

# RURAL FRINGE

*Journal of the Hall district*

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 5

October 2026

## Village of Hall and District Progress Association

*The incoming committee:*

*Back row left to right:*

Aaron Whittaker  
Tony Morris  
Robert Yallop  
Toni Mackie  
Jack McGrath  
Mardie Troth  
Phil Robson.



*Front row left to right:*

Lee-ann Brodrick  
Margaret Monahan  
Jan Klaver  
Peter Toet.

Recently there was an election in Hall Village and there wasn't a democracy sausage in sight! The AGM of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association was held at the Hall Heritage Centre. Annual reports were tabled, the financial position announced, a new committee was elected, and sausage-less refreshments provided after the meeting.

Many of the faces are familiar, in fact all the committee were members last financial year and put themselves forward for re-election. That's not to say that there isn't a need for new faces, so please consider nominating yourself next year if you'd like to help maintain the lifestyle, facilities and functionality of the village and district, as well as being 'in the know' about

the happenings and workings of the day-to-day operations of the Progress Association.

Robert Yallop, as outgoing President, gave his annual report, with many achievements of note, and the details are reported here. Robert has worked hard at initiating and maintaining relationships with government and private stakeholders to ensure good information flow both into, and out of, the Progress Association. The Pizza Day held at the community pizza oven at The Cottage on the old school grounds was also an initiative for residents, old and new, to meet members of the Progress Association and fellow Hall residents, and to obtain feedback on issues and concerns within the village.

*... continues on page 6*





# Brass on the Grass




Sunday 18 October from 12noon  
Music begins @ 1:30

**Victoria St, HALL**

Fundraising concert for Hall Heritage Centre  
Heritage displays open from midday

Free entry and parking  
Food on sale | Raffles | Accessible facilities  
Seating provided or BYO








**HALL VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAIR & STREET PARTY**

Join the community for an evening of festive magic, featuring an artisan Christmas market, delicious food, live entertainment, Canberra brass band, local carollers, classic cars, Santa and more! All welcome.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 2026**  
**4:30 PM - 8:30 PM**  
**VICTORIA STREET, HALL VILLAGE (ACT)**  
**ENTRY: GOLD COIN DONATION**



**Tai Chi**  
Mon 10.30am  
Wed 10.30am  
Thu 7.15pm

**Chair Yoga**  
Mon 6.30pm  
Thu 6pm

**Core Yoga**  
Tue 5pm  
Tue 6.15pm  
Sat 8am

BEGINNERS WELCOME, NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Hall Community Cottage  
Palmer St, Hall  
First class is free! Come and try  
Bookings essential

For Info & to Book : [www.mmmwellness.com.au](http://www.mmmwellness.com.au)



**KGF LANDSCAPING & GARDENING SERVICES**  
Fully Licensed & Qualified

- Residential & Commercial
- Fences & Gates
- Landscaping & Gardening
- Decking & Pergolas
- Retaining Walls & Paving
- Concrete & Driveways

0424 988 600  
[info@kgflandscapinggardening.com.au](mailto:info@kgflandscapinggardening.com.au)  
[www.kgflandscapinggardening.com.au](http://www.kgflandscapinggardening.com.au)

SCAN ME

## NSW Police

**David Cowell**

Inspector | Officer in Charge

Yass Police Station

The Hume Police District

47 Rossi Street, Yass NSW 2582

E: [cowe1dav@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cowe1dav@police.nsw.gov.au)

P: (02) 6226 9399



Police are investigating a sophisticated fraud targeting an elderly Hall District resident. It is alleged the victim was contacted by a person claiming to be from a major bank over several months before her bank cards were collected and used to conduct unauthorised transactions totalling more than \$25,000 across Sydney and interstate between 6 and 7 August.

Police are reminding residents that banks will never ask customers to leave bank cards in letterboxes or arrange collection of cards from their home.

### Protect yourself from scams

- Never provide banking details, passwords or verification codes to anyone who contacts you unexpectedly by phone, email, text message or social media.
- If someone claims to be from your bank, hang up and call the bank back using the phone number listed on the official website or the back of your bank card.
- Be suspicious of any request that creates urgency or pressure to act immediately. Scammers rely on panic and fear to stop people thinking clearly.
- Never send money, gift cards, cryptocurrency or personal details to people you have only met online.
- Do not click on links in unexpected text messages or emails, even if they appear to come from trusted organisations.
- Speak to family members, friends or a trusted adviser before making large financial transactions, especially if the request comes from someone you do not know.
- Remember that legitimate government agencies, banks and police will never ask you to place bank cards in your letterbox, transfer money to a 'safe account' or provide online banking passwords.
- Older members of the community are frequently targeted by scammers. Families are encouraged to have regular conversations with parents and grandparents about current scam tactics.



Delicious pizza  
cooked fresh at your next function or event!

[www.jackospizza.com.au](http://www.jackospizza.com.au)

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

### Plan your pizza night!

Jacko's van will be outside  
Local Spirit Marketplace on Victoria Street,  
**Friday evenings: 30 October**  
**4 December.**

Find us at the  
**Christmas Fair & Street Party**  
on **Friday 20 November.**



Jacko's van at Local Spirit in Hall Village.



**1300 227 929**

PROUDLY SERVICING  
VIC, NSW, ACT, QLD & SA  
FOR RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT MOTOR VEHICLE TRANSPORT

[carways.com.au](http://carways.com.au) | [office@carways.com.au](mailto:office@carways.com.au)

# St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

Corner Victoria and Loftus Streets, Hall

by Beryl Pedvin

What a privilege it was to have about 30 volunteers come together for a working bee in the grounds of St Michael's back in August. Huge thanks to Jonathan Palmer and his colleagues for organising corporate volunteers through CapGemini, and others from Rotary, Greening Australia, Men's Shed, Rural Firefighting Service and the wider Hall community. Thanks again to Jonathan and to the workers for their generosity, energy and plain hard work.

Spring has well and truly arrived, and during this time in our church we celebrate the Season of Creation. Residents of Hall are invited to share part of this Season with our services of Pets' Blessing. This will be held on **Sunday 4 October**, during and after both the 8am and the 11am services. Small, quietish pets will be welcome in the church services, and then all pets great and small are welcome for a blessing outside the church at 9-ish or 12-ish, after those services. Animals of all types are very welcome but must be appropriately contained please.

Once the spectacle of spring is behind us it will be time to look toward to the joy of Christmas. At St Michael's our church celebrations begin at the end of November with the beginning of Advent, a season of reflection and preparation for Christmas. Our church community members are also looking forward to the Christmas events in the village.

## Hall Village Christmas Street Fair

Friday 20 November

What a great event this has grown to become. Come along to browse and buy from the many artisans and craftspeople at the fair, and look for our stall of cakes, jams and other homemade goodies. We will also host free activities for kids in the grounds of St Michael's.

## Service of Lessons and Carols

**Sunday 7 December** at St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church – starting at **7pm**.

All are invited to share the story of Christmas told through six short Bible readings and well-loved Christmas carols in this traditional, candle-lit service, followed by a cuppa under our oak tree – weather permitting.

## Christmas services

Residents of Hall and surrounds as well as visitors will be warmly welcomed at the Christmas services at St Michael & All Angels this year:

- **Christmas Eve at 10.30pm**
- **Christmas Day, just one service at 9.00am**

or at our regular services at 8am or 11am on any Sunday.

For more information please ring Beryl on **0408 488 526**.

### Grassfed Galloway Beef

Available at Epic Markets



#### Minto Galloways

Natural, pasture raised beef.

Independent US and Canadian tests found that Galloway Beef is:

- naturally lean, but well marbled, tender and full of flavour
- low in saturated fat, but with high levels of Omega-3
- contains no growth hormones or antibiotics, unlike most feed lot beef available through retail outlets today.

Gently reared on pasture, stress free Minto Galloway beef tastes great as well as being good for you.

NSW Food Authority Ref No. 33313 for your confidence  
ACT Food Business number 0931/07

**We sell Commercial and stud Galloway animals**

To order, or for more information, contact  
**Greg & Chris Stuart**  
phone: **6230 2536** email: **fenris1@bigpond.com**



## Gibley GARDENING

### For all your gardening needs

Mowing - small & large scale  
Trimming/Hedging/Pruning including roses, fruit trees

Mulching • Weeding • Fertilising  
Soil improvement • Planting  
Green waste removal

QUALIFIED HORTICULTURIST

Phone: **0417 682 540** (Charlie)  
**0428 275 701** (Lisa)

Email: **lisa@gibleygardening.com.au**  
**www.gibleygardening.com.au**

# Rotary Club of Hall: making a difference near and far



Do you know how many activities the members of the Rotary Club of Hall (RCH) are involved in?

Our activities are wide-ranging, from Hall and the surrounding district to international projects. We donate significant funds, provide practical assistance and contribute our knowledge and experience. It is a record of which Rotarians, and the wider community, can be proud. And, importantly, we have each other's backs.

Our international activities include RCH support for a Paediatric Surgical Mission to the Solomon Islands, to which we contribute many thousands of dollars each year. The surgical team includes RCH President Elect Liz Hearn, who participates as a surgical nurse.

Closer to home, RCH is currently supporting two major projects through substantial, multi-year funding commitments.

The first is with the Making Waves Foundation, which will provide sailing experiences for children with disabilities in the Canberra region, helping them build skills and confidence that can benefit them throughout their lives.

The second is a three-year commitment to Toora Women Inc for a pilot project to fund a counsellor who will assist women with their rehabilitation following prison terms. RCH members also regularly provide practical assistance by assembling furniture for Toora safe homes.

Recently, RCH donated funds and provided two teams to cook an evening meal as part of *Meals from the Heart*, supporting families with children in intensive care at Canberra Hospital. It is a program that RCH members are keen to continue supporting.

Education is another important area of support. We have established a scholarship in memory of RCH Charter Member and co-founder of the Capital Region Farmers Market (CRFM), Peter O'Clery.

The scholarship was awarded to Jacinta Chu, who received \$4,000 to attend the 'Substrate and Wood Fungi Course' run by the Mycelia Academy in Deinze, Belgium, from 28 September to 2 October.



## BETTER BLADES

### Sharpening Services

- Knives, scissors, hedge trimmer blades and garden tools
- Animal clipper blades including - supply & maintenance

**0415 483 089** **bblades7@bigpond.com**  
**www.betterblades.com.au**

This scholarship is in addition to our ongoing scholarships, awarded annually to students at Charles Sturt University and Yanco Agricultural College.

Closer still to home, Mardi Troth of the Hall Heritage Centre received a donation to support her very successful education outreach program, *Heritage in a Suitcase*.

Much of this work is made possible by the Capital Region Farmers Market, which is RCH's primary source of fundraising. The market also provides a wonderful opportunity for club members to meet and chat with members of the Hall community and many other familiar faces.



Capital Region Farmers Market

The CRFM celebrated this year's Floriade theme, *Feast of Flowers*, as part of *Floriade Around Town* on Saturday 26 September, with cooking and drink demonstrations.

From international medical assistance and major community projects to scholarships and practical help, the Rotary Club of Hall is making a difference, both near and far.

### SMALL BUSINESS PARTNER

- Small business accounting and taxation services
- Cashflow and business performance analysis
- Xero silver champion partner



## LINCOLN PARTNERS

CANBERRA  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

For expert advice on better business efficiency  
Call John Howlett on 6100 4732 or 0411 283746  
Email: **john@lpcanberra.com.au**

# President's Annual Report for the Village of Hall and District Progress Association



The Progress Association is the overall responsible body for the Hall Heritage Centre and the Hall Men's Shed. There are separate reports provided by these groups as well as for the *Rural Fringe*. The association manages the former school site of the Hall Community Precinct, the Hall Cottage and the Hall Pavilion. The association informs the community about local issues, events, and personalities through the bi-monthly *Rural Fringe* newsletter and the [www.hall.act.au](http://www.hall.act.au) website.

A very important function of the Progress Association is to advocate for and represent the Hall Village and District community in relation to significant planning, development, heritage and environmental issues and the provision of government services. It also facilitates minor works and maintenance in and around the village. In the 'President's Page' of the *Rural Fringe*, I regularly share the matters that the Progress Association Committee is addressing.

by **Robert Yallop** President  
Village of Hall and District  
Progress Association

detailed mapping of stormwater flows, mitigation measures and the proposed stormwater drainage infrastructure master plan. Since the consultation, the design consultants have further refined the storm water infrastructure master plan incorporating feedback received during the consultation and in a subsequent survey of Hall Village residents and businesses.

In presenting the ACT Government Budget in June 2026, the ACT Treasurer, Chris Steel, announced at least \$4.8 million to support new stormwater infrastructure for Hall Village.

The submission of Development Applications (DAs) for the agreed stormwater infrastructure works has been delayed due to a change in contractor, and it is anticipated that the DAs will be submitted within the coming months.

Although having an agreed master plan and funding incorporated in the ACT Government Budget are major milestones, the Progress Association will not stop working on stormwater infrastructure until all agreed works are complete.

## Shared cycle and pedestrian path from Hall Village to Nicholls

For almost four years, the Progress Association Committee has been seeking the establishment of safe pedestrian and cycle access from the Barton Highway to Gladstone Street Hall. In March 2025, the Commonwealth Government announced funding of the fully paved 2.3kms long and 3m wide shared pedestrian and cycle path from Hall Village to Nicholls. Although Commonwealth Government funding was announced as joint funding with the ACT Government, the ACT Government funding had not been budgeted. The Progress Association Committee intensified advocacy with City Services Minister, Tara Cheyne, and included the shared pedestrian and cycle path in our submission to the FY 2027 ACT Government Budget.

The FY 2027 ACT Government Budget includes the construction of the shared pedestrian and cycle path from Hall Village to Gold Creek Nicholls.

In June 2026, over 30 of our Hall community neighbours attended the Community Meeting to hear information, ask questions and provide some feedback on the shared pedestrian and cycle path from Hall Village to Curran Drive, Gold Creek. 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.

As with the stormwater infrastructure, the Progress Association Committee will continue working on the

shared cycle and pedestrian path until works are complete and the path is open.

## Hall Pavilion licence

The Progress Association has had stewardship of the Hall Pavilion for decades. For the past 10 years or so, the Progress Association has had formal licences with the ACT Government for the operation and management of the Hall Pavilion.

In late 2024, the Progress Association signed an interim licence for the Hall Pavilion with the ACT Government pending clarification of land custodian arrangements between ACT Government Directorates. In November 2025, the Progress Association signed an unprecedented 10-year Licence until 2035 with the ACT Government.

Secure tenure of the Hall Pavilion by the Progress Association is extremely important for the ongoing operation of both the Hall Pavilion and for the Hall Community Precinct without which the Hall Heritage Centre, Hall Men's Shed, Hall Cottage and numerous community activities that happen in these facilities would not be possible. The Hall Pavilion and Hall Cottage not only provide facilities for many Hall community groups and activities but, through the income from hire of the cottage and pavilion, basic operation costs are covered for the Hall Community Precinct, and support is provided to other activities undertaken by the Progress Association.



## Hall Reserve

Led by Progress Association Committee member Aaron Whittaker (and with invaluable assistance from Danny Clynk), the Progress Association has continued to organise working bees on the Hall Reserve with one held in September 2025 and in March 2026. Progressively, the Hall Reserve has been transformed from a somewhat neglected place to an area that reflects the care and attention of our village community. Dead shrubs have been removed, overgrown grass mown, weeds and undergrowth have been removed and made way for six beds to be created and mulched with some 350 shrubs planted. The working bees have also provided a great opportunity to meet neighbours and chat over lunch together.

## Hall Village Pizza Picnic

In February, some 60 adults and children enjoyed pizza and soft drinks at the Pizza Picnic hosted by the Progress Association Committee. It was especially good to see some new residents taking the opportunity to meet Hall neighbours. We look forward to hosting similar events in the coming months.

## Hall Community facilities

The Hall Pavilion, Hall Cottage and Hall Community Precinct are important facilities of the Hall community. Management of these facilities takes a significant amount of effort. A team from the Progress Association Committee led by Jan Klaver and Margaret Monahan



Renovation of old pre-school grounds

The Progress Association has achieved some very significant successes during the 2026 Financial Year. Highlights include: Comprehensive Storm Water Infrastructure construction has been included by the ACT Government in the FY 2027 Budget; the Shared Cycle and Pedestrian Path from Hall Village to Nicholls has been jointly funded by the ACT and Commonwealth governments; the ACT Government has signed a Licence with the Progress Association for the Hall Pavilion for 10 years until 2035.

## Comprehensive stormwater infrastructure

After four-and-a-half years of advocacy by the Progress Association Committee with the ACT Government to address chronic issues of stormwater drainage in Hall Village, in mid-August 2025 the Progress Association hosted a 'pop-up' consultation by Infrastructure Canberra on the preliminary design for stormwater drainage improvements. Staff from Infrastructure Canberra and the design consultants presented very



Ventia laying the NBN in Hall Village

## NBN Fibre-to-the-Premises connection in Hall Village

Following the announcement by the Commonwealth Government in January 2025 that they will fund the upgrade of Australia's as yet to be connected NBN Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) network, the Progress Association Committee contacted Senator Gallagher and Fenner MP Leigh to confirm that Hall District is included in the upgrade. Unfortunately, Wallaroo, Spring Range and Nanima are not included in the upgrade although Hall Village is included.

In June, at the Community Meeting arranged by the Progress Association NBN Co staff outlined the FTTP implementation. Initial survey and planning work has been completed, and major construction work was due to commence in September.

manage the Hall Pavilion and Hall Cottage while Peter Toet carries responsibility for maintenance of the Hall Community Precinct and ongoing liaison with the ACT Government Infrastructure Canberra (former Property Group). We are very grateful for the enormous contribution of Jan, Marg and Peter in managing these facilities that are so important to the life of our community.

In response to concerns over persistent issues with unauthorised camping at the Hall showgrounds highlighted by the Progress Association Committee, in July staff from Sport and Recreation Facilities of City Presentation in the ACT Government erected 'No Camping' signs at the Hall Showground and Hall Pavilion as a reminder that these are not areas designated for camping and that anyone camping,

... continues on page 8

# President's Annual Report for the Village of Hall and District Progress Association

... continued from page 7



caravaning, parking overnight in a camper is acting illegally and can be required to move on. Subsequently, Access Canberra Compliance staff have moved on a number of caravans and campervans who camped contrary to the notices.

## Hall Happy Helpers

Progress Association Committee member Jack McGrath is leading a small group called Hall Happy Helpers (including Hall Progress Association, Hall Collectors' Club and Capital Country Woodchopping) to undertake small repair tasks around Hall Village and the wider district. Initial work has included fixing gates, straightening fenceposts and clearing some dead shrubs around the perimeter of Hall Showground and straightening sign posts on Victoria Street Hall.



The Hall reserve.

Progress Association Committee to engage with residents in Wallaroo, Spring Range and Nanima, particularly on the safety and security of these communities.

This recognition of the role of the Progress Association is important to ensure that government and other actors seek to provide information and engage with the Hall Village and District community on

concerns and developments that affect us.

The Hall Men's Shed, The Hall Heritage Centre and the Rural Fringe are three remarkable activities that reflect the unique nature of our community. Each makes an enormous contribution to the quality of our lives in Hall Village and District.

I would like to particularly thank Jenny Whittaker, Gail Condy and Kevin Stone for their ongoing work producing our superb quality Rural Fringe magazine every two months.

I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the contribution of Michael Sinclair as Independent Reviewer of the Progress Association.

I would particularly like to thank the Progress Association Committee and Office Bearers for their efforts throughout the year. Whatever has been accomplished by the association has been achieved by the work of Aaron, Jack, Jan, Lee-Ann, Mardie, Marg, Peter, Phil, Toni and Tony.

The Progress Association has been part of this community for more than 120 years and is believed to be the oldest community association in the ACT.

The Progress Association Committee will continue to seek ideas and suggestions from people throughout Hall Village and District on possible activities and what you would like to see improved in our wonderful and unique community.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Progress Association for the privilege to represent this wonderful community of Hall Village and District as Association President.

## Recognition of the role of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association

Over the last 12 months, the Progress Association has again emerged as the group that represents the overall welfare, amenity and heritage interests of residents and stakeholders of Hall Village and District.

In announcing the ACT Government Budget allocations for infrastructure in Hall Village, ACT Treasurer Chris Steel acknowledged the significant advocacy from the Hall and District Progress Association on these measures over a number of years. In beginning to scope the NBN FTTP implementation in Hall Village, staff of NBN Co contacted the Progress Association Committee to seek information and assistance to engage with Hall Village residents and businesses. Officer-In-charge of Yass Police Region came to the

# Sign renewal at Homestead Park in Ngunnawal

men's shed

One of the Hall Men's Shed members, Kim Parker, saw that the Homestead Park sign in Ngunnawal had deteriorated. He consulted with the membership and ACT Parks to discuss its replacement. The sign is around two metres long and sits within two brick columns around one metre in height.

Recycled hardwood materials were sourced with the assistance of Aaron Whittaker and Danny Clynk, (utilising Danny's trusty truck).



The basic centre structure to duplicate the sign was constructed and painted over a number of weeks. Jonathan Palmer used his own computerised routing machine and was able to generate the sign content very similar to the original. The sign was then painted, including the offsetting cream colour of the routed areas.

ACT Parks supplied the paint to complete the routed lettering and the leaf motif and contributed to the cost of the recycled Mountain Ash timber used for the sign rebuild.

The Hall Men's Shed is proud to have contributed towards the renewal of the park.



Graham Smith cutting the component boards using one of the men's shed's band saws.



Painting of the assembled centre sign.



The new sign being installed by Kim. The six missing half bricks will also be attended to with the assistance of another member Ken McLean.



## Springfield Rural Fire Brigade

Rebecca Morrison President

### Get ready for the bushfire season

Spring is here, which means it's time to start thinking about the bushfire season ahead.

*Get Ready Weekend* is a reminder for all of us to take some simple steps to prepare our homes, properties and families for the Bush Fire Danger Period. This year, Springfield Rural Fire Brigade is extending the conversation with our own Community Get Ready Day on Sunday 1 November at the Patemans Lane Fire Shed.

Drop in anytime between 10am and 2pm and have a chat with brigade members about what you can do now to be better prepared. There'll be practical demonstrations and specialist talks covering preparing your home and property, pumps and equipment, fire extinguishers for the home and choosing and maintaining garden plants with bush fire conditions in mind.

It's also a great opportunity to ask questions. Is your pump ready to go? Do you have the right fire extinguisher and know how to use it? What can you do around the house now? Does everyone in your household know what they'll do if a fire threatens?

There'll be a barbecue, plenty of useful information to take home and brigade members on hand to help.



### Springfield RFS Community Get Ready Day

Sunday 1 November | 10am-2pm

Patemans Lane Fire Shed

Put the date in your diary and come along. A little preparation now can make a big difference when it matters.



### New community noticeboards

You may have spotted some new community noticeboards recently installed on Nanima Road, Gooda Creek Road and Euroka Avenue.

The boards are available for community use and will also give the brigade another way to share relevant local information. We hope they become a useful resource for everyone in our area.

A big thank you to Yass Valley Council, whose grant helped make the noticeboards possible and to our brigade members who gave their time to get them installed.



### Dates for the Diary

**Monday 12 October | 7pm** – Springfield RFS General Meeting, Patemans Lane Fire Shed

**Friday 16 and Saturday 17 October** – Murrumbateman Field Days

Support the RFS while you're there and grab a feed from Al's Kitchen!

**Sunday 1 November | 10am - 2pm** – Springfield RFS Community *Get Ready Day*, Patemans Lane Fire Shed.

**Sunday 13 December** – Brigade Christmas Party from 4pm, Patemans Lane Fire Shed.

We hope to see plenty of our neighbours at the shed on **1 November**. Meantime, have a look around your property, talk with your family about your bushfire plan and start getting ready for the season ahead.



NSW RFS – Springfield Brigade

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



*True beauty starts beneath the surface*

If you're looking for deeply restorative, fully customized care, PBP Holistic Beauty on Victoria St in Hall is the place.

Led by Perdy, a mature skin expert, beauty therapist and holistic nutrition coach, PBP moves away from generic treatment menus to focus on what your skin and body uniquely need. Step into a calm, refreshingly honest space and experience treatments designed to make you feel clearer, lighter, and truly radiant from the inside out.

ph: 0419 016 806 address: 8/12 Victoria St, Hall  
e: [pbbpbeautytherapy@gmail.com](mailto:pbbpbeautytherapy@gmail.com) web: [pbbpbeautytherapy.gettimely.com](http://pbbpbeautytherapy.gettimely.com)



ICP INSTANT COLOUR PRESS

**Innovators in Print**

Contact our friendly and helpful team for all of your printing needs.

[www.instantcolourpress.com.au](http://www.instantcolourpress.com.au)

Same Agents,  
Same Passion,  
New Look

## Introducing... Local Homes & Acreage

Local Homes & Acreage – Where Real Estate Feels Local, Genuine & Human.

At Local Homes & Acreage, we're more than just real estate agents - we're community people who genuinely care about helping others move into the next chapter of their lives with confidence, clarity, and a few laughs along the way.

Founded by Graham "Bushy" and Kate - two well-known, well-loved locals with a shared passion for people - our agency was created from a simple belief: real estate should feel honest, effortless, and deeply personal.



Scan here for an instant property estimate

**Local Homes & Acreage.**

KATE 0417 514 045 &  
BUSHY 0427 225 823  
[LOCALHOMESANDACREAGE.COM.AU](http://LOCALHOMESANDACREAGE.COM.AU)



RayWhite

### Your Hall Region Real Estate Specialist

Reliable service and trustworthy advice = outstanding results exceeding expectations

ALAN WHITE  
**ELITE**  
PERFORMER

Mark Johnstone

Licensed agent ACT & NSW  
0414 382 093  
[mark.johnstone@raywhite.com](mailto:mark.johnstone@raywhite.com)



Thinking of Selling? Call me anytime for a complimentary market appraisal of your property

## Hall Village Post Office & Gift Shop

Mon to Friday . . . . . 7.30am - 4pm  
Closed Saturday, Sunday & public holidays



- Great children's books from Compendium.
- Ashdene Christmas themed range of kitchenware, haberdashery etc.
- Bison glassware (from Pialligo).
- Restored furniture hand crafted by Karen.
- Bread and cheese boards, coasters, tongs from the Hall Men's Shed.
- Boutique lamp shades and bases.
- Murrumbateman Chocolate Co.
- Pens made locally by Timber and Tannin.
- Local 'Wine dogs' book.
- Tea from the Inspirational Tea Company.
- Doorstops: ponies, full range of animals big and small, cute!
- Ozcorp range of Christmas wrapping and cards.

And more!

## EMPOWER YOURSELF with HYPNOTHERAPY

to:

- Calm stress and anxiety
- Ease pre-surgery anxiety
- Sleep easier and longer
- Lose weight and create better health
- Increase motivation and decrease procrastination

[www.robbynm.com.au](http://www.robbynm.com.au)

## VENETIA MAJOR BESPOKE JEWELLERY



Browse the unique collection of Australian made jewellery in the gallery.

Have your jewellery repaired or custom made by the qualified jewellers, or join our fun silversmithing classes that run twice a week.

Go to the website to find out more, or pop in for a chat.

[venetiamajor.com.au](http://venetiamajor.com.au)

6230 9587 3/8 Victoria St, Hall



## Keep warm in winter and cool in summer with Capital Air

Your local Mitsubishi Electric  
Diamond Dealer specialising in:

- Supply & Installation
- Service
- Repairs



[www.capitalair.com.au](http://www.capitalair.com.au)  
02 6280 6266  
[service@capitalair.com.au](mailto:service@capitalair.com.au)



AU Licence #45913



## VESTY'S DOG TRAP redgranite

- Granite Supplies
- Horse Arena's
- Rural Roads
- Site Prep
- Grader Hire
- Bobcat Hire

Ian Vest 0408 699 272  
[advest@bigpond.com](mailto:advest@bigpond.com)  
[vestysredgranite.com.au](http://vestysredgranite.com.au)

Locally owned and operated by Ian Vest, Ian has been supplying quality red granite to our local area and surrounds for over 30 years.

Ian manages delivery, spreading, compaction and can also provide estimated volume needed.



## For Some It's Business, For Us It's Family.

RayWhite

We are a family business and we are here for your family, specialising in residential, rural and lifestyle sales and property management across Murrumbateman, Yass and the Canberra region.

Thinking of selling or leasing? Let's have a cuppa and talk property.

Local insight. Smarter moves. Proven result.

Ray White Yass | Murrumbateman  
02 6226 4400  
[raywhiteruralvass.com.au](http://raywhiteruralvass.com.au)

We bring the whole team.



## The difference between a sale and great result.

Don't just settle for a good result,  
celebrate a great one.

Find out why selling with the largest Canberra  
real estate network means a better result for  
your property.



0412 630 977  
[atongue@ljhookercountry.com.au](mailto:atongue@ljhookercountry.com.au)  
[countrycanberra.ljhooker.com.au](http://countrycanberra.ljhooker.com.au)



Book your free  
expert property  
appraisal with me  
today.



Spring is here, and our garden  
nursery is bursting at the seams  
with new products.

We look forward to seeing you  
at the nursery soon.

Open 7 days a week

Shop 12  
Federation Square II  
O'Hanlon Place  
Nicholls ACT 2913

Phone. 02 6230 2000

[www.greengoldnursery.au](http://www.greengoldnursery.au)



## Introducing our collection

At the Hall Heritage Centre, volunteers focus on the collection, conservation, study and display of materials and stories concerning the history and development of the region, centred on the Ginninderra Creek catchment.

We have set up a number of display spaces with exhibitions that are linked by a theme or a context. In this article, we have featured just a small selection of the artefacts that are displayed in those spaces.

**10,000 years on Halls Creek** is a display showing the results of a geoarchaeology study carried out in the Halls Creek Aboriginal Sites Zone. The study, funded by the ACT Heritage Grants Program, was conducted by two archaeologists, members of the Ngunawal, Ngunnawal and Ngambri Aboriginal communities and volunteers from Hall Heritage Centre in 2019. The image shows one of the interesting archaeological features found along the creek. It is a dark deposit of soil from an ancient swamp, containing an Aboriginal stone artefact, buried deeply beneath erosion sediments from the time of European settlement.



**Old Ginninderra – rediscovering the first settlement** is a moving feast based on extensive research which includes models of the old village buildings, maps and story boards. The latest display presents the story of Palmerville.

This small bell comes from the Cricketers' Arms Hotel that was established in 1864 on the northern edge of the Yass Road, just a mile or so from the fledgling Ginninderra settlement. The bell was used in the dining room to attract the attention of hotel staff. The hotel had a number of



licensees over its 54 years. It was the community, social, cultural, sporting and political hub of Ginninderra and Hall.

When prohibition was introduced into the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) the Cricketers' Arms liquor licence was not renewed and it being the only hotel in the FCT was forced to close in 1918. The building continued as a private residence until it was demolished in 1938.

This is the only surviving object from its days as a popular venue for local people and travellers on the Queanbeyan-Yass Road.

**ANZAC – When Hall Answered the Call** is a look at the sacrifices made by the Hall community during the Great War.

### PEACE TREE

Saturday 19 July 1919 was celebrated as Peace Day. Susan Hollingsworth was invited to plant the Peace Tree, a Juniper Pine, in the Hall school grounds in recognition of her son Clyde who was killed in action on the Western Front in 1917.

**Old bush schools of the Canberra region** presents location maps, photographs and significant research about the many bush schools that popped up all over the local area before the establishment of the nation's capital.

The Tangmangaroo School, on the road between Yass and Boorowa, opened in 1871 and when it first closed in 1907, the school bell was given to the Kangiara School at the nearby mining village.

*Can you guess what this contraption is and how it works?*



*Answer on page 16.*

When the mines failed and the Kangiara School itself closed in 1958, the bell was transferred to The Mullion School, in the Brindabellas south west of Canberra.

Laurie Copping, the principal of Hall Public School at the time, 'rescued' the bell when The Mullion School closed in 1972. It was used on a daily basis when the Hall Primary School was operational. The bell has been in the collection of the Hall Heritage Centre since the school closed in 2006.

*The Kangiara School bell.*



**Home Sweet Home** presents domestic life in the village before electricity came in 1948.

This is a clockwork flytrap made by the Owari Watchmaking Company in Japan c.1910. Flies are attracted to the slowly turning drum, which was smeared with a suitable attractant such as dripping. As the drum turns the flies are caught within a dark space. To escape the darkness they fly up through the gauze funnel towards the light coming through the rather lovely shaped 'window' above them. Trapped! NO WAY OUT!



**Down on the Farm** is an interactive space telling the story of early settlers and the development of Hall village from 1880s – 1940s.

This container was used by Thomas Southwell, an early settler in the district in the mid-1880s. He was a successful farmer and he grew oats and wheat.

Grains were poured into the tin, a wooden stick was used to strike across the top to ensure it was level and then the grain was poured into jute bags, each holding 3 or 4 bushels. The bags then went to market to be sold.

by **Mardie Troth**  
Hall Heritage Centre

A measuring instrument like this had to be verified as correct and the tiny VR (Victoria Regina) seal identifies that this container has been certified as accurate.



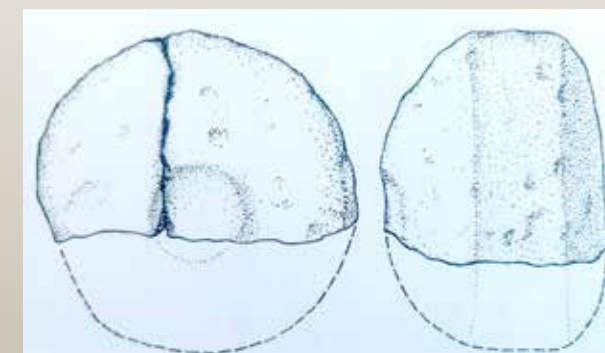
### Stones that Speak

is an exhibition developed by the Hall Heritage Centre in collaboration with the Territory's Representative Aboriginal organisations. Students from the University of Canberra assisted Ken Heffernan in the analysis of the material. It was opened by the Heritage Minister and the Aboriginal community representative of the ACT Heritage Council in 2017, and received a National Trust Heritage Award.

It displays Aboriginal stone artefacts collected around 1964 by Lyall Gillespie at his mother's property, called *Reidsdale* near the northern border of Canberra. The *Reidsdale* artefact shown here is a remarkable multi-purpose tool. It was used for grinding on two sides as well as around its circumference. In addition, the centre of one side is indented where it was used as an anvil, possible for making quartz flakes.

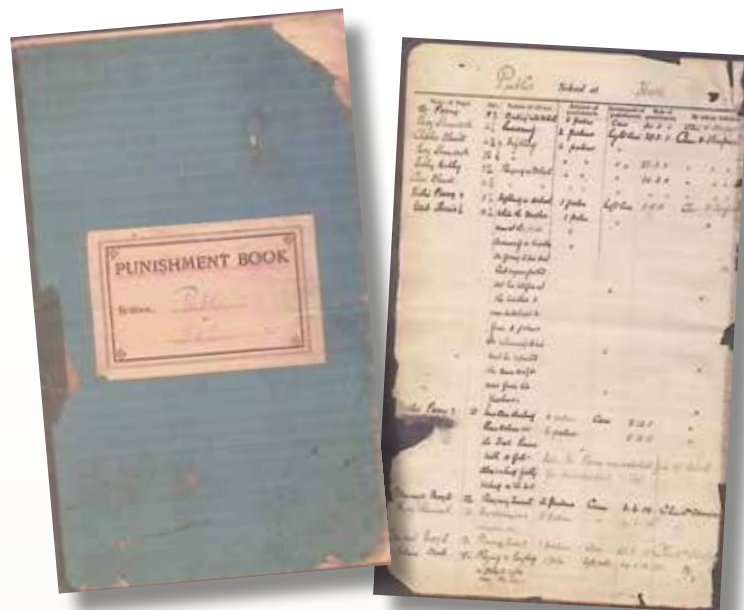


*Two conjoined fragments of a grinding stone/anvil from Reidsdale site 1 (photo above and drawing below, published by Lyall Gillespie).*



... continues on page 16

**1911 school** has been set up to represent a small, one-teacher bush school between the two world wars.



The NSW Department of Public Instruction stipulated that all corporal punishment inflicted on pupils was to be recorded in a Punishment Book.

This regime was observed at the Hall School, with punishments duly recorded and noted, until the arrival of Richard O'Sullivan as teacher in 1937. Thereafter, until his retirement from the school in 1957, there are no entries in the Punishment Book. On the face of things, it might indicate an enlightened teacher able to maintain discipline without resorting to the cane, but personal testimony of a pupil suggests otherwise. Kingsley Southwell, who attended the school from 1948-1954, could not recall seeing O'Sullivan with a rattan cane of the conventional kind. Instead . . . *'he would go out into the school ground and select several sticks he thought suitable. I received the stick on many occasions, quite often for little or no reason, sometimes six of the best on each hand. He always hit on the fingers where it inflicted more pain and he rarely administered the punishment in private, but normally in front of the class'.*

After O'Sullivan's retirement, recording resumed. The last entry is dated 1981. In 1997 legislation was passed to prohibit corporal punishment in ACT schools.

mystery contraption



Built c.1900 and used in the Majura Valley, this horse-drawn rabbit-poisoning cart was restored by Kingsley Southwell. It incorporates a working replica of George Kinlyside's patented pollard distributor, which Kingsley manufactured from the patent drawings. George Kinlyside was one of Hall Village's early pioneers.

Charles Thompson, the Hall School teacher from 1911 to 1932, was concerned about the impact of the laid poison on the local bird life. He was a keen environmentalist and he was instrumental in starting the school's links with the Gould League which was established in 1909 and devoted to bird protection. The organisation now promotes the teaching of Environmental Education in schools.

The cart can be viewed in the exhibition:  
**Hall – establishment and growth of a new village**



Proudly supporting the Hall community

## When your teen's world gets small

Do you know a teen who has gone quiet? Not sulking in their room for an afternoon. Abnormally quiet. School has become somewhere they can't go, friends have gone quiet, and they are not themselves.

If that's your house right now, you're in a lot of company. eSafety's most recent national survey found more than half of Australian kids aged 10 to 17 have been cyberbullied. And the number of students turning up to school at least nine days out of 10 has dropped from 73 per cent before COVID to 62 per cent last year. Parents have a name for it now. Not school refusal. School can't.

Are they being bullied? Here's what's going on beneath the surface. When a child is bullied, their brain does exactly what it was built to do. It files school, the bus, the shops, even the front gate under 'danger' and it keeps that danger current, just in case. Staying home switches the alarm off fast and the body learns the lesson: home is safe, everywhere else isn't. So the next step out feels bigger than the last one.

Whilst it looks like the child is avoiding life, they're actually stuck in a loop. Their world isn't shrinking because they're weak. It's shrinking because their brain is being thorough.

Logic doesn't get much of a say in there.

There are things that help and not any of them are complicated.

Make the first step tiny. The letterbox. Ten minutes in the car with the radio on. Not the school gate.

Keep one door to the world open. One friend, one activity, one cuppa somewhere that isn't your kitchen.

Don't take the phone. It's their lifeline as well as their trap. eSafety's advice is to screenshot, report and keep the connection.

Say 'when', not 'if'. And praise quietly, later.

Stay calm yourself. Kids tune into our tension and take it on themselves.

These are all sensible, logical steps and whilst they sound easy enough, plenty of families have tried the lot. That's because the problem doesn't live in the logical part of the brain. It lives underneath, where the coding was written on the day the bullying happened.

That is where hypnotherapy enters.

Jessica (a pseudonym) came to see me at age 13. The bullying she'd been through was horrific and had left her with injuries that needed surgery. She was learning from home, spending most of her day

by **Robyn Monteleone**  
clinical hypnotherapist



on her phone and hadn't been out of the house in a long time. Body, mind and spirit were all still suffering. Her mum's wish was small and enormous at the same time: to spend time with her daughter somewhere other than home.

The first goal we set was a café with mum. That same afternoon, photos arrived on my phone of the two of them at a table, out, enjoying their café treats.

After three sessions, Jessica could say out loud that she wanted to spend time with her family outside the house. And she had activities she wanted to be included in. She was even open to making a plan to go back to school, one day. Not yet, but she could imagine the possibility and talk about options.

Help beyond talking can create big shifts in short amounts of time and young people tend to make big strides quickly when the tension in their body is addressed. If your teen's world has gone small, hypnotherapy can help. You can find out more, and download the free audio, at [robynm.com.au](http://robynm.com.au).

Sources for the two figures (not for publication):

eSafety Commissioner, 'The online experiences of children in Australia' (published June 2025, fieldwork Dec 2024–Feb 2025, 3,454 children aged 10-17): 'More than 1 in 2 (53%) children aged 10-17 had experienced cyberbullying.'

[www.esafety.gov.au/research/the-online-experiences-of-children-in-australia](http://www.esafety.gov.au/research/the-online-experiences-of-children-in-australia)

ACARA, National Report on Schooling in Australia 2025, student attendance: attendance level (students attending 90% or more) 73.1% in 2019, 62.1% in 2025. [www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia/student-attendance](http://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia/student-attendance)



**FARMER BROWN'S**  
FREE RANGE EGGS

Using modern sustainable and humane farming techniques incorporating innovative ideas, such as pasture rotation and recycling of waste food, to create a more sustainable city.  
Produced on a 20 hectare property in the Hall region.

Drop in to 2 Alexandra St in the Village,  
or call Greg, 0402 840 834  
[www.farmerbrownseggs.com](http://www.farmerbrownseggs.com)

The Bush Fire Danger Period in New South Wales officially commenced on 1 October. Global conditions indicate this could be a dangerous fire season, with firefighters battling significant fire events in North America and Europe. With local conditions characterised by significant fuel loads and high temperatures, we will be monitoring the local area closely to see how the fire season is likely to evolve. Residents are encouraged to keep up-to-date through our Facebook page (NSW RFS – Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade) or drop into the station during training (first and third Wednesdays of the month) to discuss the upcoming fire season and how to prepare your property.

## Bushfire danger period

During the Bush Fire Danger Period, a permit is required for any burning activities. You can apply for a permit online through the NSW RFS website. Unless stated otherwise in your permit, you must notify your local NSW RFS Fire Control Centre or Fire & Rescue NSW Station of your intention to burn at least 24 hours prior. You must also notify adjoining neighbours. Permits must be carried by the permit holder on site from when the fire is lit until it is extinguished. Permits may be varied, cancelled or suspended, based on weather conditions. Permits are automatically suspended on Total Fire Ban days.

Caution should also be taken when using machinery and power tools. For this reason, we encourage residents to take the opportunity before the warmer weather really takes hold to finalise any major work to prepare your property for the fire season, such as chain-sawing and mowing. 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 (contact details opposite), or pop into training.

## Fire danger ratings

Now is also a good time to re-familiarise yourself with the Fire Danger ratings. There are now four levels:

Moderate, High, Extreme and Catastrophic. These ratings describe the consequences should a fire start in the present conditions, not the likelihood of a fire starting. A Moderate Fire Danger rating indicates most fires can be controlled. In High Fire Danger conditions, fires can be dangerous. An Extreme Fire Danger rating indicates fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous. Under a Catastrophic Fire Danger rating, if a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.

### Key to Fire Danger Ratings

|              |                                                   |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| NO RATING    | No rating issued                                  |
| MODERATE     | Plan and prepare                                  |
| HIGH         | Be ready to act                                   |
| EXTREME      | Take action now to protect your life and property |
| CATASTROPHIC | For your survival, leave bush fire risk areas     |

 Total Fire Ban – There is total fire ban in place

Please plan early for what you will do on days of Catastrophic Fire Danger. Homes can not withstand fires in these conditions, you may not be able to leave and help may not be available. It is safest to leave early in the morning or the night before. When leaving, please consider how we will access your property in the event of an emergency, especially if you are not there. If you have an electric gate or electronic lock, please think about leaving it open on Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger days. 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. The daily fire risk rating and fire season restrictions can be found on the NSW RFS website: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans). The RFS website also has information and resources to support you preparing your property and fire plan.

## Brigade contacts

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

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

## Recent call-outs and training

The brigade has been busy over winter responding mostly to vehicle fires and accidents, including using our Breathing Apparatus (BA) capability to support major incidents outside our brigade area. In particular, the brigade has responded to two truck fires on the Hume Highway, both involving hazardous materials. Our BA capability allows us to respond to such incidents with reduced risk of respiratory damage, and is an asset to our brigade, its members, our region and the Southern Tablelands Zone. We are steadily increasing the number of members who are qualified in the use of BA. We thank those members for their time commitment and dedication to get and maintain this qualification, as well as the BA equipment.



Truck fire on the Hume Highway at the Yass Valley Way intersection, September 2026.

Our broader training program is transitioning to preparing the brigade for the coming bushfire season, including command, control and communications, and re-familiarisation with our critical technologies in the fire trucks. We have also had excellent opportunities to train with and learn from Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting and ACT Fire and Rescue.

## Community engagement

We have enjoyed a number of opportunities to get out and about in the Wallaroo area and surrounding communities over the off season, including our *Get Ready Weekend* activities at local wineries – Brindabella Hills, Nick O'Leary's and Pankhurst. Our next major community engagement event is our Santa Run, returning on 19 December! Please stay tuned to our Facebook page (NSW RFS – Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade) for details! Facebook is also a great place to keep up to date with incidents, events and community announcements:

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Murrumbateman Field Day</b>  | <b>17-18 Oct</b> |
| <b>Bunnings BBQ (Belconnen)</b> | <b>22 Nov</b>    |
| <b>Santa Run</b>                | <b>19 Dec 26</b> |

Wallaroo 1 and crew at the Bunnings Belconnen Father's Day Family Event, 3 September 2026.



A unique **BED & BREAKFAST** Experience



(02)  
**6230 2280**

Our vintage carriages have come to rest in picturesque and peaceful surroundings, and so can you...



- Maintenance
- Roofing
- Gardening
- Carpentry/Joinery, Tiling, Painting, Plastering
- Kitchens, Bathrooms, Wardrobes & Laundries

Property Image Consultant

Stuart Hensley  
mobile 0418 449 781 email [clearview132@bigpond.com](mailto:clearview132@bigpond.com)

Who knows where the time goes?

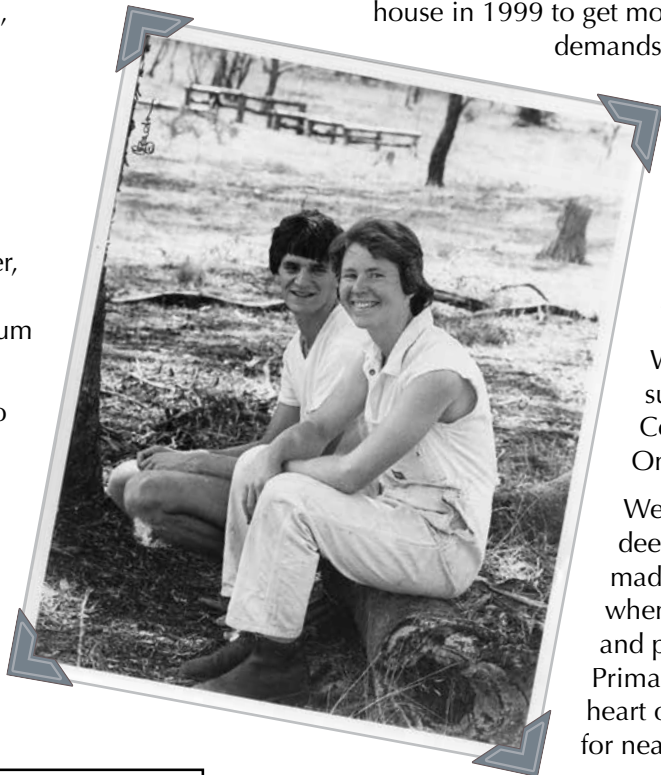
Across the evening sky, all the birds are leaving  
But how can they know it's time for them to go?

- Sandy Denny, 1969

After living in Hall Village for 45 years, Helen and Andrew Purdam are now packing to move to Narara Ecovillage, a multi-generational eco-community on the Central Coast. It's time for our beautiful home to be enjoyed by a new Hall resident.

Helen recalls driving down from Queensland all those years ago, all her possessions packed in a Ford Laser, complete with ditzzy red setter in the front seat, to pick up a temporary locum position for Hall's first vet, Jan Spate.

Upon Jan's return, Helen moved up to rent at Bob and Nancy Tingey's with Andrew. We married under the gum tree in the front yard in 1985. When the Tingey Family returned, we moved to 33 Victoria Street. Both boys were born there and spent over 10 years in a very busy household combining animals, music and many visitors.



Hall Veterinary Surgery grew up there, but we were delighted to buy and retreat back to our wedding house in 1999 to get more space from the demands of veterinary life.

The boys have now long fledged and flown afar.

Hall has been very kind and nurturing to us and we are filled with gratitude.

We are grateful for the surrounding bush, the Centenary Trail and One Tree Hill.

We are grateful for the deep connections we made with many locals, when we would all drop off and pick up our kids at Hall Primary School, the pulsing heart of the wider community for nearly a century.

We are grateful for the dads' garage band *West Texas Crude*, that became a huge part of the musical landscape for over a decade.

We are grateful for the connections made through the *Rural Fringe* work Andrew did over the 1990s. The networks through the Premier Store, Post Office, Progress Association, tree plantings and ParkCare.

We are grateful for the birdsong of both the school kids at play and the birds who have graced our garden and the surrounds. Grey Shrike Thrush, Magpie, Wrens, Fantails, Weebills, Thornbills, Treecreepers, Cockatoos, Boobooks and Tawny Frogmouths. Even Blackbird and Koel. All have had much to say, and we have delighted in listening to them.

While these two birds are now also flying the coop, these connections are precious and we will keep you in our hearts.

Thank you Hall.

Lots of love

Andrew & Helen

Canberra Writers Festival Gets Its Song On!

by Rhiân Williams

There's something rather wonderful happening at this year's *Canberra Writers Festival*. It involves books, music – and a whole lot of four-year-olds.

All *Canberra Writers Festival* events for children aged six and under are free this year.

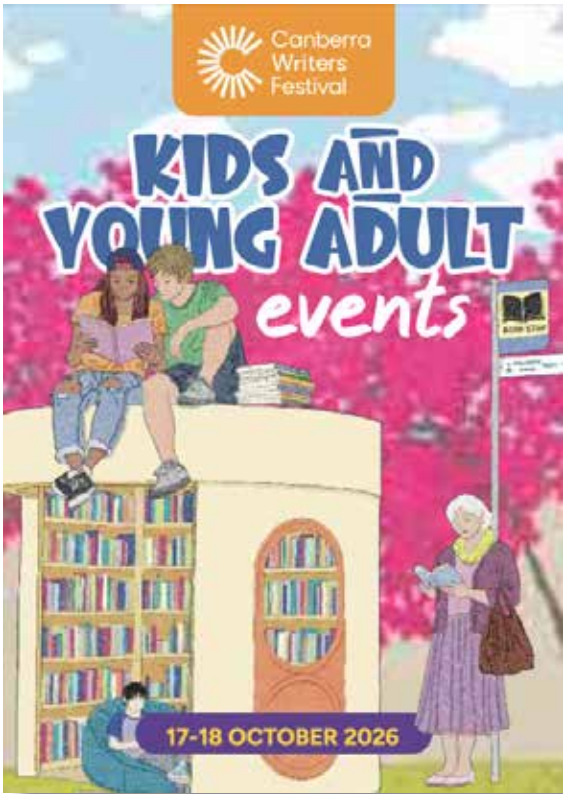
Why? Because taking a four-year-old anywhere requires planning on a military scale. And then, five minutes before you leave, someone needs a wee, becomes mysteriously exhausted, or decides today is the perfect day to explore their inner performance anarchist. So paying for an expensive ticket can feel like a bit of a gamble: What if we only last five minutes? Make it free, however, and the answer becomes much easier: Let's give it a go!

And that little invitation matters. Because a writers festival should be for every reader, no matter how old they are. That four-year-old sitting on the grass, listening to a story today, might become the nine-year-old begging to come back for a favourite author in a few years' time.

Or perhaps they'll become a 13-year-old beginning their first novel, like literary superstar Jack Heath, or discover that their doodles and stories can make people laugh, like Andy Griffiths. Perhaps they'll become passionate about creating stories that explore who we are, like *Deadly Science* founder Corey Tutt, Stephanie Owen Reeder and Sue Whiting. All these authors, and many more, who are part of the wonderful line-up appearing at this year's festival.

This year, in its tenth year, *Canberra Writers Festival* has finally grown up enough to know there's more to a writers festival than politics, romance and AI – although there's plenty of that grown-up business too!

Because reading doesn't start at school. It starts much earlier – with a parent reading the same book for the 400th time, a grandparent doing silly voices, a toddler singing along with a familiar rhyme or a child demanding, once again, that story about the wombat. And so the festival is throwing open its



doors to its littlest audience – and wisely accepting that they may arrive wearing gumboots, covered in something sticky and carrying a book that has already been read approximately 7,000 times.

It all starts with the Woden Valley Youth Choir singing the Kids & YA program into the Festival on Saturday 17 October at 9.30am, on the steps of the National Library of Australia. And, like all events for the under-sixes, it's free! From there, the fun joyously jumps on – with free storytimes, a book launch, and plenty more for young readers to discover.

So bring yourself and your little readers, bring their favourite books and bring your curiosity. Because big readers were once little readers too. And from the littlest of books, the biggest of wonders can grow.

See you there!

To find out more: [canberrawritersfestival.com.au/](http://canberrawritersfestival.com.au/)



**TERRITORY ENERGY**  
ELECTRICAL DIVISION

**ASP Level 2 Electrician**

- Available 24 hours/seven days a week for electrical emergency repairs
- Residential/rural/commercial and industrial
- Metering
- Overhead and underground connections

ABN 17 103 874 620  
Licence 153006C (NSW) 200313230 (ACT)  
ASP AP30672 (NSW)

**0427 363 747 or 0428 288 466**



**THE SHEARING SHED**  
HAIR SALON

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Monday to Wednesday | 9.00 – 5.30 |
| Thursday            | 9.00 – 8.00 |
| Friday              | 9.00 – 5.30 |
| Saturday            | 8.00 – 1.00 |

**6230 2284**

Unit 1/2-4  
Victoria Street  
Hall ACT 2618



Book now on  
**Facebook**

# Fall in love with your garden again

by Lisa Walmsley

There's something special about a garden that makes us feel at home. As winter draws to a close it becomes easier to think about what we want in our garden

Perhaps it's the smell of freshly cut grass, the sound of birds in the morning, or the way the afternoon sun falls across a favourite chair. Maybe it reminds you of a garden you grew up with, a parent or grandparent who loved their roses, or summer afternoons spent outside with family.

But sometimes, life gets busy and our gardens get forgotten.

The weeds creep in. Plants become overgrown. That tired patch of lawn seems to get bigger and suddenly the garden that once brought you joy becomes another job on the list.

But what if your garden doesn't need to be perfect? What if it simply needs to feel like you again?

Start by looking at your garden with fresh eyes. Instead of asking, 'What needs fixing?', ask yourself, 'How do I want to feel when I'm out here?'

Do you want somewhere peaceful to enjoy your morning coffee? A space where the children can play? Somewhere to entertain friends on a summer evening? Or perhaps just a beautiful view to enjoy through the window?

Once you know how you want your garden to make you feel, the decisions become much easier.

You don't necessarily need a complete makeover. Sometimes it's as simple as removing what no longer works, bringing a tired garden bed back to life, adding a few plants you love, or creating a place to sit and enjoy it.

And don't underestimate the little things. A favourite tree, a pot of flowers near the front door, herbs growing beside the kitchen, or a winding path through the garden can create moments of pleasure every day.

Your garden is more than plants and paving. It's where memories are made. It's where we breathe, unwind, celebrate and reconnect with the people we love – and sometimes with ourselves.

So, before you rush out and buy another plant, take a moment to simply stand in your garden.

Look around.

Remember what you loved about it in the first place.

Then make one small change that brings that feeling back.

Because your garden doesn't have to be perfect. It just needs to make you fall in love with it again.



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

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

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

#### Contributions

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

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

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

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

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

#### Advertising rates (per issue)

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

#### Other information

Editor: Jenny Whittaker

Roving editor: Jo Hall

Proofreader: Kevin Stone

Email: [ruralfringe@hotmail.com](mailto:ruralfringe@hotmail.com)

Proudly printed by Instant Colour Press

The views expressed in this journal do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or the VHDP. Some of the material in this journal may be copyright. Please contact the author or the Editor for permission before reproducing articles.



**FRESH DOMESTIC WATER DELIVERIES**  
**0428 943 846**

- 14,000L Icon Water approved tank
- Professional and prompt service
- EFTPOS facilities available
- Servicing all areas

[info@southernh2o.com.au](mailto:info@southernh2o.com.au)



**WATER CARTAGE SERVICES**

- Swimming pool & spa bath water
- Tree watering
- All your water needs
- Drinking water
- Water tanks

**0417 682 540 0428 275 701**  
[charlie@gibleygardening.com.au](mailto:charlie@gibleygardening.com.au)

When you need water, choose

# Southwell Water

FRESH CLEAN PURE DRINKING WATER  
DELIVERED DIRECT TO YOUR TANKS

DUST SUPPRESSION  
EVENT WATERING  
POOL FILL AND TOP UP  
LOCALLY SOURCED - LOCALLY OWNED

**PH 04 7676 2020**

# SOUTHWELL WATER

SOUTHWELL WATER  
YOUR LOCAL SUPPLIER  
BUT WE COVER ALL AREAS

**BUSINESS FRIEND**

PART PROCEEDS FROM EVERY DELIVERY GOES DIRECT TO THE MCGRATH FOUNDATION



## Crown Asbestos Removal

### Our Services

#### Asbestos Removal

Our specialties include asbestos inspections, monitoring, site decontamination, small clean-ups, commercial asbestos removal and emergency removal.

#### Demolition

Our specialties include strip outs, recycling focused, demolition with salvage rights and demolition without salvage rights.

We are licensed, insured, professional, time-bound and provide high quality services at reasonable prices.

ABN 83 086 566 976 • LIC # ARA 00007 "A" CLASS  
PO Box 280, Hall ACT 2618 • 0423 807 747  
[maverick250@bigpond.com](mailto:maverick250@bigpond.com) • [crownasbestosremoval.com.au](http://crownasbestosremoval.com.au)

# FRESH WATER DELIVERIES

**18,000 & 25,000 Litre Tanker**

## Servicing the district for over 30 years

Also available - maintenance grading and sealing of driveways, dam construction & house site cuts



Order now

Ryan on  
**0466 085 666**  
[rcon@hewatt.com.au](mailto:rcon@hewatt.com.au)  
EFTPOS available





*photos: Paul Porteous*

