

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district



VOLUME 33 ISSUE 1

February 2026

Days gone by in the streets of Hall



*Original house in Alexandra Street
where Andi and Bill Pearson now live.*



Andrea and Wolfgang Wanjura



Wolfgang Wanjura



*Marion Ward and children,
top of Alexandra Street, c.1980.*



*Looking down Alexandra St
- a young Wanjura or two.*

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meeting at
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2026

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Royal Canberra Show Centenary 2027

Can you help?

The Royal Canberra Show will be celebrating its centenary in 2027 and has approached the Hall Heritage Centre to work with the Royal National Capital Agricultural Society in putting together a history from when the event was conducted at our nearby Hall Showground. The origins of this annual competition can be traced back to the Ginninderra Farmers' Union and the use of ground quite close to 'Palmerville' in the late 1800's, before moving to Hall and eventually into the EPIC site in 1963.

This year's **2026 Show** will be held from **20 - 22 February** and the Centenary Working Group will be using the occasion and the ensuing 12 months to collect stories, memorabilia and information about the history of the 'modern' event, dating from 1927.

You can visit the 2026 Show and learn more about the project or get in touch with the Hall Heritage Centre or the RNCAS directly if you would like to contribute to this exciting project.

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St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

by Beryl Pedvin

Corner Victoria and Loftus Streets, Hall

A message from Revd Peter Malone, retiring rector of Hope Ginninderra Parish, including St Michael and All Angels:

'Dear Rural Fringe readers,

It has been an honour and a joy to serve in St Michael and All Angels Church for the past five years. However, the time comes when even priests retire.

On the 25 January I celebrated my last combined service in the Hope Ginninderra Anglican Parish. I leave deeply thankful for the friendship, love and support of so many throughout my ministry in this wonderful region of Canberra.

May 2026 be rewarding for you all.'

Parishioners of Hope Ginninderra are very sad to farewell Reverend Peter. He has been a strong and uplifting leader in our parish and in the community, and he will be missed greatly. Revd Peter has been part of the parish since mid-2021, when we were still wrestling with the difficulties of socially distanced worship and other impacts of COVID. Peter has forged strong community links, becoming part of the team involved in the very first Hall Village Christmas Fair in December 2021 and in each Village Fair since then. During his incumbency our parish has marked a number of milestones, notably celebrating the 75th anniversary of St Michael & All Angels Church in May 2023, and in February 2025 our merger with the former parish of St Paul's Ginninderra to become Hope Ginninderra Anglican Parish. We wish every blessing on Revd Peter and his wife Kerry for a happy and active retirement.

As is the Anglican process, we have started the search for a new Rector. While feeling much sadness at the departure of Revd Peter, we look forward to a new season of worship when a new incumbent is appointed. In the meantime, with the guiding hand of our honorary Assistant Priest Revd Helen Dean, visiting clergy and parish worship assistants, services will continue at St Michael's at 8am and 11am each Sunday.



Initially, we look toward Easter. The anticipation of Easter starts with Ash Wednesday on 18 February, marking the start of Lent. Lent is time of reflection and preparation for the solemnity of Good Friday and great celebration of Easter.

Easter celebrations will continue when parishioners from St Michael's will join members of the other churches of Hall and community members to walk the length of Victoria Street on **Good Friday 3 April**, marking the **Stations of the Cross**. This Good Friday walk has been held for many years and is organised jointly by the clergy of the Catholic, Uniting and Anglican churches in Hall. Members of all churches as well as community members not necessarily connected with any church are welcome to attend, and numbers have been increasing each year. The walk will start at 11am at the northern end of Victoria Street – at the Barton Highway intersection – and finish at the Remembrance Grove on the corner of Victoria and Gladstone Streets, although walkers may join at any point.

At St Michael's we will hold our usual 8am and 11am services on **Easter Day 5 April**. Residents and visitors are invited to come along at Easter, or to weekly services any Sunday at 8am or 11am.

For more information about our services please call Beryl on **0408 488 526**.



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Each new year brings us new opportunities and new challenges. With the new year, we have the chance to begin new activities, develop new and strengthen existing relationships and to complete work in progress.

As we begin the new year, the Progress Association will host a Pizza Picnic at the Hall Community Oven beside the old Headmaster's Cottage in the Hall Community Precinct on **Saturday 7 February** from **4pm - 7pm** for all residents, especially recent arrivals to our village as well as those who have called Hall home for a while longer. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided free for everyone to meet and chat with neighbours. The Progress Association Committee members will be on hand if you wish to give your comments, feedback and suggestions for the Progress Association. All adults and children are welcome.



The Progress Association Committee is preparing a submission to the ACT Government for the 2026 – 2027 Budget. Following significant inputs and comments on the preliminary storm water drainage design by Hall residents to ACT Government staff and consultants last August, the required Development Applications are expected to be submitted in early 2026 and the Progress Association will seek to have the necessary funding

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allocated in the ACT Government Budget. In March 2025, the ACT and Commonwealth governments announced joint funding of a safe cycle and pedestrian path from Gladstone St Hall to Clarrie Hermes Drive that has been called the 'Hall Main Path'. In our Budget Submission, the Progress Association will be seeking input to the design of the cycle and pedestrian path and construction without undue delay. The Progress Association will also request allocation of the funding required for a comprehensive assessment by the ACT Government of the safety of the intersection of the Barton Highway with Gladstone Street and Wallaroo Road, particularly considering the current alignment and safe line of sight to traffic in all directions.

In January I was very sad to learn of the passing of Heather Wilford and to join in the celebration of her life at her funeral. Heather, together with husband Alf, was a long-term and very active member of the Hall Heritage Centre. Heather served as a member of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association Committee from 2019 until 2022. Our sincere condolences to Alf and her family and friends.

In other news, after some 50 years, Alastair and Marjorie Crombie have left Hall Village. Alastair and Marjorie have been very active residents contributing significantly to the Hall community through many activities over five decades. Alastair

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has spent many years as a member of the Progress Association Committee, including in the role of President, was instrumental in securing the provisional listing of Hall Village in the ACT Heritage Register, and was a key driver in the establishment of Hall Heritage Centre and the Hall Men's Shed. Although they have moved from Hall Village, I hope that we will continue to see Alastair and Marjorie here with us in the future.



Alastair and Marjorie Crombie.

In response to requests from the Village of Hall and District Progress Association, both ACT Chief Police Officer Scott Lee and NSW Hume District Police Superintendent Linda Bradbury have confirmed that increased patrols by ACT and NSW Police respectively would be undertaken in Hall Village and surrounding district of Wallaroo, Spring Range and Nanima during the Christmas and New Year period. In Wallaroo, Spring Range and Nanima, police from Yass Station and Highway Patrol Command committed to conduct high visibility patrols and traffic enforcement with concern for antisocial and criminal driving behaviour, illegal dumping of rubbish and unlawful entering and burglary of rural properties. In and around Hall Village, police from ACT Road Policing and Gungahlin Station committed to conduct regular patrols with a focus on unlawful driving and community safety.

The first meeting of 2026 for the Hall Progress Association Committee will be in mid-February. If you have any ideas or concerns for our community, please talk to me or any member of the Progress Association Committee, send me an email at robert.yallop.care@gmail.com or send a message to info@hall.act.au.

I hope that you will join us at the Pizza Picnic on Saturday 7 February.

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Springfield Rural Fire Brigade

Rebecca Morrison President

Why preparation matters

Recent devastating bushfires in Victoria have again shown how quickly and intensely fire can take hold, particularly under hot, dry and windy conditions. For communities like ours, these events are a timely reminder of the importance of preparing early, well before a fire threatens.

As warmer conditions continue across the region, residents are encouraged to review their bush fire plans and property access now, while there is time to make considered decisions rather than rushed ones.

Review your bush fire plan

Higher temperatures are rapidly drying out the high volume of grass growth across the area, increasing fire risk. A clear and well understood bush fire plan is one of the most important tools households can have.

Plans should be discussed with everyone in the household and revisited regularly. Key questions to consider include:

Will you leave early or stay and defend?

What will be your trigger to leave?

How will you manage livestock or horses?

Do you have the equipment needed to move animals at short notice?

Is everything ready if you need to leave quickly?

The NSW RFS Bush Fire Survival Plan provides practical guidance, and a personalised plan can be created online in as little as five minutes. Both tools are designed to encourage early planning rather than last minute decision making.



Property access can make a difference

Property access plays a critical role during a fire event. An increase in steel gates across the area has highlighted the need to ensure emergency services can gain access quickly when required.

If firefighters cannot access a property, assistance may be delayed or not possible. Gates should have a clear and reliable way for emergency services to gain access, even if residents are not home or power is unavailable.

Access does not stop at the gate. Narrow driveways, overhanging trees and low branches can also prevent fire appliances from reaching homes, sheds or water supplies.

Fire trucks are large vehicles and require adequate clearance. Properties should ideally have:

- A minimum entrance width of 2.4 metres.
- A minimum height clearance of 3.1 metres.
- A turning circle of at least 30 metres.



Checking access now can make a significant difference during an emergency.

Supporting the local brigade

Thank you to community members who have recently made financial contributions. Donations support improvements at local fire sheds and help fund additional equipment.

The brigade has recently changed banks and residents wishing to donate are asked to note the updated details.

Springfield RFS Brigade
BSB 325 185 (Beyond Bank)
Account number 0409 9035

Diary dates

If you'd like to learn more about the brigade or ways to contribute, we encourage you to attend an upcoming meeting or training session. New faces are always welcome.

General Meeting

Monday 9 February, 7.00 pm Patemans Lane Shed

Training

Training is held every second Wednesday of the month and is open to new members. Next session: **Wednesday 11 February, 6.30pm, Patemans Lane Shed.**

If you have any questions about being bush fire ready, we'd love to hear from you.



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Plants for the garden

I often get asked 'what is your favourite plant?' I have lots, for lots of reasons. Every plant has a spot where it's perfect.

It's really difficult to be 'anti' any plants. The plants you will like the most usually grow well in your garden or neighbourhood. How can you not love a plant that thrives, even with a little neglect when you forget to water it or it gets hit by a mega frost?

In there lies the trick. Learn to love the tried and true plants first, then add the more 'tricky' plants later.

There will always be plants you love but which are hard to grow, and you don't want a whole garden of partially dead/alive plants that *might* get going eventually. You need your bones – the plant structure – that pulls your garden together.

On your list of favourites that are sturdy and reliable (which can be revolving and evolving) start with a few and build as you get more familiar. As a starting point make a list of five perennials, five small shrubs, five large shrubs and five trees. Be careful of 'googling' plants – they often get it wrong. Check out your neighbourhood and local nursery for inspiration.



Salvia



Sedum

gardening

by Lisa Walmsley

My suggestions:

Perennials: Salvia – all kinds, Catmint, Gaura, Santolina and Sedum.

Small shrubs: Raphiolepis 'Snow Maiden', Teurcium fruticans, Lavender, Eucalyptus 'Moon lagoon' and Laurus 'Baby Bay'.

Large shrubs: Garrya elliptica, Prunus lusitanica, Callistemon endeavour, Elaeagnus and Viburnum 'opulus sterile'.

Trees: Prunus 'Oakville Crimson Spires', Pyrus 'Chanticleer', Pyrus salisifolia, Malus ioensis (Crab Apple) and Fraxinus 'raywoodii' (Claret Ash).

These plants thrive here, not fail safe, but they are generally up for the southern tablelands climate challenge, and the soil that that brings.



Viburnum 'opulus sterile'

Think about the style of plants that excited you, are they evergreen or deciduous? Do you want seasonal interest – autumn colour, spring flowers and lush summer foliage? Or do you need blanket screening from a big building next door, where a deciduous plant will not likely cut the mustard? Think about the height. Keep low for views or high for framing and shade.



Claret Ash (Fraxinus 'raywoodii')

Be a little bit informed; nurseries can stock plants that do not thrive in our environment. Gardenias and citrus are my prime examples of that. Yes, someone will have one that looks good and survives while many others die in the first frost. Nearly all citrus in nurseries are grown and propagated the other side of the Queensland border – they just don't love it here. So put them in a hot house or really protected area after you have planted your tried and true plants.

gardening



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A garden with plants always outranks a garden with no plants. Plants enhance your street appeal, plants cool the site and buildings, plants create an independent ecosystem, plants attract birds and wildlife, and they increase the value of your property.



Malus ioensis (Crab Apple)

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Settling the Limestone Plains 200 years ago

Did you know that it is 200 years since the first European settlement on the Limestone Plains?

To recognise this, the Hall Heritage Centre is preparing a new exhibition to be opened in the centre in April 2026 for the ACT Heritage Festival – **Palmerville 1826: A Bicentenary Exhibition.**

If you have any interesting objects or stories, say from the 1820s to 1860s, related to *Palmerville-Ginninderra*, particularly of former convicts assigned to *Palmerville*, please get in touch with the Hall Heritage Centre.

The first Palmers, John, and his brother Christopher, arrived on the First Fleet in 1788. John was appointed Commissary for NSW and established *Woolloomooloo*, with a farm, flour mills, bakery and five coastal trading ships. He was later granted *Jerrabomberra* in a property exchange.

Marriage linked the Palmer, Campbell, Davis and Wright (of Lanyon) families across several generations, and that dynasty is said to have controlled more than 60 per cent of the present-day ACT. John's sisters, Sophia, married Robert Campbell in 1801 and resided at *Wharf House*, the Rocks and Sarah married Charles Hook and settled near Bringelly.

John's son, Lieutenant George Thomas Palmer, arrived in NSW in 1806 with his wife Irene Catherine Pemberton, a niece-in-law of Robert Campbell, but

soon left the army and settled at *Pemberton Grange*, Parramatta. He later obtained a land grant on the Ginninderra Creek, which from 1826 became *Palmer's Station – Palmerville*.

By the early 1820s, John Palmer Snr and Jnr, with Robert Campbell, had leased grazing land near Tarago/ Lake Bathurst, with Joshua Moore nearby on *Baw Baw*.

The second half of the 1820s was a serious drought, with Lake George shrinking until it was dry by 1838, so it was necessary for graziers to move west to claim the waters and grazing lands of the Limestone Plains, just a 50-mile trek from Lake Bathurst. However, even the Molonglo was barely flowing, being a series of deep waterholes.

The first European settlers on the Limestone Plains in the mid-1820s were unauthorised squatters such as Owen Bowen and John McLaughlan at *Quinbean* ('clear waters') and Joseph Rolfe and his stepfather, Timothy Beard, near *Carwoola*, both on the Molonglo River, but they were soon displaced.

Overseers with assigned convicts quickly established out-stations for absentee owners who remained in their primary homes in or near Sydney, rarely visiting the Limestone Plains. The second and later generation of owners lived on the estates, although with mixed success.

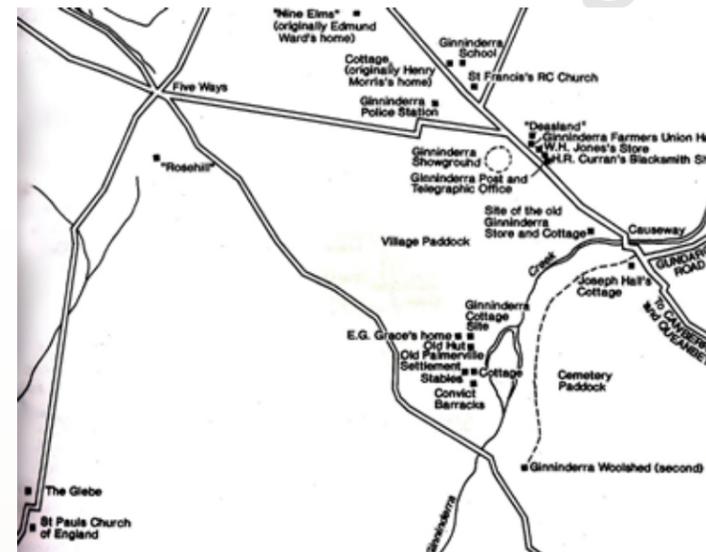
John McLaughlan with convicts claimed *Canberry/Acton* for Joshua Moore around 1825, James Ainslie with convicts ran *Pialligo/Duntroon* for Robert Campbell and Duncan Cameron with convicts claimed *Jerrabomberra* for John Palmer Snr, displacing Timothy Beard.

Closer to Hall, in 1826, Duncan McFarlane with convicts claimed *Palmer's Station-Palmerville* for George Thomas Palmer Snr on the Ginninderra Creek. In the 1830s, Henry Hall, with convicts, claimed neighbouring *Charnwood*.

Palmer's Station was quickly built up by convict labour and by 1829 GT Palmer claimed to have been assigned 43 convicts and employing 18 free men, who had erected four cottages, four barns, two granaries, stables, sheds and convict barracks along the Ginninderra Creek. The original *Palmerville* homestead was soon built (long since demolished) and this site is now the *Palmerville Heritage Park* on Owen Dixon Drive, Evatt.

Palmer's Station quickly expanded to 10,646 acres across five local Parishes, running 12,000 sheep, plus other stock, a substantial holding. John Palmer Snr died in 1833 and left *Jerrabomberra* to his son GT Palmer, who later appointed his son Pemberton as resident manager.

by Peter Browning



However, 1837-39 were severe drought years, with a rural recession and banking crisis, so by 1845 Charles and Catherine had defaulted and returned to *Duntroon*. GT Palmer took back possession and, after a short stint with GT Palmer Jnr as Manager, William Davis Jnr was appointed manager around 1849 and in 1850 married the boss's daughter, Susan Adrianna Palmer.

When GT Palmer died in 1854, Susan inherited the estate under a complex trust arrangement, with her husband William Davis as one of three trustees and the manager. The Palmer family effectively controlled *Palmerville* until its sale to Edward and Kate (Mort) Crace in 1877. Sadly, GT's talents did not flow through to all of the later generation, as his grandson, George Palmer, went rogue and in 1876 was hung for bushranging, gold robbery and murder in Queensland.

William purchased additional land in his own name, growing the combined estate to 11,729 acres. They had *Gungahleen House* built as their new family home in 1862, which later became the CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research. During the 1860s and 1870s, several members of the Davis and Palmer families were living and working on the extended *Ginninderra* estate, running it as a prime grazing and farming operation. They established St Paul's Church and Ginninderra Village, which included a store, post office, blacksmith, church, school and a cricket team.

In 1835 Charles Campbell, Robert's son, took over as Superintendent of *Palmerville* and in 1837 married GT's daughter, Catherine Palmer, and attempted to purchase *Palmerville*.

GT Palmer and brother, John Jnr of Maitland, retired back to the UK in 1838, and some convicts assigned to the Palmers in Maitland were transferred to *Palmerville*. Several local families started their time in the district at *Palmerville*, such as freed convicts Mayo, Cavanagh, Crinigan and Butler and free settlers Smith, Harcourt, Southwell and many more.

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Taking a break: Ryan Corrigan and Rosemary Blemings ▲

Gladstone St weeders

As I was posting a letter recently I spotted Rosemary Blemings and Ryan Corrigan undertaking the back breaking work of weeding parts of the main street in Hall.

The carpark borders were becoming badly overgrown with weeds and were looking fairly unkempt so Rosemary and Ryan decided to neaten up the area. Rosemary is better known as part of the weeding group (I'm seeing a pattern here!) that regularly tackle the noxious weeds trying to take over the paddocks surrounding Hall. We appreciated your efforts Rosemary and Ryan and the main street looks so much better for it.



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men's shed

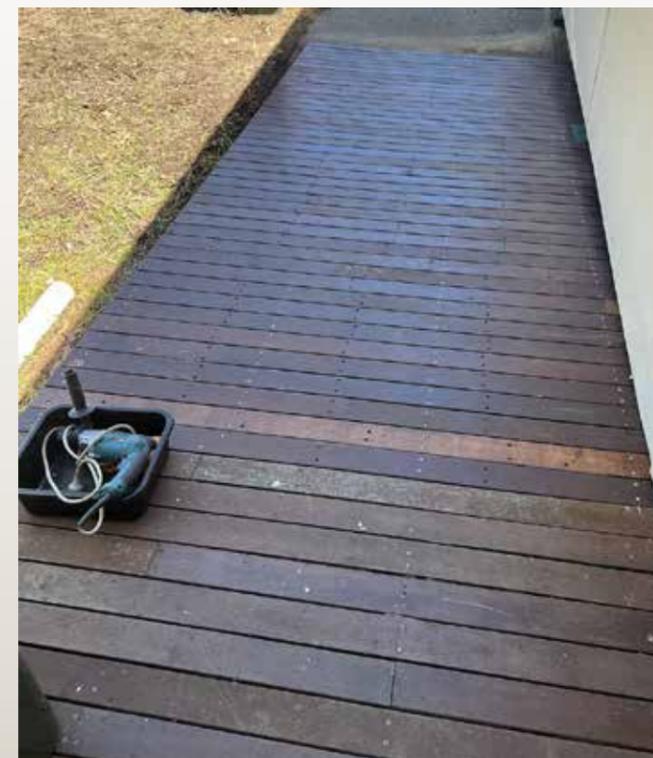
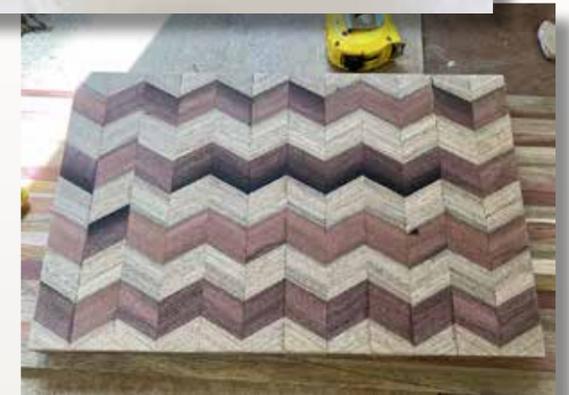
by Aaron Whittaker

Happy New Year to all!

Our shed hosted a terrific Christmas party for members on 4 December 2025. Over 80 people attended – many members and their partners from the shed, but also from the Hall Heritage Centre. Catering was provided by *Eat Your Words* and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Although it has been the Christmas period, the men's shed remains busy, making products for sale to fund the purchase of materials, machinery and the all important morning tea fare and monthly members' BBQ provisions. The products made for sale include bread boards, cheese platter boards and wooden toast tongs. These are available from the Hall Post Office and a big thankyou goes to Karen, the postmistress, for not only stocking our products but for putting up with us as well.

A big maintenance job undertaken recently was repairing and improving the entry ramp to the machinery shed. The materials were all recycled from previous jobs, many donated to the shed once the 'seller' knows they are going to a good cause.



Not all the shed work is making items for sale or building upkeep. Alan Boyd had the interesting job of repairing and bringing back to life an antique rocking horse. While there is a lot of productivity there is also a lot of talk and laughter at the Thursday morning tea get togethers. Some members never lift a spanner or screwdriver but instead prefer to lift a cuppa or red wine!

WOOP not SMART in 2026

Now that the new year is well and truly underway, many New Year's resolutions have already come and gone with far less fanfare than they arrived. Exercising more, getting more sleep, eating healthier, saving money, spending more time with family and friends, and reducing alcohol consumption seem to be the recurring resolution themes as we head into 2026.

Some gurus tell us to set SMART goals – specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound. SMART goals are great . . . until they're not, and everything falls apart. They are a surface-level goal-setting system that doesn't take into account who we are as people in a more holistic sense. SMART goals don't consider what's going on beneath the surface.

Someone who was taught as a child to be seen and not heard, and who has spent a lifetime ensuring they don't 'rock the boat,' is likely to find it difficult to put a SMART goal in place that requires them to become vocal or go against the norm to achieve it. It's not impossible – it's just harder.

If SMART goals are only part of the story, what are the other parts?

Self-reflection, identity and habit-building are key foundations for success.

Psychology professor Dr. Gabriele Oettingen developed the WOOP method:

WISH – What is it you wish for?

OUTCOME – What is the best outcome if you achieve your wish?

OBSTACLE – Identify your main inner obstacle.

PLAN – Plan your action steps based on your wish, outcome and obstacles.

by **Robyn Monteleone**
clinical hypnotherapist



Take the goal of exercising more. To achieve it, you need to take on the identity of someone who exercises. Someone who exercises regularly makes it a priority. They allocate time, know what type of exercise they're doing, and then they do it – repeating this behaviour over time.

Being busy or tired, kids, bad weather and life in general may sometimes get in the way. But someone who identifies as 'a person who exercises' still exercises more often than they find reasons not to. Someone who identifies as a 'couch potato' may struggle to even imagine being that person.

Self-reflection – understanding why you want to achieve a goal, what it will give you and what might stop you – is an important first step in making it achievable.

Planning actionable steps and creating supportive habits is the next. If you plan to exercise first thing in the morning, laying out your gear the night before and choosing your workout in advance makes it easier to follow through. You're setting yourself up for success.

And the more you act on your plan, the more you'll identify as someone who exercises – creating a self-reinforcing loop that helps you keep going.

Sometimes self-reflection shows us we need a little extra support, and that's okay. If there's a goal you haven't been able to achieve on your own, hypnotherapy can help you break old patterns and forge a new path forward.

You can download a short audio to help you reduce overwhelmed feelings and step into clarity and confidence at robynm.com.au. 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.

A new beauty therapy business in Hall

by **Jenny Whittaker**

As I was delivering the latest edition of the *Rural Fringe*, I noticed a new business in the main street of Hall.

I called in and handed over a Fringe and met Perdy, the owner operator of *pbp Beauty Therapy*. Curious to know more, I met Perdy for a coffee and chat and she explained a bit more about what the business focuses on.

Perdy is a Holistic Beauty Therapist and trained nutrition specialist with a diploma in Nutrition and Life Coaching. Perdy's business aims to have a client's skin looking its best and she does this by analysing not only the



Perdy with the infusion applicator in action with a client.

skin, but taking into account everything in a person's life that may affect it. She can then advise a course of action to make improvements. Treatments include her signature facial which uses lymphatic massage and firming techniques, and use of the oxygen infusion hyperbaric machine which gently infuses serums and oxygen into the skin. The *Intracutaneous* products used in the facials are made in Australia, as are all the products Perdy uses.

Other services include facial waxing and eyebrow tattooing (hilariously called the 'pants on' area) and intimate waxing (in the 'pants off' area!).

Perdy will have company at the salon when Inna Roberts joins her every Monday as a Bowen therapist. Bowen therapy is gentle and effective soft tissue release therapy that greatly assists with relieving stress and pain levels, support postural alignment and optimise mobility. Suitable for all ages.

Perdy's workdays are Tuesday to Saturday, staying open until 7.30pm on Thursday nights. One booking option is to use the QR code. Welcome to Hall, Perdy!



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Capital Country Woodchopping



Happy New Year from Capital Country Woodchopping!

We hope all the readers had a safe and restful Christmas break.

CCW wrapped up a very successful 2025 with our annual combined Christmas Party and end of year Awards, held at our club grounds. For the second year running, we held it in conjunction with the Hall Collectors Club. It was a great night despite the rain. Thank you to everyone who helped!

Our 2025 award recipients are:

Axeman of the Year: **Evan Paterson**

Axewoman of the Year: **Megan Paterson**

Novice of the Year: **Sam Ogilvy**

Junior of the Year: **Robert**

Sawyer of the Year: **Evan Paterson**

Club Member of the Year: **Martina Mason**

Encouragement Award: **Charlie**

Jack & Jill Chopping Pair of the Year: **Chey Girvan** with **Austin O'Connor** and **Frank McGrath**

Visiting Axewoman of the Year: **Kaliyah Odlum**



Congratulations to all the winners. We also had the usual fun awards:

Chief Chip Catcher: **Margie McGrath**

The Vince Award: **Brad Youd**

Certificate of Repetitive Wisdom: **Shaun O'Connor**.

Great to see some healthy banter amongst our members!



The 2026 Woodchopping and Sawing Carnivals Calendar has already kicked off, with Pambula Show in early January, at which some of our member's compete. Congratulations to Frank, 1st place in the Veterans and Shaun 3rd place. Shaun also placed 2nd in a Novice block.

Our next few months are looking very busy, as the 2026 NSW agricultural shows roll out:

6&7/2/26: Nowra Show

8/2/26: Crookwell Show

14/2/26: Gundagai Show, Kangaroo Valley Show

15/2/26: Gunning Show, Cobargo Show,

20-22/2/26: Royal Canberra Show

26/2/26: Bega Show, Newcastle Show

7/3/26: Tumut Show, Blacktown Show, Blayney Show, Milton Show

8/3/26: Dalgety Show, Goulburn Show

14/3/26: Cooma Show, Lithgow Show

21/3/26: Bombala Show, Candelo Show, Yass Show.



As you can see we have many competitions fast approaching. However the most exciting ones for us will be Gundagai, Gunning, Tumut and Yass shows that we will once again be running the Woodchopping and Sawing Competitions ourselves. This involves everything from advertising the program, accepting entries, sourcing the required wood, arranging equipment, judges, prize money, clean-up crews, and of course plenty of hands-on deck on the day to set up, run, and then pack up.



We are very proud of our multi-talented team who whilst competing themselves, also help out to make these days smooth, fun and well received by all the competitors and spectators.



As well as being very busy with local competitions and regular training right through the December/January break, many of our more advanced axemen, axewomen and sawyers are now dialling-in their preparational training for the 2026 Sydney Royal Easter Show, which is on from 2-13 April and is well known across Australia for being 'The Wimbledon of Woodchopping'. This is always an extremely competitive and extremely premium show, with competitors from all over the world attending. And this year will be even more exciting as CCW is entering the Inter-Association Relay Event with six of our axemen, which is something new and very innovative and progressive for our club.

We will also be playing a very active role in the Woodchopping and Sawing Competition at this year's Royal Canberra Show, assisting with the many tasks required to ensure each of the three days run professionally and efficiently. This year's program at RCS is especially exciting, as for the first time there will be competition events held on the Friday, as well as the usual Saturday and Sunday. This year at RCH also includes the first Women's Tri Series that will see ladies from NSW, QLD and NZ compete over the three day show.

Bags of dry kindling wood remain for sale at Canberra Stockfeed at 1 Victoria St Hall. They are \$15 a bag and are a great way for us to recycle and re-purpose our cut wood, and for you to start stocking up on firewood before winter.

The wood pile at our club grounds is also still available if you would rather choose and collect your own. Simply scan the QR code that is on the large sign beside the wood pile to access bank details to transfer a monetary donation. We are a non-for-profit organisation and any funds we generate go directly back to the maintenance and upkeep of our equipment and grounds, which assists our members, and is greatly appreciated.

With the start of a new year, and an action-packed Calendar of Events, Capital Country Woodchopping is especially keen to attract sponsors and discuss potential packages. We have many options available. Please contact Shaun O'Connor for further details.

Our line of CCW merchandise is also available for our members, supporters and the general public to purchase. There is a great selection of singlets, long sleeve and short sleeve training shirts, polo's, hoodies, jackets, caps, hats and more. Check out the O'Neills Club Hub: www.oneills.com/au_en/shop-by-team/other/capital-country-woodchopping.html



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

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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An act of God at St Michael's

Driving past St Michael's during a very high wind on Saturday, Aaron Whittaker saw that a large tree limb had fallen from a tree in the parking area into the grounds of St Michael and All Angels Church.

Knowing that this area would be used the next day for the morning tea after the regular service, Aaron rallied his team (Danny) and the two of them got to work cutting up the branch and taking it away. There was surprisingly little damage considering the size of the tree.

Thanks guys!



Danny cleaning up.

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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 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
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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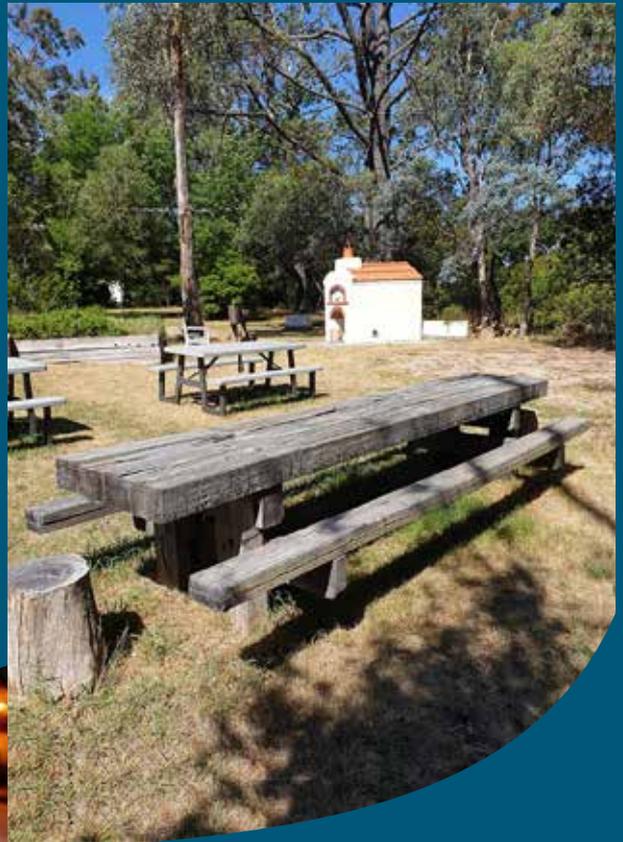
Saturday 7 February

from **4pm - 7pm**

Adults and children, especially recent arrivals to our village as well as those who have called Hall home for a while longer, are very welcome.

Pizza and soft drinks will be provided for everyone by the Progress Association.

Come and meet and chat with your Hall neighbours.



No RSVP required.

In case of inclement weather, please check the Hall website:

www.hall.act.au

sheepdog trials

Want to join our flock?

by **Jonathan Palmer**

The National Sheep Dog Trials are coming to Hall Village from **9-15 March**, and its operation depends on a fantastic family of volunteers, many of whom live in the village and surrounding district.

Volunteering at the National is enjoyable and flexible. Most people tell us they have a great time, and you can contribute as much or as little as your availability suits. Most volunteer effort supports gate operations and catering, but there are also opportunities to assist with merchandise sales, school and aged care visits, Radio Dog National, photography, first aid, marketing, and visitor support.



If you are interested, please email **natsheepdogtrials@gmail.com**. We are also holding a volunteer morning tea at the **Hall Showground** at **10:30 am** on **Saturday 14 February**. This will be an opportunity to explain how things work, answer questions, and meet other volunteers over a cuppa and a scone. If you know someone who may be interested, please encourage them to get in touch or bring them along to the morning tea. We look forward to seeing you at the National.