

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 4

August 2026

Rotary Club of Hall Changeover Dinner



Leigh Crocker

The annual Rotary Club of Hall Changeover Dinner was held at the end of June at Gold Creek Station. The new Executive was introduced and the outgoing team thanked for their work during the year. At this year's dinner several Hall residents, business owners and contributors to the village were recognised for their generosity by receiving the Paul Harris Fellow honour. The PHF is awarded for outstanding service, or for making a significant contribution to the community. It was wonderful to see so many well known and, not so well known, deserving recipients.

A description of their award and endeavours appears on pages 21 and 22.

... continues on page 5



Phil Robson



Barbara Baikie



Karen Hughes



Mardie Troth



Helen Purdam



On Sunday 21 June, a group entitled *Hall Happy Helpers* led by Jack McGrath (including Hall Progress Association, Hall Collectors' Club and Capital Country Woodchopping) held their first working bee. Repairs were focused on the Hall Showground fixing gates, straightening the fenceposts and clearing some dead shrubs around the perimeter. Twelve *Happy Helpers* enjoyed a couple of hours together doing these minor repairs.



Annual General Meeting
11am Thursday 17 September 2026
Hall Community Precinct
(Hall Heritage Centre main display area)
19 Palmer St



Leaving Hall

by **Hugh Watson** and **Ros Brydie**

The Brydie-Watson family is leaving Hall at the end of this year, after 37 years.

When we first saw 41 Palmer Street it was a paddock at the top of the hill. Our brother-in-law John Anderson built the house and 10 others in Palmer, Victoria and Alexandra streets; the last blocks to be released in Hall.

In November 1989 when we moved in, son Will was two and Ros was very pregnant with Hannah who was born two weeks later. Andrew arrived four years later. All three children went to Hall Primary which provided a wonderful education in a beautiful environment. For them Hall provided an idyllic childhood and close friends.

Operating since 1911 it was a sad day when the school was closed in 2006, five years short of its centenary and still providing for the local community.

We met so many people through Hall Primary School and they have remained friends for life. The community was strong and through events such as the New Blue Doo, the Street Party, school parties in the Hall, school fetes, Bonfire Night, Yabby Races, community plantings and gatherings at the then Hall Premier Store (now Daughters at Hall) the bonds were strong.

Ros along with others initiated Cottage Care, the After School Program at Hall Primary in 1992 and I found my musical brothers when in 1994 I formed country/folk/roots band *West Texas Crude* (now *Willie and the Correspondents*). The band originally comprised Hall and district musicians including Andrew Purdam, Damien Schroeter, Philip Williams, Greg Turnbull and Stephen Webb. Even today 32 years later Hall still provides the nucleus with Philip, Matthew Herbert and Hugh still writing and performing. Over the years, apart from playing multiple gigs and recording three albums, we have helped raise over \$300,000 for fires, medical research, Hall families in need and farmers in drought.

The community provided solace when we lost our son Andrew in 2023 and we were grateful for their support. He will always be a part of Hall through the Hall Cemetery.

It is time to leave but we will miss living in a village but next to a farm, being able to walk down to get the mail, walking up One Tree, greeting old friends and living in a wonderful environment.

Thank you to the Hall community. We won't be far away.

Ros, Will, Hannah, Hugh and Andrew.

NSW Police

David Cowell

Inspector | Officer in Charge

Yass Police Station | The Hume Police District

47 Rossi Street, YASS | NSW | 2582

E: cove1dav@police.nsw.gov.au

P: (02) 6226 9399



In April this year, Inspector Cowell met with the Village of Hall and District Progress Association Committee.

Inspector Cowell shared information with the committee about policing issues and concerns within the Yass sector. A recent emphasis of Yass Police Station is Firearm Safe Storage Compliance Checks.

Firearm Safe Storage Compliance Checks

During the last few months Yass Police conducted a number of Firearm Safe Storage inspections across Murrumbateman, Spring Range and surrounding rural communities. The inspections targeted licensed firearm owners to ensure firearms and ammunition were being stored in accordance with the requirements of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

The overwhelming majority of inspections resulted in full compliance, with firearms securely stored, licence and registration records matching police databases and no significant safety concerns identified.

Firearm Safe Storage inspections are an important community safety initiative. Police regularly conduct these inspections to:

- Ensure licensed firearm owners are complying with NSW firearms legislation.
- Reduce the risk of firearms being stolen and used in criminal activity.
- Prevent unauthorised access by children, visitors or unlicensed persons.
- Promote responsible firearm ownership and safe handling practices.
- Maintain accurate records of firearm ownership and storage locations.

Yass Police remind all firearm licence holders that secure storage requirements are in place to protect both the community and lawful firearm owners. Police will continue to conduct proactive compliance inspections throughout the district to ensure firearms are stored safely and responsibly.

St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

Corner Victoria and Loftus Streets, Hall

by Beryl Pedvin

The induction of Rev'd Dr Margaret Wesley as the new rector of our parish was a great celebration on 11 June 2026. That date marks the Feast of St Barnabas, and it was a fitting day to welcome Rev'd Margaret at St Barnabas Anglican Church in Charnwood, to induct her into the role of rector to Hope Ginninderra Anglican Parish.

As is the usual protocol, clergy from across the Anglican Diocese and from other churches in the area, as well as local politicians were invited to join the celebration. The format of the service is set in Anglican tradition and included Rev'd Margaret's music choices, which were sung with gusto. Gifts representing the spirit and work of the parish were presented, as well as formal gifts of a Bible, prayer book, water and wine to signify the priestly work Rev'd Margaret will undertake. There was standing room only as guests and parishioners filled the church. Of course, a generous supper was also shared – a tradition not limited to Anglicans I suspect.



At St Michael's on 6 July, we were honoured to host a commemoration and celebration of the life of Vicki Walters. Vicki grew up in Hall, was married at St Michael's in 1996 and her parents Mick and Evie De Britt still live locally, however Vicki has lived in Queensland in recent years. On a chilly day, over 250 friends and family filled and overflowed our little church, remembering

a vibrant, brave mother and grandmother, and a passionate, skilled horsewoman.

Many Hall residents will be starting to prepare for the Hall Village Christmas Street Fair, which will be coordinated once again by Zina Richardson. The fair will be held on Friday evening, **20 November 2026** – put that date in your diaries now!

Residents and visitors are invited to come along to weekly services any Sunday at **8am** or **11am** at **St Michael's**, and to join the congregation for a cuppa afterwards. For more information about our services please call Beryl on **0408 488 526**.

Rotary Club of Hall Changeover Dinner

... continued from front page



Incoming executive.

Rotary began when a man named Paul Harris, a Chicago attorney, formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on 23 February 1905 so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships.

Over time, Rotary's reach extended around the world, and its vision expanded to humanitarian service. For example, Rotary is a leading partner in the Global Polio Eradication initiative. With help from partners, the Gates Foundation, the World Health Organization, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the world is now 99.9 percent polio free.

The Rotary Club of Hall is one of approximately 1100 Rotary Clubs across Australia with a combined membership of between 22,000 and 25,000 members. The Hall club has between 30 and 40 members. With an official motto of 'Service Above Self' members prioritise community impact and humanitarian assistance.

The club started the Capital Region Farmers' Market (CRFM) as a fundraising exercise that would support agri-business in the region and provide fresh, seasonal produce to the public. It is the key business unit of the club and in 2024 the market celebrated its 20th birthday.

Since the club started the markets in 2004 it has grown to become an iconic part of Canberra life. The market is run on 47 Saturday mornings of the year and attracts between 5,000 and 8,000 people each Saturday. With 100 stallholders attending weekly this operation takes a lot of organisation and management. All members of the club are involved in some aspect of running the markets under the direction of a group of members known as the 'market committee'.

One aspect of the way that the Rotary Club of Hall runs the market makes this market unique, is the club's strict policing to ensure the authenticity of both the stallholders and their products. Many farm visits are held throughout the year to ensure strict stallholder compliance. This is a genuine farmers' market, and the club goes to considerable lengths to ensure that what is sold is produced by the stallholders.

This year the CRFM delivered a strong year of operational stability, compliance and growth. A major achievement this year was securing a new five year lease at EPIC. Stallholders were given a 25 percent lease discount during the time of fuel cost pressures.

... continues on page 20



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It seems that we finally have some real winter weather in Hall! It now looks like we have a couple of months of frosty mornings ahead.

After more than four years of advocacy by the Progress Association, it was a real victory to see that the FY 2026-2027 ACT Government Budget includes \$4.8 million to establish stormwater drainage infrastructure in Hall Village as outlined in the Community Meeting held in August 2025 as well as \$3.5 million matching funding for the safe, sealed shared pedestrian and cycle path from Hall Village to Clarrie Hermes Drive.

The ACT Treasurer, Chris Steel, wrote to the Progress Association on Budget Day 10 June saying:

'I am pleased that the 2026-27 Budget provides significant new investments to support infrastructure in Hall Village. This includes the construction of the Hall Village Main Active Travel Route from Hall Village to Gold Creek and detailed design for improvements to the public transport corridor between Belconnen and the City and over \$4.8 million to support new stormwater infrastructure for Hall Village. I acknowledge the significant advocacy from the Hall and District Progress Association on these measures over a number of years'.

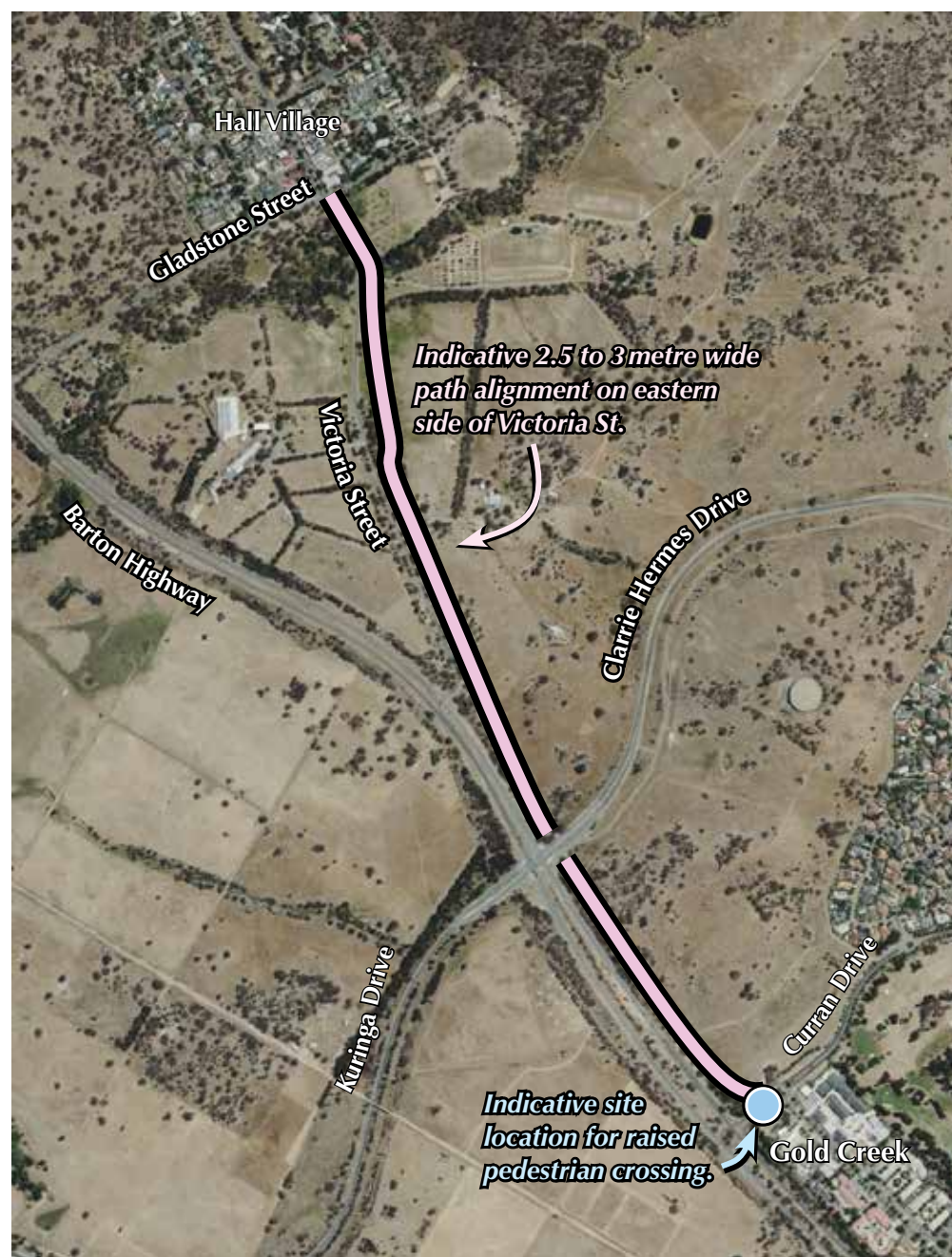
It is very encouraging that the ACT Government recognises the important role of the Progress Association in matters related to Hall Village and District.

The required Development Applications for the establishment of stormwater drainage infrastructure will be open within the coming weeks and residents and businesses will be able to provide suggestions and comments.

On Monday 15 June, over 30 of our Hall community neighbours attended the Community Meeting to hear information, ask questions and provide some feedback on the upcoming

infrastructure improvements in Hall Village of the safe, sealed 'Hall Village Path' to Curran Drive, Gold Creek, and the NBN Fibre-To-The-Premises (FTTP) implementation. Those present found the meeting very useful, especially in understanding how to prepare for the implementation of the NBN FTTP with works expected to begin later this year. NBN FTTP information for Hall Village is available at www.nbn.com.au/FibreUpgradeACT.

We anticipate that detailed planning for the Hall Village Path will be undertaken in the coming months with further opportunities for comments by Hall residents and businesses. Although the Progress Association will share all available information, residents and businesses can also find updates from the ACT Government at www.cityservices.act.gov.au/Infrastructure-Projects/gungahlin/hall-village-path.



On Sunday 21 June, a group entitled *Hall Happy Helpers* led by Jack McGrath (including Hall Progress Association, Hall Collectors' Club and Capital Country Woodchopping) held their first working bee. Repairs were focused on the Hall Showground fixing gates, straightening the fenceposts and clearing some dead shrubs around the perimeter. Twelve *Happy Helpers* enjoyed a couple of hours together doing these minor repairs. (see photos on page 2.)

The ACT Government Sport and Recreation Team from City Services has erected 'no camping' signs at the Hall Showground and Hall Pavilion. City Services have erected these signs to address the recent instances of camping and squatting, and unauthorised use of electricity and water, by campers and squatters. Any person camping or squatting at the showground or pavilion can be required to move on, unless they are equestrians travelling the Bicentennial Trail from North Queensland to Victoria. Anyone can report camping or squatting at the showground or pavilion to **Access Canberra** on **13 22 81**.



In recent weeks, the Hall Progress Association Committee has been in touch with St John Ambulance ACT about their 'Streetbeat' program to install an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in every suburb in the ACT. Hall Village has been very fortunate that the Rotary Club of Hall many years ago installed an AED at the Hall Local Post Office. The 'Streetbeat' program is installing current, state-of-the-art AEDs that are then monitored and maintained by St John Ambulance ACT and NSW. It is proposed that a St John 'Streetbeat' AED be installed adjacent to the telephone booth on Victoria Street. An AED can also be found at the Hall Heritage Centre.



As highlighted in the April edition of the *Rural Fringe*, the Progress Association Committee has been investigating the potential to participate in the Blue Tree Project painting a large dead tree in Hall a bright blue colour to increase awareness of mental health issues. The committee is proposing a couple of possible dead trees without wildlife habitat on the Hall Reserve to be considered as a suitable specimen for painting. The ACT Government will liaise with ACT Heritage, representative Aboriginal organisations and ecological officers to determine appropriateness of the proposed trees before a selection is made and approval granted.

With funding from the ACT Heritage Unit, a new entrance ramp has been built at the Hall Heritage Centre providing easier access for visitors of all abilities.

The committee has scheduled the Annual General Meeting of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association for **11am on Thursday 17 September** in the main display area of the Hall Heritage Centre, 19 Palmer St. All residents and ratepayers in the 2618 postcode of Hall, Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo are eligible to be members of the Progress Association. You may join by completing the membership form and paying the membership fee of \$10 at www.hall.act.au/membership.html. The more members of the Progress Association, the better that we can represent the interests of the Hall and District community.

The Progress Association Committee generally meets each month. If you have any ideas or concerns for our Hall Village and District community, please talk to me or any member of your Progress Association Committee or email info@hall.act.au.

Springfield Rural Fire Brigade

Rebecca Morrison President

Research commissioned by the RFS in September 2025 revealed that only 37% of NSW residents living within 20km of bush or grassland believe a bush or grass fire is likely in their area in the next six months. On top of this, only 48% of these residents have taken action to prepare their property for bush fire.

The new RFS advertising campaign, 'One Ember Can End It', focuses on correcting the dangerous misconception that you are only at risk if you're near the fire front. Embers can travel up to 20km ahead of the fire itself, and the new campaign shows the devastating impact just one ember can have on an unprepared home.

One Ember Can End It

If your gutters aren't clear and your garden is overgrown, one ember attack can take everything. Protect your home and loved ones from bush fire.

Take five minutes now to start preparing at: myfireplan.com.au



Growing communities

We recently held a Community Bonfire at our Springrange Shed with over 60 local residents. It was a wonderful night meeting new people to the neighbourhood and reconnecting with long time locals.

Being part of the brigade isn't just about fighting fires – it's about connection to community. That's something wonderful when things are great, but it's even more important in times of crisis – big or small.

Our area spans Springrange, Nanima and Murrumbateman along the eastern side of the Barton Highway and bordered by Murrumbateman Road, but we're not exclusive. If you want to know more about fire safety or just want to know more people you live alongside, we'd love to welcome you.

If you are new to the area and want to stay connected get in touch with us. We can add you to our mailing list to keep you informed with what's happening in our part of the world. Drop us an email or direct message us on Facebook and share your details.

As always, thank you for supporting your local brigade and helping us keep our community safe.



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Hall Men's Shed

Steps for the Sheepdog Trials broadcast box

Hall Men's Shed had been asked by the National Sheepdog Association to replace the stairs to the broadcast box at the Hall Equestrian Oval (aka the sheepdog trial arena) as the existing stairs had fallen into disrepair and were no longer fit for purpose.



Graham Smith and Aaron Whittaker took on the task and reconstructed the landing at the top of the stairs on site, but the new set of stairs was built at the men's shed workshop. These stairs were recently installed and concreted into place.

Soil was then raked around the concrete landing pad and some grass seed will be put down, and lastly the top handrails will be painted.



Hall Heritage Centre entrance



The Hall Heritage Centre recently had a builder construct a new disability access ramp at the entrance to the Hall Heritage Centre. Once completed, it was decided that it needed a railing to prevent wheelchairs from slipping off the verandah. Aaron Whittaker added the railing, Mardie Troth will stain the timbers and Rosemary Blemings and Aaron carted mulch from the pile at the Hall Reserve pile and neatened up the garden abutting the ramp. Great teamwork!



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Woodchopping nail boxes

Only in a rural setting such as Hall would the local men's shed receive this request! The shed was approached to construct numbered nail boxes for competitors to use in their woodchopping competitions. The local Capital Country Woodchoppers need these nail boxes so each competitor can have their own identifying number with the dual purpose of holding the nails used to secure their logs before starting to chop in competitions.



Alan Boyd who helped design the numbered nail boxes, hands them over to Shaun O'Connor from Capital Country Woodchoppers.

by Aaron Whittaker

Ten numbered boxes were needed. They were designed by Alan Boyd and Mal Voysey from a photo and dimensions provided and painted the colours of the woodchoppers which are magenta and black. Very smart looking!



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heritage happenings

Potpourri of happenings from the Heritage Centre

Heritage in a Suitcase

You might remember back in the April issue of the *Rural Fringe* we asked for donations of vintage items to add to our Heritage in a Suitcase resources. These resources are ‘rented’ out to ACT schools and teachers use them to support a curriculum unit of work called *Then and Now*. Students investigate the many differences between how we live now and how people lived before electricity came and how changes in technology impact the way we live.



Suitcases are full of vintage artefacts to assist teachers explain the theme *Then and Now*.

Several *Rural Fringe* readers got in touch and donated some really wonderful items, which are now part of our two new sets of Heritage in a Suitcase resources. These resources will be ready for use by Year 1 and 2 teachers at the beginning of Term 3.

Donations didn't fill all our needs so the generous sponsorship from the Rotary Club of Hall has allowed us to purchase everything we need.

Voices from the Schoolhouse – Fighting for the Future of Our Past

Students from the ANU Centre for Heritage and Museum studies spent Semester 1 completing a postgraduate course called: *EXHIBITION DESIGN AND DELIVERY*. The course focuses on the process of exhibitions design within the context of museums, cultural collecting institutions and heritage agencies.

The students met with volunteers from the centre earlier in the year and conducted a number of interviews. They decided to focus their exhibition on the work of the centre and why volunteers give of their time to support what the centre aims to achieve.



Director of the Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies at the ANU, Professor Mathew Trinca Talanin, opened the exhibition.

They presented four main themes:

The Living Record: Interpreting our personal knowledge

Educating: Teaching to inspire

Preserving: Fighting to save Hall's heritage

Community engagement: Protecting Aboriginal Heritage

They concluded that the volunteer community at the Hall Heritage Centre are not just passive historians. They are activists for history and their knowledge of the collection is inseparable from the relationship to the place it represents. The local heritage of Hall survives only because its community has chosen to fight for it.

The exhibition has now been dismantled after a one-month showing at the ANU and will be rehung at the centre some time in the future.

Old pre-school playground clean up

The pre-school ceased operating in 2024 and since then the building itself has sat idle, the surrounding grounds have become somewhat overgrown and the playground equipment has deteriorated substantially. The Hall Men's Shed has been beavering away for the past few months to rejuvenate the playground area and volunteers from the Heritage Centre joined them for a working bee on Tuesday 30 June.



by Mardie Troth
Hall Heritage Centre



Rosemary Blemings and Darrell Minion hard at work.

A small band of workers dug, cut, scooped, shovelled, levered, ferried and chain-sawed their way through decades of growth, sand, hidden pavers, vegetable patches (including some nice



Sand from the old pit has been recommissioned . . .
. . . to fill in holes left after unwanted pavers were removed.

looking spuds), unwanted 'Koppers' logs and general children's detritus to begin the transformation of the pre-school play space and tidy up the Brass On The Grass concert area adjacent to Victoria Street.

Before the rain came we all assured each other that we had indeed made a difference. More work to be done!



Palmer Street entrance transformed

Way back in 2024 Peter Browning applied for a grant with ACT Heritage to transform the Palmer Street entrance to the Heritage Centre. The entrance was difficult for visitors with wheelchairs and every time there was a decent storm, the front foyer was inundated with water.

Sadly the project stalled and was eventually managed to maturity by the Village of Hall and District Progress Association. A local builder was engaged to complete the work, which was finalised about a month ago, although there is still some painting and garden maintenance to be done.

We intend designing and erecting a new signboard for the entrance, which will clearly identify the premises as:

HALL HERITAGE CENTRE.





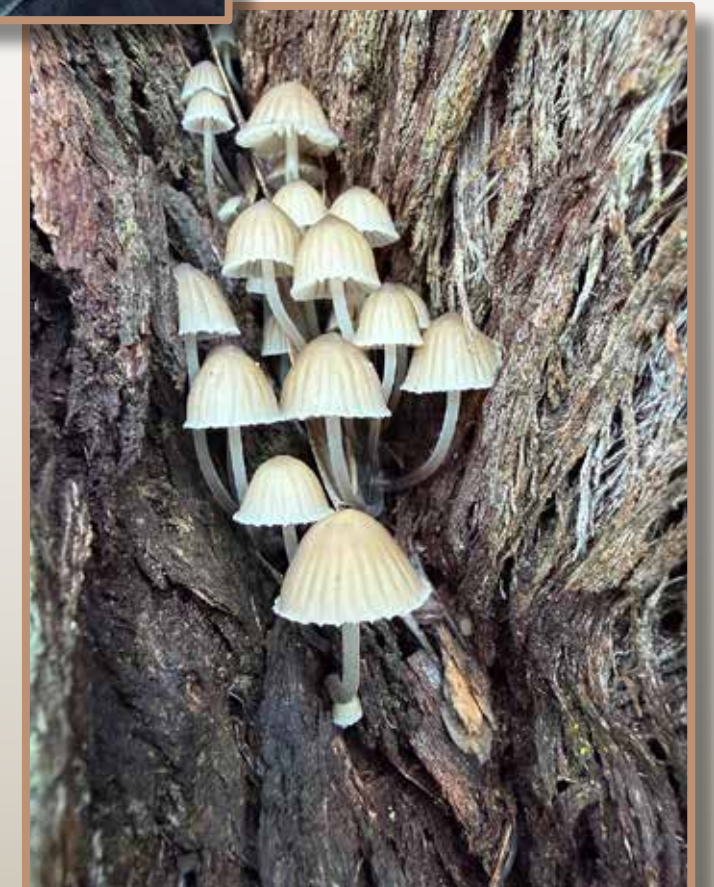
Fungi growing in Hall Village

photos by Ann Toet



Fungi growing in Hall Village

photos by Ann Toet





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REAL ESTATE WITH HEART

Gardening – the why's and what fors

by Lisa Walmsley

At this time of the year, it can be tough to get motivated to head outside and do some gardening. Even when you know you have a long list of chores, it's just not enticing, when you could be making a cake or sitting by the fire with a good book.

But the truth of the matter is, gardening increases your life expectancy. Gardening is the most research backed longevity activity available to humans.

Gardening creates a 36% lower risk of dementia, a 27% reduction in the chance of a stroke and 30% reduction in any cause of ill health. The list goes on. What's not to love?

- Fully Body Workout** – you are up and down off the ground, you will pull and push – weeds and barrows, you will lift things – bags of manure, tools and maybe even pavers. You will carry things – pots, garden furniture and sometimes rocks.
- Handling soil** – improving soil is always beneficial for the growth of plants, adding organic matter, manure, compost, mulch etc is always going to increase the success of your plants. However, research shows exposure to the billions of microorganisms by touching the soil, may help modulate the immune system and reduce inflammatory responses. Grounding and earthing in everyday terms is connecting to the earth through contact with soil to feel calm, grounded and present. The combination of

physical touch, being outside and direct contact with the earth can reduce stress and promote well-being.

- Vitamin D** – sunlight synthesises vitamin D, supporting bone health, immune function and calcium absorption. It can boost your mood, regulate your sleep and support muscle function.
- Purpose** – folk with a strong sense of purpose live longer. If you have a garden to tend to, it brings you joy, purpose and a reason to get up every single day. People who live in the *Blue Zone* all garden long into their old age.

And even if you are not able to garden, go for a walk in the garden. There is always something to see.



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Volunteering for the Community

by Shona Boyle

The Bureau of Meteorology has officially declared that an El Nino event is underway. Climate models indicate a strong to very strong event, expected to drive warmer and drier conditions across large parts of the country. This system is actively pushing southeast Australia into prolonged periods of warmer-than-average temperatures and minimal rainfall. El Nino events typically result in rapid landscape drying, an elevated probability of severe multi-day heatwaves, and an increase in frequency of extreme fire danger.

The fire season in New South Wales generally starts on 1 October. As the fire season approaches, we encourage our community to start thinking and continue preparing for the fire season. 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 previous items you wish to evacuate with you?

The beginning of the fire season will restrict some activities, including clearance burns and use of machinery. We encourage you to be proactive now. This is also the perfect time to prepare your property. 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.



Readers may have seen news stories regarding a crash on the Hume Highway on 30 June involving six trucks, to which Wallaroo dispatched four firefighters. The Wallaroo crew augmented the breathing apparatus capability that was necessary to combat the fire while providing respiratory protection to firefighters. This major incident drew local paid and volunteer crews in from Gunning, Goulburn, Murrumbateman and Yass, as well as specialist crews and equipment from as far afield as Mittagong and Narooma. Wallaroo's fire appliances remained in the area while these crews were deployed.

Our training program continues throughout the off season, with a focus on structure fires and motor vehicle accidents as the most common incidents at this time of year. As summer approaches, we will begin to re-focus on grass and bushfire scenarios, including property protection. We are also taking the opportunity in this cooler weather to enhance our familiarity with our local area. In a recent Sunday training session, we dropped in to local wineries – Nick O'Learys and Brindabella Hills – to support their incident planning, and understand how we would attend an incident at these properties. If you have any questions about your property, we are always happy to support you to assess for hazards and ways to make your property safer. Please reach out to one of our Executive, or pop into training.



Brief but severe storm conditions brought trees down across roadways in Wallaroo in the very early hours of 2 June. Responding to a triple-zero call just after midnight, Wallaroo firefighters found downed trees blocking Wallaroo Road in three separate locations. With rain still falling on a pitch-black night, members deployed appliances and lighting to ensure a safe working area while qualified chainsaw operators cut up the trees for removal by hand. On completion, members conducted a reconnaissance of other roadways in Wallaroo to ensure there were no other blockages.

Community Engagement

It is always our pleasure to meet – or meet with – members of our community (both in Wallaroo and surrounding regions) through community engagement and fundraising activities. Our Santa Run will return in 2026, but in the meantime we are planning Get Ready Weekend activities and some Bunnings events. Please stay tuned to our Facebook page (NSW RFS – Wallaroo Rural Fire

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

Brigade) for further information on all community engagement events, particularly our Get Ready Weekend plans and the 2026 Santa Run! It is also a great place to keep up to date with incidents, events and community announcements!

We would love to see you at any of our upcoming events!

Father's Day Event (Bunnings Belconnen)	3 September
Get Ready Weekend (details TBC)	19-20 Sept
Wallaroo Community Dinner	TBC
Murrumbateman Field Day	17-18 October
Bunnings BBQ (Belconnen)	22 November
Santa run	19 December



We were very proud to celebrate the service of a number of our members in May. Volunteers from across the zone gathered in Murrumbateman to receive medals celebrating 10, 20, and 30 years of service, as well as the National Emergency Medal and the NSW Premier Flood Emergency Citation.

The Rotary Club of Hall is currently funding Professor David Croaker and his surgical team to conduct life-changing operations on children in the Solomon Islands. The club has allocated \$50,000 to cover medicines and consumables, airfares, accommodation and insurance for the 10-day visit for the five person medical team. The team has been asked by the Solomon Islands to continue their life saving and life changing work, and make two visits per year.

Some of the other initiatives of the Rotary Club of Hall include:

- Continue to support students at Charles Sturt University and Yanco Agricultural College.
- Considering a request from Toora Women Inc to support their vital work for women and children who have suffered domestic violence.
- Considering a multiple-year donation to the Making Waves Foundation's plans to establish yachting options for ACT disabled people.
- Significant contribution to the GO Foundation, the largest recipient of our club's recent support. The final instalment of a \$300k donation was made last year, providing financial support to nearly 70 First Nations scholars.
- Looking to present an inaugural Peter O'Clery Scholarship for a learning opportunity for one of our young Canberra Region Farmers' Market producers.

Youth and Vocational Committee led by Vic Gibbon.

- Working within a \$25,000 budget and with additional support from our Major Projects budget, the committee has supported two Gallipoli Scholars with \$10,000 each.
- Funded travel to and from the Hall Heritage Centre for student learning.
- Provided support to the Rotary Club of Aurora Gungahlin's T25 youth Health Service.
- Funded John Paul College students competing at the World Cheerleading Championships.

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- Supported Indigenous Deadly Runners program and the Kambri Scholars' pathway program.
- Funded five RYLA on a youth leadership camp recently.

Environment Committee led by Christine Stuart.

- Supported projects with lasting educational and environmental value. These included garden beds at Forest Primary School, the Frog Habitat and Pollinator Demonstration Garden at the Canberra Environment Centre, and support for the Canberra Street Cat Alliance to assist with desexing stray cats and reducing native bird predation.
- The committee is in discussion with Murrumbateman Primary School about wicking garden beds and a possible greenhouse. These are the kinds of projects that improve the environment and also engage young people in learning about sustainability.

Club Service led by Melissa Reynolds.

- Hosted 16 speakers who brought variety, insight and energy to our meetings. These included former Children's Magistrate Robert Cook, local writer Rhian Williams, Bobby Gane from Mercy Ships, and bush poet Mike Lavis. We also enjoyed a memorable fellowship evening with our colleagues at the Hall Heritage Centre.

International and Rotary Foundation Committee led by Claire Fraser.

- Contributed to projects in Timor Leste, Indonesia, Fiji, Zimbabwe and Uganda. These have included school gardens, playgrounds, shipping support for mobility aids, water tanks, classrooms, sanitation upgrades, a clean water bore, a well and a new X-ray room at the Mother of Mercy Hospital in Uganda. We also continue to support The Rotary Foundation, PolioPlus, RAWCS, ROMAC, ShelterBox Australia and other important global health and humanitarian programs.

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- **Community Service Committee** led by Jonathan Palmer.
- Invested over \$43,000 in projects, including support for Pegasus Riding for the Disabled, the T25 youth health service, the Hall Memorial Grove, Hall ANZAC Day commemorations, community food relief, homelessness support, Project Independence, Karinya House, helping the ACT Canberra Brass Band, the Lids4Kids initiative, Men's Kitchen, Dragons Abreast Canberra, furniture assembly for Toora women's emergency housing, support for Remembrance and ANZAC Day events, installation of the Lids4Kids bench and tennis court repairs in Hall Village, and community tree planting in the Hall Jim Rochford Memorial Grove.
- One recent initiative, inspired and led by Emma Bell and a small team of the club's young professionals, consisting also of Andrew Giumelli and Noah Watson, formed teams to create and cook evening meals for over 20 family members at Ronald McDonald House.
- At the recent Rotary Club of Hall changeover (celebration of the new incoming Executive for the 2026-27 financial year) many awards were made to 'ordinary' community members doing extraordinary work in the spirit of the Rotary motto of 'service before self'.

Award recipients

PHF Leigh Crocker

Leigh Crocker joined the Rotary Club of Hall in November 2022 after retiring from the ACT Government Public Service.

Since then, he has made a strong contribution through the Community Committee and, from July 2024, as Director of the Capital Region Farmers Market. In that role, Leigh has supported the market's ongoing success through practical initiatives for staff, stallholders and the EPIC facilities.

Leigh is a valued club member and a worthy recipient of Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

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PHF Phil Robson

As Hall Village Historical Officer, Phil Robson worked tirelessly to protect Hall's village character, helped secure its Historic Village status, and campaigned against inappropriate development.

Following the closure of Hall Primary School, Phil was central to preserving the site and establishing the Hall Heritage Centre, serving for years as honorary curator, grants officer, assets manager and collector of local history. His dedication, accuracy and quiet determination have greatly strengthened the community and preserved Hall's heritage.

Phil Robson is being recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow with Sapphire pin for his outstanding service to Hall and district.

PHF Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes operates the Hall Village Post Office and Gift Shop, a vital community hub for local residents. She supports community connection by providing a welcoming place for news, mail collection, and access to the *Rural Fringe* newsletter.

Karen voluntarily assists Hall Rotary Club's Lids4Kids recycling program by collecting, storing, and coordinating materials. She supports the local men's shed by displaying and selling handcrafted items without commission.

Her service reflects Rotary values of goodwill, practical community support, and environmental responsibility. Karen's contribution is deserving of Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

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Barbara Baikie

Barbara Baikie is a long-serving Rotarian for more than 20 years and Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Hall. She has served in key Rotary roles including Youth and Vocation Chair, RYLA Convenor and was the first female President of the club in 2011/12.

Encouraged and supported other women to take leadership roles in Rotary.

Introduced the Business Woman of the Year Award to the ACT. Served as President of the National Council of Women of Australia.

Awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2024 for service to the community.

Finalist for Australian of the Year NSW. Chair of BIGhArt, a national Indigenous program for social change.

Hosts regular fundraisers with husband Peter Fletcher at their 'Terroux' home for a range of charities. Continues to inspire others through her community service, leadership and generosity.

Mardie Troth

Mardie Troth is a former Hall School Principal who has continued to make a lasting contribution after retirement. She is a key volunteer and driving force at the Hall Heritage Centre.

Mardie coordinates the centre's education programme and serves as Business Manager.

She helps bring local history to life for ACT primary school students through hands-on learning experiences. When excursions are difficult for schools to visit, Mardie takes history to them through the 'History in a Suitcase' initiative.

Her dedication, energy, teaching skills and wider community involvement make her a very worthy recipient of this Community Service Award.

Helen Purdam

Dr Helen Purdam is being recognised by the Rotary Club of Hall with a Community Service Award.

She has served the Hall community as a highly respected veterinarian since arriving in 1982 and her Hall Veterinary Surgery became a trusted and essential service for local pet owners.

Since retiring in 2021, Helen has continued extensive volunteer work supporting animal health.

Her service includes work in Vanuatu, PNG, remote Indigenous communities, Pets in the Park, the Tiny Vet Clinic and Canberra RSPCA.

Helen also contributes to community wellbeing through mindfulness meditation classes and an active, health-focused lifestyle.

This award acknowledges her long-standing dedication to animals, people and the wider community.

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.

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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 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.

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medium (eighth page)	\$40	colour \$60
small (three sixteenth page)	\$30	colour \$45

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