

# RURAL FRINGE

*Journal of the Hall district*

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 6

December 2023



## Remembrance Day in Hall

by Jenny Whittaker

The Jim Rochford Grove was, as usual, the setting for this year's Hall Remembrance

Day Memorial Service. The Grove is at the top of an avenue of

16 trees, selected personally by Charles Weston and planted over 100 years ago, one for each man on the Hall Roll of Honour. These trees each have a plaque bearing the name of those from the district who served in the First World War.

Quite a large crowd gathered to remember those fallen, and all those affected by war. Proceedings began to the sound of the bagpipes, with the arrival of the Catafalque Party, four members of an armed guard who marched into the Grove and took their place in each corner of the memorial area, heads bowed and their arms (weapon) reversed, facing outward, as a symbolic form of respect for those who have fallen.

Rotary Club of Hall President, Andrew Giumelli, welcomed everyone and then we heard an address from Major General Mike Smith (Retd), Chairman of the Gallipoli Scholarship Fund. He reminded us that the First World War – the war that was supposed to end all wars – ended 105 years ago. The fighting stopped when an armistice between the Allied powers and Germany came into effect at 11am on 11 November 1918. Remembrance Day has continued to be

commemorated as a recognition of those who served and particularly those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Some of the statistics quoted by Major General Smith in his speech bear repeating here – more than 17 million died, including around seven million non-combatants. More than 60,000 Australian service personnel died, about one in five of those who served overseas, from a population of less than five million people.

... continues on page 3



Millie raising the Australian flag. ▲



▲ The Catafalque Party.



## Hall Christmas Fair



The town crier telling everyone where to go!



Santa with the Canberra Brass Band.



More Christmas Fair photos pages 4, 5, 10, 11.

## Remembrance Day in Hall

... continued from page 1

Today, the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour lists the names of almost 103,000 Australians who have lost their lives in war, conflict and on peacekeeping operations. Sadly war is still going on and too many more non-combatants are dying.

The Rev Peter Malone and Marge Rule led prayers and then many organisations and individuals laid floral wreaths against the memorial stone. The *Last Post* was played by Andrew Purdham which led us to a minute's silence. While we reflected in silence, the birdlife (cockatoos) were continuing to natter on and I thought about our life in our beautiful village and country that is so different to what those soldiers experienced 100 years ago. The Australian flag was then raised to the masthead by Millie and the guards presented arms. The National Anthem was sung and the Catalfalque Party departed, marching smartly out the gate.

Thanks go to Bill Pearson and Dennis Greenwood for organising the service and having the Grove prepared and looking so good.



## St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

Cnr Victoria & Loftus Streets, Hall



### Christmas services in our parish

Christmas is a wondrous time across our parish, with activities at both St Michael's in Hall and St Barnabas in Charnwood. All are welcome to any or all of these celebrations:

### Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday 17 December 7.00 pm

This is a simple candlelit service of readings and carols in our lovely little church. We will also share a cuppa in the cool of the evening afterwards, weather permitting.

### Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December 10.30 pm

A traditional service late on Christmas Eve to start the celebration of Christmas Day.

We will also have our usual Sunday morning service at **11am Christmas Eve**.

### Christmas Day Monday 25 December 10 am

Residents, visitors, friends, family and travellers are welcome to join us at St Michael's Church.

For more details on any of these activities please phone Beryl on **0408 488 526**.

### NOTE

**Christmas Carols @ Hall Pavilion**  
(Friday 8 December) has been cancelled.

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## President's page



Summer has now arrived and there is no doubt that we are facing the hotter and drier El Niño conditions. ACT Parks and Conservation has done significant clearing for bushfire hazard reduction on the track to the water tanks and at the top of Hall Street in Hall Village. This is a good reminder for all of us to prepare for the risks of a hot, dry summer.

The Christmas Fair organised by Zina Richardson has welcomed the Christmas season for us all. It is becoming established as a significant event, bringing many visitors to enjoy our wonderful community. Although a mid-morning shower may have dissuaded some visitors, the sunny weather that followed gave a perfect environment for visitors, stall holders and performers. Thank you Zina.



I would like to, once again, thank Bill Pearson and Dennis Greenwood of Hall Rotary for organising our community Remembrance Ceremony on 11 November this year. It is very fitting that we pause and reflect on the horror of war as, even today, people are dreadfully suffering in Ukraine, Gaza, Myanmar, Yemen, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and many other countries.



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**Robert Yallop** President

### 2023-2024 Progress Association Committee

#### Committee members

- Toni Makkai
- Margaret Monahan
- Tony Morris
- Ralph Southwell
- Peter Toet
- Aaron Whittaker

#### Office bearers

- Robert Yallop (President)
- Lee-Ann Brodrick (Vice President)
- Jan Klaver (Secretary)
- Phil Robson (Treasurer)

The 2023-2024 office bearers and committee of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association were elected at the Annual General Meeting on 18 October. Olga Minion chose not to renominate for the position of Vice President this year. I would like to welcome Lee-Ann Brodrick who was elected as Vice President.

I would like to thank Olga for her contribution to the Progress Association Committee over the last five years. She has occupied the roles of Secretary and most recently Vice President. In particular, Olga worked hard on the development of a plan for the Gladstone Street playground.



*Thankfully the rain finally cleared to a sunny day, fit for a fair.*

It was good to see that ACT Road Maintenance responded to a request by the Progress Association and repaired the very uneven and dangerous paving outside Kynefin and the Shearing Shed, although it took almost four months for the repairs to be done.

Similarly, the Progress Association was amazed at the speed of the positive response by Transport Canberra and City Services to our request to change parking outside Hall Post Office to 15 minutes (from the current two hours). We would like to thank Yerrabi MLA Leanne Castley for her assistance.

## president

It was very positive to see that the 2023-2024 ACT Government Budget includes funding for the detailed design of stormwater improvements in Hall Village, although it has taken 18 months since the Progress Association first requested urgent action by Transport and City Services Minister Steel. We have been advised by the responsible TCCS Infrastructure Officer that he anticipates the detailed design work will be tendered in the first couple of months of 2024. We have been assured that the Terms of Reference for the design consultant will include consultation with Hall community residents, businesses and stakeholders to discuss the storm water infrastructure planning.

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](mailto:robert.yallop.care@gmail.com) or send a message to: [info@hall.act.au](mailto:info@hall.act.au).

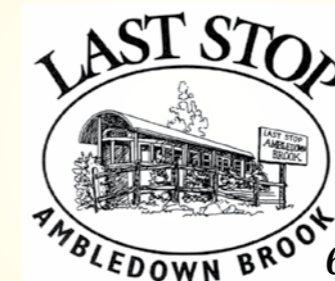


*Tammy at her Jellybug Treasure stall.*



*Ben Osborne fundraising for the Axemen. Also a new trader in the village.*

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# Proposed Hall Cemetery expansion

## – large impact on local sustainably produced eggs

Greg Palethorpe

Farmer Brown's Free Range Eggs

Dear Hall district residents,

I am seeking to inform you of a recent development in relation to the farm lease for Farmer Brown's Free Range Eggs. We are located on Hall Rural Block 310, adjacent to the Barton Highway, Wallaroo Road and the Hall Cemetery.

I carry out pastured Free Range Egg production, practising regenerative farming techniques, in order to maximise biodiversity of native plants and animals, add to soil health while producing sustainable local food. Effectively the aim of the business is to produce great eggs, while looking after animal welfare and improving the environment.

In the last 10 years we have:

- increased the tree numbers greatly and the tree canopy by 130%
- removed noxious weeds
- added to soil carbon and increased native animal diversity and numbers
- maintained our hen stocking density under 100 hens per hectare
- provided 500 local families sustainably produced eggs weekly
- donated eggs to charities and community fundraisers
- hosted people with disabilities for therapy visits and skill development.

Recently I had a meeting with Canberra Memorial Parks (who are responsible for Hall Cemetery). I was informed that due to community interest from 27 individuals wishing to be buried at Hall Cemetery, they would need to expand the current area of the cemetery. They had ruled out all other options and needed to take some of my farm land adjacent to the cemetery, but that it wouldn't affect my operations greatly. (Somehow, they

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were able to ascertain this despite having never spoken to me previously and having no knowledge of my operations.)

Although the proposed takeover of the current leased area is relatively small, my analysis of the proposed expansion is that it will effectively render approximately 30% of my current area used for hen rotation unusable. The flow on effect of this will be that the rest\fallow periods for the remaining rotation areas will be reduced significantly, so much so, that I will not be able to practice regenerative farming on the property.

*“Less than 8% of the current 4.5 hectares of Hall Cemetery is used for graves, or future grave sites”*

I am certainly not opposed to additional Hall locals having their remains being interred at Hall Cemetery. However, I do believe the current cemetery area could accommodate this with innovative thinking and that the current expansion plan is flawed in several ways.

- Less than 8% of the current 4.5 hectares of Hall Cemetery is used for graves, or future grave sites.
- An additional 18% is currently under a mowing regime.
- The remaining area is native woodlands, however in the last 10 years there has been significant tree dieback with little regeneration of native trees, leading to large areas with no active tree canopy.
- The Hall Cemetery surrounds are poorly maintained, with dumping of rubbish and frequent drinking and other uses, in the poorly maintained driveway area.
- The cemetery harbours noxious weeds and feral animals.
- The Hall Cemetery is currently greatly assisted in its management by volunteer group, the Friends of the Grasslands (FOG) including weeding and managing the native grasses and the endangered Tarengo Leek Orchid.
- I also weed inside the cemetery boundary and fix the fences that are frequently damaged by the dying trees inside the cemetery.

The area for the proposed expansion is unsuitable for graves as it is at the junction of two underground\subterranean water flows. In winter periods, although for virtually the entire past three years, the subsurface is saturated. The water originates at 'the Hall cow paddocks' hill, currently used for horse agistment near the village. After rain, water runs down the hill, across

the Barton Highway and across my farm. This water and the associated 'pipe' clay soil makes the proposed area unsuitable for grave sites. This is the very reason they ruled out cemetery expansion to the west, into the area leased by the O'Cleary's adjacent to Homeleigh Grove, for cattle.

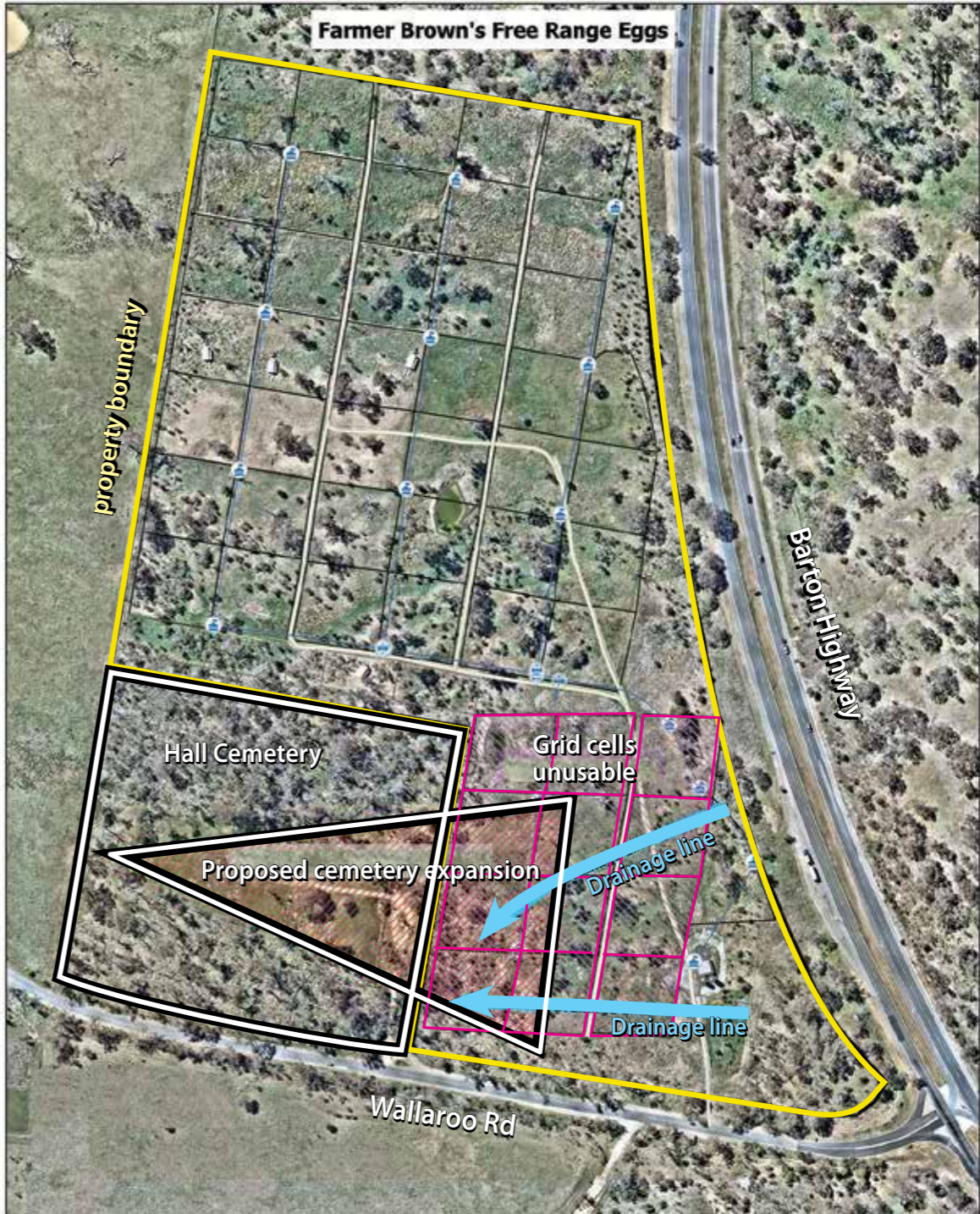
In regards to the expression of interest from Hall residents, I don't believe the Canberra Memorial Parks garnered this interest with full information\disclosure (ie did not inform those interested that it would require the cemetery expansion into local farmland and would be at the expense of their locally produced food).

I believe Canberra Memorial Parks should revisit the effective utilisation of the existing cemetery area. I believe with some innovative thinking they could

accommodate those residents wishing to be buried at Hall Cemetery, while still protecting the rare plants located there.

I believe that regeneration of the native woodland would be possible while incorporating gravesites and ashes, with the potential of the new trees being dedicated to those buried there.

I am seeking support from the Hall community and wider ACT community in order to convince Canberra Memorial Parks to halt the expansion plans and think more thoroughly about utilising their ample existing area. This will help ensure I can continue to produce healthy sustainable food, as the pandemic has highlighted just how important local food production is.



## Men's Shed

by Kevin Stone

Another month! Another great barbeque once again thanks to our resident cooks. But this time one of our other members willingly took over some of the work. It's always a pleasure to have a great variety of food, including sausages, rissoles, salads and bread so the guys have a good old chat while enjoying each others company and don't go away hungry.

Speaking of enjoying other men's company, one of our members, Garth Chamberlain, organised a short talk by Michael Collins about Men's Table. Michael told us this a different concept to a shed, where men meet monthly to share a meal and chat about their lives, including the highs and lows in a confidential and non-judgemental environment. Michael told us about the different age groups that attend, from mid-20s to late-80s, from various backgrounds and all walks of life. His talk was very interesting and informative, and the men who attended took away some valuable information. For others unable to be there, and anyone interested to find out about Men's Table, their website is [www.themenstable.org](http://www.themenstable.org).



And continuing on with the theme of enjoying each other's company, the shed Christmas Party is coming up fast. Where has the year gone?! Yep! Father Christmas will be upon us on 7 December. He may not exactly visit the shed party at the Hall Pavilion, but you never know!

However, it's not all eating, drinking and making merry, because some of the more productive members have also been busy working away on their individual projects or helping each other producing some little wooden animals. The latest off the production line are cute bilbies, or Australia's Easter Bunny. These small marsupials will be sold at either *Daughters at Hall* or the post office.

Bruce Wallace also said the Christmas koalas will be temporarily released again soon, so keep an eye out and you might see one or two in the trees around Hall. And if you're walking at night, you may get a glimpse of the koalas eyes as they reflect back at you in a torch or phone light.

And of course all the work is done under the ongoing and watchful supervision of Brian Banyard, who doesn't miss a trick when it comes to the very high standard he insists on. But he has nothing to be concerned about, because the men always think safety first, do a great job and the workmanship is first class.



*Bilbies. They're everywhere, looking for a home.*

So yes, between the Hall Men's Shed and Men's Table, there's bound to be something that could be of interest to men, especially if they have recently retired. Some men join because they want to widen their social circle and or get involved in their community, or simply have time on their hands and like woodwork or metalwork.

Interestingly, when talking to some of the guys, they say how women in their lives are great supporters of these organisations because they can see the positive improvements. And who doesn't like to see their love ones enjoying themselves? So it's a win-win all round.



*Bruce Wallace with one of his Christmas koalas.*

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# fire safety

## Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade

### Volunteering for the Community

With the fire season off to a busy start both in NSW and across the country, we have been working hard to prepare ourselves and our community.

We were pleased to welcome a number of local residents and some potential new members to our *Get Ready Weekend* in September.

We still have lots of helpful resources at the station, including fire plans to help you plan how you and your family will protect yourselves, your pets, livestock, home and/or property in the event of a fire. You can also plan online at:

[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan).



### Brigade contacts

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

Captain: <b>Neil Shepherd</b>	<b>0418 628 095</b>	<a href="mailto:nshepherd@shepelectrical.com.au">nshepherd@shepelectrical.com.au</a>
Senior Deputy Captain: <b>Geoff Morris</b>	<b>0407 188 192</b>	<a href="mailto:geoffmor@hotmail.com">geoffmor@hotmail.com</a>
President: <b>Amy Goldstraw</b>	<b>0410 763 936</b>	<a href="mailto:amy.goldstraw@gmail.com">amy.goldstraw@gmail.com</a>
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Yass Fire Control Centre:	<b>02 6266 3100</b>	<a href="mailto:southerntablelandszone@rfs.nsw.gov.au">southerntablelandszone@rfs.nsw.gov.au</a>

If planning raises any questions, please feel free to come by the station during training (first and third Wednesdays of every month) or reach out to our Brigade Executive or the Southern Tablelands Zone.



Training with the Molonglo Brigade.

We have also conducted a number of agricultural and pile burns at local properties to reduce fuel loads while conditions have been favourable. As the weather heats up, our ability to safely conduct these burns is reduced. We recommend you manage excess fuel loads during the fire season by keeping the area around your house clear; and mowing, slashing and chainsawing only in the right conditions – cool, moist mornings or evenings with minimal wind.

During the fire season, we train every first and third Sunday of the month. Taking advantage of the extra daylight, we have been practising our property protection, pumping and drafting water. We thank those community members who are



Supervision of property pile burns.

willing to let us use their properties to train. Any opportunity we have to enhance brigade familiarity with the area and practice our skills in new terrain better prepares us to support you in times of crisis.

The Brigade also supported the Murrumbateman Field Days along with many other brigades from the region. The field days are always a wonderful opportunity to engage with and serve our community while raising additional funds for the Brigade. If you wish to make a donation to the

brigade, please contact our Treasurer, Peter Vincent.

We wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year celebrations.





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out & about



Raising the Christmas Star at St Michael's Anglican Church.  
 photos: Zina Richardson

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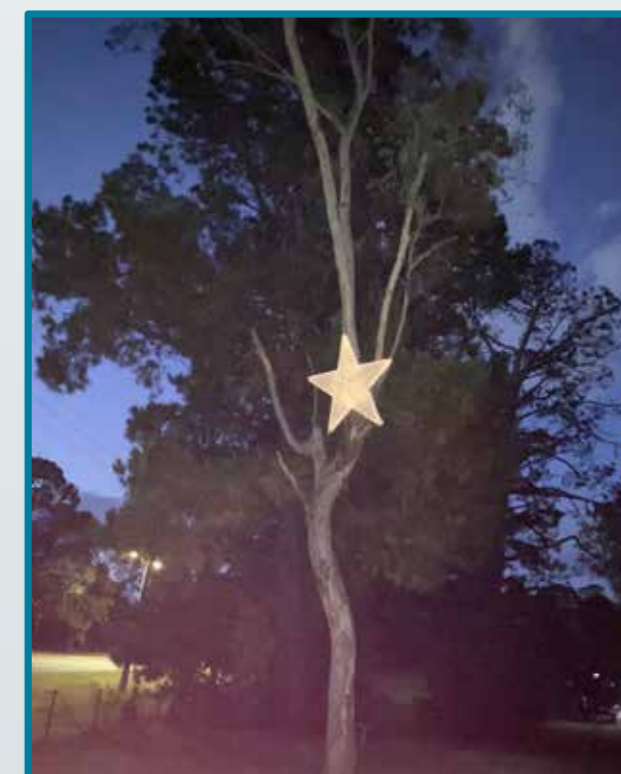
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## Growing your best tomatoes

gardening

by Lisa Walmsley

I love this time of the year. It's not too hot yet and the garden is really starting to perform.

Wisteria, peonies, *Lily of the Valley*, roses, viburnum and all kinds of flowering trees are performing at their best - and lots more still to come.

Everyone knows homegrown produce always tastes better.

But no plant is just set and forget and a bit of knowledge and care is required to avoid problems and get the best results.

Here are a few tips:

- **Choose a variety that is right for you** – the classics here are *Roma* and cherry tomatoes, great for our climate with a shorter growing season but still hot and dry. Some tomatoes are more susceptible to pests and diseases - so look for varieties that have good resistance to diseases. You will probably also want varieties that provide an early harvest, heavy yields and deliciousness and hopefully all of the above.
- **Make sure you have the right growing conditions** – tomatoes like soils that are slightly acidic, somewhere between 6.2 and 6.8; you can check this with your home pH test kit. Ideally you want to add lots of compost, worked into the soil. Tomatoes, like all production plants are 'hungry' feeders so adding more compost or fertiliser during the growing season is optimal.
- **Plant at the right time** – I'm guessing many of you have had your tomatoes 'fried' by the recent frost – it's really hard to keep your tomatoes protected inside or in your glasshouse until early November (Melbourne Cup Day), but the risk of frost until this time is high and your tomatoes will not survive a frost, so try to be patient. 'Harden off' your tomatoes before putting them in the ground, by placing them in a protected spot outside before planting.
- **Plant deeply** – this takes a little getting used to, but tomatoes love been planted deep, right up to the top few leaves (if depth will allow). When planted like this, they develop roots all the way up the stem – more roots make a stronger plant.



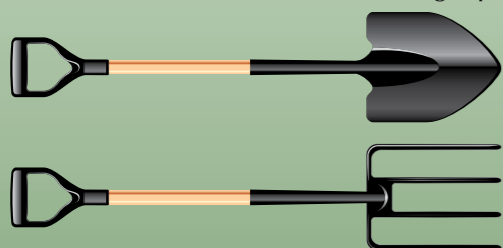
- **Full sun and heat** – tomatoes love the heat. Don't plant tomatoes too early; ideally you want the soil to warm up before planting, 15 to 18 degrees Celsius is ideal. And, don't forget, try to hold off planting until after Melbourne Cup Day to reduce the risk of a late frost. Tomatoes love sunshine, a minimum of six hours, for best results. Sunshine enables them to produce more fruit, so make sure you provide plenty of space for light to reach the whole plant. Tomatoes also need good air circulation to develop strong stems so make sure there is plenty of air flow.

- **Water deeply** – frequently while the fruits are developing, and when it's hot they may require more. Try to water at the base of the plant as water splashed on leaves can lead to disease problems. When the fruits start to ripen you can ease back on watering – this will coax the plant into concentrating it's sugars which improves the taste of the fruit. Do not underwater to a point of wilting as this will stress the plants and could cause them to drop their blossoms and potentially their fruit.



- **Mulch** – once the soil has warmed, mulch your tomatoes. This conserves water, prevents soil-borne diseases from splashing on the plants and shades and cools the soil. Mulch can also be topped up during the season – I really like lucern hay as mulch.
- **Don't crowd your tomatoes** – allow them space to branch out. Crowded plants inhibit growth and stress the plants and can lead to disease.
- **Provide support** – some sort of 'cage' or trellis to support and keep your plants upright.
- **Remove bottom leaves** – once the plant gets to about 40cm. These are the oldest leaves and are more prone to disease and fungal problems. Make sure you disinfect your tools between plants to prevent cross contamination.
- **Remove suckers** – the growth that develops between the join of two branches. Pinch or snip off before they get too long. They do not develop fruit and take energy away from the rest of the plant.

Fingers crossed that we are now past frosts and that this year is a bumper tomato year.



## Finding a holistic solution to menopausal symptoms

by Robyn Montealeone hypnotherapist



A recent guest on ABC's breakfast show, Imogen Crump, did the unexpected and openly shared as she had a hot flush, live on air. Rather than pretend the hot flush wasn't happening, Crump chose to acknowledge what was happening as it interrupted the flow of her reporting. Crump then went on to expand on the moment in her social media explaining the hot flushes are part of peri-menopausal symptoms.

For far too long, peri-menopausal and menopausal women have suffered in hushed tones as the 'change' was whispered around her with little understanding of this life transition. Almost all women who live long enough to age, will go through menopause, yet the taboo of talking about it has only shifted recently. Many people haven't even heard of the term peri menopause, which is the potential 10-15 year period leading up to menopause. And menopause is defined as 12 months since a woman's last period.

If you google menopause symptoms, there are varying responses as to what symptoms a woman can expect. The UK's NHS (National Health Services), acknowledges 50 symptoms of menopause, other sources cite up to 100. In other words, a woman can experience a wide range of weird and wacky symptoms such as:

- Hot flushes
- Weight gain
- Stress
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Difficulty sleeping
- Low mood or irritability
- Feelings of loss of self
- and many, many more!

So what can you do about it?

Some people turn to HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy). Some people turn to naturopathy. The usual advice is also given; eat well, sleep well, exercise. And this life transition also tends to coincide with other life defining moments such as children growing up and needing support and guidance through their transition from school to uni to working fulltime. And aging parents often begin to rely on their daughters more.

The combination of a woman's hormones changing, causing physical, mental and emotional symptoms, whilst she also potentially works fulltime, parents maturing children and supports elderly parents is an awful lot to juggle. Is it any wonder menopausal women are stressed?

A holistic approach is needed. Studies show that hypnotherapy can help to align the mind/body connection to reduce hot flushes, reduce cravings for sweet foods and encourage nutritious eating. As well as boost mood and help find ways to encourage more movement. If you are going through your own life transition and need more support, perhaps holistic hypnotherapy can provide you with a solution. You can find more information regarding my menopause program here: [robynm.com.au](http://robynm.com.au)



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The Hall Kiosk is part of the **Be Connected** program, an initiative by the Federal Government Department of e-safety to get all older Australians online.

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Venue: Old Hall School site, Victoria St, Hall

For more information and bookings:  
Rod on 0407 008 104 or [hallkiosk@hotmail.com](mailto:hallkiosk@hotmail.com)



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# Springfield Rural Fire Service

## Don't be the fire risk to your community

With the official launch of the Bush Fire Danger Period on 1 October, you need to be aware of your community obligations.

We are urging all residents to ensure they have undertaken proper preparations before conducting any burn-offs on their property.

Get a Fire Permit. They are required in the fire season and are free and easy to get. Please give plenty of notice (two weeks is ideal) to allow for a property inspection by our Permit Issuing Officers.

## Are you bush fire ready?

Most people have thought about what to do during a bush fire, but many plans won't stand up to the test of a fire.

Making a plan and preparing your property can reduce your risk from fire. You can make your plan online in as little as five minutes at [www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au)

Rebecca Morrison  
President



## We need your details!

We're currently updating our community contact lists, so we are keen to hear from you so we can stay in touch. If you live in or are a part of the Springfield Community, complete the survey accessed via this code.



Scan to update your  
contact information for  
Springfield RFS

## You're invited!

We're looking forward to celebrating all things Christmas with our brigade family on **Sunday 17 December**, and we'd love for you to join us! We kick off at **4pm** and word on the street is that Santa is dropping by around **5pm**. You can find out all the details as well as RSVPing by scanning the code in our invitation below.



If you would like to find out more, visit  
Springfield RFS on Facebook or email  
[SpringfieldRFB@hotmail.com](mailto:SpringfieldRFB@hotmail.com)

[tomandbecmorrison@hotmail.com](mailto:tomandbecmorrison@hotmail.com)



NSW RFS – Springfield Brigade

# Hall and District Axemen's Club

by Steph Radovanovic



The Hall & District Axemen's Club has once again been extremely busy, with many of our members travelling far and wide to compete and provide wood chopping demonstrations.

Following a successful day of wood chopping demonstrations at Ganmain Show, we were approached by the Cootamundra Show Society to provide wood chopping demos at their show, which was also such a success that they have already booked us in to do the same next year! We are also looking

forward to providing demonstrations at the up-coming Hall Christmas Fair as well as the last Hall Markets of the year. We will have our juniors, ladies and men all participating, so come along and say 'hello'! Our next big wood chopping competition will be at the Queanbeyan Show, then the Harden Show, culminating with our crew all looking forward to our end of year Christmas Party and Awards night to celebrate a of chopping, learning, travelling, expanding and having a great time along the way.



## Recent results:

**2023 Royal Perth Show:** 23-30 September

Austin: 1sts 275mm UH, 3rd 275mm Second Division UH, 4th 300mm UH Australian U21's C'Ship.  
Shaun: 2nd UH Final, 1st UH Final.

**2023 Royal Hobart Show:** 26-28 October

Brad: 1st 250mm Men Standing HC, 1st 275mm Standing HC. Phoebe: 1st Jill & Jill 375mm HC with Veronica Youd.

**Dapto Show:** 23 September

Evan: 2nd 300mm UH C'Ship, 3rd 300mm Open UH, 3rd 275mm Open SB, 4th 250mm Open SB.  
Tim: 3rd 275mm Novice UH. Ladies 275mm UH: 1st Kylie, 2nd Kirby, 3rd Megan.

**Wandandian Woodchop:** 15 October

Shaun: 1st 300mm UH, 2nd 325mm UH, 3rd with Austin Teams Relay. Austin: 1st 250mm sb, 3rd Teams Relay (with Shaun). Brad & Evan: 1st Teams Relay.

**Carcoar Woodchop:** 27 October

Evan: 2nd 275mm UH, Tarlo 3rd 250mm SB.

**Carcoar Show:** 28 October

Evan: 1st with Tarlo 275mm Relay, 3rd 300mm UH.  
Tarlo: 1st with Evan 275mm Relay.  
Ladies 275mm UH: 1st Kaliyah, 2nd Zali, 3rd Kirby.

**Blackheath Woodchop:** 5 November

Ladies 275mm UH: 1st Cheyanne, 2nd Kirby, 3rd Megan, 4th Steph.

Want to know more? Contact us!

insta: [@hallaxemen](https://www.instagram.com/hallaxemen)

fb: [@The Hall and District Axemen's Club](https://www.facebook.com/TheHallandDistrictAxemen'sClub)

email: [hallaxeman@gmail.com](mailto:hallaxeman@gmail.com)

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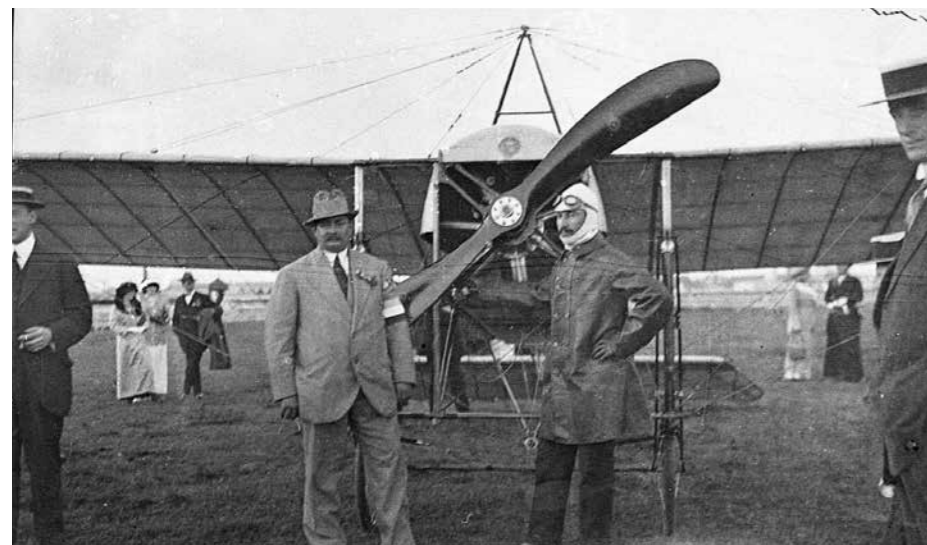
# heritage happenings

## Remembrance Day - a One Penny Stamp with a military history

by **Peter Browning**

In the early 1900s, mail delivery was slow, but in 1914 an American aviator, 'Wizard' Stone, announced plans to fly mail from Melbourne to Sydney. However, he crashed his aircraft while racing against an automobile and was injured.

French aviator, Ernest 'Maurice' Guillaux, then took up the challenge and from 16-18 July 1914, flew Australia's first air mail and air freight from Melbourne to Sydney, in his Bleriot XI monoplane.



Guillaux after the Melbourne-Sydney flight with his Bleriot XI monoplane, which is preserved in the Power House Museum, Sydney.

He took off on 16 July 1914 from Flemington Showground, Melbourne, and landed to refuel at Seymour, Wangaratta, Albury, Wagga Wagga and then Harden, about 575 kilometres. He gave aerobatic displays over each town to entertain the huge crowds that greeted him.

He attempted to fly on, but bad weather forced him back to Harden. On 17 July he was again forced to return to Harden because of bad weather, meaning Harden and district residents had a great opportunity to examine his Bleriot. On 18 July he completed his

flight via Goulburn, Liverpool and landed in Moore Park, Sydney where he was received by a huge crowd, including the Governor-General. At the time, this was the longest air mail flight anywhere in the world.

Among the mail were 1,785 'postcards' – OFFICIAL SOUVENIR AUSTRALIA'S AERIAL MAIL. You could buy one of the postcards for two shillings, address it to yourself and affix a one-penny stamp. After the flight it was posted back by regular mail.

Postcard number 1,432 was mailed by George Victor Browning, my grandfather. You can imagine the excitement of a 15-year-old in Melbourne receiving the postcard by return mail, stamped Sydney 18 July 1914, and on which he had written a small verse:

*Rising gently from the hillside  
To the cheering of the crowd  
With the first Aerial mailbag  
On his trip to Sydney bound*

G V Browning

George Victor and Olive (nee Barrand) Browning were long term residents of 13 Toms Crescent, Ainslie, having been transferred from Melbourne to Canberra in 1927 with

the Customs Department. Their story is told in 'Voices of Old Ainslie' and on a plaque at Ainslie shops. The move was very traumatic for a young mother with three very small children, including my father at only six weeks old, from a house in central Melbourne to a cottage in a paddock and having to re-establish their life in a foreign environment during a Canberra summer. My father adapted well, marrying a local Maloney/Cavanagh girl and even playing rugby union.

In my late father's effects, I found an envelope notated as a One Penny Stamp, which had remained



unopened for many years. On opening that envelope, I discovered the stamp attached to Postcard 1,432. An exciting find of a significant historical object that had lay hidden for almost 100 years.

However, although the postcard was a significant find, on closer examination I saw there were signatures on it and I realised that George had taken the Aerial Mail with him to France during World War I and had it signed by a number of people, including his brothers, at significant locations.

George, his three brothers, Walter, Charles and Norman, and his two neighbours and brothers-in-law to be, Frank and Lesley Barrand, served in France. Of these six men, only four returned to Australia, with Walter Browning killed in 1917 at Bullecourt and Frank Barrand killed in 1917 at Polygon Woods. Lesley Barrand was awarded the Military Medal in 1918 at Framerville.

George had enlisted aged only 17 and 5 months, stating he was 18 and was sent to France – you can imagine his mother's anguish at his departure as his brothers were already in France. He was with the 21st Battalion in France from 1916 to 1918.

A very significant signature is: G V Browning, Hindenburg Line Oct 2nd 1918

George spent New Years Eve 1918 in Paris, I imagine a wild time for a 19 year old. In 1918, the 21st Battalion participated in the battles of Hamel, Amiens and Mont St. Quentin, including the breach of the Hindenburg Line in October 1918. As a result of the heavy losses that the battalion suffered during this



time, the 21st Battalion's strength fell to the point where it was able to field little more than a company of men fit for active service. It was ordered to disband and provide reinforcements to other battalions.

However, on 25 September 1918, the battalion's personnel mutinied in protest against the order to disband and subsequently the order was rescinded. Thus, the 21st Battalion took part in the final Australian operation of the war, joining the attack at Montbrechain on 5 October. The following day, upon a request made by Prime Minister Billy Hughes, the Australian Corps was withdrawn from the line with the 21st Battalion being the last Australian battalion to be withdrawn.

Signatures on the postcard include his three brothers:

W A Browning (killed at Bullecourt in May 1917)

– possibly his last known signature

Charles Browning

N Browning, 4-10-17 Broodseinde Ridge

A One Penny Stamp that has seen some very significant historic events – if only it could tell the stories.

George and Olive's son, Frank, enlisted in WW2 and was training at Cowra when the big Japanese break-out occurred. Frank sadly caught pneumonia after a late-night training march, including a river crossing, and died due to the limited medication of the period. He is remembered on the Manuka pool plaque.

### correction

In the October issue the photograph incorrectly captioned 'Southwell Park Police station 2019' should have read 'Ginninderra Police Station 2019'.



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## Keeping Hall beautiful

The Hall Traders Association has established a fund for garden maintenance which is managed by the Collectors Club. Suzie Fletcher (Tidy Canberra Gardens) is their expert advisor.



In early November a group of enthusiastic volunteers got stuck into weeding the gardens on each side of Victoria Street at the entrance to the village. Most of the initial plantings have survived and looked healthy but the couch grass had gotten a hold in places. This was manually removed, the multitude of deciduous leaves raked up from the gardens and the road gutters, and some of the gravel areas around the oak trees were weeded as well. Suzie advised us on plants that could be used for filling gaps in the garden. She also pruned about 400mm off the top of the magnolias to produce a graded effect in the height of the garden

from front to back, and provided advice on removing those plants that are proving to be unsuitable and aren't growing well.

Thanks to Danny Clynk for the use of his tipper truck to remove the garden waste, Aaron Whittaker for transporting the mulch to site, Jonathan Palmer as the organiser and Safety Officer, Bill Pearson and Dennis Greenwood for setting up the pizza oven, Garrie Greenwood for bringing in the pizzas and to everyone who put in some hard yards, getting down on knees that have seen younger days. I can see why gardening is called the 'green gym'. Gee those pizzas, wine and beers went down a treat afterwards.



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The *Rural Fringe* acknowledges the Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri peoples who are the traditional custodians of the land of Hall Village and District and acknowledges their continuing relation to their ancestral lands. We pay our respect to the Elders of the First Nations past, present and future.

### The Rural Fringe – ISSN: 1329-3893

The *Rural Fringe* is a community newspaper published in 660 copies every second month by the Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc (VHDP) and distributed free to mailboxes of the 2618 postcode. It is also available online at [www.hall.act.au](http://www.hall.act.au) This publication is funded by the advertisements so readers are encouraged to support the businesses advertised.

#### Contributions

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

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

February issue deadline is 10 January  
April issue deadline is 10 March  
June issue deadline is 10 May  
August issue deadline is 10 July  
October issue deadline is 10 September  
December issue deadline is 10 November

It is the policy of the VHDP that articles which are dominantly about the profit making activity of any group or individual can only be accepted for publication if the same issue carrying the article has a paying advertisement of similar size.

Contributions to: [ruralfringe@hotmail.com](mailto:ruralfringe@hotmail.com)  
or: PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618.

#### Advertising rates (per issue)

large (quarter page)	\$80	colour	\$120
medium (eighth page)	\$40	colour	\$60
small (three sixteenth page)	\$30	colour	\$45

#### Other information

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## Surprise at the end of Onkaparinga Lane!

Local Hall district author Rhiân Williams has a new picture book out – just in time for Christmas and perfect for little ones about to start school, kinder or childcare.

*Surprise at the end of Onkaparinga Lane*, published by Walker Books and illustrated by Martina Heiduczek, is the heartwarming journey of a little boy on his way to his very first day at school. He wants to share his special news with all his friends in the street. But no one is at home as he makes his way along Onkaparinga Lane. However, there is a delightful surprise, along with all his friends, waiting for him at the school gate.



Martina's beautiful illustrations bring Rhiân's joyous text to life, creating a marvellous celebration of a child's very special day and the diverse and wonderful community that come to celebrate with him. This gorgeous book is perfect for that special child in your life about to start their own school journey. Oh the places they'll go!

*Surprise at the end of Onkaparinga Lane* is Rhiân's third picture book, following on from her first *Ten Little Figs* and second *Emergency Emergency Vehicles to the Rescue* – both of which were Children's Book Council of Australia Notable Books. *Surprise at the end of Onkaparinga Lane* is available at good bookshops everywhere, including Hall's own bookshop in Kingston – *The Book Cow*. And Rhiân is always happy to sign a copy for you. Just email her via her website [www.rhianwilliamsauthor.com.au](http://www.rhianwilliamsauthor.com.au)



# Brass on the Grass



Men's Shed BBQ



Canberra Brass Training Band



**Brass on the Grass 2023** was held on 15 October on the old Hall Primary School site.

It was a great success thanks to the efforts of a planning group, 25 volunteers and is the major fundraiser for the Hall Heritage Centre.



Hoskinstown Kitchen Jam



Heritage produce