Market CRFM) and Andrew Giumelli (President). The best outcomes for the club and community are achieved by a board that combines club experience with innovation and Rotary career progression which this board is pleased to represent.

The Rotary Club of Hall is delighted to welcome Andrew Giumelli to the role of President. Andrew has been a member of the club for over three years but his involvement with the RCH stretches back to 2017 when he joined our partner Rotaract Club at the University of Canberra. Andrew has served as Youth and Vocational Committee Chair



Proceedings on the night also included awarding the Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) recognition on community and club members. A PHF can be awarded by a Rotary Club to anyone that exemplifies the values of Rotary International, it

represents a US\$1,000 donation to the Rotary Foundation which benefits worthy causes all across the world. RCH was proud to present PHF Recognition to the following people in 2023:

- Craig Starr** – for contributions to the Hall community and local environment
- Doug Anstess** – for contributions to the Hall community through the Men's Shed
- Jenny-May Rendell** – for contributions to RHC and support of David Rendell
- Nienke Lucas** – for contributions to the Capital Region Farmers Markets
- Chris Edwards** – for contributions to RCH as Past President
- Fiona Hamer** – for contributions to RCH as International Service Committee Chair
- Steve Hill** – for contributions to RCH as Secretary and commitment to other service organisations as well.

... continues on page 3



Saturday 16 September
9am – 1pm
Walloo Rd fireshed

Walloo Rural Fire Brigade will be hosting a 'Get Ready Weekend' event. This is an opportunity for you and your family to come and ask questions, collect resources and get to know the brigade. We will also have the barbeque running if you get peckish. *We look forward to seeing you there!*



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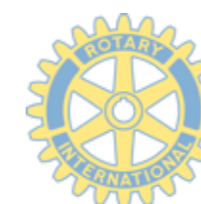
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Rotary Paul Harris Fellow recipients 2023

Summary of 2022-23 Activities

As in previous years, the Rotary Club of Hall achieved much in support of community, local, national and international causes. Some of the highlights include the following:



Major Projects: Providing funds for a medical team to operate on children in the Solomon Islands \$50,000; providing scholarships for primary and secondary Indigenous students \$50,000; Abundant Water Bohol project in the Philippines \$20,000; Shree Barahi School in Nepal \$34,333.

Community: Community hampers \$9,000; Kids in Care \$4255; defibrillator for Hall Village \$2,855.

International: Operations for cleft palates in Bangladesh \$5,000; medical aid for children in the Pacific region \$6,000; clean water wells and toilets for two schools in Bangladesh \$6,000.

Environment: Donation of \$5400 to Canberra City Care for the construction of a raised garden bed.

Capital Region Farmers Market (CRFM): The CRFM has survived the pandemic, droughts, fires and floods affecting stallholders and their communities. After approximately 1000 markets, the CRFM will celebrate its 20th birthday in March 2024. The Rotary Club thanks those members who had the foresight, energy, business acumen and determination to succeed and thanks those who support our market. Service Above Self in action.

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It has been forecast that we are headed into the drier than usual El Niño weather pattern. Nevertheless, rain still seems to be a fairly persistent feature of our days. Although I do not hope for drought, some more Canberra winter sunny days would be welcome.

Congratulations to our Progress Association's Men's Shed foreman, Doug Anstess, and also to Craig Starr, who have been recognised by the Rotary Club of Hall with Community Service Awards for their contributions to the Hall community.

Following the request of some residents of Wallaroo, the Progress Association contacted NSW Environment Minister Penny Sharpe, Goulburn MP Wendy Tuckerman and Eden Monaro Federal MP Kirsty McBain to seek their assistance to address the serious and acute problem of invasive feral animals in the Ginninderra Creek and Murrumbidgee River catchment areas of Wallaroo and surrounding districts. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of wild pigs, deer and goats around Wallaroo. Deer have also been seen in Hall Village. The numbers of these feral animals are now so high that their impact is extremely destructive on native pastures, endangered woodlands and waterways. Wendy Tuckerman has responded that she has asked NSW Minister for Agriculture, Tara Moriarty, for assistance. No response has yet been received from Kirsty McBain or Penny Sharpe.

After 18 months of work by the Progress Association, the 2023-24 ACT Government Budget includes an allocation for the 'detailed design for stormwater improvements at Hall Village on the basis of a matching contribution from the Commonwealth Government through its Disaster Ready Fund'. We are very grateful for the support we have received from Yerrabi MLAs James Milligan and Leanne Castley.

To follow up on the 2023-24 ACT Government Budget stormwater allocation, I have contacted the TCCS Project Manager and Minister Chris Steel to ask when they will schedule a meeting with Hall residents, businesses and other stakeholders to discuss the outcomes of the flood study and discuss the options being considered to provide the necessary stormwater infrastructure in Hall Village. No response has yet been received from either.

Similarly, with the pre-budget announcement by Minister Steel of an investment of more than \$26 million of new upgrades and maintenance work to the ACT's walking and cycling network and to provide safe infrastructure for walking and cycling, the Progress Association requested that Minister Steel confirm that the priority listing of the safe pedestrian and cycle connection to Hall Village is included in the ACT Government investment. We are still awaiting a response.

After securing approval from the ACT Government Property Group and the Heritage Unit, the Hall Men's Shed has completed the excellent job of constructing an extended deck at the Hall Cottage with well crafted



railing and steps. The deck extension not only provides welcome space for the monthly men's shed barbeque lunches but is also a great addition to the amenity of the cottage.

Following the work organised by the Progress Association over the past 12 months to remove weeds and dead brush, clean up and replant over 100 shrubs on the Hall Reserve, the Progress Association worked with the Ginninderra Catchment Group (GCG) to apply for an Environment Grant to prepare a Management Plan for invasive species control around Halls Creek and the nature reserve areas surrounding Hall Village. With the approval of this grant, the GCG will work with the Progress Association in the development of the Management Plan as well as undertake some initial work in removal of blackberries, willows and other weeds along the creek.



The Hall Heritage Centre is planning for the 2023 Brass on the Grass band concert for **Sunday 15 October**. We are very fortunate as what began as Hall Village Brass Band (now Canberra Brass Inc) partners with the Hall Heritage Centre each year to share their wonderful talent. Canberra Brass is highly competitive at the national B grade level and Victoria Street Brass provides playing opportunities for musicians with a wide range of skills and experience. This is an event in Hall not to be missed.



Subject to finalisation of the Annual Review and preparation of the Annual Report, the Annual General Meeting of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association will be held on **20 September 2023** at 7:00pm in the Hall Pavilion. All residents, ratepayers and businesses in Hall Village and District (2618 postcode including Wallaroo, Spring Range and Nanima) are eligible and welcome to be members of the Progress Association. All members are encouraged to nominate for a position of office bearer or committee member of the association.

In the meantime, 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@gmail.com**, or send a message to **info@hall.act.au**.



Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc

Annual General Meeting

**7pm Wednesday 20 September 2023
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Bruce Sports Medicine

I first started Bruce Sports Medicine in 2017 after many years of planning and now very pleased it has grown (according to the plan!) this year and what better location than in Hall!

Some of you might remember that Hall Village Medical Centre used to be at **9 Victoria St** and run by Dr Phil Barraclough. I joined the practice as a GP 20 years ago and thoroughly enjoyed working with Phil and Dr Steve Ahearn and serving the people of Hall and the surrounding region. My medical journey after that ventured more into sports medicine, including working with elite sporting teams such as the Canberra Raiders and GWS Giants.

Over the years I've also been the team doctor for the Canberra Capitals and Canberra United, but also worked with National teams including the Australian Kangaroos, NZ Kiwis and Cook Island Rugby League Team. What I realised with elite sporting teams was that the best care for optimal performance requires a multidisciplinary approach with not only doctors, but also allied health practitioners all working together.



Dr Wilson Lo

by **Dr Wilson Lo**

I wanted to bring this model to help people in the general public to improve their health and function so they can reach their goals. This might be to compete in the Olympics or to just run around the lake or even to be fit enough to play with the kids. It doesn't matter what your age is but it is extremely important to stay active, not only to keep physically healthy but also to improve your mental health. And the more I think about things, the more I realise that everything we do in life is to improve the mental health of ourselves and others around us.



So I handpicked some practitioners who I knew from my work with elite sporting teams and started this model of health care firstly at the University of Canberra but now in our new practice in Hall. New? Well, yes and no! The old medical centre has been replaced by a beautiful building designed and built



by Scott Lilley and Stephen Barnett, financial advisors. They have been kind enough to lease it out to me and with a few small modifications it is now a multidisciplinary sports medicine practice! My life has come full circle and I'm back where I was but I believe I can now offer much more than I did back then!

At the moment we offer consultations with myself and Dr Tristyn Lowe, a visiting sports doctor from Jindabyne. Physiotherapy services are provided by David Parsons, who has a long history of involvement in rugby union and the ACT Academy of Sport, and also Kwong-Yan Cheung who works with local soccer and AFL teams and also the Canberra Raiders juniors. Ryan Connell is our exercise physiologist and I've worked with him for years at the Canberra Raiders although he now works with the Brumbies in the Super W competition. Bianca Knight is from Podiatry Professionals who supply many sporting teams and our visiting orthopaedic surgeon is Dr Joe Lau with public and private operating lists. Joe operates on a lot of Canberra Raiders players.

We not only offer individual consultations and treatment but also have a custom made rehabilitation gym on site and run classes for people with injuries, recovering from surgery and with arthritis, including the GLA:D program. In the future we will offer many more small group classes and even healthy eating cooking classes by our dietitian Mari Harrison.

I'm building more rooms and I will try my hardest to bring GP's back to Hall so that we are a complete centre for the local community. I am in talks with



the Capital Health Network about this and they are already training up our practice nurse.

Stephen Barnett has been kind enough to leave his amazing commissioned artwork on our walls – I hope you don't mind that I've added a few footy jerseys! I'm still working with the Canberra Raiders juniors as I was when I was here 20 years ago and hope to bring success to the Raiders first team in the NRLW this year.

Please pop in to say G'day to our friendly front desk staff – Helen, Maria and Yana because we want to be less of a health facility and more of a country practice. I am planning on holding an official opening on **Saturday 19 August from 11am to 2pm** and everyone in Hall and the surrounding regions invited! I'll confirm it on facebook after I chat with the local businesses because some of it will be quite loud with a traditional Chinese lion dance blessing. (I forgot to mention I run Canberra Dragon Dance when I am not being a doctor.)



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Hall Men's Shed projects

men's shed by Kevin Stone

There's no stopping some of the men's shed members when working on the variety of projects they're involved in! The equipment, whether it's for manual use or some of our electrical machines, is certainly put to good use and of course the men ensure safety is a priority with whatever they're using. Let's face it, we don't want accidents and everyone is there to enjoy themselves. And the guys certainly do! Because when you enter the main workshop area, a number of them are deep in concentration while working on their particular item in progress. But they still take the time to have a chat about what they're doing.

This can include such things as making a mannequin base to replace the one which had broken at the St Barnabas' Anglican Church in Charnwood. Some of the fellas are also designing and building clothes hanger storage items for the church.

We have an excellent ongoing association with the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre and one of our

latest projects for the centre is making several display holders. They are only small, but will allow the centre to display explanatory folders in their exhibitions.

The very easygoing Bruce Wallace has been meticulously repairing some jigsaws for the Miles Franklin Preschool in Evatt. Some of the very small parts have been misplaced and Bruce is doing a great job in using the jigsaw to cut out replacement ones and drop them in. Well done Bruce, because it's not an easy task sitting so patiently while often there are people working on noisy machines and conversations happening nearby. Bruce is also in the process of carving a full-sized goanna which will be put on display when it's finished. Not sure where yet, but so far it's looking real, so it will be interesting to see the final result.

And of course there's no stopping Brian Charge who's always up for a challenge! This time Brian and his merry band of willing helpers made and painted five hobby horses, complete with wheels, for preschool



Hobby horses for St Jude's Early Learning Centre.

children at the St Jude's Early Learning Centre. There is an outdoor area where the children can use natural resources such as leaves, sticks, logs, and ride bikes to assist develop their gross motor skills, so the hobby horses will be a welcome addition. This type of play allows the children to think creatively, collaborate their ideas, develop literacy skills during play with stories they tell, and develop their learning in other areas such

as reading. A big thank you to Brian and others involved in this very worthwhile project, creating something that will provide a valuable resource for the children's development. But naturally the horses had to be 'road tested' before delivery, so it's no surprise Brian was only too happy to make sure they were in good and safe working order by pretending to be a cowboy on one!

The shed has acquired a newer and larger barbeque which has had several improvements to strengthen the mobile stand it sits on so it's robust enough to be moved easily and safely. This means it can be used for the Brass on the Grass event in October, where the shed will be providing the barbeque service. And the shed's caterers Eric Detheridge, Rob Durie and Garth Chamberlain have had plenty of practice honing their skills by putting on the shed's fantastic monthly barbeque lunches, much to the delight of members.

Construction of the new deck, including handrails and steps, plus bench seats and a long table, have been finished thanks to the some of the shed's very talented members who have done an excellent job in providing safe and sturdy additions to the community cottage. There's no doubt the shed members and the Hall community will appreciate what has been achieved when the warmer weather arrives.

So yes, it's been a busy but very enjoyable time at the shed. Plenty of smiles. Plenty of conversations where the men come along to support each other and make a useful contribution to the community.

Springfield Rural Fire Service

Congratulations and thanks

At our Annual General Meeting in May, our office bearers were elected and have now been confirmed by the District. We are very lucky to have a dedicated community of volunteers who choose to be part of our Brigade Executive each year, many having served for a very long time. Thanks to each of you for your support. A special thanks to Karen Shaw who is stepping down from her role as secretary, having held this position for many years.

Rebecca Morrison
President



We are still looking for additional support in the area of Community Liaison, so if you are interested to find out more, please contact Rebecca Morrison directly.

NSWRFS represent!

Congratulations to Jane Morrison who will be representing the NSWRFS for the Australian Police Rugby Union Team in the World Police & Fire Games in Winnipeg, Canada from 28 July to 6 August. Jane has recently returned from a playing stint in for Kowloon Rugby in Hong Kong and is a formidable forward with Wests Rugby. She's a regular first responder to any call out we receive and comes from a strong bloodline of firefighting footballers!



We're cheering for you Jane!



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heritage

Cavanagh's Chinese Emporium in Hall . . . that never opened

From the 1850s, smaller farmers were able to acquire land as 'Conditional Purchases' and quickly settled the remaining available land in the district. However, a 1880s property boom was financed by rapid expansion in bank lending and many building societies and property finance companies, known as 'land banks', sprang up. The 1880s property boom and its unravelling led to an abrupt collapse of investment in the pastoral industry and urban development. This sounds horribly familiar, and the following financial crisis, which reached a peak in 1893, was then the most severe in Australia's history.

Of the institutions that called themselves a bank and accepted public deposits, 54 of the 64 institutions operating in 1891 had closed by mid-1893, and 34 of these closed permanently. By May 1893, the banks that suspended payment accounted for 56 per cent of deposits and 61 per cent of the notes issue in the six colonies.

Many local farmers were caught in this recession and a subsequent drought, and lost their farms, including Patrick and Mary Cavanagh of 'One Tree Hill', whose farm was bought up by their neighbours.

So, what do the children of a farmer do in this situation? Given the limited transportation of the period you may expect them to have sought

work locally, and five did settle at Mulligans Flat, Ginninderra. Clarence acquired 'Strayleaf' and Michael, with Patrick and Mary, acquired 'East View', which the families then farmed to the 1990s.

Surprisingly, six travelled far and wide – Thomas, a shearer, to New England, James to Newcastle, John to Jambin, Qld and Patrick to Cairns and then Tennant Creek, where he became a baker and cordial maker – 'Cavanagh's Cordials'.

George made his way to Africa, possibly as a farrier/blacksmith during the Boer War, and stayed there mining until 1907, when he finally returned to Tamworth where he farmed and sunk bores.



George Cavanagh sitting in a mining train in Africa.

The real mystery was Brien Cavanagh, who ended up in Shanghai, China working as a Customs officer. How and why he was there is as yet unknown, but he may have obtained a maritime job, as many of the customs officers came off ships.

Brien was appointed, in February 1899, as a 'Watcher' with the Imperial (Chinese) Maritime Customs Service at the port of Chefoo, now Yantai, China. This Customs Service was a foreign-administered agency of the Chinese Government, established in 1854. Across the nearly 100 years of its existence, some 22,000 men and women of many different nationalities were employed by them.

The international port was opened in 1861 and a foreign settlement was established between the old native town and the harbor. Britain and 16 other nations established consulates in the town, a Catholic and a Protestant church were erected, and a large hotel did business with foreigners who employed the town as a summer resort.

In August 1899 Brien was appointed as 'Third Class Tidewaiter', so would have been working for Chinese Customs during the Australian involvement in the Boxer Rebellion c1899. By 1911 he had progressed to Shanghai as an Assistant Examiner A – 'Button of the Fifth Class'.

heritage

Brien made a number of trips home and, on one visit in 1906, took his elderly parents to visit family members in northern NSW. He apparently had plans to return to Ginninderra and open Cavanagh's Chinese Emporium in the new village of Hall, selling items he had sourced in China, which would have been a very unique business for the day.

On one visit to Ginninderra, around 1908, he brought with him at least two large chests of items that were to be used as the basis for his 'Emporium'. While here he put on a display at the Ginninderra Show c1908 a range of exotic Chinese items, with large buddhas, vases and jewellery, all highlighted by a spectacular tiger skin.



Display at Ginninderra Show of Chinese artifacts by Brien Cavanagh c1908.

Brien left these items at 'East View' when he returned to China. On 10 February 1911, in the British Consulate in Shanghai, Brien, now 41, married 29 year old Tami Hashimoto.

Sadly, before they could return to Ginninderra, Brien fell ill with appendicitis and died in surgery in Shanghai in 1913. Brien was buried in a Shanghai Catholic cemetery, but the grave was lost after the communist revolution when many western cemeteries were destroyed. It is not yet known what happened to Tami Hashimoto Cavanagh after Brien's death.

A Chinese Emporium in Hall, run by Brien and his exotic Japanese bride Tami Hashimoto, would have been really something in 1913, but sadly proved not to be. What a life for a farm boy from 'One Tree Hill'.



by Peter Browning

Brien's two chests of items that he left behind were distributed amongst family members, including a case of items taken by his brother, 'old' Ernie, who lived in a slab cottage on 'Strayleaf' (now Amaroo and Gungahlin). Ernie's items have never been located, which brings us to another family legend. He is reputed to have buried his items in the suitcase somewhere in the vicinity of his slab hut. A search was made by John Cavanagh before the hut was demolished, with no success, but just maybe, in someone's backyard in Gungahlin will be a suitcase of Chinese artifacts!



Tami Hashimoto Cavanagh.



Brien Cavanagh.

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Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade

fire safety

Amy Goldstraw President

With the fire season only two months away, now is the time to be preparing yourself and your property.

Assess and **reduce fuel loads**: trim trees and hedges, especially those near the house; cut grass; move woodpiles a safe distance from buildings. Remember that once the fire season starts, it may no longer be safe to reduce fuel loads – such as long grass – especially as they dry out. The brigade is also able to support agricultural burns, where a permit has been granted.

Consider how the RFS can **access** your property: gates, fences, tree-lined driveways (fire trucks need a 4x4m clearance).

Protect your house as best you can from embers and smoke: ensure roof and external walls are not damaged (missing tiles, loose tin, cracked mortar); fit seals around doors and windows; clean gutters.

Review your **fire plan** and make sure all residents know their role in the event of a fire.

If your plan is to stay, ensure all your firefighting and personal protective **equipment is fully functioning**.

At Wallaroo RFS, we practice what we preach. We have been training hard over the winter months to ensure our skills and knowledge are primed for the fire season.

Along with the usual drills and scenarios, we have been expanding our knowledge of hazardous materials



including the emerging challenges of lithium batteries, and familiarising our newer members with the local area.

We train every second Wednesday and the last Sunday morning of every month. You are welcome to drop by the station with any questions or concerns. We would also love to see you at Bunnings Belconnen on **6 August** for a sausage and a chat!

Brigade contacts

fire safety

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

Captain: Neil Shepherd	0418 628 095	nshepherd@shepelectrical.com.au
Senior Deputy Captain: Geoff Morris	0407 188 192	geoffmor@hotmail.com
President: Amy Goldstraw	0410 763 936	amy.goldstraw@gmail.com
Secretary: Mike Textor	0408 825 281	tw43887@bigpond.net.au
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Great time surrounded by sheep

by Kevin Stone

What started out as a leisurely lunch for around 50 students on an interstate excursion from a Perth based school quickly turned out to be a very exciting and fun-filled afternoon, with plenty of wide eyes, smiles and laughter when they came face-to-face with some small and rather large sheep recently at Gold Creek Station.

Little did they know what they were in for when the male and female students were split into two groups, one heading for the shearing shed, while the other group watched a sheep dog mustering sheep.

Because I had been chatting to some of the young men, I walked with them to the shearing shed. Now I've seen sheep shearing over the years, but we were in for a real treat, because we were introduced to Aidan Copp, the current world record holder, who had shorn 605 crossbred lambs in eight hours, at the rate of one every 48 seconds!



Aidan making shearing look easy.

Aidan not only gave a fantastic shearing demonstration, but took the time to give us a very good overview description of the handpiece he uses to shear the sheep. It was amazing to see how quiet the sheep were while they were being shorn, and Aidan said that's the secret of knowing how to handle them and lack of cuts on the sheep.

Aidan and his partner Caroline were so friendly and engaging with the students and very willing to answer all their questions. And a highlight for one of the students was when he had the opportunity,

with guidance from Aidan, to partly shear a sheep. Now that's something to go into one of life's great memories!

John Starr also stepped in to give a demonstration and informative talk about the wool, what type of country is good for wool growing, different sheep breeds and what they are used for. John has so much knowledge and the students were very attentive while he was talking.

Next we watched how Davo, the Kelpie sheepdog, effortlessly brought a small mob from one paddock to a holding yard. But he didn't do it alone, because Craig Starr, with a look of mischief in his eyes, asked for three volunteers. Two to help Craig and Davo and one at the holding yard gate. And of course being brave young men, several were more than willing to jump over the fence to 'help'!

What Craig didn't mention was that he wanted them to tip a sheep. Something he did with ease. But then again, he's probably done it many, many times for shearing or if they have such things as grass seeds in their eyes to be removed.

Watching the students trying to catch the sheep, let alone trying to tip one, was one of the funniest things I've seen for a very long time! When a couple of the students were trying to grab one, they looked like they were riding them like a horse! It was very funny and we were all laughing so much! Luckily I wasn't asked

to demonstrate my skills, because even though it was hilarious, my efforts would have been far worse!

I asked one of the female students how she went catching and tipping a sheep and she modestly told me she did okay. Craig backed that up and said she did it in about 30 seconds and was fantastic!

I've been to Gold Creek Station on different occasions, but having the opportunity to watch and listen to a world champion shearer doesn't happen to many people, so I'm sure the students took away many happy memories and stories to tell their friends and families. I certainly have.

Thank you John and Craig for what you do for the Hall Village and Canberra!



Craig shows how it's done.

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When to prune hydrangeas

gardening by Lisa Walmsley

I have found over the years that folk either love or hate hydrangeas. In my mind, every plant has a place and this one is particularly good in those shady spots in your garden where a lot of other plants will not grow. However, they are not a set and forget plant and a little care will guarantee glorious flowers in the summer.

Pruning hydrangeas can be confusing. When you Google, 'How to prune hydrangeas' the usual chaos of mixed and conflicting information occurs. The main concern is that pruning incorrectly will lead to your hydrangeas not flowering. And really if they don't flower, what is the point of having them?

The reason they can be a little tricky to prune is because some hydrangeas bloom on new wood, that is the current seasons growth, while others flower on old wood, last seasons growth.

Making this all the more complicated is the fact that in our cold climate, old wood hydrangeas can fail, even when following the old wood pruning rules.

Most of the hydrangeas in this little part of our world bloom on new wood. This means the flowers bloom on flower buds that formed in that season. These flower buds were not on the plant during the winter months. The buds were developed during new growth in spring.

These hydrangeas should be pruned in late winter or early spring, before the plant starts to put on new growth.

To make things a little confusing there are a few choices when it comes to pruning new wood hydrangeas. Sometimes you will cut the plant back to within a couple inches of the ground. At other times you will require to cut the plant back to one third of its size.

To simplify this, you need to know which type of hydrangea you have. New wood hydrangeas are either *Annabelles* or *Panicles*.

Annabelles can be pruned close to the ground, leaving a few inches of last years wood to create support structure for new growth.

Panicle hydrangeas don't need to be cut back so hard and you will leave one third of the plant above ground.

Some of the old wood hydrangeas include, Oakleaf and climbing hydrangea and although some of these survive in our climate, many die or are hard to grow, especially if you live in an area with lots of frosts.

I like a different style of pruning, selective pruning. This involves selectively cutting our branches that are dead, diseased or old and spent flowers. Also cutting out cross branches that are rubbing each other.

And if this all seems too complicated, you don't have to prune your hydrangeas. The benefits of pruning are shaping the plant, and maintaining size and vigour. If you think your plants are a good size and shape and healthy they will be fine left to their own devices.

If you have followed all the general rules of maintaining hydrangeas and they are still not flowering there are a few main reasons:

- 1 Old wood hydrangeas in a cold climate will die back in harsh winters.
- 2 Pruning old wood hydrangeas after flower buds have developed.
- 3 Plants are still not mature enough.
- 4 Not enough sun – four hours is good.
- 5 Possums love hydrangea flower buds.

And don't forget to add a tablespoon of baking soda to a full watering can of water every two weeks as the plant starts to grow in spring.



Hydrangea in flower.



During pruning.



Pruned.

Photos (and pruning): Tiffany Winterbottom

Ginninderra Catchment Group

by Jarrod Ruch

Ginninderra Catchment Group, the Village of Hall and District Progress Association and Hall Landcare group will develop a management plan in collaboration with the ACT Government for the open space areas surrounding Hall, including Hall Village Reserve and Halls Creek. This plan will be used to prioritise future works and focus volunteer time on areas of higher conservation value that is within the ability of volunteers and will protect the unique Indigenous and European heritage values of Hall.

To facilitate the immediate on-ground value of the plan, the project includes a budget for weed control and planting, and to focus on immediate priorities raised in the plan. Activities under this grant project will consist of:

- the development of a management plan for the Hall urban open spaces
- planning for erosion prevention of Halls Creek
- funding for priority planting and weed control in the reserves
- community events and education funding.

There are several patches of remnant Box Gum Grassy Woodland surrounding Hall, which is listed as a threatened community in the ACT and supports several vulnerable bird species such as Superb Parrot, Hooded Robin Brown Tree Creeper and Regent Honeyeater. There may even be potential habitat for Rosenberg's Goanna, while the cemetery supports a population for the rare leek orchid, *Prasophylulum petilum*.

By undertaking management planning and activities appropriate to the site and the community, more habitat of native plants and animals will be protected. Funding within the grant for planting and weed control, based on the outcomes of the plan, will be used to enhance the condition of high priority patches, to get the plan working immediately to protect plants and animals and help manage threats to biodiversity.

A management plan will ensure that the Village of Hall and District Progress Association in conjunction with the Hall Landcare group will be able to undertake more work in these areas with the confidence that the activities are fit for purpose and heritage sites will be protected and enhanced. In addition, the Ginninderra Catchment Group with the Progress Association will host several community events for education and on-ground restoration, including planting and weeding activities as well as a presentation of the management plan. This will include general community events, along with planning and engagement events with VHDPA and



Hall Landcare, and other key stakeholder groups. The plan will help to identify areas where weed control and planting are needed to support the growth of native flora and fauna and reduce the impact of invasive species on local ecosystems. Moreover, the funding for priority planting in the reserves will contribute to the restoration of native habitats that may have been damaged or lost due to previous land use practices. Restoring native habitats is crucial for the protection of native plants and animals as it provides a suitable environment for them to live and thrive. Finally, the community events and education funding will raise awareness of the importance of conservation efforts in the area, which will help to engage the community in protecting and preserving native plants and animals.

If you would like to be involved with the development of the Management Plan or have interesting ideas that work within the scope of the description of the plan, please get in contact with Jarrod Ruch, Rural Projects, Ginninderra Catchment Group, ruralproject@ginninderralandcare.org.au phone 0491 083 337, or any member of the Progress Association Committee or email info@hall.act.au. Or come to the meeting on 8 August.

You are invited to a meeting to contribute to the development of a Management Plan for the open space areas surrounding Hall, including Hall Village Reserve and Halls Creek.

6:30 pm Tuesday 8 August
The Cottage
Palmer St, Hall

Contact Jarrod Ruch,
0491 083 337
Ginninderra Catchment Group

A picture is worth a thousand words

The Southwell Society has a remarkable photograph collection spanning many, many decades of the Southwell family narrative.

One such photograph was retrieved recently, having been stored away with many others in our Conservation Room. It was beautifully framed but in need of some TLC. Maren Innes, our part-time heritage conservation and cataloguing associate, opened the frame, dusted off the photograph and de-bugged the interior. When she investigated the back of the photograph there was a pencilled message . . . 'must be finished by Saturday', which intrigued her.

The photograph was of a young Ernie Gribble, a local lad born at the *Glebe Farm* in Ginninderra in 1896. His mum was Mary Ann Southwell. Ernie attended Hall school as a child and like most of the Gribble family, was a keen cricketer. Growing up he worked with his father William and brother Jack, operating the family's famous 15-ton steam-powered traction engine and chaff-cutting machinery which was hired out to farmers in the Hall and Ginninderra District.

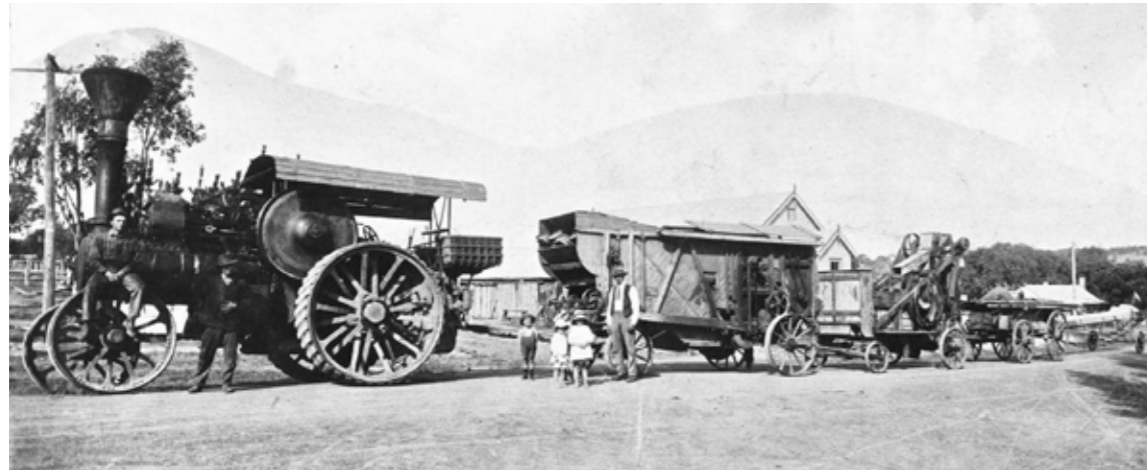


We are looking for large portrait-sized photographs of local identities, typical of those family photographs that would have been displayed in the very special room in the house which was only occasionally used and certainly off limits to boisterous children.

If you think you might have a suitable photograph and you would like to donate it to the centre, or supply it as a long-term loan, please let us know by sending an email to: museum@hall.act.au. We would take excellent care of it!

Family and Local History program at the centre

Several volunteers with an interest in local history are available at the centre on Thursday mornings and Sunday afternoons to assist locals and visitors with family history research. Our geographic focus is broadly the catchment of Ginninderra Creek, with records primarily up to WWI.



Ernie became a well-known local resident, but he achieved 'fame' for all the wrong reasons. He died young and in tragic circumstances – he was caught in his father's threshing machine as he and his mate Cedric Southwell (Kingsley's dad) were returning home after a day's work at Jeir Station. He was only 24 years of age.

Maren has suggested that the note made by the photographer/framer on the back of the photograph was because the photograph was needed urgently for Ernie's funeral. Allen Mawer, one of our volunteers, has confirmed that the size of the photograph suggests it was used for that reason and as such has survived in good condition and for a long time . . . 100 years!

The photograph now holds pride-of-place in our education space we call *Home Sweet Home*. However, it is the only photograph we have which is on display in our 'lounge/sitting room' and we would like some more to add to the display.

Our library offers access to:

- a selection of local history books
- unpublished family histories
- our photograph collection, and
- our website which explores the history of Ginninderra and Hall through our searchable databases of prominent places and people and a selection of local bush schools.

We would also be delighted if you wish to share your family history with us, by bringing in information on a USB stick, CD or original photographs and documents that we can scan into our data-base. Thanks to a recent ACT Government Community Support & Infrastructure Scheme grant our IT equipment is welcoming and easy to use. Inquiries: museum@hall.act.au



Upcoming surgery can be a daunting prospect. There may be processes and procedures to prepare for prior to surgery. Accepting and preparing for the recovery time. And then there's the pain aspect – how much pain will you be in and how will you manage it? Preparing for surgery involves both physical and mental preparation and the mental preparation is where many people falter.

Knowing we need surgery and understanding we have a good surgical team and post-operative support is only part of the mental preparation equation. From a logical and logistical perspective, we may have everything in place, yet feelings of anxiousness may still occur. Whilst some anxiety is to be expected, what would happen if you were feeling calm, peaceful and confident instead of anxious?

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34 years at Hall: a reflection

by **Bernie Rodgers**

There was a squelch of rubber on the tarmac and the sound of jet engines in full reverse thrust. We had landed at Sydney from Singapore and I just had to clear customs, pick up my car, and drive to Richmond to collect our dog from the kennels before setting out on the five hour drive to Murrumbateman (no multi-lane highways in that era!). My wife and daughter had already set out and were staying with friends before we would all take residence in our new home on Dog Trap Road. Did I say five hours? Unfortunately, there was a fatal car crash that took two hours to clear and I was just three cars from the front of the queue. A very pleasant young police officer came along each vehicle to inform the occupants of the delay and, as he looked into our car, he met eye to eye with our 96kg Irish Wolfhound and stepped back with exclamation not suitable for this reading! However, we eventually made it and the next day moved into our new home and registered our daughter with Hall Primary School: we had commenced our love affair with Hall.

Over the weeks that followed I opened accounts with Hall Garage, Hall Rural Stockfeeds, the Hall Shop (plus a PO Box), the village doctor, Hall Rural Supplies, and Hall Village Trailers, where I ordered a purpose made trailer that is still operational today.

As I expanded my friendship group I felt more and more at home with Hall. I soon found out that one business I had missed was that of the vet. I had purchased a dozen or so cattle and after several 'home visits', including a caesarian, I had set up an on-going relationship with our vet. Our domestic animals still attend the Hall Village vet.



Rotary Club of Hall UC Scholarship winner Jessica Catlin is presented with a certificate by then Hall Rotary Club Vice President Bernie Rogers (2015).

At this point I should point out my longstanding relationship with Wattle Park Uniting Church. I started attending as soon as we settled in and have been a regular member all these years. Initially as a Lay Preacher and then 16 years as the formal minister as Pastor. I was able to study part-time and in 2013 attained a Master of

Theology through St. Mark's and Charles Sturt University. During this time the 16th Canberra Girl's Brigade found themselves with no building to call home and Wattle Park stepped up and provided a base. As minister, I became their Chaplain, a position I held for over 16 years. There are many stories one could tell, but for me a favourite is that of one girl who enjoyed her time so much she returned some years later to have her child baptised at Wattle Park by Chaplain Bernie.

Wattle Park became very popular at Christmas and especially our Christmas Eve carol service. Over several years we had up to 120 crowded into our small church to hear seven readings and 10 carols giving good lung exercise for all. I also made sure that I was able to give a navigational update on the position of Santa's sleigh!

Talking of Santa's sleigh, it was one Christmas Eve during a major bushfire that I was one of two crew still mopping up at about 2am (now Christmas Day) when all the others had gone home. As we were starting to pack up we heard jingle, jingle: it was Santa on his way to the next delivery and he decided to land and wish us a Happy Christmas. Yes, the magic still resounds today.

Which brings me to my time in the Jeir Bushfire Brigade. To remind people, Jeir is the brigade that borders Hall on the Barton Highway. Once again there are so many stories and I am very grateful for the volunteers who gave their time to train novices like me so that we can all be ready to respond when required. I was honoured, and very surprised, to be made Captain at a time when I was also Chaplain to the NSW Rural Fire Service: so just one story! I was a Team Leader in Jeir 1 (a Category 1 Tanker) with three crew I had not met before. I was wearing my Captain's epaulets and we approached the rest area, so I made the vehicle safe and changed to wearing my Chaplain's epaulets. The crew expressed surprise when they observed the change and I will not repeat their comments here! I think 'colourful' should suffice.

I mentioned earlier that I had dealings with most Hall businesses and was often in Hall Rural. The friendship led to my often being asked to join the Rotary Club of Hall. Initially I declined, but I made the mistake of attending as a guest speaker on a couple of occasions. I had no idea where this would lead, but joining Rotary was one of the best things I have done. Over the last 20 years or so I have been Club President, District Committee Chair for Polio Eradication, and District Governor. I visited India as a guest speaker and remember asking how would I overcome the language difficulty? No problem, all proceedings are in English: because with so many dialects English is spoken by most as a second language.

The Rotary Club of Hall has provided so much good to our community, local, national and international and continues to do so. As I get older, my time at Hall becomes less and the club kindly made me an

Honorary Member a few years ago so that I can still attend but be relieved of some duties.

However, just as life was going strong a few boulders were placed in my path. I had had bowel cancer in my thirties and liver cancer in my fifties and, although recovering from both, more was to come. Multiple Myeloma hit in 2012 and almost continuous neutropenia left me with several bouts of pneumonia. Things were not good! My wife said to me no more farming, no firefighting, etc. and, in 2010, we moved into Canberra: and suburbia.

I still enjoy remembering all these times (and many more) and hope that in my efforts I have helped some people to have a lift-up. I hope I can say that I have always done my best and been honest in my decisions.

God Bless.



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The Annual General Meeting of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association (VHDPA) is to be held on the **20 September at 7pm** at the Hall Pavilion. The various sub groups of the VHDPA (including the *Rural Fringe*) submit reports on their activities and achievements from the previous year. It is also time to elect a new committee to represent the interests of the Village of Hall and District in the coming year. Please consider nominating yourself as a committee member or office holder, a commitment starting at just one evening a month. It is so important that the committee has members with diverse interests, ages and backgrounds and that fresh faces continue to replace those who have 'done their bit' for the village and district. You will become part of the decision making that goes to making a difference in our wonderful locality and maintaining our village and surrounds, with the added bonus of hearing about Hall happenings before anyone else! Don't forget to renew your VHDPA membership also.

Progress associations, also known as Neighbourhood Development Groups (NDG), Precinct Groups, or Save Our Suburb Groups, are independent, incorporated organisations which liaise with local government, state and federal government agencies to bring about change. They are formed by volunteers who seek to make a difference in their locality by developing facilities which will be of advantage to residents or visitors. Further aims are to maintain, encourage and promote the social, economic, environmental, cultural and education progress of a district. Most often the groups are apolitical.

Wallaroo solar installation

I received this information from Ben Cranston at New Energy Development regarding the latest meeting about the proposed Wallaroo solar installation.

The community information sessions held in June were to give the community a chance to discuss and ask questions about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project on exhibition with the Department of Planning & Environment (DPE). Approximately 30 individual groups attended the meetings over the two days to get further information on the project and discuss the EIS.

The exhibition period has now finished and Wallaroo solar installation is in the process of writing a response to the submissions received, where we will address comments from the community information sessions and submissions to the DPE. We expect this to be completed in late August.

Floriade in the village

Hall Village is once again part of Floriade. Thanks to the hard work of volunteers, the beds along the Memorial Grove have been planted with bulbs and annuals and netting has been installed to protect them from the mischievous cockies. There will be a community event in the spring to 'open' the gardens.

Gymkhana at the Pony Club oval

The Hall Pony Club Gymkhana date is **17 September**. The club will also receive a substantial grant from the ACT Government for upgrades to the sand arenas. The club has certainly seemed very active over the last few years and many an evening I hear the clip clop of hooves on the road outside our house on their way back from the club grounds, a truly rural sound!

Until next time,
Jenny Whittaker

p.s. A big thankyou to Hugh Watson for the great article in the last edition on Philip Williams who was awarded an Order of Australia (AM).

Historic Murrumburrah

by **Kevin Stone**

In the June *Rural Fringe* issue I wrote about the wonderful Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre, but I also mentioned visiting the museum at Harden-Murrumburrah.

Both museums are well worth visiting as there are so many items on display, plenty of information to read and friendly volunteers only too willing to show you around.

Murrumburrah, a village which was Gazetted in September 1858, is about a one-and-a-half-hour drive from Canberra, a bit longer if you break the journey at Murrumbateman.

The Historical Society Museum is on Albury Street (Burley Griffin Way). It was opened in 1972 and since then has saved and restored over 3000 items, so be prepared to spend some time there if you want to appreciate the many fascinating things from bygone days. These include domestic items, dental equipment, agriculture machinery and tools, sewing machines plus an upstairs area with beautiful clothing for women, men and children. And the very well informed volunteers are only too happy to have a chat about the museum and contents.

It was interesting to hear how the district was settled in the 1830's and when gold was discovered in the mid 1850's. Lucky for the people who found it, but tough going all the same.

Those times were certainly hard, with the displays from horse and carriage to horsepower showing how different things were to the modern way we travel these days.

After spending an enjoyable time at the museum, there's a great self-driving tour of the village with around 40 sites to see. Yes, some things have changed, so you may have to use a bit of imagination, but it's well worth taking the time.

For those who would rather stretch their legs and be more health conscience, the walking tour has about the same number of sites to visit. Many are similar ones as the driving tour, but you get to work up an appetite!

And if you do, there's a great takeaway next door to the museum, one described as the 'best in the area' by one of the customers. And I agreed!

Oh, and yes, Robyn, the wonderful volunteer at the museum gave me very comprehensive and easy to follow brochures on both tours. She also told me a funny little story about one of the many schoolchildren who visit

the museum. The young primary school girl was expecting to see 'old things with cobwebs and dust over them'!

The museum is open on the weekends, with other times by appointment. As their brochure says: *Come and live the experience with our theme areas.* You won't be disappointed.

But there's more to see when you visit the village, including the 1st Australian Horse and the Australian Light Horse Memorial and landscaping. It's an exceptional memorial and the area is used on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day each year to commemorate the men and horses who served their country.

Just as outstanding is the life-size bronze statue of the partly broken-in stallion which earned the unflattering name of *Bill the Bastard* because he was not easy to ride. The statue commemorates the astonishing and heroic feat when Bill and his rider Major Michael Shanahan saved four soldiers from certain death at the Battle of Romani during the First World War.

All-in-all, it's a great way to spend a morning, afternoon, or better still, take the time and make it a relaxing day.



Major Michael Shanahan and Bill.
photo: Kevin Stone

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

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Proudly printed by Instant Colour Press

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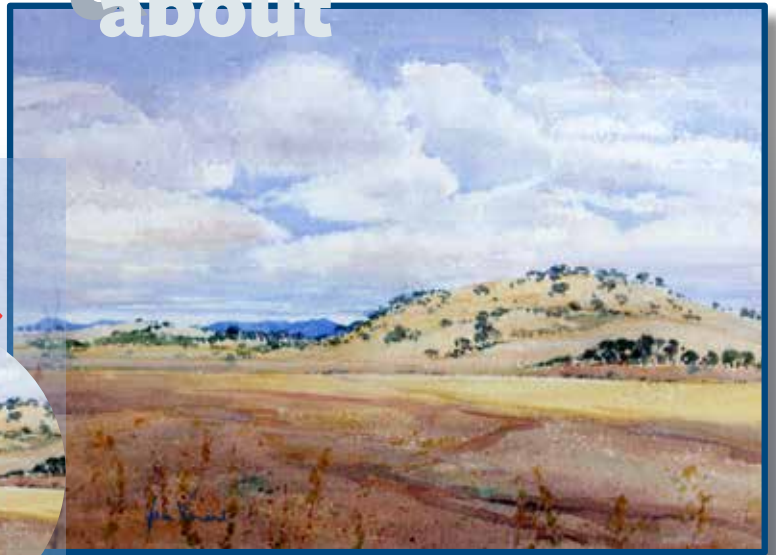
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