

# RURAL FRINGE

*Journal of the Hall district*



VOLUME 23 ISSUE 2

April 2016

## 2016 National Sheep Dog Trials

sheep dogs



### The Voice in the Commentary Box

Many spectators to the National Sheep Dog Trials have complimented Bow Cover ('the voice in the box') on her clarity and invaluable comments over the week of the Trials.

Who is 'the voice'? Bow is the wife of Charlie Cover, the President of the National Sheep Dog Triallers' Association and long-time trialler. (This year, Charlie won the Maiden Competition, adding to his vast awards' cabinet.) They own a property in Yass with enough room for 12 prize Border Collies.



Bow's work starts six months before the Trials. There are 11 award categories and Bow organises the purchase of the trophies for the 27 individual prizes.

Bow is in the box by 7am during the week's trial and often doesn't leave until 7pm. She devotes these long hours to checking the timer (15 minutes per competitor), calling

competitors to the gate, reading out the scores of every competitor, keeping a running check of all the prizes as the Trial progresses, keeping the scoreboard up-to-date for spectators and most importantly keeping the spectators informed. After four years of running the box and by dint of her unflappable personality Bow manages to keep the Trial running smoothly for the judges: 'Then my work is done'.





## CBR100 Challenge

Hall was host to hundreds of runners and support crew on a sweltering hot day for the second CBR100 Challenge – a run/walk race for individuals or teams over 25, 50 or 100 kilometres.

Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre was turned into a race check point for the day and Museum volunteers organised refreshments for competitors and supporters in the 100 kilometre race – the leaders getting to Hall around 1.30pm.

Earlier in the day at 8am there was a most impressive massed start for the 50 kilometre race on Palmer Street near the school. The field of over 250 did a 'village loop' before heading off onto the Centenary Trail, bound for Mulligans Flat, Mount Ainslie and finishing at Campbell.

The first person to arrive at Hall was eventual winner of the men's individual 100 kilometre race, Dave Graham, who finished the gruelling course in just over 11 hours, 11 minutes ahead of his nearest rival.



Dave Graham at the refreshments table doing a bit of rehydrating before setting off for One Tree Hill, and Museum volunteer Heather Wilford.



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# Out and about ... about



On Sunday 6 March, 21 volunteers participated in the 26th Clean Up Australia Day.

We had 13 local residents and eight residents from the ACT. With so many people living in the Wallaroo area it is a pity we cannot muster more than 13 locals to assist on the day.



left to right: Brenda Brown, Rod Roberts, Austin O'Connor and Toby Palethorpe participating in the clean up.

We collected roadside rubbish on Wallaroo, Southwell, Brooklands, Oakey Creek and Coulton Roads and are pleased to report that there seemed to be less rubbish than on previous years.

The vast majority of material is still associated with take away food and drinks.

Rod Roberts from the Wallaroo Fire Brigade provided valuable support in transporting volunteers, collecting the full bags and larger items of rubbish and organizing the pile for collection by staff from the Yass Valley Council.



Dear Editor

Attached is a photo from the front of my place this morning, 21 February. I was woken at 2.30am by the police. The car I had just borrowed to get to the airport tomorrow morning has been trashed, dragged out from the front drive and dumped in the swale. Quite ironic, given that I had just returned from Darwin where I had been working on alcohol fuelled violence. Ian and Lee-Ann next door have also had their front sign bent and garden lighting ripped up. Only circumstantial evidence, but it seems as if they came from the pavilion to Ian's place then to mine. I just looked at the Pavilion and there is garbage around the back and the same beer bottles as found in the damaged car. I also found broken wine glasses in my front drive where the car was initially attacked.

It may be that someone had a different party afterwards - but I think we should at least be able to ask the hirers if they know anything about it and whether the Pavilion was secure and empty when they left. I notice the side kitchen window is open in the Pavilion as well.

Sigh.  
Paul Porteous

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## Congratulations George!



At the recent Royal Canberra Show George Southwell of Ray White Real Estate was awarded the Australian Council of Agricultural Societies Scholarship for his studies in a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management.

George is studying part time through Charles Sturt University while also marketing and selling property in his family's real estate business based in Hall.

The award was presented at the RNCAS President's function by the President Mr Stephen Beer, accompanied by a cheque for \$2,000.

George's grandfather Mack Southwell would be very proud given that he was president of the RNCAS when his life was cut short 42 years ago.

Congratulations George, we wish you well in your studies.



George with proud parents, Simon and Janie Southwell

## Friends of Grasslands at Hall Cemetery

Four work mornings were once again held throughout 2015 in the grassy woodland block surrounding Hall Cemetery, involving a total of around 70 volunteer-hours. Continuing the trend of recent years, little effort was needed for large woody weeds – a few tenacious Briar Roses and Hawthorns were the exceptions. Instead, control focused on fleshy weeds including various Thistles, Plantain, Cleavers and Capeweed via both physical removal and herbiciding. The persistence of the Cleavers is particularly annoying. In addition areas of exotic grasses are further pushed back by attacks on Phalaris, Perennial Rye and Tall Fescue, but this is a big job. The exotic grass flowering was huge this year, including the species above together with Yorkshire Fog, Giant Brome and Sweet Vernal, so a lot of new germination is likely in future years. Finally, areas under our steadily growing Bursarias are regularly maintained to keep cover low. For information about volunteering, email [john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au](mailto:john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au)

Hall Cemetery has become one of the sites specified in the fantastic Canberra Nature Map website and mobile phone app. By mid-February 2016, over 88 sightings of species of native plants, fungi, birds, frogs and reptiles were listed for this location with spiders, insects, moths, . . . yet to be added!





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## Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre

# Rediscovering Ginninderra - An Exhibition



(Photo: Queanbeyan Museum)

**WHERE:** Former Hall Primary School, Victoria Street, Hall

**WHEN:** ACT Heritage Festival; 10 am - 4.00 pm on 9-10 April; 16-17 April; Hall Market days; 10am - 4pm; Thursday mornings 9.30am - 12.30pm

Then every Thursday morning, Hall Market Days (12-3pm), or by appointment

**ENTRY:** FREE - but your donations very much appreciated

Easy parking; disability access

Project supported with funding from the ACT Government's Heritage Grants Program

[museum.hall.act.au](http://museum.hall.act.au)

From the 1860's for half a century Ginninderra flourished, and in its prime could boast a church, two schools, store, police station, post and telegraph office, School of Arts, boot maker, nursery, Farmers Union hall, annual show, sports teams and a hotel.

By 1915 Ginninderra was finished.

What happened?

This exhibition will help you rediscover the 'lost' village of Ginninderra. How and when did it begin? Who were the movers and shakers? When and why did Hall take over?



## Hall Village Motors

Mon-Fri  
7:30am-5:30pm

Saturday  
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## 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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## Artists in the Shed



A group of local artists featuring Helen White, Lyne Dingwall, Julie Hawkins and Meg Dingwall will be exhibiting their work at Shaw Vineyard during the Harvest Festival on **9 and 10 April** 10am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday. Just pop out and say hello!

# 2016 National Sheep Dog Trials

Another amazingly successful National Sheepdog Trials was held in our little village. Thanks to all the volunteers who keep this prestigious event working so smoothly every year, including the Collector's Club who put on such a lovely Dog's Dinner for the competitors and the locals. The results are below for this year. Did you know you can find the results back to 1943 on the website: [nationalsheepdogtrials.org](http://nationalsheepdogtrials.org) ?

## 2016 Results

### Open Winners

First place: Greg Prince with Tippers Brigalow

Second place: Bill Davidson with Longerview Bazza

Third place: Gary White with White's Fella

### Maiden

First place: Charlie Cover with Bashfords Jock

Joint second: Laurie Slater with Wondara Penne, Julie Birkett with Brands Hatch Midori and Bill Davidson with MGH Sol

Fifth place: Pip Hudson with O'Kanes Dame Kirri

Sixth place: Brian Clifford with Kuroona Annie

### Improver

First place: Peter Oxley with Rivlin Jimmy

Second place: Laurie Slater with Wondara Penne

Third Place: Paul O'Kane with Morgans Ashley Cooper



Greg Prince won the Open with his dog Brigalow

## Julie Birkett

Spectators to the Trials have been delighted and inspired by the increase in the number of female triallers over the years.

One such competitor, who is starting to make her mark, is Julie Birkett. Julie hails from a 1000 acre Boorowa property for Angus cattle and Dorper sheep. Previously, Julie was a motor bike racer and her interest in Border Collies spiked after a serious accident.

She started with some non-working stock Collies. She was struck by their intelligence; sought help with training and began herding in Sydney. She won the Encouragement trial at Willow Tree, near Scone but was dismayed to learn that her dogs were not suitable for three sheep trialling. She bought working Border Collies and turned to Charlie Cover to learn the ropes.

In 2015, she won the Improver Category with her dog, Gin, as well as the Ladies Trophy. This year, she was second in the Novice; missed the Improver by just one point and the Open by only two points.

Julie is pictured with five month old Shandy who she hopes to train for next year's Trials in Hall.



Julie Birkett and Davina Campbell, first time trophy winners



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## Rediscovering Ginninderra Exhibition

'I hereby notify you that the land hereunder described ... has been acquired by the Commonwealth of Australia under the Land Acquisition Act 1906'. These fateful words, in a letter to Edmund Rolfe of 'Gold Creek' station in 1915, brought a bureaucratic end to the flourishing farming venture of three generations of the Rolfe family. Given the option of becoming tenants on the land they had diligently accumulated and previously owned, they moved on, along with many others.

So it was, that around 100 years ago the new Commonwealth appropriated 910 square miles of sparsely populated grassy woodland plains and high country for its new Capital. Many farming descendants of the early settlers then left (or became tenant farmers), their land alienated, their legacy lost. Much history left with them.

The Ginninderra Creek catchment, 125 square miles in the north of the Capital Territory (but split by the new border), waited 50 years for the inevitable urbanisation. Firstly Belconnen and then Gungahlin – now 150,000 people and rising. A near century of settlement history (let alone the aboriginal cultural heritage) was only an encumbrance to 'green fields' urban planners, intent on what was to be, rather than

what had already been ... Such heritage was missing from the maps prepared for the international design competition for the Capital. Subsequently many heritage places not already decayed or lost were then subject to 'active neglect' – or destroyed.

Thus it is that for Ginninderra's pioneering families, the normal continuity of kith and kin and capacity to preserve their own heritage was twice truncated – by alienation, then urbanisation of the land. So, to know Ginninderra we have to 'rediscover' Ginninderra ...

You may have missed the opening of the Museum's latest exhibition, but there is still plenty of opportunity to drop in and view it. 'Rediscovering Ginninderra' takes you back to the origins and early development of Ginninderra village, now almost lost to view. The exhibition features three superb models of surviving Ginninderra buildings – the old blacksmith's shop, the Ginninderra Schoolhouse, and George Harcourt's home 'Deasland', created by talented artist Vicki Coleman with the assistance of Museum volunteers.



Our photo shows the Ginninderra Schoolhouse. The Museum is at the former Hall Primary School site in Victoria Street. Entry is free, but your donations are greatly appreciated. The Exhibition, and other current displays are open on Hall Market days : 10-4pm; Thursday mornings 9.30-12.30 pm; groups by appointment **0408 259 946**. Further details can be found at: **[museum.hall.act.au](http://museum.hall.act.au)**

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# Hall Antiques auction

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



When you next wander around the village keep an eye out for a few of the remnant diggings, foundations and footings of past community facilities.

Long since gone are the stone fireplaces, built in the Gladstone Street Park by residents, for itinerant visitors passing through the village looking for work during the depression years. The stone has been replaced with modern gas BBQ's. At the top of Victoria Street you will find in the reserve a later model, well-used fireplace built of Canberra bricks for travellers and picnickers.



**Auctioneer's office**

While there look over the fence for the concrete stump footings of the Hall Sale Yards auctioneer's office where many cattle, sheep and horse sales were finalized during the 1950's and early 1960's. Just through the gate in the same paddock you will find a cleared area with some remnant brick and concrete pieces where the sale yards stood.

Back at the Gladstone Street park there is a restored well, one of three, which provided the village with water for many years. The second is now under Victoria Street near the bridge and the lower stone pitching of the third known as 'Bolton's Well' is on the edge of Hall Creek east of the showground. Use of these wells declined with the development of larger water tanks on stands next to dwellings. Later the village secured a town water supply.

While still in the park see if you can find a concrete slab, one of three, the other two are located in the showground. These are the remnants of local public



pan style toilets. Our night soil man called once a week to service the pans. While on toilets, as you wander through the school grounds look out for a couple of concrete slabs with patched round holes at the end. This is the last site of the schools pit toilets.

Back down at the showground behind the BBQ shed on the creek bank is a deep excavation. This is where competitors in district steel quit competitions dug clay to prepare two clay heads 15 metres apart for their competition matches. Many a wager was bet at the Cricketers' Arms Hotel on the outcome of matches.



**Clay pit for quit matches**

About 30 metres east of the BBQ shed in summer there are some small squares of dried grass due to remnant underground footings for the Ginninderra Farmers Union Hall, which was transported to Hall by traction engine. Sadly white ants enjoyed the timbers in the building and it was eventually demolished.

So as you amble about the village, spare a thought for those who expended effort in securing these early facilities for community use. Small evidence remains of their hard work.



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In young skin, natural cell turnover usually follows the four week cycle, however the speed of cell turnover slows with age. Collagen, elastin and hyaluronic acid, which comprise a large part of the skins support structure, also decrease with time, leading to dehydration, fine lines and wrinkles.

The progressive, not aggressive approach to professional treatments and products increases the skins natural cell turnover rate while combating the visible changes that come with ageing. The result is smoother, brighter, more even-looking skin.

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# News from . . .

## CANBERRA Equine HOSPITAL

# equine

We are pleased to introduce to you **Dr. Annie Malo** and **Dr. Alexandra Willi**, our two new veterinarians joining the Canberra Equine Hospital team.

Annie is from Quebec, Canada, where she studied veterinary medicine at the University of Montreal. After graduation she completed an internship in equine medicine and equine surgery at the teaching hospital of the University of Montreal.

Annie enjoys many aspects of equine medicine including; internal medicine, ophthalmology, ultrasound diagnostics concerning body cavities and tendons, as well as surgery.



Alexandra is from Austria where she studied veterinary medicine at the University of Vienna. After she graduated, Alexandra completed an internship at Weatherford Equine Medical Center in Texas.

Alex is interested in all aspects concerning your horse's health, especially foal medicine, reproduction, anaesthesia and musculoskeletal concerns.

Excellent patient care is of the utmost importance to the Canberra Equine Hospital! We are here to take care of the everyday needs associated with your horse or farm animal, whilst also having a 24/7 and 365 days a year emergency care hospital.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Annie and Alexandra with their enthusiastic personalities, exceptional medical knowledge and strong compassion for your equine companions. *Welcome!*



If you would like further information or veterinary advice or have any other concerns with your horse, contact Canberra Equine Hospital on **6241 8888** or by email on [equine@canberravet.com.au](mailto:equine@canberravet.com.au)

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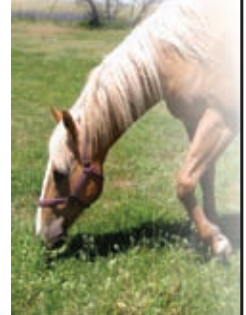
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As I write, it is still summer, but really and truly this weather is unrelenting. Another week of over 35 degrees is forecast and if one more person says, they love summer, it is likely that I may cause them some kind of grievous bodily harm. I'm quite sure the folk that say that, do not spend long hours working in it, rendering them sapped of all energy by the end of the day, only to have to do it all again the next day.

I rather excitedly and perhaps a little prematurely said a few weeks ago that the season had turned. In my little part of the world we have had quite a few fogs in the morning and some glorious autumnal evenings, leading me into a false sense of seasonal change. Not to mention the trees, which are just starting to turn, although that is perhaps because they too are fed up with the temperature extremes and are unloading a few leaves to lighten their load.



The lush green pastures of a few weeks ago are now sad, grey, withered looking swords, begging for a temperature reprieve or rain as much as I am!

This is when good garden design and in particular, great plant choice along with soil preparation and mulch really show their true colours. When we have weather extremes and our gardens not only survive, but thrive, we know that we must be doing something right.

I attended a workshop recently with the topic *Biological Food Production – Food with Integrity*. This is an area that really fascinates me, with so many people wanting to grow their own produce. Naturally this workshop was held in a working production garden, that even with the hot summer we are experiencing, it showed no sign of environmental damage, thirst, wind or otherwise. The scientist running the workshop has developed a probiotic for plants. His theory in simplistic terms, is that, in creating a diverse biology within the soil (with

probiotics) he is increasing the microbes and in doing so, increasing the biology and diversity in the soil.

It is an extension (big extension) of what I have been suggesting for years, add lots of organic matter and mulch. Here, within his probiotics are many of the minerals deficient in our very old Australian soils such as selenium, boron, zinc and iron all in a natural non chemical form, and this is where the magic begins.

His plants are bigger, healthier (with more disease and pest resistance), more vegetable numbers and bigger and more flavoursome. The proof was in the pudding; there is no denying that he is getting amazing results.

He was also able to back up his results with further trials across many agricultural practices. In a vineyard where he has trialled his probiotics, vines were producing bunches of up to 360 grapes, fatter and juicier than ever experienced, with little to no powdery mildew. And on a local farm he trialled his probiotics on pastures with dramatic results, showing paddocks with dense ground cover and very few weeds.

This is all quite new, but also incredibly interesting and I have started some trials of my own. I can't wait to see the results, watch this space!



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# McGrath Foundation



In the past I've written articles about the Hall Men's Shed, but this time I'm writing about the McGrath Foundation, which does so much to care for women who are affected by breast cancer.

*together we can make a difference*

My wife Susan passed away recently and as a family, we were supported over the past four years of her illness by this wonderful foundation's Canberra-based metastatic breast care nurse, Kerryn Ernst.

As a community, we are so fortunate to have her here, as there are only 110 nurses right across Australia, and the majority of these are in regional and rural areas. Canberra is hardly that, but Kerryn sees women from around here, and as far away as Goulburn, Yass and down the coast.

These extremely dedicated breast care nurses help families in Australia experiencing breast cancer by providing invaluable physical, psychological and emotional support from the time of diagnosis and throughout treatment. This support is provided free of charge and can be accessed through self-referral. Since 2005 the foundation has supported more than 40,000 families experiencing breast cancer. Unfortunately, some of these women are in their 30-40s, which can be quite heartbreaking.

And I know from personal experience that is the case. Because during our life journey, we've met a number of women, some far, far too young with small children, who have this insidious disease or have since passed away. Without doubt though, the support we have all received from our breast care nurse has been fantastic. Kerryn always showed such care, understanding and empathy, not only to us, but with others.

So to show my appreciation for the McGrath Foundation's support, and so other families can hopefully receive the same level of care and attention we received, I've been busy over the past few weeks raising money for the foundation.

by **Kevin Stone**

One of the ways of doing this was by placing an official foundation fundraising tin at Hall's Wood Duck Inn. It was Allyson's suggestion and I thank her for it. Loose change can be donated there or left at the Gum Nut Café next door. Every 10-20c coin helps.

In addition, our daughter has set up a fundraising page in my wife's name on the McGrath Foundation website. At the time of writing, over \$3,000 had been raised, and I sincerely thank the people who have made a donation. Every single donation, however large or small, will help make a difference to the lives of Australian women and their families experiencing breast cancer.

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There have been a few news reports lately of liver failure and other nasty ill effects of taking some herbal remedies. Whilst it can sometimes be difficult to conclusively prove that particular herbs/supplements are the actual cause of the problem, there are known issues with particular remedies that self-prescribers may not be aware of. Unfortunately, reliable information about how to safely use herbs and other 'natural' remedies is not always easily obtained. Just because something is 'natural' does not automatically mean it is safe. The dosage can make a potentially beneficial herb ineffective if too little is taken, or harmful if overdosed. An individual's limits may vary from the norm, so starting low is usually a good idea.

The main areas to consider when taking any non-prescribed treatments are:

- Are there any interactions with other non-prescription treatments or prescribed medications?
- How much is it safe to take and for how long?
- With which health conditions should a particular treatment not be taken?
- When to take them, with/without food, am/pm, how soon before/after medications?



- Is there a particular form of the supplement that is safer or more effective than others?
- Are there any known adverse effects, what are the early signs of potential problems?
- Are there any tests that should be done to monitor the effects?

There is also always a risk of allergic type reactions, as with any medication.

Fortunately, there are professionals who can help answer all these questions – integrative doctors, naturopaths, and herbalists. Doctors generally receive little or no training about herbs. The assistant in the health food store may or may not have training in this area. If they can't provide answers to specific questions, and don't look up specific interactions for you, then I would be inclined not to rely on their advice. Websites selling products are generally not a reliable source of comprehensive interaction/adverse effects advice.

Potential interactions with your medications are the most important thing you need to know before taking any non-prescribed treatments. Many herbs can affect the way the liver processes medications, increasing or decreasing the level of medication by slowing or accelerating liver metabolism. This could increase or decrease the effect of the medication, or increase side effects. A well-known example of herbal-medication interaction is St John's Wort, which increases the action of many liver enzymes and can therefore reduce the effect of some medications as they get processed faster than normal. Not so good if your contraceptive isn't as effective as you'd hoped, or your blood isn't adequately thinned by your Warfarin!

During pregnancy it is extremely important to obtain reliable safety and interaction information before taking any herbal or supplement products. The range that can be safely taken is greatly reduced as many products do not have research into their use in pregnancy or whilst breastfeeding. Medications should also be reviewed with your doctor prior to becoming pregnant.

Would you like information about possible interactions with your medications and herbs or supplements? Hall Natural Therapies is pleased to offer medication interaction checks. The cost will vary depending upon the medications, and how many medications and herbs are checked, starting at \$25 for 1 medication and up to five herbs. These checks are also included in consultations as a standard component.

Email [anita.kilby@bigpond.com](mailto:anita.kilby@bigpond.com) for details.



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## Hall's own Minto Galloways take out all the prizes!

Congratulations to Chris and Greg Stuart, flushed with success by winning both the Royal Canberra Show and the Sydney Royal Easter Show! In Canberra, they won Supreme Galloway and Supreme Belted Galloway. Then, with different animals in Sydney they took out the equivalent first prizes for Best Exhibit Galloway and Best Exhibit Belted Galloway. Welcome back home after a massive effort!



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## Wild Bees *James K. Baxter*

Often in summer, on a tarred bridge plank standing,  
Or downstream between willows, a safe Ophelia drifting  
In a rented boat - I had seen them comes and go,  
Those wild bees, swift as tigers, their gauze wings  
a-glitter

In passionless industry, clustering black at the crevice  
Of a rotten cabbage tree, where their hive was  
hidden low.

But never strolled too near. Till one half-cloudy evening  
Of ripe January, my friends and I

Came, gloved and masked to the eyes like plundering  
desperadoes,

To smoke them out. Quiet beside the stagnant river  
We trod wet grasses down, hearing the crickets chitter  
And waiting for light to drain from the wounded sky.

Before we reached the hive their sentries saw us  
And sprang invisible through the darkening air.  
Stabbed, and died in stinging. The hive woke.  
Poisonous fuming  
Of sulphur filled the hollow trunk, and crawling  
Blue flames sputtered - yet still their suicidal  
Live raiders dived and clung to our hands and hair.

O it was Carthage under the Roman torches,  
Or loud with flames and falling timber, Troy!  
A job well botched. Half of the honey melted  
And half the rest young grubs.  
Through earth-black smoldering ashes  
And maimed bee groaning, we drew our plunder.  
Little enough their gold, and slight our joy.

poetry



*photo: Paul Porteus. Wild bees at Hall Oval*

Fallen then the city of instinctive wisdom.  
Tragedy is written distinct and small:  
A hive burned on a cool night in summer.  
But loss is a precious stone to me, a nectar  
Distilled in time, preaching the truth of winter  
To the fallen heart that does not cease to fall.


O'Sullivan, V. (Ed.). (1979). *An anthology of twentieth century New Zealand poetry*. Wellington: Oxford University Press.

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# SAINT

a short story by **Darcy Mansfield**

# MATTHEWWS

*By Darcy Spencer the 4th Harold the 2nd Mansfield the 3rd*

It was a cold, frisky winters night and Mr James Robin was working in his shoe box of an office at Saint Matthews all boys college. He was a relatively tall man with chocolate brown hair with eyes so blue the sky was jealous. He was working on his year 10 student's mid-year reports with soft Jazz to avoid the eerie silences that he had experienced previously.

At about 1:20am he heard a rustle in the bush outside of his office window. James stood ... 'damn possums'.

James muttered tiredly and move over to the window and stuck his hand into the bushes and felt something bight at his hand and pulled him out the window hitting his head on the way through.

James screamed a curse and held his hand then he saw the bight marks and cuts on his hand that sunk so deep he saw his bone. Crying in pain he got up and ran across the car park. His hand felt like a thousand knives were stabbing into his hand. Mr Robin looked back in horror to see a small beast with blood stained grey fur and a set of glowing yellow eyes running on all fours a lot faster than he was, it was gaining and fast.

James stuck his good hand in his pocket and pulled out his car keys. He made a frantic dash to his car his hand hurting more than ever and opened the door and left it open and moved so he was back to back with the other car door the beast jumped into

the car. At that moment he opened the door he was leaning on and fell on the concrete, closed the door with his foot and crawled under the car to the side with the open door. He leaned in and put the key in the ignition, pushed the accelerator and closed the door. The car went crashing into his office with a crash killing the beast.

*'but I just paid it off'.*

*I got my inspiration from Derek Landy's Skulduggery Pleasant.*

*Landy, Derek 2000-2015, HarperCollins Children's Books, Fullham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London*

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## Stations of the Cross



Janie, Trudy and Angie doing a fine job of carrying the cross on the annual Good Friday ritual of walking the Stations of the Cross down Victoria Street. The congregations of all three Hall churches come together for this pilgrimage to symbolise the last journey of Jesus to his crucifixion.



*Stations of the Cross refers to a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers. The stations grew out of imitations of Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem which is believed to be the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. The object of the stations is to help the Christian faithful to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ.*

### 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 (VHDP) and distributed free to mailboxes of the 2618 postcode. It is also available online at [www.hall.act.au](http://www.hall.act.au) This publication is funded by the advertisements so readers are encouraged to support the businesses advertised.

#### Contributions

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

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

February issue deadline is 10 January

April issue deadline is 10 March

June issue deadline is 10 May

August issue deadline is 10 July

October issue deadline is 10 September

December issue deadline is 10 November

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

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

#### Advertising rates (per issue)

large (quarter page) \$80

medium (eighth page) \$40

small (three sixteenth page) \$30

#### Other information

Editor: Jo Hall

Sub-editor: Bob Richardson

Enquiries to the Sub-editor on 0407 071 245 or [ruralfringe@hotmail.com](mailto:ruralfringe@hotmail.com)

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

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## From the editor

The National Sheepdog Trials have been held in Hall since 1942. I don't always make it to see them but I'm so proud we get to host this national event here, and the most prestigious of the trials in the country. Helen White has remained a devotee of the Trials for years, even organizing a fence around the oval this time. In fact Helen and Bob have been the driving force behind much of the work down there, the bleachers, the repaired road, the new gate and much more. Craig Starr provides the sheep for the trials. The Collectors Club put on the Dog's Dinner. Garrie Greenwood seems ever present and busy. Likewise with the Twilight Concert, Margaret Morris is collecting money or David Kilby is sharing his astonishing musical knowledge as Master of Ceremonies. And Phil and Yvonne Robson are there as always, doing stuff. All these things that happen behind or in front of the scenes that reflect a great passion for Hall and a great commitment by so many individuals. I have only mentioned a few, there are plenty out there. Thank you all.

Many thanks to Darcy Mansfield for his fine contribution to the *Fringe* on page 17. As I was talking to his Mum today the poor young man was just coming out of surgery at Canberra Hospital for a broken toe and was disappointed to be missing the Cross-Country. 'But that's just life isn't it' Trudy said and yes, it really is life, a whole series of ups and downs. I keep having to remind myself it is not the fact of the ups and downs, for that will always be the way of it, but how we respond that matters. And I never cease to be inspired by those who manage to remain cheerful, optimistic, thankful even in the face of particular stresses and challenges that get thrown to us all.

Cheers to celebrate all of the wonderful people that make up Hall.

Until next time,

Jo Hall

## Letters to the editor

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

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

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



Twilight Concert



A sunflower that Sophie and Daniel grew in the front garden of their home in Gladstone St – that just kept growing . . .

Back yard photos

This edition we have a lovely pond contribution from Paul Porteus on Gladstone Street. If you have a 'back yard photo' you'd like to share, please send to the Rural Fringe at: ruralfringe@hotmail.com.



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