

## **Rural Fringe 2023 – 2024**

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

**October 2023**

2023-2024 was my first full year as editor after taking over the role from Jo Hall who served as editor for the previous 11 years.

In it's 30<sup>th</sup> year the Rural Fringe is still going strong! The magazine prints and distributes 660 copies bimonthly to all post office boxes and roadside mailboxes in the 2618 postcode.

As big and colourful as ever, we continue to receive articles from regular contributors, as well as one off articles from experts and enthusiasts on a varied range of topics. We publish information on keeping your property fire safe, updates on solar farm approval applications, garden hints and tips, local bushland environmentalism and activities, wins, losses and experiences of Axe men and women, polocrosse events and men's and women's rugby teams, what the Men's Shed is up to, local church happenings, Heritage Centre activities and local history articles, covering the opening and closing of business, and the all the latest activities, village improvements and advocacy from the Progress Association.

We have a small but dedicated team with many thanks due to Gail Condy, our layout editor, who does a fantastic job juggling all the information that is received for each edition. Gail has been doing this for many years and is the epitome of the quiet achiever. Thanks also to Kevin Stone, our proofreader, who is fastidious in ensuring that we are accurate, and speak correct Kings English with appropriate apostrophes in the right place! Kevin also reports on the Men's Shed happenings and other events. Thanks also to the Men's Shed for delivering the Fringe to the roadside mailboxes with absolutely no fuss, and often within a few hours of receiving the boxes of magazines. Thanks also to Karen Hughes at the Hall Post office for her patience as I learnt the ropes to the Australia Post unaddressed mail system, and for being very flexible when needed. Thanks also to Bill Pearson for printing business cards on cardstock he provided. This helps the Fringe have a professional look when I'm out and about reporting on events, taking photos or talking to advertisers. Bill also uploads the Fringe to the VHDPA website. And last but by no means least, to Jo Hall for helping me learn the role of editor, and for standing in as editor when I was away for the August 2023 edition.

Robert Yallop (VHDPA President) continues to mail a copy of the Rural Fringe to all our local MLAs, MPs and Senators. I received a response back about the article on the colourful toilet block down at the park, from our local MP Andrew Leigh, so we know he reads it! I have also begun mailing out hard copies to the few advertisers who don't have a PO Box and don't live in the 2618 postcode. I also drop a copy of the Fringe into all the businesses in the village which enables me to meet a lot of the business owners and put a face to a name. I try to cover most events that happen in the village, write an article if appropriate and take some photos. But articles are always welcome and encouraged.

Our opening balance was \$10,236.33

Closing balance was \$13,622.40

We raised \$13,010.00 from 36 ongoing, and one off, advertisers in the last financial year.

Expenditure was \$9,828.53 with the main expenses being printing and postage, which left a profit of \$3,181.47. Our printer, Instant Colour Press, has not raised their price for the last two years and we also have not raised our advertising prices.

Jenny Whittaker

(Editor)