

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 1

25th Anniversary Edition

February 2019

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? Celebrating Diana Aston

by Daphne Bloom



It is always a pleasure to walk around the village, and each time I do this I am struck by the beautiful garden in the unit complex on the corner of Loftus and Victoria streets. This sight always prompts me to stop and take in the array of flowers and plants that make it such a visual delight, especially in spring.

This garden is the pride and joy of its creator Diana Aston, who lives here with her loyal and much-loved red heeler Gypsy. Diana's garden has been entered in the Housing ACT Garden



Competition many times, and has taken out first place in the 'Small Garden' category several times, as well as the 'Regional Garden for Hall and Gungahlin'. The 2018 Housing ACT Gardening Competition was particularly successful for Diana – she has been named the Overall Winner in the Best Garden section and the winner in the Floral Garden category.

Recently I had the pleasure of having a long conversation with Diana and she very kindly agreed to answering some gardening questions and sharing some photos of her special space.

How long have you lived in Hall?

I have been here almost 12 years.



Did you establish this garden from scratch?

Yes, when I arrived there was one rose and nothing else.

Do you grow vegetables as well as flowers?

I enjoy growing both. Of course I love the flowers, but I do grow vegetables as well. I have tomatoes, cucumber, potatoes and a few other vegies growing at present.

Do you have a favourite plant?

I love them all, but the variegated Chinese Lantern is probably my favourite. It always looks a bit rough coming out of winter, but when the weather warms up it sparks up quickly and looks beautiful.

...continued on page 8

Out and About



Kite Festival marking Uttarayana, held by the Canberra Gujarati community on 13 January 2019 at Hall Ovals.



Hall Locals. Eastern Blue-Tongue Lizard and Eastern Grey Kangaroos visiting the Hall Pavilion sheds.



Unfortunately, vandals also visited the Hall Pavilion in January, destroying a car and leaving a toxic mess. Fortunately the fire didn't spread. All photos this page by Paul Porteus.



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U3A - Rockin' the World



Locals David Kilby and Hugh Watson are collaborating with a friend Alex Gosman to deliver a course on rock music at U3A.

David bought his first record when he was 12 in spite of the fact that his family had nothing on which to play it. Such was his fascination for shellac and vinyl. Needless to say, the eventual purchase of a turntable only served to fuel the onset of an addiction. His vinyl collection is enormous and musical knowledge is encyclopaedic. A long-time presenter on ABC he has continued to entertain listeners tracing the musical influences of modern-day singers back through the decades and giving fascinating background stories to musicians and songs.

Hugh's first record was Elvis's *Jail House Rock* which his father had to buy for him because it wasn't getting enough airplay on local Bega radio. When he heard Van Morrison and Them sing *Gloria*, he picked up a guitar and hasn't put it down since. With his band Willie and the Correspondents (formerly West Texas Crude), which is based in Hall, he continues to write and play songs, including at the annual Hall Street Party (see right).

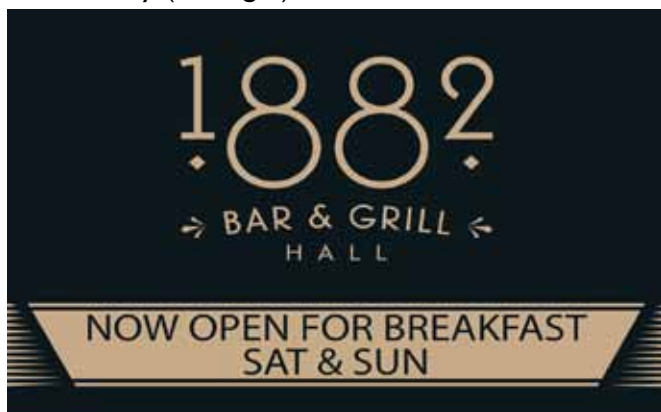
↑ Old Rockers

Old Rockers ↓



The U3A 'rock music' course will provide attendees with an opportunity to discuss rock music history from its roots through the early-1990s. In addition to the historical overview, special attention will be paid to rock music's place in culture, creation of meaning and identity and its potential as a catalyst for social change.

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Forty Years of Fire Fighting

by **Kevin Stone**

If you were living in or around our district 40 years ago, chances are you can remember several fires that surrounded the area in mid-February 1979. There were six major bushfires between Mittagong, Gundagai and Canberra, so it must have seemed like fires were everywhere, with resources stretched to the limit.

So bad and widespread were the fires that as a precaution people from the townships of Dalton, Sutton and Gundaroo were evacuated overnight.

Our local area certainly wasn't spared, because a large fire began on 13 February 1979 and ignited on a day of extremely hot dry weather and very high wind conditions, much like we've been going through at times this summer. This particular fire was also aided by extensive grass growth, which was the result of substantial summer rains, something we haven't had much of lately.



From *The Canberra Times*, 14 Feb 1979 ▲ Recriminations and much discussion

So what caused the 1979 fire on the day known as Canberra's 'Black Tuesday'? Well, a circuit breaker on a pole at a property called 'Sunny Corner' in Hall fused and molten metal ignited the grass under the pole. The flames were quickly fanned by the strong winds – at times reaching up to 70km an hour.

The fire took some time to be brought under control and the cost to the farmers in loss of livestock, including six thoroughbreds from Ginninderra Park, fencing and material must have had a huge impact.

Over the next days, embers from this fire set off small fires which were quickly dealt with. But for landholders the hard jobs were cleaning up and destroying injured stock and burying them.

According to news reports, as a result of all the major fires several houses and sheds were destroyed, with a number of people severely burnt and around 250 people treated by the ACT Ambulance Service for minor burns, smoke inhalation and eye irritation. In addition to the loss of native wildlife, there were quite staggering estimates of the number of sheep, cattle and horses that perished in the fires which destroyed thousands of hectares of land in New South Wales and the ACT. Damage to power and telephone lines and fencing was also extensive.

Throughout this ordeal, there are some stories that illustrate the good character of our wider community. Because with all this heartbreaking devastation, it would have been some comfort that there were more than 200 volunteers helping to fight the fires, many coming from the Canberra area, including the Springfield and Wallaroo fire brigades.

There were also other several acts of human kindness, such as people buying food for tired firefighters and others opening up their homes to people who in some cases had lost everything.

Many reported that 'everyone was very kind' and were 'full of praise for neighbours'.

In the Sutton-Gundaroo area, there was a report that a house under attack by the bushfires displayed a large 'For Sale' sign out front! There was no follow-up on whether the house was sold!

And two of our local companies with cement trucks continually filled their huge trucks with water from wherever they could get it to assist the firefighters, with one man staying at the depot until around 3.30am relaying radio messages from drivers and to answer phone calls.

▲ about the losses in the major fires were to be expected. Could things have been done better? Things like possible earlier fire bans on high risk days, greater preparedness, better communication and co-ordination, more firefighting equipment on properties and the townships.



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But one of the very positive things to come out of the 13 February fire around Hall was that a few months later Jim Rochford got a group of locals together and under Chief Fire Control Office Cliff Parsons, the Hall Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade recommenced.



The original brigade was first established way back in the summer of 1943-44, but because of a lack of equipment and enough volunteers due to work commitments on developing the National Capital, the brigade was disbanded around the late 1960's.

The brigade has certainly come a long way from those early days when the volunteers had virtually no firefighting equipment apart from things like corn sacks to beat out flames. It would have been hard and dangerous work in very trying conditions.

But thankfully times have changed and the brigade has gone from strength to strength and now boasts a steady membership base, with an impressive fleet of five four-wheel drive tankers - two heavy, two medium and one light unit. But they're always on the lookout for new recruits and they would be made to feel most welcome.

In January 2013 we almost had an exact repeat of the 'Sunny Corner' fire. Fortunately a Territory & Municipal Services Parks truck and crew were driving past and Hall Fire Brigade's two heavy tankers were quickly on the scene. Wallaroo Fire Brigade

was also able to assist, so on this occasion the fire was soon put out.

The significance of this fire and the proximity to Hall is not lost on the volunteer fire fighters and long term locals, because 'Sunny Corner' is just over the bridge and near the Hall Polocrosse grounds.

And as recently as late last year a bushfire burnt around 200 hectares at Pierces Creek, not that far from Canberra's south-west fringe. The fire crews from Hall were praised for their exceptional work in containing the blaze, given the terrain, fuel load and vegetation.



The shepherds quarters and store sheds alight on *Forest View*, Mulligans Flat, following the passage of the Hall fire, Tuesday 13 February 1979. © Jeff Cutting

Complacency in relation to bushfires is not an option in and around our region. Over the years there has been a number of farmers who have left the area, so we've lost their firefighting knowledge and experience. Many farmers also had firefighting equipment on their properties and they were available to help combat small or larger fires in the district. As some of the farms have been subdivided into smaller properties, there are many more houses and people in the area and the potential for accidental bushfires could be increased. Hopefully people of these smaller acreages have suitable firefight equipment, because it only takes a few sparks from a power tool or an unwatched barbeque to set off a bushfire.

And it's hard to forget the devastating January 2003 Canberra bushfire when four people lost their life,



nearly 500 others were injured and almost 500 homes were either destroyed or severely damaged.

The Hall fire crowning in a pine windbreak at the rear of *Forrest View*, Mulligans Flat, Tuesday 13 February 1979 © Jeff Cutting

Thankfully our firefighting knowledge, resources and equipment

have significantly improved over the years, but the fire danger this season is obviously just as real, especially when you look around at the dry grass surrounding our area and considering we've just experienced record breaking high temperatures.

So by now we should have a bushfire survival plan in place. If not, the Rural Fire Service has online advice to help you plan and prepare for the fire season. Basically, there are four steps: discuss what to do; prepare your home; know the bushfire alert levels; and keep all the relevant information numbers, websites and smartphone applications handy.

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Thoughts on the Population Debate

comment by **John Connelly**

Currently Australia is undergoing a population 'debate' of sorts. Many people would be aware that our current immigration rate is around 190,000 people per year. With this immigration rate we are on track for a population of about 50 million people by 2060. This outcome seems to be actively supported by both the Liberals and Labor parties and a number of academic demographers all of whom seem to see economic growth as the only outcome with no negative consequences.

Some of the negative consequences of this population growth are obvious and need no research studies or extensive white and green papers to discern them. The ordinary man in the street (me) can readily assess them. Two which jump to mind are:

The doubling of the Australian population will result in a doubling of the size of all urban centres by 2060. Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane etc will double in size in the next 40 years. They are already huge conglomerations of urban sprawl, contemplate the situation when they double in size.

Both energy and water requirements will increase. The increasing energy requirement will make it very difficult for Australia to able to meet its emission reduction targets under the Paris accord. Water in particular will be a problem. We are probably already near to maximum water extraction rates and to meet the expected water requirements massive desalination plants will be required to feed the demand. In addition, the increase is unlikely to stop at 50 million - it will go on increasing into the foreseeable future and with vast quantities of agricultural land disappearing under urban sprawl.

There needs to be an acceptance that there are very

definite 'limits to growth'. This seems not to be at all recognised by political leaders and some academics. Population growth is seen as all good with no negative consequences.

As an example of the very definite 'limits of growth' I have calculated the time it will take to cover the



entire Australian continent with standard 700 square metre house blocks. The area of the Australian continent is around 7.6 million square kilometres. If we occupy 100,000 new 700 square metre blocks per year, it will take around 100,000 years to cover all of Australia (7.6 million square kilometres divided by

70,000 square kilometres newly occupied each year). The entire Australian continent will be covered with 700 square metre blocks in 100,000 years. Everything, deserts, National Parks, Uluru will be consumed. And that is just the 'no growth' scenario.

Now this is obviously a deliberately extreme example, but it does illustrate there are definite limits to growth. I put it forward to really just frame the question 'when will population growth cease' at present the answer seems to be 'she'll be right mate no worries it will all sort itself out'. In the time that aboriginal people have occupied the land (around 50,000 years) white settlers will have covered all the liveable land with urban sprawl.

Thoughtful individuals have been warning for a long time that exponential growth in anything is

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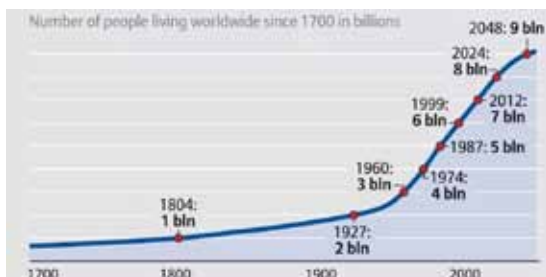
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unsustainable. Starting with Malthus in 1798 'An essay on the Principle of Population' and a number of such predictions in the 1970s, Paul Erlich (Population / Resources/ Environment 1972) Donella Meadows et al (Limits of Growth 1972). These people are still dismissed as looney doomsayers. The catastrophe has not happened yet so it will never happen, the doomsayers are totally wrong, growth can continue for ever...

The question is when should we intervene to put deliberately implement 'limits of growth' rather than just letting it happen and then when it is finally out of hand saying 'Oh we'd better do something'. At that stage it will be much too late. The question is 'When is the best time to address population increase?' The answer is around 1970, the second-best time is NOW. The longer the situation is allowed to continue the harder it will be to address, and the environmental damage done will essentially be irreversible.

Denial of the 'limits of growth' is not just limited to politicians who have a time horizon limited to the next election and if population will deliver endless increase to national GDP, they will be for it and claim credit as brilliant economic managers. NO. some academics seem to be actively supporting the idea that continuous population growth has no negative consequences. Liz Allen a professional demographer at the ANU frequently appears in ABC radio and TV

interviews and pushes the line 'we need population growth to continue to grow the economy and importantly to provide more people of working age to support our aging population. Available evidence shows Australia's current migration program intake of 190,000 is about right for Australia.'. Steve Hatfield-Dodds with a bevy of leading scientists from CSIRO and some universities authored the 'National Outlook



2015' which came to the conclusion that growth could continue with both positive economic and environmental outcomes. The results were published in Nature (Nov 2015) with the front cover proclaiming Growth without Tears, clearly pushing the line that growth had only positive outcomes. The

commentary in the magazine is more considered but the front cover 'headline' was the dominant message. What is to be done when a great many influential people in our society are completely blind to the fact that continued population growth will definitely have some negative consequence? Australians - and the world at large which has a much bigger problem - are sleepwalking into a situation which will be very difficult to resolve and will be more difficult the longer we leave addressing the situation.

Dick Smith at least is worried, we need a majority of people charged with leadership of our society (both politicians and scientists) to wake up and start addressing the problem.

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How Does Your Garden Grow?

Do you have a favourite season in the garden?

Definitely not summer! Spring is my favourite season in the garden because all the new shoots appear, followed by the flowers.

Has gardening been a lifelong joy for you?

Yes, but I particularly love this garden because it is full of the plants that I love.

Have you had previous residences where you have enjoyed your garden?

Before I came to Hall I lived in Fraser where I had a beautiful block with an all native garden. I then introduced ornamentals to it for the flowers. In this garden was a statue of David (replica of Michelangelo's famous work), which was in memory of my nephew who died at a young age.

After Fraser, I lived in a small unit in Belconnen with no 'garden' as such however I had a tiny balcony where I looked after 60 plants in pots!! I couldn't wait to have a real garden again.



...continued from page 1

Did you have a friend or relative who inspired you to love gardens?

No, my love of gardens and gardening is just from within myself.

What advice would you give to anyone who has no gardening experience but wishes to start a garden?

Prepare your soil well before you plant. Give your garden a deep water twice a week in very hot weather and don't forget to water once a week during the winter months. Remove dead heads from flowers as they die as this will produce more flowers. Shower your garden with care and

love. I go mostly by instinct, not books.

How would you describe your beautiful garden?

My garden gives me great joy. I love working in it and just being in it. This garden has changed many times over the years that I have been here, but I always find it relaxing.

Gypsy and the garden are my great pleasures in life.

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Christmas in Hall

pics by Bob Richardson

Hall's Men Shed and Museum Joint Christmas Party



Hall Collector's Christmas Party



Time Lord Santa Claus arrives in Hall



See the next page for the *first known aerial photograph* of a social gathering in Hall! →→→→

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Hall's Men Shed and Museum Joint Christmas Party

high eyes

Free public acknowledgement of the first person to correctly identify all of the people in this photo.



Sunday 14th April will be the Museum's big day for 2019. At 11.00 am special guests will formally open two new displays - **'Selected spaces – settling in Ginninderra'** and **'Ten thousand years on Halls Creek'**, ahead of the **Canberra Brass Picnic Concert** at 1.00 pm. (See page 14 for more)




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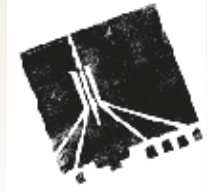
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The Will

a Microstory by Hugh Watson

Monday

'Hi sis.'

'Oh hi. Been a while. What's happening?'

'Mum's gone.'

'What do you mean gone? Gone where?'

'No, I mean, she died.'

'Oh damn, really? When?'

'Last night. Her neighbour, you know, Mrs whatshername rang me.'

'Jeez.....that's awful....when did you see her last?'

'Just before last Christmas. I drove down to see her cause we had Christmas at the coast, you know. What about you?'

'Oh, it must have been three months, no wait, it was on my way back from a conference in Brisbane in February; I flew in on one of those awful small planes. How did she die?'

'Don't know. When I saw her she looked good.'

'Me too... so what do we do now?'

'I guess we head up there to arrange the funeral. How are you placed? I've got the kids' concert at the school tomorrow...'

'Oh bugger. I've got this case on. High profile client. I guess I can get a continuance ... family death and all that ... I'll fly up tomorrow.'

'Great I'll drive up on Wednesday. Do you reckon we can do the funeral on Friday ... we've got some of Peter's business partners coming over on Saturday.'

'Dunno. I'll see what I can do.'

'Great. Thanks sis. See you Wednesday.'

Wednesday

'Can you believe this?'

'No way. Who'd have thought. I haven't been in this room since dad died.'

'A wall full of the kids' photos. And clippings about your cases. Looks like she followed everything we did.'

'Yeah ... have you found the will?'

'No. I spoke to a Colin Stephens, her solicitor. We can see him after the funeral.'

'Not before?'

'Apparently not. Is Ben coming up?'

'No, he can't. What about Peter and the kids?'

'Oh, we thought it would be too much of a disruption to their schooling, so he's looking after them. So it will be just the two of us I guess.'

'We should see an estate agent. This place will be worth a mint.'

'Yeah, let's do that now.'

Friday morning

'Can you believe the turnout?'

'Bloody amazing. Seems like everyone in town came. Even our old teacher Mrs Symonds.'

'Nice eulogy from the Mayor. Didn't realise how much mum was into the community. Didn't know she got that award.'

'Me neither. Anyway, let's go and see this solicitor.'

'Yeah. I have to get home.'

Friday afternoon

'Bloody hell! Half to the seeing eye dogs and half to the Salvos!'

'Un-bloody-believable! How selfish!'

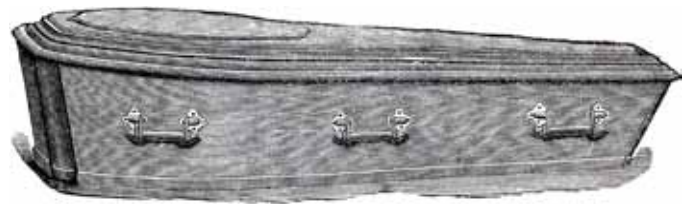
'And we get the family photo albums from when we were babies.'

'I'll look after them.'

'No, I'll keep them. You'll lose them.'

'Don't bring that up. I'm grieving.'

'Yeah right..'



Hugh Watson is the author of *Home Grown*, a political/terrorism thriller published in 2015. It's available for sale at the Hall Post Office and Gift Store. His second novel *The Silo*, a political/murder thriller is currently with a literary agent. He has also written many songs and recorded two albums with his band Willie and the Correspondents (formerly West Texas Crude). This is his first short story.

www.hughwatson.com.au/

www.facebook.com/HomeGrown2

www.facebook.com/Willieandthecorrespondents



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Museum Musings

museum

‘Selected spaces – settling in Ginninderra’

In the early concern to get land occupied and productive, large swathes of the best of it were made available to pillars of the British and Colonial establishments – mostly Church of England. Half a century later, in the name of closer settlement, the battlers were given a crack at what was left. These ‘free selectors’



Yarding sheep at Gribbles’ farm ‘The Glebe’

could acquire up to 320 acres on favourable terms if they lived on their blocks and made improvements.

The display now under preparation for the 2019 ACT Heritage Festival will explore how some well-known local families – the Shumacks, Kilbys, Southwells, Camerons, Gribbles and the Hatches – took advantage of free selection to build successful farm enterprises and a thriving community. They were more likely Catholics or Methodists than Anglicans and often had to battle the squattocracy, as well as the weather and the markets. Early maps and plans will be deployed to help show how Ginninderra’s untaken spaces

became thriving farms, such as ‘Springvale’, The Glebe Farm, and ‘Rosewood’.

They were not to know when setting out that Canberra was coming, and the Commonwealth would take over their land ...

‘Ten thousand years on Halls Creek’

We are also preparing an extension to our current display on the Aboriginal cultural heritage of Halls Creek, drawing on the field research of geoaarchaeologists Philip Hughes and Marjorie Sullivan. Their

report includes a fascinating reconstruction of the way in which Halls Creek and other creeks in the Ginninderra catchment are likely to have evolved over thousands of years, from shallow, marshy ‘chains of ponds’ to deeply channelled ‘dry’ creeks with only occasional flow, never topping their banks.

With analysis of landscape and soil profiles the report identifies the sediments most likely to reveal Aboriginal stone artefacts. (21 such artefacts have now been documented within the Halls Creek Aboriginal Sites Zone). The swampy meadows and ponds of Halls Creek would have been a rich resource zone for Aboriginal people,

DARRALEE QUARRY



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Museum Musings

Alastair Crombie Honorary Curator

providing reliable water, game animals, plant foods, medicine, bark for construction and reeds to make string and baskets.

A briefing on the project by the consultants to the Friends of the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre on the first day of fieldwork was introduced by the local Aboriginal participants. Carl Brown spoke of his pride in the story that the sites here could tell of his people's long and special connection with the land. Karen Denny Buru spoke of the continuing nature of Ngunnawal culture and its ongoing role in custodianship of this country.

The study points out that the combination of old eucalypts, trees that were mature enough to cut bark from before Europeans settled in the area, a scarred tree, artefact scatters, and artefact bearing sediments, is rarely found conserved in urban areas,

and make the Halls Creek Aboriginal Sites Zone an important landscape area.

The report will be finalised after consultation



Dr Marjorie Sullivan and Dr Phil Hughes explaining their Halls Creek field research

'Eneagh Hill', Hall. Water colour by Isla Patterson



with the Representative Aboriginal Organisations, then provided to ACT Heritage, who gave a grant, and Transport Canberra and City Services (the land manager).

Heritage Art

Also in the pipeline of future displays, we are working with well-known Canberra artist Isla Patterson on a display for later this year which will feature a number of Isla's paintings of local heritage places. (Fringe readers will remember that Isla's exhibition 'Hall and beyond' was a feature article in the Fringe last year (August 2018). The paintings will be displayed together with historical and geographical information about the subjects – a fertile collaboration between heritage and art.

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Designing for our climate

Lisa Walmsley

When it's really hot and really cold your garden will show you exactly what is not working and what is working. Take notice and make changes accordingly.

If there is no shade in summer and too much shade in winter our gardens are not working to their best ability. Now is the perfect time to potter around your garden, especially in the middle of the day.

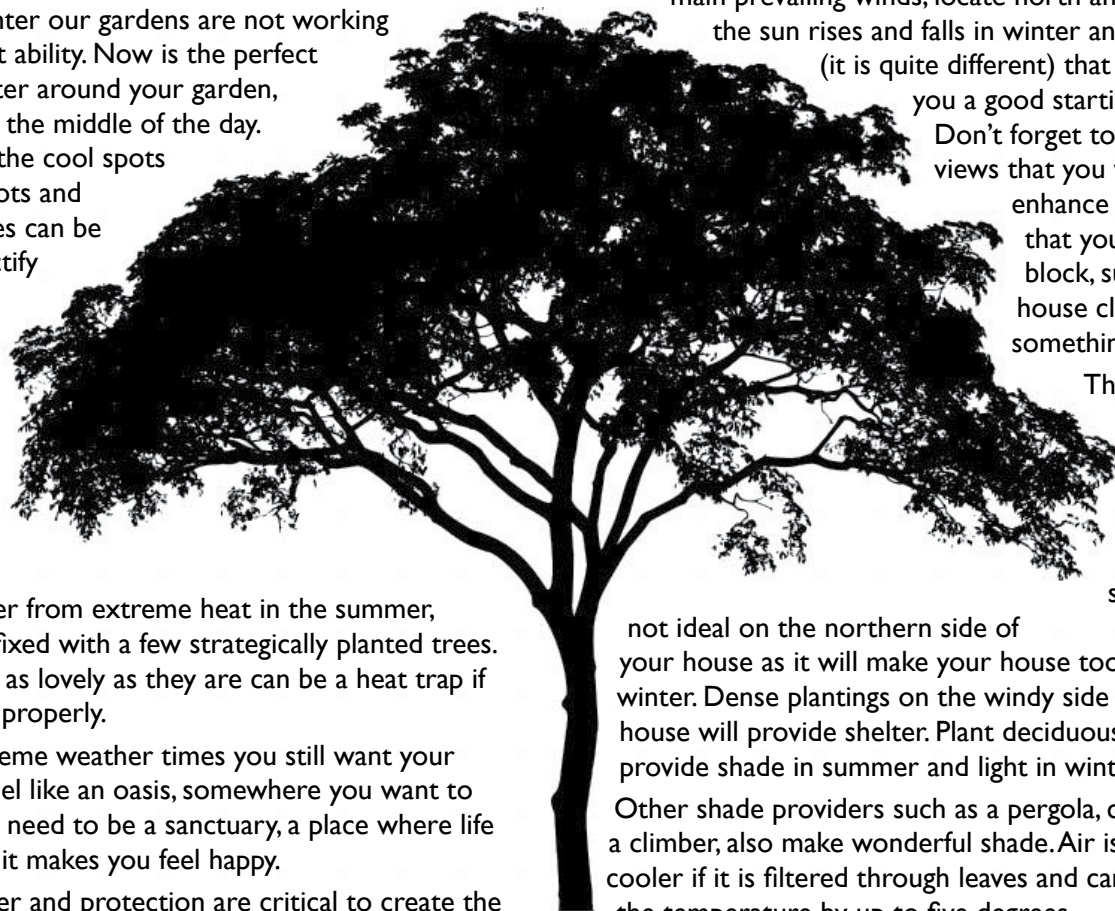
Where are the cool spots

and hot spots and what changes can be made to rectify areas not performing as they should be? Many gardens with north and west facing aspects suffer from extreme heat in the summer, this can be fixed with a few strategically planted trees. Courtyards, as lovely as they are can be a heat trap if not planted properly.

During extreme weather times you still want your garden to feel like an oasis, somewhere you want to be. Gardens need to be a sanctuary, a place where life is good and it makes you feel happy.

Shade, shelter and protection are critical to create the ideal environment for your garden. This can be added to your garden in the form of plants, trees and shrubs, but they must be planted thoughtfully to optimise the good points and minimise the bad points of your garden.

All gardens have a hot side, a windy side, a cold side



and unavoidably a side with utilities. Plants can be used to enhance these spaces as long as you make the right choices, that is, the right plant for the right spot.

If you draw a rough sketch of your garden, showing the main prevailing winds, locate north and where the sun rises and falls in winter and summer (it is quite different) that will give you a good starting point.

Don't forget to include views that you want to enhance and views that you need to block, such as a house close by or something unsightly.

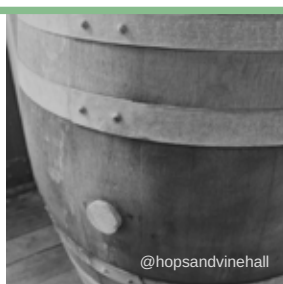
The type and location of shade is also critical, evergreen shade is

not ideal on the northern side of your house as it will make your house too cool in winter. Dense plantings on the windy side of your house will provide shelter. Plant deciduous trees to provide shade in summer and light in winter.

Other shade providers such as a pergola, covered in a climber, also make wonderful shade. Air is always cooler if it is filtered through leaves and can lower the temperature by up to five degrees.

Unfortunately for us and our gardens we still potentially, based on historical weather patterns, have six weeks of really hot weather ahead of us. That gives you plenty of planning time for what to plant where for next summer's heat.

Don't forget, now is the time to order your bulbs.



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'Painting with Parkinsons' – the Hall Connection

by Marjorie Crombie

Many readers will well remember long term village residents the Tingey family: In his 40s, Bob developed Parkinson's disease, so had to retire early from his work as a geologist (he died in November 2017 aged 77). Over the years, his wife Nancy (pictured) became his full-time carer, as well as keeping up her own creative interests as an artist.

Combining caring and her passion for art as therapy, Nancy set up the 'Painting with Parkinsons' group which still continues today at the Botanic Gardens nearly 25 years on. To celebrate this milestone, for the last three years, and drawing on thorough documentation over a much longer period, Nancy has been busy compiling a book to record this journey: *Magic Happens* is now completed and launched. It is a beautiful presentation, full of the colour and spirit of the participants' artworks, as well as their personal stories and how significant a role the painting group played in their lives: providing great social and emotional support; relaxation which eased symptoms, and a 'can-do' approach to life, combatting the tendency of this disease to steal abilities and any associated sense of achievement or agency.

The book is a very detailed account of the blood, sweat and tears, and occasional joy, that went into establishing the painting program, and evolving it into a much more comprehensive offering – bringing in music, poetry, clay, yoga and more, to trigger creative ability. A Churchill Fellowship saw Nancy travelling overseas to share ideas with like-minded individuals and groups. Ensuring reliable financing and other resources was, and is, a constant headache. All who helped are acknowledged and thanked.

Slowly, recognition of the value and benefits of the 'Painting with Parkinsons' program have become recognised and are being replicated both in Australia and internationally. In 2019, Nancy is taking the book to the Book Nook at the World Parkinson Congress conference in Kyoto. Congratulations Nancy!

Details of the 'Painting for Parkinsons' program, and of Nancy's book *Magic Happens* including how to buy a copy can be found at paintingwithparkinsons.org.au

The Tingey's time in Hall (from Nancy)

I had been in Australia for two days when I saw the house on the corner of Hoskins and Hall Streets, Hall, in September 1971. The real estate agent, who seemed to be related to half the village, had been stunned when I said I wasn't interested in buying a house in a new suburb as an investment but would like a wooden

house with a tin roof about ten miles out of Canberra city. He said, 'I think you are crazy but I have to sell my uncle's house in Hall and it fits your description exactly'. Bob and I lived there for 28 happy years.

We raised our three sons, Alex, Sam and John there and all went to Hall Pre-School and Primary School.

As a result I was Pre-School President for the year when we developed the Hall logo and made community quilts for retiring pre-school teachers Pam Peppercorn and Polly Plowman — the 'Sweet Peas'! Over the years

I ran a few art and craft classes in the primary school as a volunteer and Bob became Chairman of the Hall Primary School Board.

Outside school Bob was secretary of the Progress Association for a few years, notably leading the 1970s fight to prevent the Hall Creek development of 2000 houses using Loftus Street as the main access road. Bob door-knocked every home in the village to explain what was planned. A few years later I became concerned about the proposed demolition of historic buildings in Hall. I remember one day Marjorie

Crombie appeared in the garden with a Heritage Commission form. I filled it in and sent it off and got nowhere. However, with Margo Haysom and the help of the Canberra Historical Society I formed the Hall Historical Society to raise awareness about the unique qualities of Hall Village, duly losing the fight to save buildings left, right and centre!

However, we did manage to have the Hall Conservation Plan drawn up which 30 years later had some influence in preserving Hall as an entity in its own right, separate from the spreading Canberra suburbs. I also managed to persuade the National Library to make oral history recordings of Jean Southwell and Jim Rochford about the time they each turned 80.

Around 1984 I curated the Young People's Art Show in the Hall Pavilion and a few years later helped organise the Hall Historical Art Show.

As Bob's Parkinson's symptoms developed, after 1987, we become less active in local community activities. But my work developing 'Painting with Parkinsons' was recognised by members of Hall Rotary, to whom I am eternally grateful. Rotary Club member Jim Rochford mounted all our art work, sometimes over 100 pieces a year, for the cost of the materials only, between 1995 and 1999, and in May 1999 the Rotary Club of Hall awarded me their Vocational Excellence Award.



From the Editor

When we moved to Hall in 1996 we quickly discovered the *Rural Fringe* in our mailbox and were thrilled to find such an interesting publication especially for residents of Hall and district. It immediately gave us a sense of community. I had no idea back then that the Fringe had been born just two years earlier! Andrew Purdam was editor (Andrew is our longest standing editor for ten years, from October 1995 to August 2005, a heroic contribution. And he is still on the team, laying out this edition!). Fast forward to February 2019 and in this edition we mark twenty five years of the *Rural Fringe*!!

We also mark a more sombre anniversary in this edition – forty years since the 13 February 1979 Hall-Sutton bushfire. Starting at Sunny Corner in Hall this grass fire ran across Gungahlin and almost to Lake George in five hours. John Starr who recalls the fire all too vividly related the story to Kevin Stone, thanks to both for the article and reminder that we live with this hazard every summer. And thanks to Hall Bushfire Brigade, reinstated as a result of the fire and going strong ever since.

It is a joy to celebrate our delightful Di, her beautiful garden and Gypsy on our front page and we hope Daphne Bloom will supply more such articles. I was also very pleased to see Nancy Tingey's story in this edition, thanks Marjorie Crombie. John Connelly's thought-provoking opinion piece on population growth is also very welcome. Please keep the articles rolling in so we can continue our community publication for the next twenty-five years. The *Rural Fringe* is just one of the things that makes Hall a special place to live.

Until next time,
Jo Hall

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The Rural Fringe – ISSN: 1329-3893

The Rural Fringe is a community newspaper published in 700 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 dominantly about the profit making activity of any group or individual can only be accepted for publication if the same issue carrying the article has a paying advertisement of similar size.

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

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

Other information

Editor: Jo Hall 0417 693 545

Email: ruralfringe@hotmail.com

Sub-editor: Bob Richardson 0407 071 245

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out about

Out and about . . .

Why Hall is Such a Delight

A big 'Thank You' to the team at *Daughters at Hall* for their surprise birthday cake and rendition of 'Happy Birthday' at Margaret



Klaver's 90th Birthday. Margaret and her husband Robert, from Jeir and more recently of Alexandra Street in Hall, celebrated the event at her special cafe in December 2018.



Young Hall volunteers Harvey Hazlehurst and Will and Darcy Mansfield plant trees at Hall Village to replace a large group of trees. The trees have been supplied by Landcare and Canberra Open Spaces.

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Celebrating 25 years of the **RURAL FRINGE**



In February 1994, the first *Rural Fringe* was produced under Shaun Robson's editorship. The front page headline was *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.

Since then the *Rural Fringe* has been brought to you every two months by various editors and teams of volunteers. Editors since Shaun have included Lee Corrigan (for two periods), Andrew Purdam (for an amazing ten years!), Rhian Williams and Allyson Wedrat. The current team – Jo Hall, Gail Condy, Andrew Purdam (still!), Kevin Stone and Bob Richardson – try and share the load between them as it is hard work. But we are all very proud to have been able to bring you news and views from Hall and the district over the last seven years and in this, the 151st edition!!

Many thanks to our advertisers, our authors and our photographers, and you our readers for your support for 25 years.

