

## Rural Fringe 2022-23

### Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association

October 2023

Last financial year, the small group of volunteers that run the *Rural Fringe* comprised Jo Hall (editor and accounts), Gail Condy and Andrew Purdam (lay out artists) and Kevin Stone (proofreader and reporter). To our great delight, following the AGM this time last year, Jenny Whittaker joined the team and over the year I have handed over the editorship and, at the start of this financial year, the accounts. I have been managing the accounts for the *Rural Fringe* since 2008 and been editor since December 2011. 15 years of the accounts and 11 years as editor, it was surely time to give someone else a turn. Jenny has been editor of the *Rural Fringe* since the February 2023 edition and has been doing a fabulous job. I will continue in a roving editor role. Thank you, Gail, Jenny, Kevin and Andrew for your professional and dedicated work.

This busy team has produced 6 excellent copies of the bi-monthly community newsletter over the last year. We print 660 copies each edition and the *Fringe* is also available on the VHDPa website.

We would also like to thank our thirty something advertisers for their support during the year. Advertising is the sole income for the *Rural Fringe* and we could not produce our publication without it. A big change this year has been that the *Fringe* is now half in colour, and we are able to do that because of our advertisers.

Income for the last year from our advertising totaled \$13,368. Expenditure totaled \$10,539 (\$8,400 in printing costs, \$1,161.26 in delivery costs, \$527.87 in software subscriptions and \$450 in laptop repairs). The opening balance on 1 July 2022 was \$7,407.46 and the closing balance at 30 June 2022 was \$10,236.33. We yet again broke even, with a modest gain, which helps build up our small reserve. We reached our financial goal for the *Rural Fringe* which aims to break even on its costs through advertising revenue. The accounts have been reconciled and through the Association's audit process.

Please support Jenny in her role. We have many regular contributors and I would like to thank them for keeping us all informed about what is going on in our community. Contributions, articles and photographs for the *Fringe* are always welcome, please keep them coming in, it makes Jenny's job so much easier.

I would like to mention the successful arrangement with the Men's Shed where a group of volunteers kindly deliver copies to the roadside letter boxes of our 2618 community along Wallaroo Road, Nanima Road, Spring Range Road, and all the other little roads. Thank you to Doug Anstess and the Men's Shed volunteers. Through the generosity of one of our advertisers, Hops and Vine, we were able to thank the volunteers with a certificate prepared by Gail and bottle of wine at last year's Christmas Party. I cannot promise such a thing into the future. Hops and Vine isn't operating anymore. Australia Post continues to deliver the *Rural Fringe* into the postboxes in Hall, thanks to Hall LPO.

The last thing I want to talk about is that the edition in February 2024 will mark 30 years of the *Rural Fringe*. I think this is something that this community should be really very proud of. Honestly, it is such a classy and professional publication filled with news and stories celebrating our little part of Australia. Just the other day, someone at the band concert told me how much they look forward to it coming out and that they read it cover to cover and I love that kind of feedback. So any ideas about how to celebrate 30 years of the *Rural Fringe*, please share them.

Thanks to you all for reading the *Fringe*. And thank you Jenny for taking it on!

Jo Hall (outgoing Editor)