

# RURAL FRINGE

*Journal of the Hall district*

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 5

October 2023

## Bruce Sports Medicine opens in Hall

by Jenny Whittaker

With a great deal of fanfare, noise and spectacle Bruce Sports Medicine officially opened in Gladstone Street, Hall on 19 August. Chinese lions performed to the rhythm of cymbals, gongs and the big drum, making an impression as they danced outside the practice, driving away evil spirits and ushering in good luck. The two lions were spectacular, extremely colourful and skillfully operated, looking so lifelike and intimidating as they moved towards the front entrance to accept offerings – oranges for luck, pineapple for general wellbeing, lettuce for prosperity and money (chocolate coins!) thrown to everyone as a blessing for the grand opening.



... continues on page 3.

Lions.



Rex, Prajiet, Andy and Jesse.



Leo, Kim, Max and Zoe.



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# COUNTRY VISTAS

by Isla Patterson



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The beginning of spring provided the perfect opportunity for the soft release of some rehabilitated possums into the reserves around Hall.

Possums are released in pairs with shelter and food drops for a week to allow them the best chance of survival.

Wildlife ACT carer Anita carefully selected a site with shelter and food trees nearby before releasing this young pair.

If you find wildlife in distress call **ACT Wildlife** on **0433 300 033**.  
For animals found in NSW call **Wildcare** on **62991966**



Bring the family!

Canberra Brass presents  
**Brass on the Grass**



**Sunday 15 October 2023**  
Victoria Street Hall  
Fundraising concert for the Hall Heritage Centre  
Food on sale and heritage displays open from midday - music begins 1.30  
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## 1ST B'DAY STREET PARTY

4/8 Victoria Street Hall

**OCT. 7TH**  
11am - 3pm

Free face painting, food van, stalls, CBR Spiderman, instore discounts & more

This year has gone super fast and KAN Kreate and Co will be celebrating our 1st birthday with a big street party on **Saturday 7 October • 11am to 3pm**

We will have free face painting (12pm to 1:30pm), Canberra's Spiderman & some of the Canberra Princesses will be in attendance from 12pm to 1pm.

A food van out the front, our shop stockists will have stalls along the street and we will have a range of in store bargains.

## St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

Cnr Victoria & Loftus Streets, Hall

by Beryl Pedvin

The chilly winter mornings and the spectacle of spring blossoms are behind us and now it's time to look toward to the joy of Christmas. At St Michael's our church celebrations begin at the end of November with Advent, a season of reflection and preparation for Christmas. Our church community members are also looking forward to the Christmas events in the village.

### Hall Village Christmas Fair Saturday 25 November

What a great event this has grown to become in just three years. Come along to browse and buy from the many artisans and craftspeople at the fair, and look for our stall of cakes, jams, and other homemade goodies in the Pavilion at the Hall Showground.

### Christmas Carols @ Hall Pavilion Friday 8 December – starting at 6pm

What great fun we had last year, with community carols led by Canberra Brass in the Pavilion.

Bring a picnic and your best singing voice!



### Service of Lessons and Carols

#### Sunday 17 December – starting at 7pm

at St Michael & All Angels Anglican church.

All are invited to share the story of Christmas told through six short Bible readings and well-loved Christmas carols in this traditional, candle-lit service.

### Christmas services

Residents of Hall and surrounds as well as visitors will be warmly welcomed at the Christmas services at St Michael & All Angels this year:

- Christmas Eve @ 10.30 pm
- Christmas Day @ 10 am

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

For more information please ring Beryl on **0408 488 526**

## Bruce Sports Medicine opens in Hall

... continued from page 1

After such an exciting start it was then down to the serious business of tucking into the wonderful food, having a wander through the treatment and gym rooms, and meeting the people behind the business.

Dr Wilson Lo is a sports medicine doctor with a Certificate IV in fitness. He also runs the Yut Hung Kung Fu Academy which teaches self defence to children and teenagers. The academy also teaches the art of Chinese Dragon Dance and percussion which gives a hint as to why he had the dragons perform for the grand opening. Wilson and his wife Yana own and operate the practice. Sandra (practice manager) and Maria (receptionist) will keep all the staff and patients in line, with occasional help from Yana when needed. Wilson and Tristyn Lowe are the sports doctors, Kwong-Yan Cheung

and David Parsons are the physiotherapists with Kwong also in charge of exercise classes, Ryan Connell is an exercise physiologist, Dr Yeong Joe Lau is a visiting orthopaedic surgeon and Bianca Knight a podiatrist. The aim is to also offer acupuncture starting in November. The practice hopes to receive GP accreditation and if that happens there will be a touch of 'Back to the Future' as there will once again be a GP surgery at 9 Hall Street, 20 or so years after Dr Baraclough's surgery operated on this exact site, with Wilson as one of the doctors!

The practice will be open five days a week and offer exercise physiotherapy only on Saturdays. You will also be able to order physio equipment with only a day or so turnaround.





## President's page



I welcome the warmer and longer days as we pass through spring towards summer. Our local bush fire brigades are reminding us that now is the time to prepare for a hot and dry summer.

With the arrival of spring, the plantings done at the Hall Reserve in the community work day last March needed weeding and mulching and in anticipation of an El Niño summer. Eighteen people (including three visitors from Tasmania) came together on Sunday 24 September for three hours weeding, mulching, replanting the few shrubs that had not survived and ended with a sausage sizzle. It was a great day working together with our neighbours.

I mentioned in the last *Rural Fringe* that, on the request of some residents of Wallaroo, the Progress Association contacted NSW Environment Minister Penny Sharpe and Goulburn MP Wendy Tuckerman 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. NSW Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty directed us to Yass Local Land Services where Biosecurity Officer Brad Kelk confirmed their readiness to support landholders to undertake control of feral pigs, deer and goats. I have included a separate article on the support the Yass Local Land Services are ready to provide.



It is somewhat disappointing that Transport and City Services Minister Chris Steel, contrary to his advice of 19 December 2022 that the establishment of a safe pedestrian and cycle path from the Barton Highway to Gladstone Street Hall had been placed on the community path priority listing for future works, notified the Progress Association on 31 August that the safe path has been reassessed and is a lower priority compared to other community requests and is not included on the immediate forward works program. The Progress Association is seeking the advocacy of Yerrabi MLAs and Pedal Power to accelerate this work.



As part of the efforts by the Progress Association to have the ACT Government establish stormwater infrastructure in Hall Village, Yerrabi MLA James Milligan sought answers from TCS Minister Steel during the Assembly Estimates process. Minister Steel has responded to James Milligan that detailed analysis of flood modelling, investigation and development of design options to the preliminary sketch plan stage has been completed. It is very disappointing that, to date, TCCS have not made the report public, although the Progress Association is continuing to request its publication. Minister Steel has however said that the Hall community will be further engaged during the detailed design stage to ensure the best outcome for the Hall Village stormwater improvement works. The Progress Association will continue to advocate for transparency and engagement of the Hall community.

I am quite looking forward to the Hall Heritage Centre 2023 *Brass On The Grass* band concert starting at **1:30pm** on **Sunday 15 October**. I hope that we have a fine, warm spring afternoon for the concert.



Due to the time necessary to finalise the Annual Review and prepare the Annual Report, the Annual General Meeting of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association will be held on **18 October 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



Robert Yallop President

to nominate for a position of office bearer or committee member of the Association.

Engagement with the Progress Association is an opportunity for residents, ratepayers and businesses in Hall Village and District to set the agenda and priorities for the work done by and advocacy of Progress Association. You can join or renew your membership on the Hall Village website at **www.hall.act.au**.

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.care@gmail.com**, or send a message to **info@hall.act.au**.



**Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc**

## Annual General Meeting

**7pm Wednesday 18 October 2023**  
**Hall Pavilion**



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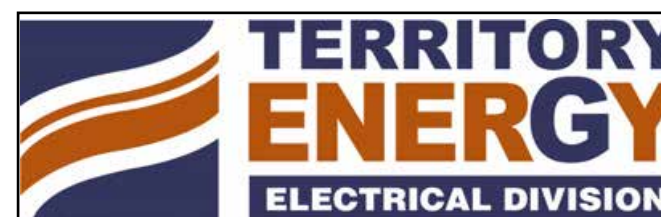
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## Brass band marches even further ahead

Picture this . . . four youngish chaps – Brent Newberry, Tom Russell, Peter and Tim Nash – all living and working in the village of Hall c.1984 having a quiet Wednesday night beer at the Hall garage in Victoria Street. As conversation flowed they discovered they had brass band experiences in common. And so it all began, the *Hall Village Brass Band* was established!

They set up their instruments wherever there was space: the Newberry garage, the Hall hall as it was then known (pavilion now), the primary school classrooms. Some of their first meetings were held in the lounge room of what used to be the Headmaster's (Laurie Copping) residence. That space is now known as the Cottage which hosts the Hall Men's Shed weekly get-togethers and other public events.

Their very first outing for a concert was held at a Wallaroo Road Nursery – their fee – beer for the musicians! As the band expanded so did their gigs. Any public event in the village was serenaded by the band and their 'playouts' were always a family affair with children dancing to the beat and mimicking the conductor from afar. In



Stan Galloway conducting the band in the Hall hall.

the early days their first conductor, Tom Russell, used a knitting needle as his baton – there was much merriment amongst the musicians.

It was also a marching band and the asphalt quadrangle on the primary school campus was an ideal practice space.

In the inaugural issue of the *Rural Fringe* (February 1994) one of the articles featured the band.

**Brass band marches ahead**, written by SHORN, waxed lyrical about the village and the music:

*The long, hot summer evenings in Hall are perfect to sit and listen. The scent of scorched dust and dry grass mingles with the eucalyptic tang of thirsty gum leaves. The warm air is still and silent except for the occasional cockatoo screeching across the sky. A line of lightning cuts the black clouds gathering in the distance and thunder rumbles a warning of rain that doesn't come.*

*It is a twilight of perfect peace and I wait for it to begin.*

*Bom . . . Bom . . . Bom . . .*

*This week it is fainter. They must be down the other end of the village. I open my ears further.*



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## heritage happenings



Mardie Troth Hall Heritage Centre

*Bom . . . Bom . . . Bom . . .  
the big drum echoes the  
beat and the trumpets and  
horns begin.*

*It is a Tuesday night and the  
Hall Village Brass Band is  
rehearsing again.*

By this time, in February 1994, the band had been playing music for 10 years and boasted about 30 musicians from Hall, Yass, suburban Canberra and Queanbeyan under the bandmaster, Peter Robertson. The band played at festivals and parades and was establishing quite a reputation in the district. They went on to win the 1994 National Federation Festival competition in Corowa, judged the festival's most entertaining band.

The band became a feature of the Canberra Festival events held every year to mark the founding of the nations' capital in 1913 and their participation in community events expanded over time. Over the years the band grew both in numbers and stature within the national brass band community, winning the National Band Championships B Grade Brass



Performing at the True Blue Do in Victoria Street, Hall – note the huge pile of sand in the main street.

category in 2002. The band and its successors have become an important part of the cultural community of the ACT and regularly provide music support for a wide variety of functions and occasions.

In 2012 the organisation changed its name to *Canberra Brass Inc.*, which now comprises three brass bands, *Canberra Brass*, which is highly competitive at the national B grade level; *Victoria Street Brass*, which provides playing opportunities for musicians with a wide range of skills and experience; and the newly formed and very dynamic *Canberra Youth Brass*.

The Hall Heritage Centre is delighted to again be hosting the annual Brass Band Concert with Canberra Brass. Come along to our annual *Brass On The Grass* concert on **Sunday 15 October**. The centre's heritage displays will be open from **12 noon** and the music begins at **1.30pm**. Plenty of food on sale and space for a picnic on the grass, so bring all the family!

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## Busy time at the shed

Thursday is when I normally go along to the Hall Men's Shed to catch up with the guys for a cuppa and chat, but recently I called in on a Tuesday morning because that's when they are usually found in the workshop area.

And was I in for a surprise, because everyone seemed to be working on a project. Well, maybe not exactly when I popped in, because it was morning tea time, and there are priorities. However, the conversations were interesting and everyone joined in, so it was good to see the companionship amongst the group.

But once that was over, it was straight back to work!

For example, master craftsman Alan Boyd, who had previously taken apart a 19th Century corner chair, had somehow put the pieces back together and was in the process of restoring the chair to its former glory. The final product will be something his granddaughter will treasure I'm sure.



The 19th Century chair before restoration.

Our Foreman Doug Anstess was busily working on a clothes hanger storage cabinet for the Barney's op-shop attached to the St Barnabas' Anglican Church in Charnwood.

Six high chairs have been reupholstered by Alan and waiting on delivery. I didn't have the opportunity to see them before the work was done, but the finished chairs look excellent.

There's a large, old table getting restored and later can be used or sold to some fortunate new owner. It will be interesting to see how it turns out, because it looks like there's a fair bit of work to be done, but the fellas



by Kevin Stone

are more than up for the task.

Then Alf Wilford from the museum was seen working on a large sign – it's a great relationship between the shed and museum volunteers. The two areas work well together and it's a credit to everyone who put in so much of their time and effort to make them wonderful places to be a part of.

And as I looked around the workshop, I couldn't

help but notice the many bilbies, cheeseboards and other items either completed or in the process of being assembled. This doesn't happen without the many hours that go into making these items.

By the way, if you happen to see a colourful and rather large wooden goanna around Hall, it is yet another fantastic item produced by one of our very talented members Bruce Wallace.



Wooden goanna.

What I also appreciated was even though the men were busy, they took the time to show me what they were working on, explain what they were doing and how they were doing it, while at the same time going about it in a modest but proud way.

Everyone seemed to have a project except me and my mate Brian Banyard. But Brian told me he not only goes along for a coffee and chat, but claims he's also there to supervise the work. Right!

The equipment certainly gets well used and of course safety is the number one priority, with everyone making sure they look after each other so no accidents happen.

It was such a delight to see so many blokes enjoying the mateship and helping each other, while making things for themselves, their families and the community.

That's why the Hall Men's Shed is so good, not only for the 70+ paid up members who benefit from the equipment available, but also the mental stimulation of a good chat while

enjoying morning tea put on by our fantastic caterers Rob Durie, Eric Detheridge and Garth Chamberlain.

And our caterers, Foreman Doug and others from the shed will be cooking the barbeque at the **Brass on the Grass** concert on **Sunday 15 October**, so if you're there, pop in and say 'hello'. You're sure to receive a warm welcome and something tasty off the hot plate.



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# Barbara Baikie, OAM

Barbara Baikie, a Wallaroo local, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2023 Australia Day Honours list, for service to women's affairs, and to the community.

Born at Wagga Wagga, NSW, the third daughter of a conventional farming family, Barbara says that there were great hopes pinned on her being a boy, and to one day take over the family farm. She says that this had a significant impact on her as she wondered why being a girl wasn't as good as being a boy!

After finishing school, during which time she was a prefect, captain of the athletics team and represented her school at a regional level, Barbara's aspirations were limited by community attitudes of the time towards women and their career expectations. Having no thoughts of a career, as that was only for boys, she expected she would marry, perhaps work for a while and then start a family. While this was pretty much how Barbara's life played out as a farmer's wife living on a rural property near Wantabadgery and raising two boys, she did feel the need to expand her horizons. She enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Life Management) and absolutely loved it, achieving a high distinction in her first subject.

Barbara then began working off the farm as well as being a mother, still doing the farm books and accounts, working the farm as needed, and completing her degree. She then began work as a youth worker at a juvenile detention centre and then as a young offender support worker to establish the Young Offender program in Wagga.

Barbara undertook a number of volunteer roles in the Wantabadgery community. This included with others writing and running theatre restaurants, picnic races (without horses), and balls. While juggling all her roles of work, home life, farm life, community activities and study she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). While MS is never 'cured' Barbara took on board one of her doctors uplifting stories of a case where a person



diagnosed with MS lived for 20 more years and even got a degree – Barbara was determined to do similar. In addition she undertook a lot of meditation and self healing. When her health gradually improved Barbara commenced work lecturing in the Social Welfare Course at Charles Sturt University. It was during her time here that she developed the Juvenile Justice Stream to the Bachelor of Social

Science and commenced her Master's Degree.

Barbara then progressed through her career in roles to be the first female manager of a juvenile justice centre during which time she completed her Master Degree with Honours and a Graduate Certificate of Management, worked as the Leader of the Change Unit at Department of Community Services in Sydney, Director of Child Youth and Family Support in Tasmania, Director of Family Services in Canberra heading up child protection and then as Director for Special Disability Projects and Organisational Services before leaving the Public Service to set up private practice as a consultant focussing on developing individual wellbeing. She has since been elected as the President of the Chamber of Women in Business and established the CWB women's awards. Barbara was President of the Rotary Club of Hall and Assistant Governor. Barbara was later elected President of the National Council of Women Australia (NCWA) and founded the National Council of Young Women of Australia. She led the Australian delegation to the International Council of Women in Indonesia, and attended the UN review of Convention of Elimination of all forms of violence against women (CEDAW). In 2020 Barbara was a founding member of the Women's Climate Council (WCC).

Barbara is currently the chair of BIGhART, a leading arts and social justice company that works around Australia to work with communities to drive change: **BIGhART.org**

by Jenny Whittaker

Just after 9/11 Barbara worked on and gained a grant to collate a book of stories from 11 women from most continents around the world. Barbara believed there was an increasing focus on people's physical and cultural differences, particularly between Muslim and Christians and the fear of terrorism was leading to discrimination and intolerance. She felt that she could help this by highlighting the 'sameness' of women who, at their core all want the same thing for their lives, children, and families. Would an Iraqi mother feel any less pain at the loss of her child in war?

Barbara has also challenged herself physically (and mentally) climbing the Himalayas, the Andes and Mt Kilimanjaro, the latter leading to a personal development book in 2013 called *Altitude*. She has remarried and built a home and wonderful garden at Wallaroo along with her husband Peter, writes books for her grandchildren, teaches yoga five days a week, mentors young women, hosts events at her property, laughs, exercises and meditates regularly. Barbara says she no longer considers she has MS, just that she was diagnosed with it. It doesn't seem to have slowed her down at all.

Perhaps it's a good thing Barbara wasn't born a boy that became a farmer as we may have lost a great advocate for women and the community.

## Words of Love, Words of Grief

Sunday 8 October 2023 from 4pm to 6pm at Terroux

Emma Grey, Barbara Baikie and Valerie Albrecht

None of us is immune to loss and grief. Each of these women has experienced loss and the grief it brings. Each has faced and managed this grief in remarkable ways that can inspire and comfort others.

Join three local authors – internationally published Emma Grey (*The Last Love Note*, Michael Joseph imprint, Penguin Australia, 2023), Terroux's owner Barbara Baikie OAM (*Altitude*, self-published, with Delores Cummins, 2013) and Canberra based speech pathologist Valerie Albrecht (*Thirty Days*, self-published, 2019) as they explore love, loss and the process of grieving.

Facilitated by Barbie Robinson, Canberra arts journalist, author and co-principal of Living Arts Canberra. Our author sunset soiree will include refreshments, a rich discussion of books and life.

Emma Grey [www.emmagrey.com.au/](http://www.emmagrey.com.au/)

Barbara Baikie [terroux.com.au/](http://terroux.com.au/)

Valerie Albrecht [www.theoceansofenergy.com/](http://www.theoceansofenergy.com/)

Books will be available for purchase and signing by the authors on the day.

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A new defibrillator for Hall Village

The Rotary Club of Hall recently purchased a new heart defibrillator machine and donated it for use by Hall residents and visitors, and anyone that is in the unfortunate position of needing one. The new machine replaces an older model but remains located outside the Hall Post Office, between the front door and the post office boxes to the right.



The cabinet might look locked but of course it isn't and the machine is ready to use immediately. The old machine has been relocated to outside the Woodchoppers Club at the Pony Club building area off the end of Gladstone Street.



Although a very short patient it was great to practice on him/her! The AED is a prominent green colour.

So how does it work? When should it be used? Can anyone operate it? Jonathan Palmer of Hall Rotary arranged for professional training on the use of the machine. Andrea Keen from Keen Medical Supplies came up from Albury to enlighten a small crowd of villagers keen to learn. To use its technically correct name the new machine is an AED, Automated External Defibrillator. The machine is used to treat sudden cardiac arrest and is designed with lay rescuers

in mind. I was interested to read that although only half of victims will initially require a shock, all will need high quality cardiopulmonary resuscitation (chest compressions or CPR). Andrea ran us through both the use of the machine and how to correctly perform CPR. Andrea assured us that the machine is reasonably simple to use. Once opened and turned on the machine uses voice and text prompts to walk the rescuer through the procedure of determining whether the patient requires CPR only, or also needs an electric shock. We all watched intently as Andrea showed us how to open the electrode pads, place them into position, determine if the patient needed a shock, how to deliver it, where to place our hands when doing chest



Helen White doing a great job of chest compressions

I'm sure that even someone without any training could use the machine but I was glad that I had seen one, watch it in action and had the opportunity to ask questions. Andrea generously donated paediatric chest pads to ensure that children can have the correct size if they need to be shocked. Hall Rotary has the contact number for ordering more chest pads, and there is a code on the machine which can be scanned to log the machine inspection. A wonderful gesture from Zoll, the company that produces the machines, is that whenever a patient is saved by being shocked by their machine that person can nominate the recipient of a free machine.

Defibrillator missing from the Hall Showground.

Please keep an eye out for it – it's in an orange bag.

If someone took it for a medical emergency, please advise us so we can order new shock pads for it and reinstall it into place.

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# Caravan donation bolsters crisis accommodation on the South Coast

The advertisement for a 1980 Windsor caravan in Queanbeyan for \$4,000 immediately got Rotarian Bill Pearson's attention. He knew how useful it could be as emergency accommodation at our South Coast.

In no time at all, with the help of Rotarian Dennis Greenwood the van was in Bill's driveway in Hall Village. The cost of the van, plus some renovation costs, would be met by the Rotary Club of Hall. Fellow Rotarians, Dennis Greenwood and Jonathan Palmer, were enlisted to help with restoration work. Andie Pearson, Vel Spencer and Sandy Newbery whipped up new curtains and upholstery. After finishing touches that included the addition of a new fridge, some appliances and linen, the van was ready for its next 'life stage'.

Next stop for the van was Cooma where it was handed to Michael Brosnan of the Social Justice Advocates of the Sapphire Coast (SJASC), an organisation dedicated to assisting individuals in times of crisis.

'This is just what we are looking for – perfect. After the fires, these are like hen's teeth down on the coast. This one has already been allocated to a mum and two kids who are sleeping rough in a farm shed' said Michael as he hooked up the van for its journey down the Brown Mountain.



Michael Brosnan collecting the van in Cooma.

The SJASC, a longstanding advocate for the less fortunate in the Bega Valley Shire, has had housing and homelessness at the core of its mission since its inception 12 years ago. The organisation's commitment to addressing these pressing issues led to the inception of the crisis caravan project 11 years ago.

Through generous donations and unwavering community support, the SJASC now boasts a fleet of 19 caravans that offer sanctuary to those experiencing homelessness on a nightly basis. In addition to the caravans, they have six two-bedroom units which sleep approximately 50 individuals who would otherwise be left without shelter.

The impact of these units goes beyond just immediate relief; they play a crucial role in transitioning occupants toward more permanent housing solutions. The journey from crisis to stability is not an easy one, but the caravan units have proven to be a vital stepping stone for many.



The refurbished interior – dry, light-filled, and comfortable.

Looking toward the future, the SJASC aims to double the number of crisis caravan units at their disposal. This ambitious goal is a testament to the power of collective goodwill and the profound change that can be achieved when a community unites for a common cause.

Do you have a van that you no longer use? Or one you would like to donate? The Rotary Club of Hall would be delighted to assist with restorative work and transportation to the SJASC. Contact: Jonathan **0419 685 358** or Bill **0419 489 606**.

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## Gininderra Catchment Group

Ginninderra Catchment Group has secured funding through the *Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate*, under the ACT Environment Grants Program to develop a management plan aimed at 'Improving Urban Landscape Health in Hall'. This effectively will bring Hall Village community members together with various stakeholders and government land managers to set out objectives and pathways. The aim is to improve biodiversity outcomes in open spaces surrounding Hall Village through collaborative management planning as well as improving function and amenity in line with this goal.

An initial community meeting was held on 8 August with 17 community members attending. General direction was set for the plan, outlining some of the major issues and ideas for improving open spaces surrounding Hall Village.



A community survey has also been provided, accessible through the Hall Village Facebook page with hard copy surveys being available in the post office.

A draft plan will begin to circulate towards the end of October for final comment.

For more information please contact Jarrod Ruch email: [ruralprojects@ginninderralandcare.org.au](mailto:ruralprojects@ginninderralandcare.org.au)

A farm restoration project based in Sutton and Wallaroo is being supported by Ginninderra Catchment Group and funded through the Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers, Australian Government initiative. The project will improve

Jarrod Ruch  
Rural Projects Officer  
Ginninderra Catchment Group

biodiversity and water quality for eight farm dams in Sutton and Wallaroo by establishing a mix of Indigenous water plants. This improves frog and water bug habitat and also helps to clean nutrients from the water through biological processes.



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## Great grasses

As I write this article, spring is showing its true colours with a hint of winter in the crisp fresh air.

I have just returned from making compost in Costa Rica where it was deliciously warm to thaw my aging joints. It was of course a wonderful experience and I have so much to talk about, but that will have to wait for another day.

Grasses are infiltrating all of our landscapes and lucky for us, there are lots to choose from; from native and exotics to wetland and desert.

For those of you grappling with the visual of manky, half dead looking spiky grasses in roundabouts around Canberra, I hear you. I have had to teach myself to like, even love these long scrappy textural creatures of our landscape.

So why would you use grasses in your landscape instead of a beautiful shrub or colourful perennials?

The reasons are endless; for starters they are low maintenance and easy to grow, they have year round interest, add texture, are wildlife friendly and many are drought tolerant.

Above all, it's the soft, beautiful movement created by even the slightest breath of wind that makes them essential in your garden.



## gardening

by Lisa Walmsley

Without a doubt, grasses are amongst the most useful plants you can use in your garden.

**Year round texture and colour** – they emerge in spring with foliage and breezy movement. Sitting back a little in summer they let other more colourful plants shine then pushing their way to the front centre stage with their feathery, frothy plumes followed by a change in colour in seed and foliage. Used as layers in your beds and borders, they keep the show going all year other than late winter when you should prune them back to allow new growth to flourish.

**Privacy screen with tall grasses** – meadow like, naturalistic plantings never go out of fashion, which allows for the extension of using taller grasses as hedges and screens. Why not – they are fast growing, water wise once established and low maintenance. Cut down annually and divide every few years - and if year round privacy is critical, plant an evergreen behind them.

**Short grasses as groundcovers** – dry shade, rock gardens, sunny slopes, at the front of borders and path edging. If you want something frothy, instead of flat that's easy care and mostly tidy – try grasses. Let them spill over edges, so you can put away the whipper snipper.

**Plant 'en masse'** – if you have the space and want to create the wow factor plant your grasses in big groups, a sea of grasses has a powerful visual impact and is an effective, low-maintenance way of dealing with large areas.

**Soften hardscapes** – when you build a new garden and have lots of sharp edges, walls, paths, pergolas etc or want to hide some utilities like air-conditioning units, grasses are a quick easy solution to soften the initial impact of these hard materials.

Like all plants in the garden, you have nothing to lose. Give them a go.

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## Ginninderra Police Station (1882 – 1927)

by **Peter Browning**

Another building in Ginninderra that has a significant history and needs to be protected is the old Police Station, which was built in 1882 on 47 acres acquired from Patrick Ryan (Portion 67). It was bounded by Yass Road, Glebe Road and Ward's *Nine Elms* and was a small, one officer, rural station, with residence, lock-up and stables.

When Canberra was declared in 1913, the only serving police officer based in the new Federal Territory was the sole NSW officer at the Ginninderra Police Station.

In the early 1800s, police were appointed by local Justices of the Peace and were known as Bench Police or *Benchers*. In 1825, the Military Mounted Police was formed, which became the Civilian Mounted Police in 1850, and were known as *traps*.

By 1838, local Mounted Police were housed at Barrack Flats, Queanbeyan and the original court for this district was set up at Canberry (Acton), but convicted prisoners were sent to Goulburn jail. The Acton Court House was transferred to Queanbeyan in 1853, first to William Hunt's Kent Hotel and then to a new court house in 1861. By 1847 a Court of Petty Sessions was established at Cooma.

These years saw a rise of bushranging and the 1862 riots at Lambing Flat (Young) goldfields saw police and the military deployed to restore peace and led to a push for more effective policing.

A Police Regulation Act was passed and in 1862 all existing police forces were amalgamated into the NSW Police Force, under an Inspector-General with 800 Police officers.

A NSW police station was established in Queanbeyan in 1863, with seven police officers under the control of the Superintendent in Cooma, with the Canberra



district under the supervision of Queanbeyan. The Cooma superintendent supervised stations at Gundaroo, Ginninderra, Michelago, Adaminaby, Cooma and Wee Jasper.

The first officer to take charge of the new Ginninderra Police Station in April 1882 was Mounted Constable Clifford (1882-1884) from Yass. He was replaced by Constable Loughlin (1884-1896) and an Indigenous tracker was also attached to the station.

Queanbeyan Age 29.1.1884: 'Constable Clifford . . . has carried the confidence and respect of the entire neighbourhood for intelligence and vigilant efficiency . . . and will be relieved . . . by Senior Constable Loughlin of Major's Creek. A black tracker is now attached to the Police Station and the residents of the

neighbourhood are naturally indignant thereat as an unjustifiable reflection on their law-abiding character.'

The sole officer patrolled an area of almost 17,000 acres on horseback, including Jeir, Wallaroo, Mulligans Flat, Gungahlin, Upper Canberra, Weetangera and the Hall district. The station was also used as overnight accommodation for prisoners and officers en-route to and from the Queanbeyan Police Barracks.

Loughlin was replaced temporarily by Senior Constable Eager (1896-1896), until First Class Constable Madden (1896-1903) from Boorowa took charge. A new lock up was erected at the station in 1899.

Constable Madden estimated the district population in 1897 as 636 people. During Madden's tenure a tragic shooting occurred, when an innocent Joseph Heaps was fatally wounded by a member of a party of which Madden was in charge. In 1903 Madden was succeeded by Mounted Constable Hallett (1903-1908).



▲ The Southwell Park Police station 2019.

The deteriorating police station was badly damaged in the 1905 bush fire that destroyed a number of Ginninderra buildings. The Ginninderra Farmers' Union was active in lobbying for it to be rebuilt and a new station was completed in 1907 for £916.

Hallett was followed by Constable Thornton (1908-1915), First Class Constable Coyle (1915-1921) and finally First Class Constable Fyfe (1921-1927).

The duty book recorded things like – 'district quiet, no serious crime reported' and 'there is fairly dry grass feed in the police paddock'.

In 1922 the NSW Police opened a station at Molonglo (Fyshwick) due to the growing settlement and a district population of around 5,000. The station was transferred to Acton in 1926, but the lock-up remained at Molonglo.

In 1927, a Police Ordinance was enacted enabling one sergeant and 10 constables to be sworn in as a newly established Federal Capital Territory (later Commonwealth) Police and the NSW Police were withdrawn.

Ginninderra Police Station was closed in 1927 and then leased as a Federal Capital Rural Lease – Block 28 Hall of 46 acres.



Police Officer

As a teenager, Annie Cavanagh of *Strayleaf* stayed at the station with Constable Fyfe's wife when he went on patrol, to help with his family. Edward and Annie (Cavanagh) Maloney then leased the block from 1928 to 1943 and had 11 children while there. Edward joined the RAAF in 1943 and Annie's mother, Esther Cavanagh, took over the lease until 1948, but it was rented to other families, including the Black family whose husband was at the war.

It was then leased on a weekly basis, initially for £1 per week, to the O'Sullivan, Boyd, Hirst and other families, and was later used as a community facility.

A heritage assessment of 1985 describes the building as 'a significant example of a small, self-contained rural Police Station still

complete with lockup, residence, stable building, outside toilet, house paddock, horse paddocks, access laneways, picket fences and gates and mature landscape and tree plantings. It is all the more significant because all the original elements still exist, creating an historically and socially important context of high cultural heritage significance'.



▲ The police station from Percival Hill.

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# Feral animal control support by Yass Local Land Services

On the request of some residents of Wallaroo, the Village of Hall and District Progress Association contacted NSW MP Wendy Tuckerman to seek assistance to address the serious and acute problem of invasive feral animals in the Ginninderra Creek and Murrumbidgee River catchment areas of Wallaroo.

NSW Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty directed us to Yass Local Land Services where Biosecurity Officer Brad Kelk confirmed their readiness to support landholders to undertake control of feral pigs, deer and goats.

Local Land Services provide advice to help landholders control pest species on their land. This includes: providing advice on how to deal with declared pest species; coordinating management plans to control pests; providing advice on controlling pest animals either through group baiting programs (organised with your neighbours) or individual control methods; offering free online accredited training to support landholders in the appropriate use of baits and pesticides; and selling baits to landholders and advising on purchasing baits (such as meat, carrots and grain) depending on the needs.

Brad Kelk advised that the most effective method of controlling pest animals is with coordinated group

control programs. If Wallaroo landholders are interested in establishing a group for feral animal control, Local Land Services can coordinate group programs to use a variety of feral animal control methods.

You can check what weeds may be in your local area and how they need to be managed using **weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/** website or the smartphone app **www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/nsw-weedwise-app**. Both the web version and smartphone app provide key information to help users reduce the impact of weeds. You can also contact Yass Local Land Services.



Brad and the team at Yass Local Land Services are currently planning the implementation of the NSW Government 1 Year program to tackle feral pigs. The \$13 million program will include landscape scale aerial and ground control activities and building landholder capacity and capability to control feral pigs through training and extension.

For further information, please contact Brad Kelk at Yass Local Land Services on **02 6118 7700** at the office at **13 Mitchell Street, Yass**.



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# Hall and District Axemen's Club

by **Steph Radovanovic**



The Hall & District Axemen's Club have once again been very busy! We were honoured to have the legendary Australian woodchopper, & holder of 186 World Championships, Mr David Foster come along to one of our weekly training sessions and offer his advice and skills to our axemen. We all enjoyed a meal afterwards with the great man and heard of many more fabulous stories and chopping tips. David was very impressed with our Club and the work we have been doing to grow the sport. Fantastic feedback for us, and an amazing opportunity to learn from a true master of the sport.

We have been extremely proud to see some of the regional Shows adapting their Wood chopping programs to cater for the growing number of women choppers at HADAC. Just in the last 2 weeks, we have seen both the Woodstock and Eugowra Shows put a Ladie's event onto their programs for the first time in each Shows' history, thanks to the outstanding success of the WOW (women of Woodchopping) programs that we created, and our women choppers attending.

As well as our weekly training sessions, and several team building & grounds maintenances working bee's, the club has been out to Ganmain Show to provide a day of woodchopping & sawing demonstrations, and following the success of that day, the Club has also been asked to provide chopping and sawing demonstrations at the upcoming Cootamundra Show. We are also looking forward to once again doing some demonstrations at this year's Hall Village Christmas Fair.

Best of luck to 2 of our members, Phoebe and Brad, as they head off to compete at The Royal Hobart Show in October, and also to Shaun and Austin as they head west to the Perth Royal Show to compete in mid-September.



## WOODSTOCK SHOW: 3-9-23

Chey: 1st Ladies UH, 1st Jack and Jill with Brad Delosa. Evan: 1st 300 Open UH, 2nd 275mm B Grade UH  
Kaliyah: 2nd Ladies UH, 3rd Jack and Jill. Kylie: 4th Ladies UH. Zali: 3rd Ladies UH  
Tarlo: 1st 275mm UH, 1st 275mm B Grade UH, 3rd Jack and Jill (with Kaliyah).

## EUGOWRA SHOW: 16-09-23

Austin: 1<sup>st</sup> 250mm SB, 2<sup>nd</sup> Butchers Block with Shaun. Chey: 1<sup>st</sup> Ladies UH. Evan: 1<sup>st</sup> Butchers Block with Cameron Cassel, 2<sup>nd</sup> 300mm UH. Kirby: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ladies UH. Megan 3<sup>rd</sup> Ladies UH. Shaun: 1<sup>st</sup> 300mm UH, 2<sup>nd</sup> 250mm SB, 2<sup>nd</sup> Butchers Block with Austin.

## Contact us:

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by Jenny Whittaker



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With Christmas fast approaching, I have taken to thinking about gift buying. Talking to business owners in the village I think their one wish is that we start our Christmas shopping with thoughts of buying locally. 'When you are supporting a small business you are supporting a dream'. Some of the local traders tell me that buying locally:

- Keeps money in our community
- Makes our town thrive
- Supports our neighbours
- Puts our money where our hearts and homes are
- Gets us the best of what your community has to offer
- Keeps our community alive
- Our traders future depends on it.

Our village has so much on offer such as eclectic gifts, collectables, one of a kind restored furniture, beauty products and services, hair salons (think colour!) and a head massage, coffee and cakes, books, cards, wrapping, artisan jewellery, honey, eggs (for baking

those Xmas goodies), food for pets and livestock for over the silly season, wine, fresh flowers, dried flowers and woodenware handcrafted by our own men's shed. Bring your houseguests for a visit to the Heritage Centre, have the car serviced before the big trip away, have the body serviced at the local physio, have the gas heater or air conditioner serviced, have the pets checked over at the vet, grab a pizza when cooking is too much to bear or book a table and have someone else cook for you.

It's only when you walk the full length of the main street, as I do when I deliver the *Rural Fringe* and have a chat as I go, that you can appreciate the growth in the number of businesses in the village. Each brings their own take on their specialty, often creating with their own hands, usually working weekends and long hours. Come down for a wander, there's free parking (two hours maximum mind!) and you might find that perfect gift without battling those annoying mall crowds.

There's also the Christmas Fair coming up in November at the Hall Showground, and the Hartley Markets on the first Sunday of the month.

When you buy from a small business an actual person does a happy dance. Well, I'd like to see that!



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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.

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Contributions

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to contribute to this publication, particularly local community groups, however it is at the discretion of the Editor as to whether submitted articles are published or not.

These deadlines ensure publication by the 10th of every second month.

- 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.

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out & about

Hall Pony Club Gymkhana

by Jenny Whittaker

This year the Hall Pony Club Gymkhana was held in terrific weather, unlike last year, when events such as the jumping competition had to be cancelled due to dangerous conditions.

Over 60 entries were received from pony clubs all around the district for the day long event.



Olivia, Declan and Teia from the Bungendore Pony Club.



Helia, competing in the under 7's, on her horse 'Princess'.



Competitor on the jumps course.





# out & about



photos: Paul Porteous