

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district



VOLUME 20 ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2013

Burning Pride

Dear Furies,

On December 19th the Wallaroo area experienced a grass fire. Several properties were affected, but thanks to the fast response of local residents and professional and volunteer fire brigades, the potential damage was reduced. As we go about our busy lives it can be easy to forget what an amazing place we live in. Sometimes it takes an event like this to remind us of the generosity and camaraderie of this great community.

Unfortunately, in the midst of the moment it is impossible to thank everyone who gave their time and risked their safety to ensure ours. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every person involved in fighting the fire on the ground and in the air, not only on the day, but also mopping up and checking in on us through the night and into the



"So lucky". Two of Hannah's outbuildings burnt down, but the house was saved.

Photo: Hannah Wellman

following day.

This not only includes the firefighters themselves, but all who support their operations. We would also like to thank neighbors who housed livestock that were displaced or quietly ushered loose livestock back down the tracks until fencing can be secured, and to those who gave their precious dam water to the cause one helicopter load at a time.

Hopefully, this will be the only fire in our area this season, but it won't be the only fire our volunteers face. Please support our rural fire services and offer up your thanks next time you pass a member at the local store or by the shed. They deserve it!

And if you're a rural fire service volunteer reading this.... **THANK-YOU!**

You're our heroes.

- Hannah Wellman,

*Gooromon Ponds Rd, Wallaroo
(more thank yous on page 17)*

In February 1994, the first Rural Fringe was produced under Shaun Robson's editorship. The headline: Burning Pride. Hall bushfire brigade were fighting a fire at Yarralumla woolshed on 6 January 1994 when they received a message that the horror fires in and around Sydney had worsened and they were to get up there as soon as possible. Leaving enough crews behind to protect the ACT, the Sydney crew set off that evening and were sent to Lane Cove – West Pimble where the flames were leaping ninety feet in the air. One front leapt a six lane highway and median strip to set the other side of the road ablaze. ... continued on page 23

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- Coming Events. Pages 2, 3, 18, 21, 22 and 24 (Yes, there is a lot going on!)
- Jim Rochford shares a Centenary. Pages 10-11
- Pictures from Christmas Celebrations in Hall. Page 3
- More pictures from the 2012 Hall Pony Club Gymkhana. Pages 14-15.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY SUNDAY 3rd MARCH 2013

Site organised by the
Walloo & Spring
Range Residents' Group
and the
Walloo Rural Fire
Brigade



Meeting Point:
Walloo Fire Shed
Start time: 8.00
End time: 12.00

Please register ahead of time at
www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au
(Join a Clean up site)
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Walloo Fire Shed on the 3rd
before you start collecting

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Last "Hall catch-up" at the well for 2012



Christmas party at the Hall Fire Shed

Christmas celebrations in Hall



There were **four** "Santa's Helpers" in Hall Village on one night!



And the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in addition to their continued use of Hall Showground for their Christmas parties, this year seemed to be quite taken by Clydesdales as well!



St Michael and All Angels Anglican Church

EASTER SERVICES

We invite residents and visitors to join the clergy and congregation of St Michaels to celebrate Easter this year.

Good Friday 29 March – folk from all the churches in Hall will walk Stations of the Cross through the village, starting at the car park on the corner of Barton Hwy & Victoria Street (the Yass end of Victoria Street) at 11 am.

Easter Day 31 March – Outdoor family service at 11.00 am in the grounds of St Michaels. We plan to precede our service with a free barbecue breakfast starting at 9.00 am. All are welcome!

Other Lent and Holy Week services will be held at the other church in our parish, St Barnabas at Charnwood Shopping Centre. Please ring Beryl on 0408 488526 for more information.

National Sheep Dog Trials 11th - 17th March 2013

Put this date on your calendar! "The Dogs 70th Anniversary Dinner", **Thursday 14th March**.

The NSDT have been held in Canberra for 70 years. To help celebrate this momentous occasion, the Hall organisers have pulled out all stops!

Who will be the surprise guest? Who are the Jump-town Swing dancers? & why are Back to Back featuring songs from the 40s?

To find out, you will have to book your seats! NOW. Dinner booking sheets available at the General Store. Contact Number: Helen 62302134

Wallaroo Fire Brigade News

The brigade has had a very busy start to the fire season,

to date and has responded to many incidents, including a major fire on Southwell Road where several properties came under direct threat. Crews also responded to fires in Gundaroo, Parkwood, Bookham, Dicks Creek and Hall and have continued to have crews stood up at the station on days of total fire ban. The brigade also has been deploying day and night crews to the Bookham fires. We have a very dedicated membership who has been giving freely of their time to meet these emergencies.

Many of the members conduct their own businesses and hold full time jobs, but still find the time to put back into the community. The Rural Fire Service is made up of volunteers from all walks of life - men and women from different cultural backgrounds, age groups and professions. Rural fire brigades are a reflection of every local community. Becoming a volunteer fire-fighter is easier than most people think. Brigades offer training ranging from bush fire-fighting, village fire-fighting and first aid to breathing apparatus operation. We don't just offer a fire-fighting role; we have a multitude of areas that require volunteers. Communications, catering, logistics, planning and aviation support are critical – there is a job for nearly everyone in the RFS. Some of these functions can be maintaining the trucks and equipment and providing welfare to the active firefighters. We rely heavily on the support of people from all backgrounds in our community. The people that make up our Service are as different as the society that we protect. The minimum age to join the Rural Fire Service as a volunteer is 16.

Remember the famous quote by John F Kennedy, **“ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for the country”**. We need the community to step up and assist... Join the RFS, become a member and get involved. At present

half of our active membership do not live in the Wallaroo area but reside in the ACT and travel to the Wallaroo station for training and fire calls. As I have indicated in the past the Wallaroo Brigade mail to 650 residences in the



brigade area, we have 3 trucks and we need to have enough members to meet our local demands and those of other emergencies. So get involved. As a member you do not need to be an active fire fighter, there are many other roles within the brigade and the RFS where you can assist. I urge you to check out the RFS website, rfs.nsw.gov.au the Wallaroo brigade website (www.rfsa.org.au and click on Our Members » Brigades) to get involved, or call into the shed on a Wednesday from 18:30 – 20:30.

I would like to thank Amy, Michelle and Ceri for their support over the last fire emergency; your contributions were greatly appreciated by the Wallaroo crews.

A general reminder that the grasses have cured and with the hot weather and February still to come, to avoid all activities that are likely to start a fire including mowing, angle grinding, welding and obey the rules around using barbecues. We recently had a callout to individuals in parking area on the highway who were using a barbecue in a grassed area on a day of total fire ban.

In closing I want to wish everyone in our brigade area a safe and happy new year

- Rod Roberts, President

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Hall Fire Brigade News

HISTORY REPEATS AT 'SUNNY CORNER'

The 2012-2013 Fire Season already looks to be an active one with plenty of grass fire activity keeping the Hall Brigade busy and it isn't even February – normally our busiest month!

Hall Brigade has already responded to several grass fires and has been part of the ACT's striketeam to Bungendore that saw our two tankers provide vital asset protection and fire suppression but Hall also sent crews day and night to Yass as the ACT mobilised a five day taskforce to support our NSW colleagues.

Closer to home Hall Brigade continues to remain active from our Shed in Loftus Street in the ACT's high fire danger days and this proved valuable on Saturday 12 January when a fire started in our own backyard after a tree arced across a powerline on 'Sunny Corner' and started a grass fire. Hall Brigade would like to thank a passing Territory & Municipal Services Parks crew for spotting and reporting the blaze even before One Tree Fire Tower was able to make the radio call and Hall's 2 heavy tankers were able to swing in to action and assist. Thanks also to Wallaroo for offering assistance after hearing the Village might have been at threat. The fire was thankfully quickly contained and as mopping up began there were a couple of Hall crew members, Andy Fulton and Mal McLeod and land lessee, John Starr, that truly understood just how important the quick response was.

History would show one of the worst fires to affect the Hall region, the Black Tuesday fire of February



The 1979 Hall fire, as seen across the racecourse from Mt Majura.
Photo by Jeff Cutting, via www.firebreak.com.au

13 1979 began at 'Sunny Corner' with a downed fuse from a powerline and was reported by the fire towers early afternoon. Bill Gouge was the first to respond, but with little water in his slip-on unit and fanned by winds gusting to 70 kilometres per hour, the fire burnt fiercely in a northward direction and quickly grew in size - spreading at an estimated 8 kilometres per hour. Brian O'Connor and Brian Coulton were next on the scene on the back of Coulton's Ford 100 fitted with a tank and pump and remember the sheer ferocity of the fire, sustaining burns to their hands. Fighting on the other flank were members of the Bolton family in their Morris Commercial, the same model that is parked in Roger Ball's yard today.

At around 3.30pm the fire had grown in size and approached the Gundaroo Road, four kilometres from the source.

Just one hour later the fire had reached the Gungaherra Homestead (about 7 kilometres from the source), the fire was running strongly in fully cured Phalaris grassland. Reports at the time described the fire behaviour as erratic with flame bursts of 4 to 10 metres and huge fire whirls.



Photo by Jeff Cutting, via www.firebreak.com.au

The town of Sutton was evacuated at about 5pm, when the fire reached the tops of nearby hills and began moving towards the town on a one-kilometre wide fire front.

A major wind change to the south-west occurred about half an hour later and the fire broke out along the entire northern flank and burnt strongly to the north east.

By the time the fire had been controlled, at about 4 am the following day, a total of 165 square kilometres

continued on page 6

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Hall Fire Brigade – cont.



Photo by Jeff Cutting via www.firebreak.com.au

or 16,500 hectares of land had been burnt and the fire had claimed two cottages, three sheds, machinery and stored fodder, approximately 5000 sheep, six horses and fencing worth \$200,000.

As current NSW fires in the region approach 14,000 hectares, on average, the 1979 Sunny Corner fire probably seems quite insignificant, but as the fire that was the catalyst for Jim Rochford reforming our Hall Brigade and as we obviously celebrate Canberra's centenary it is important that we recognise history, good and bad, and remind ourselves that history can, and often does, repeat itself! On Saturday 12 January 2013 the temperature and fire conditions were identical to 13 February 1979!

- Mel Riches

President, Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade



Fire crews mopping up at Sunny Corner, January 12 2013.
Photo: Bob Richardson



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Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade president, Mel Riches, with Hall Community Fire Unit member Helen White, at the mop up at Sunny Corner.

Photo: Bob Richardson



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Volunteer Firefighters Needed

The Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade is made up of volunteers from all walks of life - men and women from different cultural backgrounds, age groups and professions.

Becoming a volunteer firefighter is easier than most people think. Your Brigade offers training ranging from bush fire fighting, village fire fighting and first aid

We don't just offer fire fighting roles, we have a multitude of areas that require volunteers. Communications, catering, logistics, planning and aviation support are critical – there is a job for nearly everyone in the RFS.

We rely heavily on the support of people from all backgrounds and cultures in our community. The people that make up our Brigade are as different as the society that we protect.



CHALLENGE YOURSELF. VOLUNTEER

468 Wallaroo Rd
Wallaroo, NSW
Ph: 0414 610 429

Webpage: WWW.WALLAROO.RFSA.ORG.AU/INDEX.HTM



Training is held at the station every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month 6:30 pm - 8:30pm, all welcome. 468 Wallaroo Rd Wallaroo.

Benefits of volunteering

- Learn new skills
- Be part of the community
- Meet new people

Volunteer only the time you can afford.

Rotary Youth Leadership Award Program

The District 9710 Rotary Youth Leadership Award Program (RYLA) finished on the 18 January as an outstanding success. RYLA runs every year as a 6-day residential program for 18 – 25 year olds. It is held at Greenhills Conference Centre in the ACT. Participants are identified as having leadership potential and sponsored by the District Rotary Clubs. While RYLA is a district project, it is currently run by the Rotary Club of Hall with five of the members giving up their time to facilitate it.

This year we had 28 participants with five mentors and five leaders. The mentors are young people who were identified as having exceptional leadership qualities from previous RYLA programs. The leaders have a range of training and administrative backgrounds to lead and manage the program. RYLA's focus is to develop the participants into capable, confident and ethical leaders. The program introduces the participants to concepts of effective leadership such as:

- Fundamentals of leadership
- Ethics of positive leadership
- Effective communication
- Problem solving and conflict
- Building self confidence and self esteem.

The program has expert speakers from a range of professional areas, such as community volunteer, not-for-profit, public, private, military and political backgrounds. All the speakers, mentors and leaders volunteer their time at no cost. Some of the topics covered include fundamental concepts of leadership, identifying their own personal leadership styles, listening and learning styles, values, ethics and leadership, self care, communication, managing conflict

and expectations. We had speakers from the RSPCA, an overseas project Abundant Water, Canberra Refugee Support and Senator Kate Lundy. All spoke on how the participants can make a difference. There was a session on mental health first aid to provide



The RYLA mob

participants with tools to support friends and family when a person is in crisis. The week ended with an inspiring session from a double lung transplant survivor.

The participants all felt that they have benefited enormously. Some of the comments made included: *thank you for the most inspiring and motivating weeks of my life – I will never forget it. ... so grateful for the opportunity, ... my appreciation will be shown in my future actions and RYLA was my spark.*

The program will be run again next year. If you know anyone who may be interested in the program they should contact their local Rotary Club or contact the Youth Director from the

Rotary Club of Hall by emailing the club at youth@hallrotary.org.au.



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The pruning of trees around the village, particularly at the showground. Considering the number of people visiting the Hall Village Markets, and the propensity of our local eucs to spontaneously shed limbs without warning, this was very welcome maintenance.

Photos: Bob Richardson



Bushrangers from overseas?

Over the last few years, the Hall Rugby committee has been considering the option to recruit players from overseas or domestically to help fill a growing void in a few positions – mostly the front row. The 2013 committee are of the view that recruitment of some key players (we are thinking a maximum of 2) could also assist in player retention and also the recruitment of players from other clubs. There is also a broader focus and that is to try and develop an exchange program with similar type clubs – say in New Zealand. Initially the club will need to consider, airfares, accommodation and employment. While the club is not and will not be about moving away from the traditions of Hall Rugby, we would like to ask Bushrangers past and present, supporters & sponsors if they could help (if a decision is made to proceed) out with Accommodation (ie take a boarder into your homes – dollars can be discussed), or some help with employment.

We are registered with a rugby recruiting agency who send us regularly resumes of players wishing to come to Australia or they are from somewhere else in Australia. The Committee will be meeting mid January to discuss range of issues for the 2013 season and I would like to be able to brief the committee any support for the above request.

If you can help out in anyway, or you want to discuss any of the matters raised above, please don't hesitate to email me or give me a call.



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Ever the gentleman, Jim shares a centenary

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The original article is currently available at

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/canberra-centenary/ever-the-gentleman-jim-shares-a-centenary-20121231-2c33k.html>



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From the President

Dear members and residents of Hall Village and district,
On behalf of the Committee I hope you all came through the festive season relatively unscathed, a little bit heavier, and full of intention and exuberance for the new year. We have held our first Committee meeting for the new year and there is already a full agenda which includes:

Participation in a recently held regional councils meeting encompassing representatives from Hall, Uriarra, Tharwa, Piallago and the Oaks Estate.

Work continues on the review of the Association's Constitution for the purpose of ensuring that it is useful in practice, accurately reflects the current structure and operations and is legally compliant.

Collaboration with other community groups close to home through attendance at recent meetings by representatives of Hall Rotary Club, Hall Polocross Club and Hall Rugby Club. Hall Rural Fire Brigade are next to assist each other in the creation of an Evacuation Plan for Hall – prompted by the ever present threats as always at this time of year.

Planning to commence on utilising the showground area as a site for overnight stays for the ever increasing band of grey nomads and other travellers.

A new program to upgrade and uplift the streetscape of Hall's main street by renovating all of the garden beds along Victoria Street plus the two largest gardens at the corner of Victoria and Gladstone Streets is in the final stages of planning.

The future of the school site remains a live issue and we are meeting with representatives of the Directorate of Community Services soon to discuss a short, medium and long term plan. Community consultation will soon be called for. How we would all

love to see this site become the beating heart of the community once again.

The events calendar for March is overflowing. We host the week long National Sheep Dog Trials from 11-17 March. Canberra celebrates its 100th birthday on 11 March. The Party at the Shop event on Tuesday 12 March promises to be a great community event. Hall Village brass band will again perform at the annual Twilight Concert on 24 March 2013 which also serves as an opportunity for the Preschool and museum to raise some money. On the weekend of 13-14 April there is the 'Hall and District 1913' Exhibition - As a contribution to the 2013 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival, the Friends of the Hall School Museum will mount an exhibition on the 'way we used to be' a hundred years ago.

The Events Calendar is on the website along with a veritable feast of other useful and relevant information. All residents of the district should have this site saved to their favourites.

Finally, the Committee meets on the third Wednesday of every month. All meetings are open and any member of the Association is welcome to attend. We work hard to ensure that meetings do not run overtime or get bogged down on only one or a few issues so it is highly recommended that you notify our Secretary (Shaun O'Connor) prior to the meeting to have any issues you wish to discuss added to the meeting agenda.

As always, your own initiatives and involvement, not the Committee's, are key to the preservation, progress and sustainability of our beautiful village, district and community.

- GAVIN MANSFIELD

President, Hall Village and District Progress Association

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Are Your Pets Disaster Ready?

The 10th anniversary of the fires that devastated many parts of the ACT in January, 2003, reminds us that we should always be prepared for the unpredictable. Storms, fires and floods can come at any time and affect pets as well as people. Many pets were lost in the fires of 2003. Some were injured or died, others never found their owners and were re-homed or euthanased.

Make sure that your pets are microchipped and that your contact details on the appropriate register are up to date. If you have time attach a tag with your mobile number and address, and your vet's phone number to your pets' collars so that if someone without access to a microchip scanner picks them up you can be contacted.

Have an emergency kit packed in advance. Include non-perishable food like dry dog kibble, water in spill proof containers, collars,

leads, harnesses, cat carrier, litter tray, blankets and treats as well as a first aid kit. The first aid kit should have gauze swabs, bandages, disinfectant, cotton wool, scissors and the appropriate size muzzles for your dogs. Even the most placid animal may react unpredictably when in pain.

Decide where your pets will go if you have to evacuate. You may have family or friends outside the danger zone who would look after them. Kennels or shelters may be available in an emergency.

If you leave your pets at home leave them in the safest enclosed room in the house, usually the bathroom, with food and water. Don't ever tie animals up as they will injure themselves trying to escape. Leave a notice on the gate or door of the house with your contact details and saying that there are pets inside.

- Kate King, Hall Vet Surgery





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Hall Pony Club

Hall pony Club held its annual gymkhana at the Hall Pony club grounds on Sunday 18th November. This year it was a special "Kim Hammond memorial gymkhana". Kim was a much loved, admired and valued member of our club. Who passed away suddenly in May this year. Kim made every child feel special, so it was extremely important for our club to honour her memory and have a wonderful gymkhana.

Colourful garlands, hot pink sashes and rugs for supreme rider and hack



were awarded. Pink t-shirts for all the "helpers" were in



abundance. Kim loved pink!

Hall won "smartest on parade" and Katie Doak from our club won supreme rider.

We gathered wonderful donations from local businesses and individuals and created a monster raffle which raised over \$1000.00.

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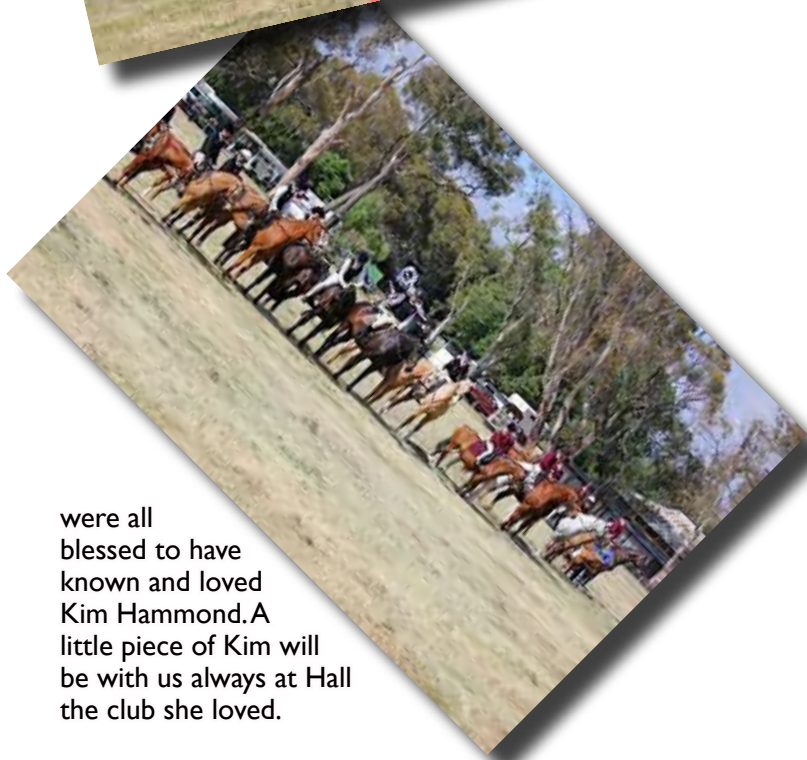
www.fertspread.com

Gymkhana 2012

Our country canteen overflowed with home baked cakes and slices, while the smell of onions cooking was irresistible.

Hall is a caring progressive and successful club. Our members range from the tiny tot beginners to competent accomplished riders who represent Zone 16 at state level.

At the end of a very successful day,
we all agreed we



were all
blessed to have
known and loved
Kim Hammond. A
little piece of Kim will
be with us always at Hall
the club she loved.


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0428 275 701 (Lisa)

E mail: LKAENEY@DOGTRAPDESIGN.COM.AU

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

'Heritage' What does this actually mean? If you consult Wikipedia it states – " is the legacy of physical artefacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. Cultural heritage includes tangible culture (such as buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art, and artefact's), intangible culture (such as folklore, traditions, language, and knowledge), and natural heritage (including culturally significant landscapes, and biodiversity)"

- physical artefacts
- intangible attributes
- tangible culture
- intangible culture

That about covers every aspect of our life on earth!

I bring this topic to your attention as recently there has been some controversy about certain structures and services like the community bill boards, the Victoria Street gardens, laneway/gutter upgrades and the proposed Hall oval score board.

On a recent trip to Tasmania I was pleasantly surprised to see many heritage listed sites that were incorporated with modern technology such as wind turbines or electric car recharging stations to name a few. Understandably, Tasmania's main income is tourism and they will do what they can to improve their town. Hall should be no different from this. We have a wonderful town that could and should be improved. We need people to visit us where we should show them our wears, currently we do not have much to offer. In saying that we do have many good business that have loads to offer. Should business do better in this town we all do much better and if you are in the mode of property value, your land value will increase.

The Community bill board signs are made from checker plate aluminium that was supplied and installed by a local business and will stand for the age of this town many times over. The flower gardens will be a community project with the help of local businesses and our newly formed gardening club. The proposed score board is to be clad with local timber from the recently demolished gold creek homestead, built, installed and maintained by

locals for the use of any sport on the oval. And in many years from now we will discuss the fact that these structures were hand made by locals and what important heritage value these structures represent; fulfilling the heritage requirements.

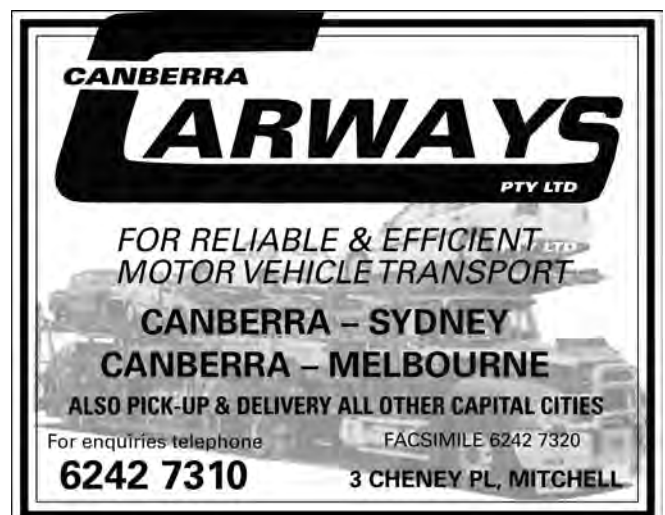
I ask the community and more so certain individuals to look at what heritage means for Hall with an open mind not just by following the Hall Heritage Precinct written by a governing body that is not always correct in their decision making.

I also ask the community to use local business more and not to treat this place as another suburb of Canberra but a village with an extended community and together we can improve Hall and the district without detracting from its heritage value, charm and character.

Everyone is entitled to their opinion and some would see no changes to our Village and district as the correct path to follow. The other opinion is to make Hall a better place to live and work incorporating the modern convenience without defacing it's history. Unfortunately those who complain the most have a difficult time lending a hand.

Hall for one.

- Shaun O'Connor



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THANK YOU.

Dear Editor,

Volunteer members of Rural Fire Services of NSW and ACT, along with staff of the ACT Urban Fire Brigade Units certainly deserve a special THANK YOU from our community for the extraordinary effort they have put into fighting the all too numerous bush fires that have occurred in and around our district. The last few weeks have been a horrific start to the fire season and it has only just begun. Without the efforts of these skilled and dedicated fire fighters we would no doubt have experienced unprecedented devastation.

This is perhaps a time for you to consider if there are members of your family who could undertake the necessary training and become members of the local brigades.

In the meantime, thanks again to all of those men and women who have been protecting our communities from the ravages of bush fire.

-The Wallaroo & Spring Range Residents' Group



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two Saturdays a month*

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Greg & Chris Stuart

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Letters



to
the editor

*Here's your chance to raise issues
and to engage in community discussion,*

email: **ruralfringe@hotmail.com**

post: **Rural Fringe
po box 43
Hall
ACT 2618**



Okay, not quite Centenary, but if you were around in 1919 and came upon the following poster



I mean, seriously,
wouldn't you just keep drinking?

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Museum Musings



Front of Cricketers Arms Hotel - "Mon" Lazarus on the right with child.

Photo from the Lyall Gillespie Collection.

The dedicated volunteer team from the 'Friends of Hall School Museum' team are back on deck refreshed after the Christmas break and ready for a busy 2013.

Work will now start in earnest on the "Hall and District 1913" exhibition for ACT Heritage Week celebrations on 13 and 14 April and our contribution to the Canberra Centenary Celebrations (visit the Centenary website at www.canberra100.com.au/calendar/2013/april/13/?page=4 for details).

Not to give too much away but a lot of artistic work is well underway to set the scene for the old main street of Hall as it was in 1913. There have been some donations and loans of artifacts so far but additional items from that period are always appreciated. Please contact me at email museum@hall.act.au or call me on 0408259946 if you have anything in your cupboards or sheds.

Also as part of the exhibition weekend, if you have any of this material but do not wish to lend it beforehand but are agreeable to let us make copies on the day and return the material to you straight away we will have a facility in place for copying and scanning old photos and documents.

As part of the Hall 1913 display the Cricketers Arms Hotel will be featured. The hotel was the main centre of Hall's sporting and social activities. A number of

Hall based organisations held their meetings there including the early Hall Show Committee and the Hall Progress Association. 'Mon' and 'Doll' Lazarus were the licencees at that time. I am looking for any descendants of this couple who may have any old artifacts, information and photos of the hotel that I can borrow for the event. So if you are a descendant or know where I can find this information, please contact me.

Another highlight for 2013 is the "Early ACT Schools" exhibition will be held in October. The exhibition will feature a number of schools that existed in the region when Canberra was proclaimed in 1913. There will also be a focus on some of the teachers that contributed so much to early education under difficult conditions at that time.

As mentioned in the last Rural Fringe, further promotion of Hall Village will occur in March 2013 with a display of Hall district businesses, produce and the village's history at the Canberra Information Centre on Northbourne Avenue. My wife Yvonne will be making contact with a number of Hall attractions in the near future to gather material for display.

- PHIL ROBSON
Honorary Curator

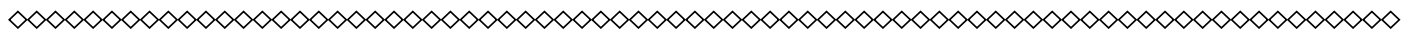
No one contacted me regarding the mystery item in the last 'Fringe' so it will remain a mystery! How about another mystery? Where is this cup?

The wording on the cup is:

Presented to
T.E. Bambridge
Winner of Youths
Ploughing Match
Canberra 1879
by
E.K.Crace
Gungahleen

Thursday mornings have become a real hive of activity with our team of conservation volunteers and the Hall Mens Shedders. If you would like to join us, we meet at the Hall Primary School from 9am until 12noon. There is tea and coffee each week and a BBQ every month!

- PHIL ROBSON
Honorary Curator



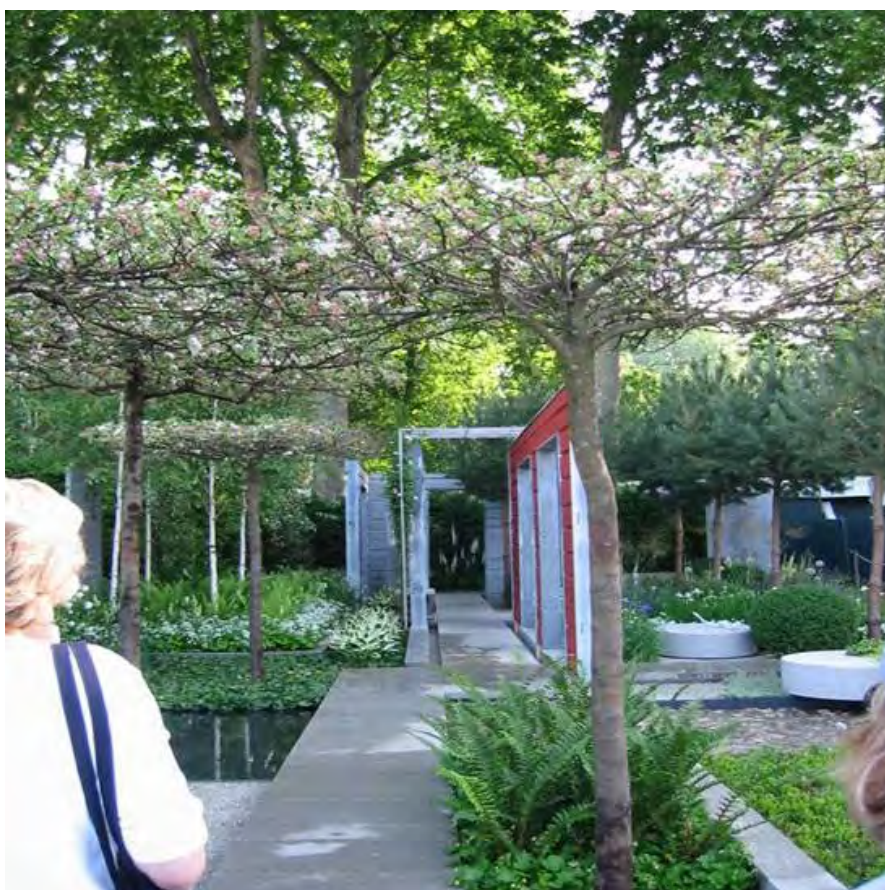
Greg & Chris Stuart at Minto Galloways recently had their first White Galloway calf born, a very unusual red pointed heifer. They plan to put her (and her mum) in the Canberra Show (which is on 23-24 February 2013). Check hall.act.au for the colour version!

Standard Plants

I recently visited a garden that used many standardised plants to add a more formal structure to their design. These trained plants have the benefit of taking up less space than some of their bigger relatives, with their single trunk and clipped canopy you can add height into a garden without taking up too much space at ground level, and are a brilliant solution to a narrow space.

Standardized plants are a marvellous alternative to regular sized shrubs that potentially can outgrow their space. A row of standard plants forms a green wall, dividing spaces in the garden or a single plant may be used to provide a focal point or as contrast to less formal plantings. Many standard plants are also great for pots in courtyards or small spaces such as balconies or either side of your front door.

The best plants to use are bushy types with fairly compact foliage - some examples suitable for our gardens include Japanese box (*Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*), cumquats, bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) and *Arbutus unedo*. Some flowering plants are also suitable, providing a lovely spectacle when in bloom: *Camellia* varieties, *Gardenia florida*, *Raphioloepis indica*, and *Fuchsia* cultivars. Many trees are trained



as standards, such as the ornamental weeping cherry, maples and the mop-top *Robinia 'Umbraculifera'* and these are usually grafted.

One of the major benefits of standardising a plant is the amount of control you can have over a plant that may ordinarily be rather unruly or untidy. For example: a *Laurus nobilis* (Bay tree) can be messy and huge in

its natural form, but when standardised they remain neat and ordered.

These plants can be expensive to purchase, so if you have patience and a little determination it is possible to train them yourself. Ideally you should buy a plant with a straight stem, provide support with a strong stake. All the lateral branches below the proposed canopy should be removed. Some lower leaves may be kept initially to help develop strength in the stem as it grows. When the central stem has reached the desired height, pinch out the growing tip. This will

allow the shoots below to mature and help form the canopy. Keep all the stems short in the first growing season, then prune to shape regularly. Any shoots from this time on that form on the stem should be removed.

- LISA WALMSLEY

Of droughts and flooding rains...

What a super-hot January we've been having! An average maximum of 33°C (taken from two enthusiasts' online data for January 1-27, in Ngunnawal and Wallaroo), four degrees higher than the usual January average (BOM climate data). Only 6mm of rain and 180mm of evaporation in the first three weeks. Several days of extreme fire danger, and moisture rapidly deserting. If only it would rain.

And then, to answer our prayers of "send her down, Hughie", on Australia Day the skies opened. Rainfall

measurements for the rain event varied from 38mm at a Wallaroo weather station to 86 and 93mm at two Hall Village rain gauges! Peak rain rates were measured at 180mm per hour! Hall Village looks like it has been scoured clean.

Just goes to show how localised our rainfall can be, though... Hope you got enough wherever you are. But spare a thought for Gladstone, Qld, who recently had 750mm in three days!

Sports Awards & Hall of Fame Nominations Open

Nominations are now open for the 2012 Yass Valley Sports Awards and Sporting Hall of Fame.

Five trophies will again be up for grabs for the Sports Awards with the winners to be announced at the annual gala dinner to be held at the Golf Club on April 27. The five categories are Sportsperson of the Year (Open, Local & Junior), Clubperson of the Year and Team of the Year.

There is sure to be strong competition in all the categories with a number of local residents having made a mark in their chosen sports during 2012.

In a major change to the nomination process, individuals may put forward nominations as well as local sporting clubs. This is hoped, will widen the field and include sports previously not included at these awards.

Nominations for the Sporting Hall of Fame are also being sought in the Hall of Fame and Local Legend categories with early indications that there will be at least two more added to the illustrious line up already inducted.

Nomination forms have been forwarded to all local sporting organisations with additional copies available from Yass Valley Council's website or by contacting Ross Luff at Council during business hours.

Nominations for the Sports Awards and Hall of Fame close on the **1 March 2013**.

Bushfire Appeal

The Cobblers Rd fire that started on 8 January east of Jugiong has destroyed 14,000 hectares of largely prime agricultural land, hundreds of kilometres of fencing, a number of farm buildings and resulted in the loss of thousands of head of livestock. The financial and psychological impact on affected Yass Valley LGA and Harden Shire farmers is still being assessed but it is significant, as is the impact on the environment and wildlife of the area.

Money is the most useful donation because it provides both flexibility and choice to meet immediate needs. It also circulates in the affected community, stimulating faster recovery for the local economy. Donations can be made in one of 2 ways.

1. Directly to BlazeAid to assist with the establishment and operation of the BlazeAid base camp at Bookham

BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organisation that works with farmers and families in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires and floods. Working alongside farmers over a period of 3-5 months, up to 30 or so volunteers help to rebuild fences that have been damaged or destroyed. Equally important, volunteers also help to lift the spirits of farming families who are facing devastating losses from bushfires.

Donations can be made directly into the following account:

BlazeAid Special Projects Account
CBA Account No: 063 698 10301665
Donations to BlazeAid are not tax deductible.

2. To the Rotary International District 9710 Emergency Relief Fund

Individuals wanting to make tax deductible donations can do so as follows.

1. Electronically or by cash or cheque into the following account: D9710 Nominees Pty Ltd
St George Account No: 112 879 485 555 812
Donors will need to send a note to the Secretary of the Trust Bill Seelis (sel4957@bigpond.net.au) with note that the donation is for "January 2013 Bookham Fire" and your details so a receipt can be issued.

2. Post a cheque, with a note that the donation is for "January 2013 Bookham Fire" and your details so a receipt can be issued, to:
District Treasurer Marie McNeil
PO Box 701
Moruya NSW 2537

Money allocated to the Cobblers Rd fire will be distributed through the local Rotary Club once the District Board determines the best use of the funds.

Yass Valley Library News

We are excited to announce we are starting a new service of monthly movies! The movies are from the National Film and Sound Archive's collection and will be entertaining and light-hearted. The movies are free, but bookings are essential. Why not join us for our first movie?

The African Queen

Monday 11 February starting at 10.30am

The African Queen is a rip-roaring adventure/romance set against the backdrop of WWI. Starring Humphrey Bogart in his only Oscar winning performance, as a gin-swilling riverboat captain and Audrey Hepburn as the straight-laced missionary who team together to try and sink an enemy ship and along the way find danger and love in this John Huston masterpiece.



Technology Tuesdays

Due to popular demand, we are starting a series of fortnightly one-hour tutorials covering such things as introducing computers and how to use them; how to begin searching the Internet; email and how to set up your own account; how to use some software programs such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint and how to use the Library's electronic services. Each tutorial will include handouts providing a glossary and detailing relevant Library resources.

The tutorials are free, but bookings are essential as they are limited to six participants.



Sign-up for our first tutorial –

Introduction to Computers Tuesday 12 February at 10.30am

This tutorial is aimed at the computer beginner.

To make a booking for either of the above events, please phone the Library on 62261305.

Stage 4 Water Restrictions Commence Monday 4 February 2013

Due to the continued dry weather throughout summer, and the ongoing construction of the Yass Dam, current Stage 3 water restrictions in Yass, Bowning and Binalong will be **increased to Stage 4** commencing from 8.00 a.m. Monday 4 February 2013. Current Stage 1 restrictions in Murrumbateman (bore supply) will remain in place.

Stage 4 restrictions require the following conditions to be observed:

The use of sprinklers (these include pop-ups and micro-sprays) or hand held hoses for **half an hour only** in accordance with the following schedule:

Odd street numbered houses between 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. on odd numbered days.
Even street numbered houses, between 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. on even numbered days.
Houses with elderly people only, between 7.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. on alternate days.

Vehicle washing is not permitted.
Private swimming pools must not be emptied, refilled or topped up without prior written approval. Pool Covers are encouraged.
Buckets can be used at anytime for **essential garden watering only** that does not cause pooling or run-off. No hosing of hard surfaces unless required as the result of an accident, fire, health hazard or other emergency.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation during the period restrictions are in place. Please contact Council's customer service staff on 6226 9248 for further information.

NSW Local Land Services Reform

The Local Land Services Stakeholder Reference Panel will be holding workshops across NSW, including Yass. The purpose of the workshops are to give community and stakeholders an opportunity to have a say on the four main pillars of *Local Land Service*, being: boundaries, governance, services and the rating framework.

Where: Yass Soldiers Club
When: 1-4 pm, Monday 4 February 2013

Fortnightly e-newsletter

Want to keep up-to-date with what is happening in Yass Valley? Subscribe to our fortnightly e-newsletter via our website.
Log onto www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au and scroll down the home page and complete your details.

BlazeAid

BlazeAid have set up camp at Bookham to help local farmers restore farm infrastructure destroyed in the January fire. They will be in our community for some months.

We have some volunteer catering groups ready to assist in the task of feeding the hungry volunteers a two course meal each week night. We need more groups of 3 to 5 people who are willing to join these catering groups to give the best hospitality possible.

We are also looking for volunteers who might like to provide support to the catering teams by cooking casseroles, cakes and desserts that can be frozen.

If you would like to know more about how you can help contact Cathy Cooke on 6226 9222 or cathy.cooke@yass.nsw.gov.au or join our meeting on Wednesday 8 February at 10.00am in the Council Chambers.

Water Meter Readings

Council will be conducting water meter readings during February.

Would you please ensure your meter is accessible and free from overgrown grass and or debris.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Southern Tablelands Zone

Emergency Services Map Directory
yass valley council
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Yass Valley Visitor Information Centre
\$40.00 plus postage
Mail Orders accepted
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or
www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au
Dec 2011

Community Forums

The Council Community Forum for the Gundaroo Sutton Communities will be held on Thursday 21 February at the Gundaroo Hall from 3.30pm - 7.00pm. This will be an open house environment with light refreshments where residents and ratepayers can come and talk to Senior staff one on one and meet your Councillors.

Input from the community into this forum will be used by Council when reviewing the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Council Contact Numbers

Administration: 6226 1477 or 1300 553 652
Planning & Development Division: 6226 9234
Operations Division: 6226 9248
Fax: 6226 2598

Special Planning Meeting - Wednesday 6 February 2013
at Council Chambers commencing at 4.30pm

www.yassvalley.nsw.gov.au
Email: Council@yass.nsw.gov.au

Water Restriction Levels

Stage 1- Murrumbateman
Stage 3—Yass, Bowning, Binalong
PO Box 6, YASS NSW 2582



HALL VILLAGE AND DISTRICT 1913

Early General Store and 'Banksia'

Same View 2012



A reminder of the "Hall Village and District 1913" exhibition that will be held at the Hall Primary School on 13-14 April 2013 from 10am to 4pm each day. The exhibition will be part of the ACT Heritage Festival and the Canberra 100 celebrations. The exhibition will include a walk along a re-creation of Victoria Street as it was in 1913 with photos and artifacts from the various businesses that were there at the time.

Other attractions will include:

- A mapping display of the schools that were in the region when Canberra was proclaimed in 1913
- Old vehicles from the Hall Collectors' Club
- Face painting and other activities for children
- Sausage sizzle by the Rotary Club of Hall
- Displays of the old trades of the time by the Hall Mens' Shed
- Quilting and weaving displays
- and other activities too numerous to mention!

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from the Editor . . .

Continued from page 1...

Unable to fight the exploding trees and fireballs, their job was to protect homes, and “not one house protected by any of the Hall crews burnt down, although some went close.” It is an amazing story of humble camaraderie among our very own bush fire brigade. And now in February 2013 the same headline is warranted, in appreciation of the tireless work of our bush fire brigades (and our community fire unit) in looking after Hall and district, and other areas, and to support their call for more volunteers. It is with burning pride in our volunteers that we bring you this issue of the Rural Fringe. Thank you!

In his letter, Shaun O'Connor makes a number of insightful points about how culture and heritage evolve, which of course they do. It is good to have an arbiter though and we collectively worked long and hard to win a buffer around the village to prevent Hall getting swallowed in the suburbs, and for our heritage listing, of which I am proud. What I think is unfortunate is when the arbiter (the government) is powerless to enforce the rules on major breaches, such as we've seen for Victoria Square. Nonetheless, and in spite of being one of several residents involved in court to try to help uphold those rules I am thankful a practical decision has been taken as I understand it to inhabit those dwellings.

I am thrilled to see some action from our Progress Association committee on the school site, where I hope we are able, as a community, to agree on some realistic and positive ideas. Replacing all the asbestos-ridden demountables has to be a priority, so we can secure long term buildings, of an appropriate style, for agreed community use. I, by the way, will be urging for solar panels on all the buildings. Open and non-judgmental consultation about community decisions is the way to build consensus around new ideas. The consultation process around the Rugby Club scoreboard was commendably transparent. I look forward to the forum when initial plans to upgrade Hall's main street will be shared so I can contribute my ideas and views.

Jo Hall

The Rural Fringe – ISSN: 1329-3893

The Rural Fringe is a community newspaper published in 600 copies every second month by the Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc (VHDPA) and distributed free to mailboxes of the 2618 postcode. It is also available online at www.hall.act.au This publication is funded by the advertisements so readers are encouraged to support the businesses advertised.

Contributions

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to contribute to this publication, particularly local community groups, however it is at the discretion of the Editor as to whether submitted articles are published or not. These deadlines ensure publication by the 10th of every second month.

February issue deadline is 10 January

April issue deadline is 10 March

June issue deadline is 10 May

August issue deadline is 10 July

October issue deadline is 10 September

December issue deadline is 10 November

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

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

Advertising rates (per issue)

large (quarter page) \$80

medium (eighth page) \$40

small (three sixteenth page) \$30

Other information

Editor: Jo Hall

Sub-editor: Bob Richardson

Layout: For this issue, Andrew Purdam

Enquiries to the Sub-editor on 0407 071 245

or ruralfringe@hotmail.com

The views expressed in this journal do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Sub-editor or the VHDPA.

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PARTIES AT THE SHOPS

Hall celebrates Canberra's 100th birthday!

On Tuesday 12 March, Hall will host a street party to celebrate Canberra's Centenary, 100 years since Lady Denman named the Capital.

Deserving to be celebrated Canberra's suburban shops are at the centre of their communities and are a unique part of the city's landscape. Each has its own personality, local characters, community groups and artists.

Parties at the Shops provides a unique opportunity for local communities to in their own creative ways with a collection of events being held around Canberra's suburbs. It is with great pleasure the shops at Hall invite residents to a street party, kicking off at 5pm.

Featuring music by West Texas Crew, pizzas by Jacko's Pizza Truck, artwork by Michael Le Grande and the 'Man of Steel' Lee Tunks, the party will celebrate and promote what's special about the village.

Hall plays an important role in the history of the Australian Capital Territory. Established decades before Canberra, Hall has watched Canberra grow as a city and as the national capital. Hall's many distinct facets form an essential part of Canberra's psyche.

From the Hall markets which are a key feature on Canberra's monthly calendar, the Hall Brass Band which is recognised around the country, and many of Canberra's artists that call Hall their home.

Canberra's 100th birthday lies in the middle of the National Sheepdog Trials, one of the highlights of Hall's annual events calendar.

The National Sheepdog Trials are celebrating their 60th anniversary this year, and we look forward to welcoming all of the participants to our Parties at the Shops event.

Mr Jim Rochford, Hall's own centenarian, will cut a birthday cake, and Hall's many clubs and associations will be on hand to assist in the celebrations.

If you or your community group would like to get involved in Parties at the Shops, drop in to see Trudy Mansfield at Hall Premier Store, or email Amy Moon, producer of Parties at the Shops, at amy@devilmoon.com.au.