

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 6

December 2025

Hall Village Christmas Fair

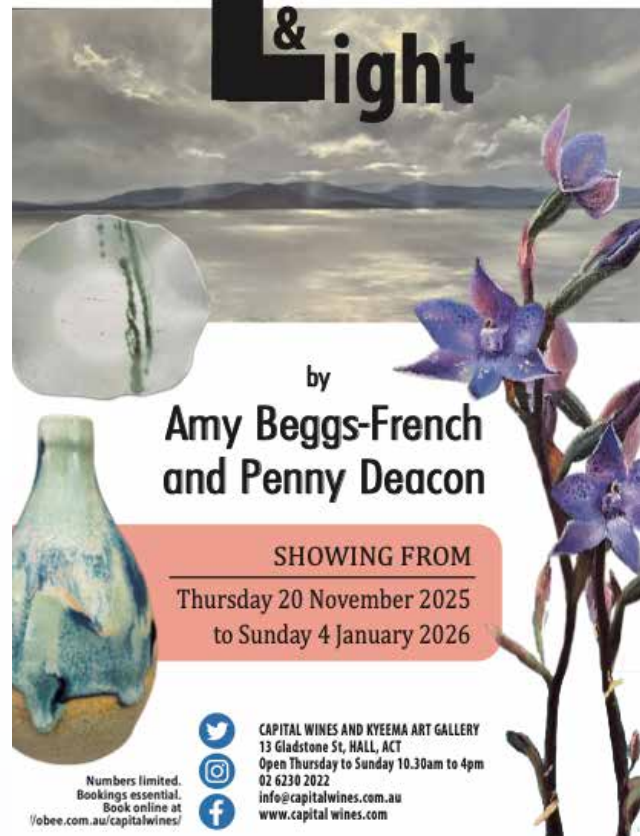
21 November 2025





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by

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Plant Swap fundraiser in October.

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- Local 'Wine dogs' book
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- Ozcorp range of Christmas wrapping and cards



And more...

St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

Corner Victoria and Loftus Streets, Hall

A huge thank you to all the families, residents and visitors who came along to the Street Party on 21 November. It was great to see Victoria Street and the grounds of St Michael's abuzz from start to finish. Hope Ginninderra Anglican Parish was pleased to be sponsoring the fair and congratulate Zina Richardson on her passionate and efficient management of all the details involved in the planning and running of this great community event. Many thanks to Zina and the host of volunteers who have worked so hard.

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 7 December 7.00pm till about 8.30pm

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

Wednesday 24 December at 10.30pm

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

Christmas Day

Thursday 25 December at 10am

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Regular Sunday services

Residents, visitors, friends, family and travellers are welcome to join us at St Michael's for either of our two services at St Michael's each Sunday. Services are usually a traditional service of Holy Communion, with one Sunday per month a less formal service of Prayer & Praise (P&P). Currently P&P is on the second Sunday of each month for the 8am service, and the fourth Sunday of each month for the 11am service.

Our weekly services:

- **8am** – followed by morning tea at Daughters at Hall
- **11am** – followed by morning tea in the grounds of St Michael's.

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

Storage space for small caravan WANTED

Do you have a secure space to store our small van for 1-2 years, except when the van is away touring (approx. 3 months per year)?

Our caravan size is:

- 5.2 metres long (including drawbar)
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Access to 240v power to charge batteries once a month for a day would be a bonus, but is not essential.

Fee negotiable.

Contact:

cdroaming@bigpond.com

Doug Crawford: **0413 796 466**

(Men's Shed Thursday mornings)

Christine: **0412 592 799**



The future of Hall Cemetery

The ACT Government, through Canberra Memorial Parks, manages the Hall Cemetery.

Currently, Hall Cemetery has one burial plot and 26 ash interments remaining. In addition, over 20 people have registered an interest in a burial plot, if any become available.

In recent months, Canberra Memorial Parks has had preliminary discussions with the Hall Progress Association on the current status of the cemetery and options for its future. This included a public meeting on 25 June 2025.

There are two options for the future of Hall Cemetery. The cemetery can be closed, as there are no further burial plots that can be developed due to a range of environmental issues that exist on the site.

Alternatively, subject to community feedback, the cemetery could be expanded into adjoining land which is already zoned for a cemetery/burial ground. This option has been explored over the past 12-18 months, and a potential expansion site of approximately one hectare has been identified.

The land to the west of the current cemetery is not zoned for this use and during wet periods is unusable for extended periods of time. The land to the north and south of the cemetery has significant environmental constraints that make an expansion into these areas unviable.

The land to the east is already zoned for cemetery/burial ground and is a 16-hectare site that is currently leased for free range egg farming. If supported by the community, the proposal is to convert approximately one hectare of that block into an expanded part of the cemetery, with a bush cemetery landscape. This site has very few environmental constraints that would impact this expansion.

There were around 20 people who were engaged with at the public meeting in June 2025, and the ACT Government wants to see whether there is broader community support for an expansion of Hall Cemetery.

To have your say please complete the survey at the link below by **Friday 6 February 2026**:
www.cityservices.act.gov.au/functionality/forms/the-future-of-hall-cemetery-survey/_nocache

or use the QR Code:



You can also provide additional comments that will be compiled and sent to Canberra Memorial Parks, to the Hall Progress Association at hall.village.2618@gmail.com before **Friday 6 February**.

Hall Village Motors by Ken Hawthorn

I've worked at Hall Village Motors in Victoria Street for the past couple of years and with my fellow mechanic Jake Czaplinski, we've recently taken over the workshop. Jake has also been working there for about four years, so we both come with plenty of knowledge and experience in the motor mechanical trade.

Even more so, as I'm from a small country town in rural New South Wales where I learnt my trade and the importance of giving good value, plus a fair and honest deal.



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Not only that, you'll also receive a complimentary car wash!

Jake and I are currently unable to do registration inspections, although that will change in the near future, but we will always do our best to ensure any work we do is done to a high standard.

So feel free to call in from 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday and speak to either Jake or me about your mechanical needs. You'll be sure to get a friendly welcome and can be rest assured of a job well done.



Casual Staff Needed

Enthusiastic staff for our family business:

Cellar Door tastings and sales – need a knowledge of wines and the ability to make visitors feel welcome. Hospitality experience would be useful. Will need a *NSW Responsible Service of Alcohol* certification or willingness to do the course. Work a weekend per month plus other weekend days as may be agreed. Ideal if someone is willing to do some nearby vineyard activities. Cellar Door is open weekends 10am to 5pm.

Vineyard work – experience in vineyard work or a good understanding of gardening and plants. Training on activities can be provided. May include some other farm activities if happy to do so. Up to two days per week and possibly more during harvest period or springtime. Reasonably flexible on which days.

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For any further information contact **Allan** on **0418 605 304** or the above email.



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Already we find that Christmas is almost upon us and the New Year is a few weeks away.

Our thanks again go to Dennis Greenwood, Bill Pearson and the Rotary Club of Hall for arranging our Remembrance Day commemoration. It is 107 years since the guns fell silent ending the 'Great War' – the war to end all wars. Although we say 'Lest We Forget' at every commemoration, we continue to witness the slaughter of innocent women, children and families in Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar, Palestine and elsewhere.



Dennis Greenwood and Bill Pearson at the Remembrance Day event.

Brass on the Grass is an annual delight in the Hall Village calendar. Our thanks to the musicians of Canberra Brass, Victoria Street Brass and Newberry Brass and to the volunteers of the Hall Heritage Centre, Hall Men's Shed and Hall Progress Association for ensuring the success of this cherished event. *Brass on the Grass* not only gives an annual opportunity for us to gather as a community but provides another reminder of how the brass band that began over 40 years ago in Hall Village is now a leading territory and national musical ensemble.



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Stormwater infrastructure

Following the very well attended community consultation 'pop-up' held with TCCS and the project design consultants in August, the ACT Government project manager advised the Progress Association that work is ongoing to incorporate the feedback provided by residents into the final design of the stormwater drainage infrastructure for Hall Village. When the design is finalised, the ACT Government will submit a Development Application for the required works.

When the design is finalised, the Progress Association will increase advocacy with both ACT and Federal governments to budget the funding required for the works.

Hall Reserve

As a result of 10 community work days involving some 200 days of volunteer effort, the Hall Reserve is being transformed into a well-kept community space welcoming residents and visitors.

The creation, planting and mulching of five native gardens on the Hall Reserve, the protection of areas of the reserve and the positioning of logs are all contributing to a vibrant habitat for insects, birds and small lizards, as well as periodic visits from our local echidnas.

Special thanks to all who have participated in the work days and contributed to reclaiming this very special community space.

Hall Village Meet Your Neighbours Pizza/Barbeque

In the afternoon of **Saturday 7 February**, the Hall Progress Association will host an informal social gathering where Hall Village residents – both old and new – are invited to come to meet your neighbours as well as the committee members of the Hall Progress Association. Further information will be included in the February *Rural Fringe*. In the meantime, save the date to come to the area of the pizza oven beside Hall Cottage to meet and catch up with other Hall Village residents.

The Progress Association Committee meets every month except January and always welcomes suggestions, comments and proposals from all residents, ratepayers, businesses, organisations and other stakeholders in Wallaroo, Spring Range, Nanima, and Hall Village. Speak to any of the committee members or email info@hall.act.au or call me.

In the meantime, very best wishes for the Christmas Season and the coming year.

Remembrance Day 2025

by Jenny Whittaker

A chilly, windy evening didn't deter a large crowd from commemorating Remembrance Day at the Jim Rochford Memorial Grove in Hall. On this day we acknowledge those who died or suffered while serving in war, conflicts and peace operations. 11 November is the anniversary of the Armistice of 1918 that ended fighting in World War I.

Dennis Greenwood was up early, installing the flag at the grove, but it wasn't all smooth sailing. The flag was fouling in overhead tree branches. A quick call to the ACT Government Northside City Services Depot had a couple of trucks, a handful of workers and a chainsaw make fast work of clearing the offending branch and the grove looked terrific for the ceremony.



Pruning before Remembrance Day 2025.

The flag is lowered to half mast before the ceremony as a sign of remembrance and mourning.

Piper Jim Davey started proceedings, the catafalque party marched in, prayers were given from Rev Helen Dean and Marge Rule, thanks given, wreaths laid, the Ode read and the National Anthem sung by all. The Last Post was played by Andrew Purdam, with Bill Pearson the MC, very proud of his grandson, Max Fenton, who raised the flag. The Remembrance Day address was given by **Greg Stuart** and titled 'We do remember them' which is reprinted here:

11/11. 'Armistice Day' when I was younger, now 'Remembrance Day'. Remembrance Day, a much better name, a time to remember those who served and paid the ultimate price for us.

I'd like to talk to three personal experiences of 'remembering them'.

My grandfather, a very fit young man, joined up in Nimmitabel during the Snowy marches. He returned Totally and Permanently Incapacitated, a TPI as they were called. He returned well after the war finished as he spent many months recuperating in Cornwall UK. He didn't say much about the war except about mud

and mates. He was at the Somme when a big German shell buried itself in the mud before exploding. His unit was buried under the mud. He was the only one dug out alive. But he always remembered those dead mates and honoured them each ANZAC Day and Armistice Day, attending services when he could.

He remembered them.

On a posting to the UK in the 1970's, my family and I holidayed in France. On a memorable occasion, I was looking in the window of a specialty liqueur shop when a person from the shop asked what nationality I was. When I told him I was Australian he ran back into the shop, I thought he was locking up, perhaps a bad experience previously with Australians and liqueurs.

But no, as he went to the back of the shop he started call out 'Australi, Australi' and came back out with an old man who proceeded to hug and kiss me. I was a bit embarrassed. The old man was the younger man's father who credited his life to Australian solders giving their ration packs to the local children, one of whom was this old man. I was invited into the liqueur shop, told only the best should be sampled by an Australian, and sampled they were. I then had no memory of anything until the next morning.

But those Frenchmen remembered them.

A few years ago I had a desire, it was like an itch. I wanted to go to the place in the Somme where my grandfather almost died. I contacted the Australian War Memorial and they were a great help providing the location. I engaged a Frenchman who specialised in where Australians died in the Somme and he provided the same location. So my wife and I were off to the Somme, the Frenchman met us at the railway station and drove us to the location. It is now an open wheat field so incredibly different to the sea of mud my grandfather endured and almost died in. Our guide explained that after each year's crop cultivation, new bones come to the field's surface, and each year those bones are carefully collected. Where possible, DNA is extracted to identify the person, perhaps giving some family closure.

Those locals remembered them.

Not only are they remembered on those fields, but also the areas' houses, shops and schools display Australian flags, honouring Australian sacrifice.

They well remember them.

And so, at each sunset, I say to myself 'at the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them'.

Thank you for remembering them with me this evening.

See more photos on back page.

Springfield Rural Fire Brigade

fire safety

Rebecca Morrison President

The grass is green now, but it won't stay that way for long. This season's strong growth means we're facing an increased risk of grass fires across our area.

Grass fires can start easily and spread very quickly, especially under hot, dry and windy conditions. They can destroy homes, crops, fencing and livelihoods.



Vale Terry Birtles

We were saddened by the recent passing of our long-time member, neighbour and friend Terry Birtles.

Terry's quiet commitment to community, and his years of service to our brigade, are deeply appreciated. His family's donation of land for our fire shed on Spring Range Road is a legacy that continues to benefit all of us.



RSVP 10 DEC
SCAN THE QR CODE
OR EMAIL springfieldrfs@hotmail.com

Christmas Party – you're invited

All members and residents are warmly invited to the **Springfield RFS Christmas Party**.

Sunday 14 December from 4pm
Patemans Lane Fire Shed

Dinner will be provided. Please bring a sweet plate to share and BYO drinks.

RSVP by **10 December** by scanning the QR code on the invitation or emailing springfieldrfs@hotmail.com

If you have any questions about being bush fire ready, or would like to know more about the brigade, we'd love to hear from you.



New recruits join the ranks

Earlier this month, Springfield members joined with four other brigades from the Southern Tablelands Zone for a combined Basic Firefighter Assessment Day.

Fourteen new recruits completed a full day of practical, competency-based assessments, covering core firefighting skills. We're pleased to share that all passed and are now qualified for operational service in the 2025–26 fire season.

If you've ever thought about joining the RFS, this is a great time to find out more. Contact your local brigade or visit rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer.



NSW RFS – Springfield Brigade

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LJ Hooker

It is that time of year again! With the weather warming up and the area drying out, we recommend you begin preparing for the coming fire season. Grass fires start quickly, can spread rapidly, and have the very same potential as bushfires to threaten homes, crops, livestock, and lives. We will continue to monitor local conditions to understand the fire risk to our community this fire season. It is important we all remain vigilant and are prepared.

This is the perfect time to **review and refresh your fire plan** with your family. What will you do on a catastrophic fire danger day? What will you do with livestock and pets if your property is under threat from fire? Where are the precious items you wish to evacuate with you?

Now is also the time to **prepare your property**. We encourage you to be proactive. Your efforts to prepare for the fire season could be key to protecting your life and those of the ones you love. Cleaning gutters, tidying up vegetation or overgrown areas, and moving flammable items away from your house, where possible, will make your property easier to protect in the event of a fire. When preparing your property, please be conscious of the weather conditions. The fire season formally commenced in the Southern Tablelands on 1 October, restricting some activities including clearance burns and use of machinery in dangerous conditions. The daily fire risk rating and fire season restrictions can be found on the NSW RFS website: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au. The RFS website also has information and resources to support you preparing your property and fire plan.

When you are preparing your property, please **consider how we will access your property** in the event of an emergency. If you have an electric gate or electronic lock, please think about leaving it open on *Extreme* or *Catastrophic* fire danger days, and if you can, please open it if you have called 000. Our fire trucks require 4m by 4m clearance to comfortably access your property, as well as somewhere to easily turn around near your home. Please consider any

vegetation or other obstacles that may prevent quick and easy access to your property.

We are always happy to support you to assess your property for hazards and ways to make your property safer. Please reach out to one of our Executive (contact details opposite), or pop into training (first and third Wednesday of every month).

King's Birthday Honours

We are absolutely thrilled that Captain Neil Shepherd was awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal in this year's King's Birthday Honours, recognising his long and distinguished service in the RFS. Neil is a pillar of our brigade, the NSW RFS, and the Wallaroo and



Canberra communities. A trusted leader, not just at Wallaroo, but in his role as a Deputy Group Captain in the Southern Tablelands Zone, Neil also makes a huge contribution to the Southern Tablelands training program, building the skills and experience of the RFS so we can best serve our community.

We are so privileged to have someone of Neil's calibre leading our Brigade. We benefit greatly from his skills, experience, and drive to make Wallaroo RFS a professional outfit and a happy community. Congratulations Neil! We could not think of a more deserving recipient.



Wallaroo RFB deployed our breathing apparatus capability twice in August: a house fire in Gunning and a car carrier on fire on the Hume Highway near Bowning. This capability allowed our members to respond more effectively and safely to these incidents.



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: Neil Shepherd	0418 628 095	nshepherd@shepelectrical.com.au
Senior Deputy Captain: Chris Ellison	0432 942 088	wallaroo.nswrfs@gmail.com
President: Amy Goldstraw	0410 763 936	amy.goldstraw@gmail.com
Secretary: Shona Jenkin	0400 902 408	wallaroo.nswrfs@gmail.com
Treasurer: Peter Vincent	0415 630 560	tyndarah@bigpond.net.au
Yass Fire Control Centre:	02 6266 3100	southerntablelandszone@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Training

The brigade continues to build our skills and expertise through regular brigade training, as well as zone training with our colleagues across the Southern Tablelands Zone. We also seek to regularly train with neighbouring brigades, including the ACT Rural Fire Service. Wallaroo members conducted a joint training activity with our friends from Molonglo RFS in November 2025. This exercise tested inter-service



Molonglo training.

radio communications and familiarised both brigades with the water sources and terrain between Wallaroo and Dunlop. This was the most recent activity of joint training sessions held between Wallaroo and ACT RFS brigades, including our colleagues from Hall. As the fire season heats up, you should expect to see more training activities conducted around different parts of Wallaroo as we re-familiarise ourselves with the brigade area, particularly any changes to property or infrastructure.

Shed upgrades

We continue to plan and fundraise for shed upgrades to support our new breathing apparatus capability, as well as implement best practice hazard reduction for our members. As evidence grows regarding the negative health impacts of bushfire smoke and contaminants, we are planning to implement 'clean' and 'dirty' areas to reduce contamination and exposure for brigade members, families and members of the community who visit our facilities. Our plans include showers and a laundry so our volunteers can de-contaminate at the station and don't take potential toxins back to their homes and loved

ones. Our proposed upgrades also include private changing spaces, designed to support the growth in the brigade's female membership.

To fund these upgrades to facilities and resources, the Brigade is seeking to raise approximately \$400,000 through a combination of government assistance and grant schemes, RFS funding, fundraising activities and local donations. We consider these shed upgrades to be a critical part of our duty of care to our members, whose health and safety is our number one priority. These upgrades continue to be the focus of our fundraising over the coming year.

Santa

Finally, it is our pleasure to host Santa again this year for his annual Wallaroo Santa Run! From **3pm on Saturday 20 December**, Santa has asked to use our truck to visit local children. Santa is determined to let you know he's coming so please don't be alarmed if you hear our sirens that afternoon. Please check our Facebook page for details of Santa's visit closer to the day (NSW RFS – Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade). Our Facebook page is also a great place to keep up to date with incidents, events and community announcements!

We wish you all a safe and happy festive season and look forward to working with you to keep our community safe in 2026!



Wild about Hall

Butterflies around Hall

by Anna Cowan

I am writing this article in early November, when butterflies can be seen as soon as you step outside. I am discovering species I haven't seen before and it makes walks around Hall or just around the garden even more interesting. There are over 80 species of butterfly in Canberra and many of these can be found around Hall, so I have just chosen a few to highlight in this article.

One of the butterflies I saw for the first time this year is the Lesser Wanderer, *Danaus petilia*. This is a migratory butterfly which is relatively rare around Canberra, but we had a few in spring. I have seen them several times in the reserves but not in the village itself.



A Lesser Wanderer, *Danaus petilia*.

From the upper surface this butterfly is superficially similar to several other species, including the Yellow Admiral, *Vanessa itea*.



The Yellow Admiral can be commonly seen around Hall.

However, the undersides of the two species are very different and that is the common view of a butterfly when it is resting.



The underside of a Lesser Wanderer (left) and a Yellow Admiral (right).

The largest butterflies that can be seen in Hall Village are those in the 'Swallowtail' family. These butterflies lay their eggs on citrus leaves, where the caterpillars can cause significant damage. The removal of these caterpillars by gardeners, as well as pesticide use and climate change are some of the reasons why these butterflies are less common than they once were. Where possible, at least some of the caterpillars should be left, as the butterflies are not only beautiful but are beneficial pollinators.



A Dainty Swallowtail, *Papilio anactus*.

The Chequered or Lime Swallowtail is widespread across Australia and Asia but not common around Hall and a new sighting for me this year.



Chequered or Lime Swallowtail, *Papilio demoleus*.

Many butterflies have interesting specialisations on what they feed on, where they lay their eggs, or in their dependence on other insects for aspects of their lifecycle.

The Saltbush Blue, *Theclinessthes serpentata*, as its name suggests favours saltbush as a food source, the caterpillars and the adult butterfly feed predominantly on saltbush leaves. As far as I am aware the only species of saltbush we have in the reserves around Hall is the Climbing Saltbush, *Einadia nutans* which is relatively uncommon. However, the butterfly is common here and I see it on the various introduced saltbush varieties in our garden.



A Saltbush Blue settled on a saltbush.

The Tailed Emperor, *Charaxes sempronius* feeds predominantly on Wattle and Kurrajong, (*Brachychiton populneus*). It is a very large butterfly with a wingspan of 7-8 cm.



The Tailed Emperor.

The Imperial Jezebel, *Delias harpalyce*, is dependent on mistletoes, in that it lays its eggs on mistletoe leaves, the emerging caterpillars then use it as their exclusive food source and later pupate together in a silken web on the same plant.



The adult Imperial Jezebel butterflies emerging from their pupae.

... continues on page 14

Butterflies around Hall

The Imperial Hairstreak, *Jalmenus evagoras*, has a symbiotic relationship with some species of ants. The ants protect the eggs and larvae of the butterfly from predators while the ants utilise secretions from the larvae for food. This relationship is beneficial for both butterfly and ant but not essential to either. There are other butterflies where parts of the life-cycle are completely dependent on ants, such as the Small Ant Blue, which also occurs in the ACT but has not been seen in the Hall region as far as I am aware.



An Imperial Hairstreak, *Jalmenus evagoras*.

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The Caper White butterfly, *Belenois java*.

The final butterfly in my very selective listing is the Caper White, *Belenois java*. I chose to include this as it seems to strongly display a behaviour that helps in the search for some butterflies. This behaviour is called 'hilltopping', where butterflies congregate during their mating season. I regularly see Caper Whites flying over the village, through Mrs Reynold's Paddock and on towards One Tree Hill. This is a clear 'Hilltop' in our area but you can also find butterflies congregating on much smaller rises.

Not all butterflies display hilltopping, others congregate in particular trees, near their regular food sources, water sources or insects they benefit from.

For me, seeing and photographing various butterflies is in itself interesting, but learning about their behaviour and lifecycle makes it so much more fascinating.

... continued from page 13



Graham Smith at the machine.

After painting.

All done, now the horses can find their way to water!



Tennis bench repair.



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Capital Country Woodchopping



Capital Country Woodchopping has kicked off the 2025-2026 ACT/NSW Competition and Show Calendar in full swing!

CCW held very successful woodchopping demonstrations throughout September and October at Hay Show, the Boorowa 'Running of the Sheep' Festival, Cootamundra Show and Bungendore Show, with great performances from our axemen and axewomen, including our youngest member Charlie having his first public chop at Bungendore. Congratulations Charlie! Not bad for 12 years old!

We have also just wrapped up running the first of three Capital Country Woodchopping Woodchopping Competitions to see us to the new year. On Sunday November we had a huge turnout of 26 open cutters, 15 ladies, 10 novice cutters, eight junior cutters and 22 sawyers at Queanbeyan Show. Despite a forced break around lunch time to let some rain push through, it was an exceptionally successful day. Congratulations to our fabulous committee and members for helping to make the day such a professional, efficient and fun day! Congratulations also to all the competitors and place getters, and thank you to those who travelled far and wide to be there.

Our axemen have also been extremely busy pursuing their own competing pursuits. Over the last two months our members have competed at the

Royal Perth Show, Berowra Show, Woodstock Show, Eugowra Show, Canowindra Show, Bridbaree Show,

Majors Creek, Carcoar Show, Picton Show, Bendoc Hotel and Queanbeyan Show. Congratulations to all CCW competitors who placed at these competitions, especially Austin O'Connor who came in 3rd place (on points) for Axeman of the Show at the 2025 Royal Perth Show! A truly amazing result amongst some of the best axemen in the country. Well done Austin!

In business news, both Capital Country Woodchopping and the NSW Axeman's Association recently held their AGM's, with committee positions re/elected as follows:

Capital Country Woodchopping:

President: **Cheyenne Girvan**

Vice President: **Shaun O'Connor**

Secretary: **Phoebe Youd**

Treasurer: **Kylie Gillam**

Handicapper: **Sam Ogilvy**

Social Media/Liaison Officer: **Steph Radovanovic**

NSW Axemen's Association:

President: **Shaun O'Connor**

Vice President: **Alan Scrivener**

Secretary/Treasurer: **Kylie Gillam**

Public Officer: **Kylie Gillam**

Congratulations to everyone, and a warm welcome to our new secretary Phoebe. We would also like to thank Megan for her time and valuable contribution as prior secretary. It is also so exciting to see two of our committee members re-elected on to the NSW AA Committee. Congratulations Shaun and Kylie. The future of woodchopping in the ACT and state of NSW has never looked so exciting!

Over the last four weeks, in between many shows, demo's, AGM's, spring cleans and taking on some new memberships, we have started running a ladies Standing Block training session once a week. This is proving extremely popular, with up to nine of our axewomen regularly attending. The Standing Block discipline in Australia has always been traditionally for men and as such there have never been any Ladies SB Competition cuts, so this is an extremely exciting progression in the sport of woodchopping for women. It is our hope to have our axewomen ready to compete in Standing Block by this time next year, which would be a world-first for this district! Stay tuned.

We still have bags of dry kindling wood for sale at Canberra Stockfeed at 1 Victoria St Hall. They are \$15 a bag and are another great way for us to recycle and re-purpose our chopped wood and support our local community. Now is a great time to purchase wood and let it dry out ready for next winter.

Our usual wood pile at our club grounds is also still available if you would rather choose your own. Simply scan the QR code that is on the large sign beside the wood pile to access bank details to transfer a donation. We are a not-for-profit organisation and any money we make goes directly back to the maintenance and upkeep of our equipment and grounds, so is greatly appreciated.

Capital Country Woodchopping remains keen to negotiate potential sponsorship packages. We have many options available. Please contact Shaun O'Connor for further details.

Our CCW Supporters Packs are available for purchase, as well as single, family and junior memberships within our club. Please feel free to reach out for more details if you're interested. The Supporter's Pack is proving popular for those who wish to support the club but do not wish to chop/train/compete, especially the partners and parents (and grandparents) of our existing members.

Our line of CCW merchandise also remains available for purchase, for our members, supporters and the public. There is a huge selection of singlets, long sleeve and short sleeve training shirts, polo's, hoodies, jackets and more. Check out the O'Neills Club Hub:

www.oneills.com/au_en/shop-by-team/other/capital-country-woodchopping.html



by **Steph Radovanovic**

If you would like to know more about our membership options, supporter packs, sponsorship packs, or think you might like to come along and have a try, please reach out to the contacts provided.

We will once again be holding our end of year CCW Awards at our **Christmas Party** on **13 December** at our beautiful club grounds, which is always a fabulous celebration. Many of our axemen will be hoping to take out the prestigious axeman and axewoman of the year awards!

On behalf of the CCW crew, we would like to wish all the Fringe readers and Hall community a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year!

Be sure to come and say *Hi* if you see us out and about and come and see why we love this sport so much!

Email: info@capitalchopping.com.au

Facebook: [@Capital Country Woodchopping](https://www.facebook.com/CapitalCountryWoodchopping)

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Self-compassion

by Kevin Stone

This information is from another article produced by Arthritis ACT and reprinted with their kind permission and much appreciation.

We live in a world that often encourages self-criticism in the name of growth and success, and if you are living with a chronic condition, it can be even more difficult to practice self-compassion. Studies have shown that being kind to ourselves, such as practising self-compassion, can be one of the most effective tools to thrive. So when we replace harsh inner dialogue with supportive self-talk, we can unlock a ripple effect that boosts confidence, creativity, relationships and overall life satisfaction.

So what is self-compassion?

Self-compassion means treating yourself with the same kindness and understanding you would offer a good friend and has three basic elements:

- *Self-kindness* – Being gentle with yourself.
- *Common humanity* – Recognising that struggle is a shared human experience.
- *Mindfulness* – Holding your thoughts and feelings in balanced awareness.

Self-compassion's influence on confidence

Studies have also shown that self-compassionate people are less likely to fear failure and more likely to pursue their goals with resilience and optimism. When we practice self-compassion, we reduce self-doubt and harsh self-judgment. We can become more willing to try new things and bounce back from mistakes, knowing our worth isn't tied to being perfect. Over time, this nurtures a steady sense of confidence.

Self-compassion's influence on creativity

A self-compassionate mindset is linked with greater psychological flexibility and willingness to explore new ideas, because fear of criticism and perfectionism can block creativity. Self-compassion helps us to let go of the need to get everything right the first time, so we're more open to experimenting, making mistakes and innovating.

Self-compassion's influence on relationships

Self-compassionate people report higher relationship satisfaction, greater social connection and are more supportive partners and friends. When we practice self-compassion we can become more empathetic and less defensive. This will enable us to handle conflict better, communicate with more authenticity, and be less likely to project insecurity onto others.

Self-compassion's influence on life satisfaction

Studies consistently show that self-compassion is a strong predictor of psychological wellbeing and life satisfaction. At its core, self-compassion enhances wellbeing. We become more accepting of ourself and life's ups and downs, leading to greater life satisfaction and happiness.


How to cultivate self-compassion

- *Notice self-talk*: Would you speak this way to a friend?
- *Practice mindfulness*: Pause and observe thoughts and feelings without judgment.
- *Acknowledge humanity*: Everyone struggles sometimes.
- *Offer kindness*: Use gentle words, encouragement, and self-soothing gestures.

Always remember, your days have wonderful moments, so enjoy every one of them.



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Doctor Who mania in Hall Village

Victoria Street was invaded by a very special time traveller in September as bestselling author Jack Heath launched his newest book *Doctor Who: Frankenstein and the Patchwork Man*.



The launch, held at the studio and gallery of local jeweller Venetia Major, brought together Whovians and book lovers alike. Guests were treated to an immersive experience, with a two menacing, life-sized Daleks guarding the grazing tables. (Even the Doctor's greatest foes couldn't resist the cheese.) Fans also delighted in taking photos with the TARDIS belonging to local wood chopping champ Shaun O'Connor.

Andrew Whittle from Dymocks Belconnen sold a selection of Jack's books inside Venetia's gallery, which was a treasure trove of Doctor Who-themed jewellery (in addition to her usual elegant, hand-crafted pieces).

Jack read a tantalising excerpt from his new book, which re-imagines Mary Shelley's classic tale for the beloved Time Lord. He spoke with



local author Amy Laurens about his writing process and his long-time love for the iconic sci-fi series. It was a wonderful opportunity for the community to celebrate local talent and the power of a good story.

The event was a huge success and a testament to the vibrant and creative spirit of our village. A big thank you to Venetia Major for hosting and to everyone who came along to support local literature.



Dalek guarding the nibbles.



hypnotherapy

When you finally realise you have a choice

by **Robyn Monteleone**
clinical hypnotherapist



Have you ever noticed how we often put up with stress, worry, or sleepless nights far longer than we need to, simply because we don't realise we can do something about it?

So many capable people assume feeling tense or on edge is just 'how life is.' They're holding it all together on the outside, but inside their mind never stops running. It's easy to believe that overthinking, poor sleep or constant pressure are just the price of being a responsible adult.

But they're not.

What if you can help your body and mind to be calm, even under pressure? What if it's not that hard? What if you can learn how to do what you're already doing, but do it helpfully?

As the year winds down and the holidays approach, it's a good time to pause and notice how you're really feeling. Are you running on empty? Pushing through? Maybe your body has been whispering for rest, or your mind has been asking for space to breathe.

What if, this Christmas, your gift to yourself was calm?

Even a few minutes of slowing down – breathing deeply, stepping outside, or simply giving yourself permission to stop – can remind your nervous system that it's safe to relax. When you do, you'll think more clearly, sleep more deeply and reconnect with what matters most.

Sometimes transformation begins not with a grand plan, but with one realisation: you don't have to keep struggling the same way.

Because you can feel calm, confident and in control, and it starts with remembering that you can, you just don't know how.

Hypnotherapy gently reconnects our mind and body together instead of working against each other, creating peace, calm and confidence. You can learn more here: robynm.com.au and be sure to download the free audio. It will bring you back to peace and calm in 10 minutes.



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gardening

Gardening on a new building site

by **Lisa Walmsley**

Starting from scratch can be overwhelming – where do you start, what is critical and what can wait?

Landscaping is expensive and you don't want to get it wrong or plant in the wrong place. People often think just planting into the existing dirt with natives is the quick easy answer, however nothing likes growing in raw dirt, it always needs help and improvement with organic matter no matter what type of soil you have.

Think about how much maintenance you want to do. Nothing is 'no maintenance'. Natives are not 'no maintenance'; they need trimming to perform at their best. Don't be under the illusion that gardens don't need work. If you want a lovely garden, it will need care and attention.

rocks and excess vegetation. Check levels and drainage; does the water fall away from the house, are there any areas where water pools? Consider how you deal with low areas – will sumps be required or trenches to drain water away? Soil improvement is essential. The soil will be low grade sub soil, probably clay or shale. Dig in composts, manures or any organic materials you can get your hands on.

Budget: obviously this is a main consideration of what you can achieve. One of the beauties of a garden is you don't have to build it all at once – so do what's important and in the budget first, while also planning for what to do next. Consider propagating some plants or share with friends.

Hardscaping: often structural parts of the garden have to happen first, but they are also probably more expensive. Do what you want or can.

Irrigation is important; you don't want to plant a garden and then not be able to keep it alive. An irrigation system makes your life so much easier.

Planting: consider the bones (bigger plants and trees) of your garden first. These will form the framework of your garden and are important for the initial design and layout. Smaller plants and lawns will fit in around these. Mulch all beds



Planning: make a plan, even if it's a rough sketch. Have some ideas about the direction you are going and where to spend your dollars and how to get the biggest bang for your buck.

Understand the site: do a site analysis – where is the sun at various times of the day, which way does your site face, where does the prevailing wind come from, do you have any shade, what is the drainage like? Do some research to work out which plants do well in different conditions.

Site essentials: think about your hardscaping – sheds, pergolas and entertaining spaces and think about how much maintenance you want to do.

Soil preparation: this is the critical point; if you do nothing else, do this. There is always builders' rubble. Remove all unwanted materials including

after planting. This makes an essential and critical difference to the health of your plants, increases growth rate and helps retain moisture and reduce weeds.

Garden edging makes maintenance easier and enhances the aesthetic. Steel edges, brick or simple shovelled edges all look terrific.

Garden maintenance: every day, with tea or coffee in hand, do a quick 10 minute (minimum) reconnaissance. Pull weeds while they are young; this makes the job faster and easier and you get to see what is flowering or doing interesting things. Trim, mow, blow, etc, have the right tools, have a compost spot.

And remember, establishment is the hardest bit, so it's only going to get easier from here.



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To submit an expression of interest you must be:

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- a fit and proper person to enter into an in-perpetuity conservation agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

Expressions of interest close on **28 February 2026**.



Magpie chicks in Hall.



photos: Paul Porteous

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

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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.

Contributions to: ruralfringe@hotmail.com
 or: PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618.

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Trumpeter.

Brass on the Grass

16 November 2025

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Darrell, Olga, Molly and Jane at the Heritage Centre stall.



Rod Roberts from the Hall Men's Shed keeping the hordes fed.



A good crowd on the day.