

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 6

December 2014



A man for all seasons by John Carson

'Thank you for this award. I have been reading the profiles of finalists past and present and I feel privileged to be standing alongside such amazing people'

These were the opening remarks in Damian de Marco's speech to guests on the occasion of his receiving the Australian of the year 2015 ACT Local Hero Award at the National Museum of Australia on 3 November. The award, presented by Chief Minister Katy Gallagher, was one of four awards presented on the night. Damian was recognised for the work he has done in publicly exposing the systematic failure of the Marist Brothers Order to protect children in their care from child sexual abuse.

So who is Damian De Marco? This was in fact the question I put to Damian as I sat in the living room of the De Marco household sipping on a glass of red wine and nibbling on olives, all courtesy of the hospitality of Damian's wife Renai (it's a tough life being a Fringe reporter!)

There is a pause in the conversation as Damian reflects on a possible answer. As he does so, Renai teasingly asks, and there is a mischievous twinkle in her eye as she does so – 'Yes – who is Damian De Marco?' 'Well you should know' teases back Damian 'since you spent all those years chasing me'. 'I did not' squeals Renai with mock rage 'it was you who chased me.'



▲ *Damian, Aimee, Renai and Katie de Marco*

As the good natured banter continued I sensed that the answer to that question would more appropriately come at the end of the interview rather than the beginning.

Educated at Holy Trinity Primary School in Curtin and then Marist College in Pearce, Damian went on to the University of Canberra where he completed a four year degree in Landscape Architecture. So what does a bloke do when he finishes his degree? He takes himself off to a remote valley in the Snowy Mountains and builds himself a cabin in the wilderness. Obvious, isn't it? Well, whether or not that is what we all do, this is what Damian did – in a place called Yaouk, and the materials that he used were all either locally sourced or second hand. From the pictures he showed me it looked more like a Swiss chalet than a plain cabin.

It is evident from the jobs that he has held over the years – park ranger, outdoor educator, garden designer – and his involvement with organisations such as WIRES and CSIRO, that he has a profound love of the wilderness and the bush in general. This affair manifests itself in some of his artistic pursuits such as landscape painting and he has had a number of exhibitions of his work in Canberra. It is also reflected in the Nursery he owns which grows over 250 species of endemic and native plants.

continued on page 5 ...

Sandra Mahlberg won the ACT Senior Australian Award for her tireless work with overseas children with a severe medical condition under the Rotary program Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children. Sandra, supported by Yvonne Robson from the Rotary Club of Hall, has worked to save the lives or to help over 10 children from the region.

Fantastic Flora

by **Damian DeMarco**

I am very excited that Damian has volunteered to write a regular article for the Fringe about our native flora, starting this edition with the Chocolate Lily. I found a group of these near the Gibbes Street Dam and would never have otherwise thought to smell them!

Chocolate Lily

Dichopogon fimbriatus

One of our local wild flowers is a stand out in the worlds flora. The chocolate lily which is flowering now has the most exquisite scent of high quality chocolate of any of the many choccy scented flowers that exist. It grows as a small tuber forming tufty plant that looks like grass. In late spring it produces beautiful little mauve flowers for many weeks. I have learnt to grow them in pots so they do not get lost in the grass and can be placed near a thoroughfare to provide lovely Lindt chocolate smells for all who pass by.



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6pm

Saturday 13 December

- Santa (and presents)
- Christmas Carols

• Register your child to receive a present on the day. (for a gold coin donation) All proceeds go directly to the Hall Brass Band.

• phone: **6230 2646** or look for registration forms at the Hall Premier Store, Wood Duck Inn or Gum Nut Café



Inside this issue:

- Christmas events and church services
- Vale Sam Scott
- Polocrosse, cricket, pony club
- Gardening, animal advice
- Museum Musings
- Men's Shed, Collectors
- more local news



Season's Greetings from the Rural Fringe

Thank you to all our readers and advertisers for supporting the Rural Fringe in 2014.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year from your Fringe Team of volunteers:

Jo (editor)
 Bob (roving reporter)
 John (feature writer)
 Andrew (layout artist)
 Gail (layout artist)
 Kevin (proof-reader)

Christmas
in Hall



St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

corner of Victoria
and Loftus Street

Christmas Services

**Sunday 14 December
at 7.00pm**

Once again we will celebrate the start of Advent and the journey toward Christmas with a Service of Lessons and Carols at St Michaels on Sunday 8 December at 7pm. The true story of Christmas is told in six short readings and favourite Christmas carols in this beautiful, candle-lit service. We would love to share the celebration of Christmas with families of Hall & district.

**Christmas Eve
at 10pm**

**Christmas Day
at 10am**

All are invited to share the joy and celebration of Christmas Day at St Michaels.

For more information please ring Beryl on 0408 488 526

Letters to the editor

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

email: ruralfringe@hotmail.com

post: Rural Fringe
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FOUR WINDS VINEYARD

Carols by Barrels

6:00 pm

Saturday 6 December



For those who made it along to Carols by Barrels in 2013 you would remember the gorgeous summer evening and the lovely sounds of the fabulous *Faumuis*. Set the date aside as it is happening again. This is a chance to sit out on the grass in the vines, listen to the sounds of the talented *Faumui Family* with a glass of wine. The bar will be open and food will be available for sale.

If you would prefer to leave the car at home for this event, Vines and Wines have a bus package that includes transport, tickets and food. They are lovely so check them out.

Tickets: \$20 from www.eventbrite.com.au/e/carols-by-barrels-tickets

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St Francis Xavier Catholic Church



**Christmas Eve
at 7pm**

Carol service
in the church
followed by
Mass
at **7.30pm**

The singing will be lead by the St. Francis Xavier Choir under the direction of Nikki Carson



Official opening of our new clubhouse

On Sunday 14 September on a magnificent sunny day we celebrated the official opening of our superb new Hall Pony Club House at the Hall Showground.

Minister Shane Rattenbury, his charming partner Louise, Brian Ashcroft Manager Sports and Recreation ACT Government and important guests were treated to a musical ride presented by our club members.

Beautifully groomed horses, shiny riding boots and wide smiles were on show. Julia and Amy presented the Minister with a signed 'thank you card' from our members and a 1st Place blue ribbon.



With an official cutting of a ribbon our clubhouse was officially opened! A yummy lunch followed.

This wonderful facility will be enjoyed by many generations to come. Hall Pony club is a great little club.

We have a wonderful chief instructor Vanessa Williams, a former young Hall Pony Club rider herself with her son Dylan, Nicky Anderson Vice President also a young Hall Pony Club member, with her two children Amy and James. Jane Carder who is always there to fill all roles. Katherine Friday our wonderful president with her daughter Meg, Chris our very professional Treasurer who has helped us to purchase a new dressage arena, new fridge, wonderful BBQ while helping to raise funds for improvements to our new club house.

Hall Pony Club welcomes new members, young and old. Pony Club is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

For enquires ring Nicky Anderson 0412 566 898.

Minister Shane Rattenbury and Louise stayed and chatted with the children and parents. It was a great day and a great outcome for our club and Hall Village.

Local

Champion

Claire Fletcher started at Hall pre-school with the group of 2004 and subsequently attended Hall Primary school until it closed two years later. She is now in Year 9 at high school and in October competed in the Australian Junior Muaythai Championships in Queensland. We now have a National Junior Champion (under 15 years) in our midst.



Shearing Shed Fundraiser

Kylie and Kylie of the popular Hall salon wish to thank all the generous people who both donated and bought books over the last six months to raise \$700.20 for our firefighters. Hurray for the hard work and dedication of the professional team at the Shearing Shed!



The two Kylies from the Shearing Shed present Rural Fire Brigade rep Tony Hazleton with donation

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A man for all seasons

... continued from page 1

But how long can a free spirit remain free when the allure of a beautiful girl beckons, especially one who has pursued her own adventures backpacking through Europe and India. So when Damian and Renai met, and we'll leave the question of who chased who for another day, there was a certain inevitability that they would end up together. And so it came to pass.

I forgot to mention that Damian sold that cabin in the Snowy Mountains. I am reminded of this because he has now built another one near Kosciusko National Park where he runs a Redcurrant farm. The new one is more a family holiday home. Yes, I did say family, because I also forgot to mention the two other beautiful young girls in Damian's life – seven year old Katie and four year old Aimee. Add on to all of this a new house he is building on a small acreage along Oakey Creek Road on the rural fringe of Hall and I would put the question to you – what more could a fellow ask for?



And I suppose this brings us back to the question I posed at the start of the interview – who is Damian De Marco. Because clearly this guy does ask for more. He wants greater protection in our society from those who harbour and turn a blind eye to people who sexually predate on children. And it's a crusade that he has pursued relentlessly.

A number of years ago, English playwright Robert Bolt wrote a play based on the life of Sir Thomas Moore and the conflict that developed between him and King Henry VIII over the king's desire to divorce Catherine of Aragon. The play was titled "A Man for all Seasons" and by way of explaining the title, Bolt said that it referred to a person who remains true to himself and his beliefs despite external pressures and influences.

Damian De Marco – a local hero certainly; but maybe also 'a man for all seasons'.

Remembrance Day



On 11 November, we gathered at the War Memorial to remember those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts. Lest we forget.



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then left into Woodgrove Close. We are at the end of Woodgrove Close.

Congratulations

Four Winds Vineyard

Hall winery in top three Rieslings at Melbourne Wine Awards

The Canberra District's Four Winds Vineyard 2014 Riesling was awarded a gold medal and was one of the top three Rieslings for the current vintage at the Melbourne Wine Awards this week.

Four Winds Vineyard's winemaker, Bill Crowe, said that he was pleased with the result.

"One of the best parts of the result is the company we are keeping," he said. "Taylor's Wines scored 97 points and our Riesling was equal with Peter Lehmann Wines with 96 points."

"These are two large winemakers from the Clare and Eden Valleys and it is great to see that our wine stacks up against them," Bill said.

The 2014 vintage had its challenges as Four Winds Vineyard was hit by frost around this time last year (18 October 2013) and lost a large portion of the Riesling crop.

"It is great to know that we can make exciting wines out of tough vintages," he said.

The full results of the Melbourne Wine Awards can be found at http://www.rasv.com.au/Events/RMWS_Home/RMWS_Results/

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Social cricket

in Hall

by Nigel Page

The King Brown Bushrangers Sunday Social cricket club are in their 4th year back in the ACT Sunday Social competition and are going from strength to strength.

The King Browns were a force in the Sunday Social cricket scene back in the early 2000's, Craig Scott (RED) a former Brown and current Bushranger made the call back in 2011 to start them up again and with the support of the Hall Bushrangers Rugby Club committee they were back.

The King Browns have just played their 4th match of the 2014/15 season against the The King Brown Bushrangers mark II, such is the popularity of the social cricket, 2014 sees the introduction of our second team.



Our results for the season thus far:-

Rd 1 – We won by 1 wicket, Dougie (Tumbledor) Cunningham took four wickets, and Red got 103 with the bat.

Rd 2 – We won by 3 wickets, Wickets were shared amongst the bowlers, with Nigel (Oners) Page and Jade (Big Ted) Thompson getting wickets in the first and second over respectively, and Daniel Baxter got his highest score for the King Browns with 18, and Big Ted also got his highest score with 22 not out.

Rd 3 – The big one. We won by 252 runs, Keith (Kenny) McInnes getting his highest score of 64 in a 201 run partnership with Red scoring 219 retired and Daniel Baxter nearly getting his first half century with 43 (which included his first 6 and being dropped by Matthew (Forrest) Partridge who helped out in the field. Again, wickets were shared around with Dougie (Tumbledor) Cunningham have the best figures of them with 3 for 14 runs.

Rd 4 – We won the inaugural clash between the KBI's and KBII's. Due to extreme heat the match was reduced to 30 overs per side and the KB I's totalled a very chaseable 10 for 155 and then our strike bowler Big Ted unleashed and took 5 for 11 runs, the KB II's fought on and ended up all out for 114.

We'd like to acknowledge our sponsors – Dymocks Belconnen, Dent King Canberra, Batty's Been Counter Bookkeeping and John R Turk Mitchell.

To everyone in the Hall Community we'd like you wish you all a very safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Years.

The King Brown Bushrangers Sunday Social cricket club are in their 4th year back in the ACT Sunday Social competition and are going from strength to strength.

Polocrosse

in Hall

by John Carson

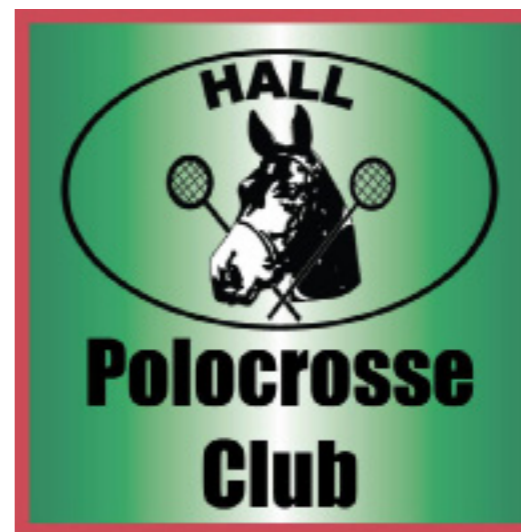
40th Anniversary Celebration

Okay – so you have got yourself a horse. Now what are you going to do? Oh, right – saddle, stirrups, reins and all that stuff and don't forget the riding gear. Now what? What about a paddock to keep the horse in? You just happen to have one handy – great stuff. (Hope you are not just talking about the back garden!) Good – we are firing on all cylinders, now – so to speak – or should that be galloping on all fours. Something still missing. That's right – you have to learn to ride this magnificent animal. So okay, you've taken the lessons and you are now looking really cool in your flash riding gear as you gallop in a circle around your paddock.

Then both you and the horse start thinking that there must be more to this partnership than trotting around a paddock in circles all day. And would you believe that this was the very thinking that was going on in Hall Village back in the early nineteen seventies which led to the founding of the Hall Polocrosse Club. Well, maybe it wasn't quite like that but it wasn't too far off.

What actually happened – and I am recalling the story as it was told to me by Chris and Lorraine Coulton as we chat in the cavernous warehouse and offices of Hall Rural Supplies in Gladstone Street – was as follows. The first thing to note was that Hall was a different place back then with lots of young families with children and teenagers and there was a primary school then too. Given the rural nature of the place there had also been a thriving pony school to occupy the attention of the young ones and keep them out of mischief. And it was the graduates from the pony club and their families that in turn founded the Hall Polocrosse Club.

Well, March next year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Hall Polocrosse Club and big things are being planned. And what are these big things? Well, most of them are being kept under wraps for the time being pending plans being developed but the event itself will take the form of a grand carnival with representatives from polocrosse clubs across the country being invited. While people and families of all ages will be welcome to attend the carnival, the competitions being organised are going to be restricted to members and riders in the 40 plus age grouping. This mainly reflects the desire of the organisers to focus the celebration on the fun aspect of polocrosse.



For those of you, like myself, who don't know much about polocrosse check it out on the various websites – Google: Hall Polocrosse. It has been described as an amalgam of polo, lacrosse and netball.

Is it an expensive pursuit, I ask Lorraine and Chris. Well nowadays it can be, they both agree, but if you have the horse and the transport it's on a par with any other sport.

And is it dangerous? "Not at all" says Chris "It's no more dangerous than being in a rugby scrum or having a big forward come charging at you in a rugby tackle".

"Well, it can be" concedes Lorraine and she points to a missing tooth that Chris no longer has courtesy of a swinging polocrosse racquet.

"It's all part of the game" says Chris and we all start laughing – (well, kind of!)

For more information on polocrosse and on the upcoming 40th anniversary, contact **Chris Beer** (Secretary) on **0412 055 339** or **Chris Coulton** on **0422 872 589**

The Rural fringe will publish more details on the event in the next issue.

DARRALEE QUARRY



Darralee Quarry has recently been re-opened. It was one of the RTA's main sources of road base for many years.

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**Hall Volunteer
Rural Fire Brigade**

by **Melissa Riches**

Planning for more than tinsel and fairy lights: how to prepare for a bushfire summer



During the bushfire season the Fire Danger Rating gives you an indication of the consequences of a fire, if a fire was to start. The Fire Danger Rating should be your first trigger for activating your Bushfire Survival Plan. Stay informed of the current Fire Danger Rating for your area – the safety of you, your family and your home may depend on it.

With some early warm weather, we can be sure that Summer is well and truly on its way. As well as bringing the festive season, Summer in Australia, unfortunately also means bushfires. Although bushfires can seriously impact on our celebrations with the jolly red man, we can all take steps to make sure that our family and our home are prepared should a bushfire start.

The most important thing you can do to prepare for bushfires is to have a current Bushfire Survival Plan. A Bushfire Survival Plan can help protect you and your family and sets out a list of actions to take if there is a bushfire, assigning each member of your family with their own tasks and responsibilities. A Bushfire Survival Plan will also give you information about the ways in which you can best prepare your home to survive the threat of bushfire. It is your responsibility to reduce the risk to your family and your home and take actions to survive a bushfire, and a Bushfire Survival Plan is a crucial element.

In an area where a bushfire can start, leaving early on Catastrophic fire danger day is your only safe option. On any other day you should only Stay and Defend if you have a well maintained property and if you are physically, emotionally and mentally prepared to defend your home. The majority of deaths during bushfires result from people trying to leave their homes at the last moment. Leaving late places you at greater risk of getting caught by bushfire and suffering from smoke inhalation or extreme heat.

Regardless of your decision to Leave Early or Stay and Defend, you still need to prepare your property against the threat of a bushfire or ember attack. A well prepared home is more likely to survive a bushfire, is easier to defend and is less likely to put your neighbours' homes at risk.

To prepare your property you need to think about how best to prevent embers entering your house and removing fuel from near your property. For example, cleaning leaves from the roof and gutters, cutting back overhanging trees and shrubs, ensuring your roof is well maintained and no tiles are missing or damaged, underfloor areas are enclosed, wood piles are stored well away from the house and kept covered, garden mulch is away from the house, lawns are kept short, hoses are long enough to reach every part of your property, pressure relief valves on LPG cylinders face outwards and your doormat is non-combustible. Also check that your insurance coverage is current and adequate.

On hot, dry, windy days you should pay extra attention to the fire risk in your area. There are actions you can do to save time in case a fire does start like containing pets so they can be easily found, moving livestock to closely grazed areas, checking water pumps and generators to make sure they are working, reviewing your Bushfire Survival Plan with your family, having your emergency survival kit and protective clothing ready, listening to the media for updates and information (ABC radio is the ACT's emergency broadcaster), and talking to your neighbours, family and friends.

Further information is available from the ACT Emergency Services Agency and NSW Rural Fire Service websites. Lastly, if there is a topic you would like covered please feel free to drop us an email at: hallruralfirebrigade@gmail.com with your suggestion.

Seasons Greetings and stay safe!

Men's Shed projects



Restoration of Judy & Rod Roberts dining chairs compliments of Malcolm Le Clezio.



Construction of the Gold Creek preschool cubby house by our resident tradesmen.



Restoration of a 60 year old sideboard to almost as new condition.



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**St Michael and All Angels
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Spring Garden Fete

We were blessed by beautiful weather for our Garden Fete on Saturday 18 October - following that very memorable freezing day four days earlier! As in previous years, the wonderful Victoria Street Brass provided a beautiful spectacle and wonderful music, and this year our entertainment line-up also included irrepressible local musician Johnny Huckle. Johnny's



Johnny Huckle entertaining the kids to his famous 'Wombat Wobble' song and dance

lively songs and amazing sound effects soon had the kids dancing and grownups tapping their feet, and as a bonus Johnny shared some songs and guitar duos with our priest Rev Mark Beresford. We also enjoyed watching some of the members of the Dances With Dogs team from the Companion Dog Club. What fun watching the clever and responsive dogs and their owners performing to a range of music, and it was lovely to see the bond between each pair.

This year, we also had Robyn from Viva Haiti host a stall and share with us the story of providing sustainable fair-trade coffee, and the great work being done in Haiti. Viva Haiti's mission is to work with international partners and local leaders to address the causes of child slavery. Viva Haiti works to improve the lives of vulnerable youth by facilitating education, health and micro-enterprise training and development. Viva Haiti

by **Beryl Pedvin**

photos: Angie Hazlehurst



Robyn from VivaHaiti talking to Mark Beresford

will be hosting morning tea after our church service on 23 November, offering coffee tasting, information on fair trade coffee, goodies to buy and even a guess-the-beans-in-a-jar guessing game. All are welcome to join us at 12.15 pm at Hall Cottage (and at the 11am service at St Michael's!) on 23 November.



Locals Sue, Peter and Nora enjoy a snag expertly cooked by Michael

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Our Fete entertainment continued with beautiful harp playing from 'Ansidhe' duo. Cathie Henderson and Helena Hills played and sang a range of lively, haunting and old favourite medieval and Celtic songs and tunes.



Book stall and old fashioned ice cream van! An interesting combination!

There are always lots of delicious treats to indulge in at the fete and this year was no exception, with plates of hot potatoes piled high with tasty toppings, scones with jam and cream, the traditional sausage sizzle, occasional lolly bags, and refreshing ice creams being enjoyed by all. Lots of games and activities kept the kiddies entertained, with 'Lucky Ducks' and 'Frizzla' (hoop-la or ring toss with a Frisbee) being the favourites. The raffle also saw lots of terrific prizes up for grabs, with a couple of locals among the winners. A very heartfelt thanks to the wonderful generosity of the prize donors, particularly local vineyards, businesses and craftsmen.



Katrina's Garden Stall is always popular

Our plant stall always offers a great variety of pots and seedlings, well suited to the Canberra climate and as usual the book stall was stocked with a wide range of pre-loved books, magazines and CDs.

Thanks to all the locals who supported our Fete!

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Collectors' Club

Hall Collectors Club have completed an agreement with Hall Pony Club to use the old pony club as their premises. The Collectors are partnering with the New Hall Axe Men to share the facility, so now there are three Hall organisations down at the Oval.



The Collectors at their new premises. left to right: Shaun, Richo, Andy, Dennis, Bob, Bill. You're unlikely to find a more motley crew.



Hall collectors prepare and polish the field gun that they hope will become an addition at the Hall War Memorial, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Hall.

The Oval – the old Canberra Show ground – has had a breath of life this year thanks to determined residents. New entry gates, new pony club, renovated old pony club, rim road maintained, improved signage. There's still heaps to do and ongoing maintenance. If you wish to help, please ring Bob Richardson 0407 071 245 to volunteer.



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A trim track

Our bush walking track around the village was built and is maintained by local volunteers.

The track's seasonal mowing has just been completed which will make its use safer and more pleasurable. Passing through public and leased land, the track provides a pleasant amble for walkers interested in local flora and fauna and those just exercising or relaxing.

Users are reminded that the horse paddocks on the village common are "dogs on lead" areas, as are any areas where stock (sheep or cattle) are present. If you find stock in an area do not interfere or relocate them as they are usually placed there for a purpose.

Several of the areas through which the track passes are grazed once or twice a year to reduce growth and lower the need for fire hazard reduction burns in preparation for the bushfire season. This practice has been recommended by both environmental and fire authorities.

A map showing the track is mounted at the corner of Gladstone and Victoria Streets near the wire dogs. Please enjoy the track and be aware during the bushfire season.

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Acupuncture

for horses

by **Dr. Natasha Hovanessian**

The Australian Veterinary Association accepts acupuncture, which is a component of Eastern Medicine, as a valid treatment modality and is recommended to be used in conjunction with Western Medicine. A diagnosis of the underlying problem is essential before treatment can begin.

The basis behind acupuncture is balancing the body's energy or Qi, which runs along meridians, or channels, throughout the body. In Chinese medicine, an imbalance of yin and yang leads to pain or illness, and essentially blocks the flow of Qi. Stress, trauma and many environmental factors can cause imbalance in any animal (or human).

There are 14 primary meridians in the body and acupuncture focuses on points along these channels. Stimulation of these points heals by reducing inflammation and pain. Needles are placed into the acupuncture points along meridians to stimulate and open the flow of Qi, subsequently relieving the blockage or stagnation.

Most often in horses we use acupuncture to relieve musculoskeletal pain (e.g. lameness) for improved performance and comfort, and to decrease inflammation in the body (e.g. laminitis). Acupuncture may also be recommended for back pain, hormone and metabolic imbalance, or for respiratory, neurologic, gastrointestinal and reproductive disorders.

Most animals respond well to the needle placement and even appear relaxed or sedated. Often in horses we perform aquapuncture which involves injection of vitamin B12 to stimulate a point. Usually four or more acupuncture treatments, given one to two weeks apart, are required. Similar to humans, some horses respond well to maintenance care with regular monthly visits. Chronic conditions may need multiple treatments before seeing improvement. Some conditions will improve quicker when coupled with western medicine modalities.

To discuss whether acupuncture may be of benefit in your horse, please contact Canberra Equine Hospital on **(02) 6241 8888** or equine@canberravet.com.au

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Friends

of Grasslands

The community group Friends of Grasslands, affectionately abbreviated to FOG, has been working in the grassy woodland block surrounding Hall Cemetery since 2008, removing a large number of woody weeds such as briar rose and hawthorn, and managing eucalypt regeneration within the cemetery to protect the Tarengo Leek Orchid (*Prasopyllum petilum*) as well as for the management of the cemetery generally. Working parties are held at the Cemetery from time to time. During the latest working party, joined by some Hall residents, FOG cut, daubed and spot sprayed weeds. There's always a generous morning tea and friendly exchange of information. Hall Cemetery is a picture at present and the rare orchid is abundant.



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Backyard piece of Starlight sign raises memories

Original article by Matthew Raggatt, Canberra Times, 1 November 2014

The Starlight drive-in theatre sign invokes memories for generations of Canberrans, but Peter Corrigan has a unique connection – part of the sign has sat in his backyard for more than a decade.

The Hall retiree said the one metre by two metre section of what might be called the titles box – where the names of movies showing were listed – had been leaning against his shed outside since a neighbour handed it over about 12 years ago. “The honorary curator of Hall Museum, Phil Robson, dropped it off and I’ve been caring for it ever since,” Mr Corrigan said.

Prompted by a recent report on the plans to reinstate the heritage-listed sign, Mr Corrigan revealed his section of the once-illuminated entrance advertisement this week, as well as some of some of the fittings



Photo: Graham Tidy
Peter Corrigan with the illuminated panel and loudspeaker from Canberra's Starlight Drive-In.

which defined the early movie-going era. “I’ve still got one of the horrible little crackling speakers and the heaters – the heaters didn’t heat, and the speakers weren’t that ruddy good either,” he said. “People who invariably forgot to unhook the speakers when they drove off – they had them chained – did more damage to their car than the speaker.”

He said the plastic covering the titles box had deteriorated and some of the fluoro lights were separated, but he was happy to return his part of the sign and bits and pieces to whoever would take it to repair. Mr Robson said he collected the titles or “light box” and other objects after the screen was demolished, years after the theatre’s 1993 closure. ‘Although it’s not directly related to Hall, it is connected with early Canberra, the north side, and I didn’t want this to go to the tip,’ he said. Mr Corrigan said he was at the inaugural screening in 1957, when his father got the family a free pass to see *Reach for the Sky*, a biographical drama about British airman Douglas Bader. He said

that although barely imaginable to today’s cinema or Plasma-watching generation, the greatest threat to drive-in patrons in Canberra was the rolling fog. “When the fog came in they turned the projector off and gave you a raincheck to come back the next day,” he said.

Courtesy of *The Canberra Times*



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Her office is located at
Rivendell 49 Oakey Creek Road,
Wallaroo via Hall NSW 2618 (off Wallaroo Rd).

Plastic
in the garden

by Lisa Walmsley

I have written many times about my inability to adjust to the excitement that surrounds artificial turf, nothing (except maybe irrigation) should be plastic in a garden.

Amongst the wide range of problems with fake grass, the most obvious being the complete lack of sustainability a new more troubling issue has evolved.

According to an investigative piece on NBC news, artificial turf may lead to cancer. The segment suggested that children that spent a lot of time playing on this surface were increasing their chances of gaining non-Hodgkin lymphoma. They went on to say that soccer players were highly exposed and goalies even more so as they came in constant contact when diving for the ball.

'A disturbing pattern of young soccer players getting cancer was noticed by a nurse that said she had hooked up 4 goalies to chemotherapy that week'. Of the 38 soccer players with non-Hodgkins lymphoma, 34 of them were goalies. *Amy Griffin - Coach of the University of Washington's soccer team.

The product used to fill (and imitate dirt) is crumb rubber; these crumbs are made from old tyres, known to contain dangerous chemicals such as benzene, carbon black and lead. The report continued to state that there is no scientific data or research yet, but the alarm bells are ringing loud and clear.

A few points I would like to make here are, firstly, I really hope in Australia we don't use the 'rubber crumbs' mentioned and secondly, that people should be very wary, and proceed with caution when considering this product, get all the facts.

My other 'plastic' gripe is weed matting, clearly this was an ingenious product, on paper anyway. The real truth is its a disaster. Does it prevent weeds? By pure nature, weeds are opportunistic, they will spread their seeds far and wide and drop them into every nook and cranny. Once germinated, they will do whatever it takes to find a weak spot and send their stem towards the light, voila, new weed.

Last week I removed about 200m of weed matting from an existing garden. This, may I say, is one of the world's worst jobs. Weeds penetrate the matting, creating massive tendrils of roots below the matting and anchoring the whole lot firmly to the ground, aaarrggghhh.

This particular weed matting, having been in place about 14 years had several layers of mulch over the top, which had broken down to a lovely soil like substance, which weeds love, meaning not only did weeds germinate below the matting but above as well.

Life as we know it does not exist under weed matting, this product suffocates the soil. Worms don't like living under it and no organic matter/fertiliser may be added to improve it. The soil ends up being sterilised and unsavoury and any self respecting plant would rather perish than survive those conditions.

Plants growing intentionally in the matting have roots sitting on the surface of the soil, just below the matting because they cant breath if they dig their roots any deeper. This naturally leads to poor plant health and a shorter life span.

So for any folk out there considering, 'fake turf' or 'weed matting' for your garden, do it at your own peril; the need for 'perfection' may just be this earth's undoing.

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Vale Sam Scott
11/09/1938 – 21/11/2014



It seems that every day since his passing I run into someone who I didn't know was a friend of Sam Scott. Living at his farm Bedduluck off the Barton Highway just outside Hall, Sam radiated kindness and generosity which touched many, many people. He had a remarkable ability to make each of us feel like we had a special place in his universe.

Sam's much-loved mother Gladys May Curtis, escaped from a violent and abusive father to a farm in Austral near Liverpool. Sam clearly inherited much from his powerful mother who raised seven children, several on her own. She married Arthur Curtis in 1956, happily this time. Sam left school as early as he could and went north to be a jackaroo which he loved. The intervening years seem to have been fairly wild, but during this time he became very proud father of Steve and Donna; fast forward to Bedduluck.

On any given day a visit to Sam's place would find a multitude of people coming and going in a whirlwind of activity. Once a month Sam opened his home for a group of senior citizens for morning tea or lunch. They'd spend a few hours eating, chatting and soaking up the country atmosphere. Sam opened his farm to countless young horseriders, who he would let

ride his horses, yelling advice and offering friendship. Purely for the joy of seeing others share in his love of horses. He was a big supporter of the Murrumbateman Pony Club. He donated the Millissa Gillard Memorial trophy to the National Sheep Dog Trials held in Hall as Millissa was one of his horse mad teenagers as well as a champion sheep dog trialler. Countless other acts of compassion peppered Sam's life with his strong sense of social justice.

When Sam got ill he sent out the message that he was dying before he was even diagnosed and tributes poured in. One of his many grandchildren writes about his cool room with all the meat hanging up and

Sam said 'this is where all Donna's ex-boyfriends are'. A standing joke. Other memories abound—riding horses, bonfires, barbeques, camping and other get-togethers; and Sam driving his 4-wheeler much too fast around the farm. But what all of these letters have in common is a reflection of how Sam helped support all these people and showed them great kindness. In his no-nonsense, inimitable way.

Our sympathy goes to Sam's children Donna and Steve, his sister Iris, his grandchildren and extended family and many friends. Vale Sam Scott.

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Museum Musings

Phil Robson Honorary Curator



ACT Heritage Grant 2014-15: The Hall School Museum has been successful once again in being awarded an ACT Heritage Grant in this year's round of funding. The funds will be used to carry out work on the old school building as identified in the Conservation Management Plan and a report by Heritage Architect Philip Leeson. The ceiling space will be cleaned of dirt and dust that has collected over many years and the installation of a membrane to insulate and keep further intrusion of dust and insects into the schoolroom. Work to re-fix the walls and the floor and re-secure the sub-floor supports will also be done as part of this project for 2015.

'Peace Tree' Garden: The museum volunteers have been very busy in cleaning up the garden area around the Peace Tree. A large amount of dead branches and trimmings have been removed in preparation for the establishment of a commemorative garden around the 'Peace Tree' which will feature in the ANZAC activities in 2015.

ANZAC Commemoration: Work is continuing on the Hall School Museum's exhibition to commemorate the men from the district who served in the First World War and the support provided by their families and the local community.

Request: Any families from the district that have memorabilia relating to their grandfather's or great grandfather's service in WWI that the museum could borrow for the exhibition in April 2015, including photos, medals, etc. would be greatly appreciated. If so please contact me on 0408 259 946 or email: museum@hall.act.au

Visitors: A large group of years 2 and 3 students from Giralang Primary School visited the Museum and enjoyed spending a couple of hours viewing the displays. Especially popular was sitting in the old school desks and meeting the School Inspector who assessed their work and presented each pupil with a School Qualifying Certificate.

Facebook Page: The Museum is breaking into the social network scene with a facebook page. Look for the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre facebook page on Google and become a Facebook 'Friend'.

School Site Proposal: There has been no response to the community proposal for the future use of the Hall School site from the Economic Development Directorate. However,

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.

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Letters to the editor

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

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ACT 2618



Museum Musings ... continued

regular contact is being made with the ACT Government to bring about further discussions and a resolution of the issue.

The Friends of Hall School Museum would like to wish everybody a happy and safe Christmas and look forward to seeing you at the Museum in the new year.

email: museum@hall.act.au
website: museum.hall.act.au



Museum Volunteer Jan Dunnett with School Inspector (Allen Mawer) in the background with the pupils from Giralang Primary School being awarded their Qualifying Certificates.

from the Editor



W H Auden wrote a classic poem about this painting by Brueghel, The Fall of Icarus, in which the least significant thing in the painting are the legs of Icarus as he falls into the sea after his wax wings melt when he flies too close to the sun. Auden writes about how people's lives simply go on with ordinary things while we are surrounded by great suffering. Moreover that we consider it inevitable and turn a blind eye to it:

*... In Breughel's Icarus, for instance: how everything turns away
Quite leisurely from the disaster; the ploughman may
Have heard the splash, the forsaken cry,
But for him it was not an important failure; the sun shone
As it had to on the white legs disappearing into the green
Water; and the expensive delicate ship that must have seen
Something amazing, a boy falling out of the sky,
had somewhere to get to and sailed calmly on.*

Our collective capacity to turn a blind eye is the topic of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which is investigating how institutions like schools, churches, sports clubs and government organisations have turned their blind eyes to child sexual abuse. We should be humbled by those among us who have given evidence and been heard. I am immensely pleased that Damian de Marco has been recognised as ACT Local Hero.

And it seems Hall is punching above its weight, for a second of the four awards also has a Hall connection. Sandra Mahlberg won the ACT Senior Australian Award for her work with overseas children with a severe medical condition under the Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) program. Sandra's work is supported by Yvonne Robson from the Rotary Club of Hall and current negotiations between the Progress Association, the Rotary Club of Hall and the ACT Government include the possibility of using a small part of the school site for accommodation for ROMAC families.

I'd like to encourage anyone who would like to submit an occasional or regular article to the Fringe, or help out in any other way. We purchased our first Rural Fringe computer and software (InDesign) a couple of months ago and are in need of an additional layout artist who would be willing to lay out one or two editions each year (it takes few hours every day over about a week each time). If you are interested, please call or email me.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful season

Jo Hall
0417 693 545

Walloo Furies Fundraising Fireball

by **Lyn Anderson**

On the evening of Saturday 11 October 2014 in the magnificent marquee at Poachers Pantry, 149 guests were treated to a delicious dinner, the tapping music of the four piece band *Take 3* and the golden voice of our Auctioneer John Cooper, owner of the Auction Barn in Fyshwick.

The night raised a record amount of \$19,595. This will be a huge benefit to our local hard working Wallaroo Brigade Hero's.

\$670 was also raised for the Hall Pony Club by raffling a superb flowering orchid and designer door mat and wine.

The auction items were outstanding.

Neill Shepherd, the brigade Captain led the charge supplying countless items, which included a Stihl blower, work site radio, multi food processor, golf bag and clubs, travel cooler fridge, men's watch, Ramset 18V cordless drill, rotary hammer drill, iPhone docking station, CD player and fishing tackle bag. His mother Judy donated four magnificent hand made quilts.

Shane Allan Deputy Captain, equally as impressive and obviously as persuasive as his Captain, secured 2 seater 125cc buggy donated by TLE (electrical wholesaler), chainsaw, angle grinder and saw (donated by Gas Weld), two pocket mini bikes (by the usual suspect), Four vouchers for Bernies from the Bay (located at Charnwood shops) and a Gas Mate cruiser BBQ donated by Ramset.

Luke Amor did a sterling job coordinated the Brigades auction items. It was great to finally meet him and his lovely wife on Saturday night. I thank him for his patience and good humour and organising a major auction item of a remote controlled Esky, donated by Milwaukee power tools; our son Michael was the successful bidder for this magnificent feat of engineering!

Vince Sharmer, a spirited bidder and Auction item provider donated a wonderful Hamper of beauty products and Gift vouchers from Endless Beauty, a 4WD air bag jack and a case of wine.

John and Catherine Karabin donated a 12 month gym membership to 'Curves Gungahlin' – this was for ladies only, sorry boys!

Marcus Hellyer supplied a wonderful selection of Bunyip Toys which included a Fire Truck, Fire Boat, Fire Hydrant, Fire fighters and accessories and a Fire Rescue stretcher and Men.



The little recipient is sure to become an up coming Fire Fighter in about 2030!

Tricia Voight supplied a Hand Gliding Flight voucher, she also made the sensational centre pieces for the tables.

Peter Vincent donated a Lincoln Sentry multi tool kit.

Matt Baker; the Murrumbateman RFS Captain donated a truck load of water. It was great to see the Brigades supporting each other.

Andrew Luton and Phil Robinson donated a tandem Hang Gliding flight which was hotly contested.

Federation Square traders were very generous in their support of the wonderful fund raising event.

We thank Canberra Reptiles, Adore Tea, Café Injoy, Greengold Nursery, Walk in Bird Aviary, Gold Creek Chemist, Bower Birds, Gold Creek Hair and Beauty, Blush, and Aarwun Galleries.

I urge you to support our local traders who support us!

Thanks Tony, of Hazelton Auto for his car service voucher, a great prize.

Canberra Stockfeeds; large and mini gum boots ready for the big wet.

Andy from Spence Butchery for his large Christmas ham.

Jan Spate our wonderful vet always supportive.

Jimmy, owner of Galdtill Plumbing, supplied 4 hours labour for any plumbing job; we all have a need for a plumber.

Sue and Rob Bruce, our wonderful hosts from Poachers for the box of Wily Trout Shiraz and a gift voucher from the Café at Poachers Pantry.

Kaye Spence; voucher for a private horse riding lesson.

Robyn and Dennis Rowe for the hand made award winning chocolates.

The final item auctioned was a framed photo of the late Robin Williams, donated by our auctioneer John Cooper.

This brought the auction to a fitting conclusion. The bidding was spirited and generous.

Our 11 year old grand son James and 14 year old grand daughter Amy, presented the items for auction during the evening. James had his heart set on the buggy, a cheer erupted when he was the successful bidder of the item.

Sue Bruce thanked the Brigade on a personal note for their swift and professional attendance to a fire at Poacher's earlier this year.

It was a great night for a great cause.

Thanks all who helped to set *the night on fire*.