

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 6

December 2019



Rotary Club of Hall celebrates 30 years

by **Barbara Baikie**

The Rotary Club of Hall celebrated its 30th birthday with a gala dinner that was attended by their Excellencies, the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley, the Timor Leste Ambassador Abel Guterres and his wife Ana, the Slovenian Ambassador Jurij Rifelj and his partner Ms Lana Alkrunz, former Senator Margaret Reid, District Governor Peter Ford, several Past District Governors, members of other Rotary clubs including representatives from partner clubs from regional NSW like Crookwell and Leeton, and locally from Jerrabomberra, Belconnen, Gungahlin



Gala Dinner photos by John Scarano

as a small rural Rotary Club within the ACT. The first President was John Hodson. Over the 30 years there have been over 100 members of whom three of the original Charter Members still remain in the club, Kingsley Southwell, Peter O'Clery and Ken Spencer. These three members have attended

over 1400 Rotary meetings. Their contribution has been recognised by being awarded Paul Harris



▲ His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) greets John Hodson, Rotary Club of Hall Charter President prior to the cake cutting.



▲ His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) with Rotary Club of Hall 2019-20 President Fiona Hamer.

and Canberra, and other organisations. The Rotary Club of Hall President Fiona Hamer thanked everyone for attending and said 'What we in Rotary give to the world is our time, which we cannot grow more of. We choose to do it even though we are busy. We give back through Rotary with our abilities, our time, and our resources and working together makes us more than just a group of members, it is something bigger, something better.' Other 30th birthday celebration events include bottling and sale of RC Hall Fellowship Port, Bee Friendly day in Hall on 17 November and at a date to be decided, the launch of 30th Anniversary of RC Hall book.

The Rotary Club of Hall (RCH) was chartered 30 years ago, with 23 members. RCH commenced and continues

Fellowships (PHF). A PHF recognises outstanding contribution by Rotarians and on rare occasions non-Rotarians are also awarded a PHF. There are currently 28 members in RC of Hall.



▲ Three remaining Charter members Kingsley Southwell, Ken Spencer and Peter O'Clery received Paul Harris Fellow Awards.

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Hall Street Party

On Friday 1 November, the Hall Traders brought off another fabulous Street Party in Hall. There were unicyclists and a saxophone player and exhibitions of the skills of our local wood choppers, whip cracker, karate club and more.



Wood chopping



Whip cracking



Karate display at the Hall Street Party



Hall Honeys

We had a fantastic turn-out to our Hall Rotary sponsored 'Bee Friendly Hall' event on Sunday 17 November. We registered nearly 70 'Bee Friendly Gardens' in Hall!

A big *Thank You* to everyone who came to register their garden and collect their Bee Pack.



Thanks also to Hall Rotary and ACT for Bees for their support.

It's not too late! If you live in the village but were unable to attend, please just drop an email to hallhoneys@gmail.com and we will arrange for one of our busy bees to deliver a Bee Pack to you.



Karate

Karate pee wees and juniors

Congratulations to those who successfully passed the recent grading:

- Kevin Shaw 3rd kyu Brown Belt
- Zac Deasey 4th kyu Purple Belt
- Liam Stanton 4th kyu Purple Belt
- Brodie Hartshorn 8th kyu Orange belt
- Jake Hartshorn 8th kyu Orange belt
- Hayley Hartshorn 8th kyu Orange belt
- Clay Gration 8th kyu Orange belt
- Harry Barnes 9th kyu Yellow belt
- Lucas Barnes 9th kyu Yellow belt

To be graded:

- Grace Barnes, Lachlan Browne, Tyler Browne and Alexis Browne.

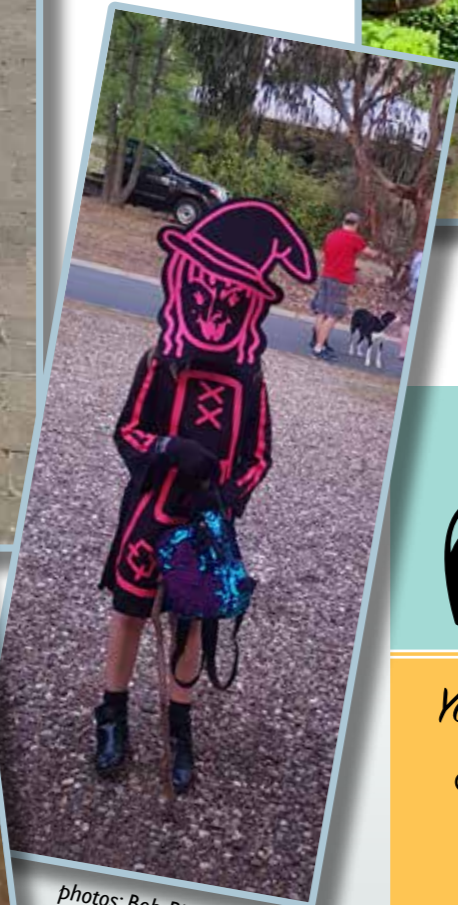
Thank you to Kevin, Liam, Hayley and Jake for taking part in the demonstration at the Hall Street Party on Friday, 1 November.



Classes are held on Tuesdays during school terms at Hall Primary School. Beginners at 4pm, advanced at 5pm, adults at 6pm.

For more information please contact John (Sam) Steggall on 0430 153 375 or sam@artforme.com.au

out about Halloween in Hall



photos: Bob Richardson



Hall Honeys Helen White and Bob Richardson with their hive



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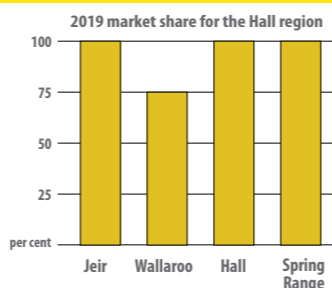
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Rotary Club of Hall celebrates 30 years

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Over the 30 years there have been many projects that have involved the club both locally and internationally. Recent years have focussed on supporting young people through a range of Rotary Programs – the Rotary Youth Science Forum, Rotary Youth Leadership Award program, Rotary Enrichment Program, and scholarships to University of Canberra and CIT. The club supported the establishment of a Rotaract club at University of Canberra. Many young people say the support provided by the Rotary Club of Hall has changed their lives.

One major RCH project has been the establishment of the Capital Region Farmers Market (CRFM) in 2004. This has provided a four-way win:

- Win for the RCH as the CRFM has been highly successful and has allowed the club to support many more projects.
- Win for the stallholders as they can sell their products directly to the community. Recently a stallholder stated, 'without the Farmers Market I would be homeless – thank you for all you have done over so many years'.
- Win for shoppers as they are able firstly, to purchase fresh produce that in many cases is just picked the day before, and secondly, they can talk directly to the farmers who produce the food.
- Win for the community as RCH puts the revenue back into community projects. Last year the three Avenues of Service Community, International, Youth and Vocational, continued to fund worthwhile projects and causes in the amount of \$165,000. An additional \$520,000 was contributed through Major Projects. This included support to drought-stricken farmers through \$50,000 worth of \$500 debit cards distributed to the Cooma Financial Counselling Services for distribution to families in need.

New Capital Region Farmers Market manager

The Capital Region Farmers Market Manager for the past two years Karen Cook had her final day on 2 November. Karen loved the philanthropic focus of the markets and she enjoyed working with the stallholders. Karen has gone on to a senior position with National Portrait Gallery to manage their shop; we wish her all the very best and thank her for her service to the CRFM and the RCH. Sarah Power has taken over the reins of Market Manager and is keen to continue the great tradition of the markets.

Hall Street Party

RCH participated in the Hall street party by holding an information Gazebo. The Hall Rotarians, President Fiona Hamer, Chris and Greg Stuart, Past District Governor Steve Hill, Yvonne Robson, Paul Tyrrell, John Kenworthy, Bill Pearson and the President of Rotaract of University of Canberra Taylor Giggins, along with Colleen Hill and Angela Diamond enjoyed raising the RCH profile.



left to right: Taylor Giggins, President of the Rotaract University Canberra, Hall Rotarians, Greg Stuart, President Fiona Hamer, Past District Governor Steve Hill, Chris Stuart

Remembrance Day

The Hall Remembrance Day service was attended by around 150 people. It was organised again by Hall Rotarians Dennis Greenwood and Bill Pearson. They have been doing this for about 20 years after the mantle was handed to them by Jim Rochford. The memorial was erected in May 1992 and Remembrance Day has been celebrated every year since that time. Hall Rotarian Royal Australian Navy Commander and RCH member David Rendell gave a thought provoking address.

Vale Bill Watson

On 15 November Bill Watson was tragically killed in a double fatality car accident and two other friends were injured. Bill and his mates were part of 'Strolling Bones', a group that went on regular mountain biking treks. They were returning from such a trip. He is survived by his wife Jennie, children Ben and Kate and grandchildren.



Bill grew up in Adelaide and attended Scotch College, University of Adelaide and Roseworthy Agricultural College and was a Kings Cup rower.

He was the grandson of Stanley Watson, who oversaw the construction of 'Watson's Pier', which was the first pier at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli. Bill, Jennie and friends have visited the site.

Bill joined the Rotary Club of Hall in 2008. He always had a smile, loved to have a chat and was a greatly valued Rotarian and friend. Bill had a cheeky sense of humour yet always a gentleman first. Bill was the Director of the CRFM and played a significant role in introducing the Market Rules and undertaking farm audits to ensure the authenticity of the market's produce. In this role he travelled thousands of kilometres to visit the stallholders and developed close working friendships with them.

Bill will be sadly missed by all the members of the RCH. RIP Bill Watson.

It has been a big year for RCH, with lots of ups and some downs. We wish everyone all the best for the festive season and 2020.

Remembrance Day in Hall

Remembrance Day at the Jim Rochford Memorial Grove this year was a poignant gathering of the community on a balmy evening. With a moving address from Commander David Rendell, prayers, the Last Post and laying of wreaths it provided a special time of remembering for us all. Organised by the Rotary Club of Hall, our particular thanks go to Bill Pearson and Dennis Greenwood. We have reproduced all of David's address here.

2019 Remembrance Day address

Lieutenant General David Morrison in his dawn service address on ANZAC Day 2015, paid tribute to the ANZACS and went on to say:

'But at another level there is little that separates them from we who gather to remember. Like us, they were men and women of their time – responding to their events in their world in the context of the society and families in which they lived. Like us, they dreamed of something better; they loved and were loved in return; were prepared to fight for their beliefs; were, like us, prey to fears and human despair ... a long line of servicemen and women that connects ... to those who stormed ashore ...'

This message holds true on this day – the day where we gather in memory of those who served, suffered or died in all wars and conflicts. I'm sure we all, in some way or other share connections.

Private Henry George Ashford (called George by all), enlisted on 25 January 1916 and was killed in action in France on 23 November 1916 aged 18 years and eight months. (I'm sure I'm not alone, having stood in today's peaceful French countryside, and tried to reconcile what we were seeing with the grainy images of the time.)

Before he joined, George gave his treasured, little pearl handled pocket knife to his brother Alex, who was in hospital with scarlet fever, and asked him to look after it for him until he returned.

Last year a 12-year-old descendant of George, after seeing his name on the Roll of Honour, tracked down

the pocket knife, medals and other items. In a very real way, he connected his present to George.

I know this, because that 12-year-old is our great nephew, and George is a blood relative of our family.

Annie Marjorie Holdsworth (known as Marjorie by all), born at the outbreak of the Great War. She left school at age 14, completed an apprenticeship as a dressmaker and ran her own dressmaking business until joining the Air Force in March 1943. Marjorie was discharged in November 1945 and closed that chapter of her life, never collected her medals, returned to dress making and marriage and three sons, before passing away in 1999. By one of those quirks of fate, Henry George Ashford was killed in action on her birthday. I know this, as Marjorie Holdsworth is my mother.

In 1968, a young country lad was called up and served with 9RAR in Vietnam. He came home and never spoke about his experience or marched on ANZAC Day. At a family wedding decades later, he bailed up a family member and shared thoughts common to so many: that sometimes, from the deep dark recesses of the mind, scenes we don't want to see are replayed in glorious technicolour, surround sound, with smells and feelings of the time thrown in. I know this, because I am that family member. An unexpected connection.

We are all connected in some way or other when we gather, as we are this evening to remember those who served in the past, those who are still serving at home, on the seas or overseas. I'm confident that those who we honour today would be nodding with approval at their descendants, who even now, are fighting a different enemy, on many different fronts across our country.



Peter Toet and Olga Minion lay a wreath on behalf of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association

From looking back to looking forward, General Morrison's closing words resonate:

'We have not forgotten and we are defined, at least in part, by that act of remembrance. It makes us who we are and reminds us, in the face of an unknown future, who we can be – courageous and compassionate, resolute and resilient, – a people of our own time, reaching back 100 years with pride and solemnity, looking forward with a sense of purpose to a better world.'

Commander David Rendell RAN

David joined the Navy in 1972 and served in a range of positions ashore and afloat, both within and beyond Australian waters, as a dual qualified mariner and aviator. He has been posted in command of a major fleet unit and has deployed overseas in support of North West Indian Ocean operations and in Iraq. He has been involved in military, Defence and law enforcement activities for more than four decades and is currently posted to Navy Headquarters as the manager of the Navy Artificial Intelligence Program.



Christmas events at St Michael & All Angels, Hall



Christmas is a wondrous time across our parish, with activities at both St Barnabas in Charnwood and St Michael's in Hall. All are welcome to any or all of these celebrations.

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday 8 December 7.00 pm

at St Michael & All Angels, Hall

This is a simple candlelit service of readings and carols in our lovely little church, followed by an alfresco cuppa in the cool of the evening – weather permitting.

Carols in the Carpark

Friday 13 December 7.00pm at St Barnabas, Charnwood

Victoria Street Brass will provide the music for community carol singing in the carpark of St Barnabas. We will also have performances by Britenotes, Strange Weather Gospel Choir and our Tongan community. St Barnabas is at 10 Charnwood Place – the eastern end of Charnwood shops.

Christmas Eve 10:30pm

at St Michael & All Angels, Hall

A traditional service late on Christmas Eve to start the celebration of Christmas Day.

Christmas Day 10am

at St Michael & All Angels, Hall

Residents, visitors, friends, family and travellers are welcome to join us at St Michael's.

For more details on any of these activities please phone Beryl on 0408 488 526



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Hall fighting fires

by **Bob Richardson**

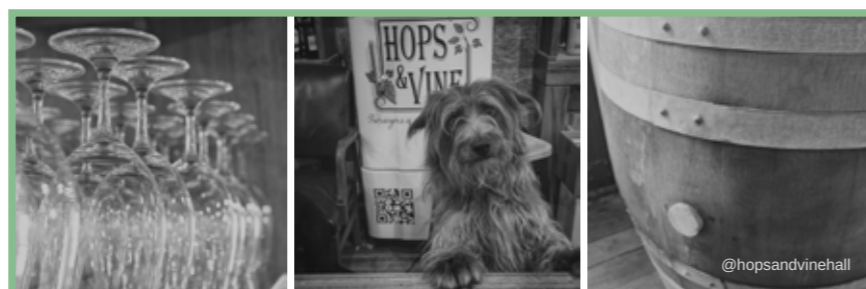
Brigade Captain Tony Hazleton, recipient of the Brigade Person of the Year award in July this year (pictured),



has just returned from active duty fighting fires on the NSW Central Coast. Tony and his team were housed at the Mercure Hotel and allocated positions on the fire front each day. Tony was put in charge of the resources at Telegraph Point and responsible for six ACT RFS



units, three NSW units, four bulldozers and could call air support if required. On the Monday they were stationed on the fire front at 9.30pm when the fire broke containment lines. They brought it under control by 3.30am and returned to their billet. How grateful we all are and how proud to have Hall folk volunteer to defend in time of need. All are back safe and sound.



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Canberra Tracks signs in Hall come to life

Phil Robson



Six of the *Canberra Tracks* signs around Hall Village have now been brought to life with the latest technology. Augmented Reality technology has been utilised to add audio and video content to the signs.

The six signs are 'Fine Quality Boots' outside the old Bootmakers shop, 'The Only Licensed Hotel' adjacent to the site of the Cricketers' Arms Hotel just outside the village, 'A Religious Spirit' outside Daughters at Hall, 'A Store of Premier Quality & Service' outside 'Winarlia', 'A Versatile Building' outside Kinlyside Hall (Hops & Vine) and 'The Children Need a School' at the front gate of the old Hall Primary School on Victoria Street.

To listen to the audio and see a slide show of early photos of the sites, you will need to download the free *Canberra Tracks* app and then point your iPhone, Android, iPad or tablet on the photo on the sign with the AR sticker and it will come to life.

Instructions on how to download and use the App are on each of the signs.

This latest project was undertaken by volunteers from the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre working with an audio visual producer and creators of AR technology together with *Canberra Tracks* and was supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program.



The *Canberra Tracks* sign outside 'Winarlia' with the AR symbol at bottom left hand corner of the photo of Miss Jean Southwell and the App Instructions on the bottom right hand corner above *Ngunnawal Country*.

Now that the Hall School Museum has dipped its toes into this new technology it hopes to expand it into the museum itself with AR technology added to displays to give visitors this additional audio/visual experience.

Look for the AR symbol on the signs to activate the App. An official launch of these updated Augmented Reality signs is planned for the near future.

Jacqui Robson, who spent her teenage years in Hall, is the voice of each of the audio stories on the newly AR equipped six *Canberra Tracks* signs in Hall Village.

Jacqui is an actor who recently finished a short season as Louisa Collins, the last woman hanged in Australia in the *Deadhouse: Tales of Sydney Morgue* series of plays.



Kyeema Estate vineyard and winery now part of Four Winds Vineyard

One of the Canberra District's most established and distinguished vineyards, Kyeema Estate is now part of the Four Winds Vineyard brand.

Four Winds Vineyard CEO, Sarah Collingwood, said that the addition of the vineyard and winery would allow the Four Winds Vineyard brand and range of wines to grow.

vineyard in 2000, eventually rebranding as Capital Wines in 2008. In 2002 he extended by planting merlot and tempranillo, plus further shiraz from cuttings of the older shiraz vines. Viognier was also added in 2006.

The first vintage of Four Winds Vineyard branded wines incorporating grapes from Kyeema Estate was released in 2019.



The Four Winds Vineyard family

Left to right: John Collingwood, Sarah Collingwood, Graeme Lunney and Suzanne Lunney.

'The Kyeema Estate vineyard not only gives us access to some new varieties such as tempranillo, chardonnay and viognier but it also provides us with some exceptional quality fruit such as an old Penfolds clone of shiraz and a reserve merlot.'

'Fortunately, the two vineyards; Kyeema and Four Winds are within an easy tractor drive of each other,' she said. 'The management of the vines and delivery of grapes can all be a part of our existing operations.'

Four kilometers south of Murrumbateman, the 10 acre vineyard sits on an intermediate volcanic belt that runs on the eastern side of the Barton Highway. Only a small handful of vineyards within the region have soils derived from this type of volcanic profile.

Kyeema Vineyard's first grapes of chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon, shiraz and cabernet franc were planted by Ron McKenzie in 1984-85. To this day, it is one of only a few Canberra vineyards to produce old-vine shiraz, and it has shiraz vines from cuttings sourced from Penfolds vineyards in South Australia.

The vineyard also sold the first grapes to BRL Hardy in the Canberra region in the mid 1990s, which convinced the wine company to invest in the area. Most of Kyeema Vineyard was under contract to Hardys until 2006, and some vintages of both the shiraz and chardonnay grapes from Kyeema were blended into Hardys' top range Eileen Hardy label due to their high quality.

Winemaker Andrew McEwin, who had been sourcing fruit from Kyeema for his label Kyeema Wines since the first vintage in 1986, bought the

The purchase does not include Capital Wines which will continue to trade from its cellar door at Hall. Andrew McEwan notes that the Capital Wines business including the iconic Ministry brand is on the market should the right buyer come along.



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Lowri Dowthwaite

Lecturer University of Central Lancashire

I don't know about you but it has been a tough few months. As I write this the state of NSW is burning – lives have been lost, along with homes and millions of hectares – the scale of the disaster is staggering. And it isn't even summer yet! I was wondering if an occasional column on happiness might have anything relevant to say. Then I remembered that happy people are kinder and more likely to help others. They are the ones who volunteer, who check on their neighbours, who know that in a community we are all stronger and safer if we do the simple things like smile at the people we pass in the street and nod and say Giddy! And I also remembered that happy people solve problems more quickly and more creatively and we really need that right now.

One thing that has made the Smiling Kangaroo jump for joy has been the gorgeous show – *Old People's Homes for 4 Year Olds*. If you haven't watched it – check it out on ABC iView. It is a unique social experiment that brings together elderly people in a retirement community with a group of 4-year-olds. Over the episodes we see how this intergenerational playgroup transforms the lives of young and old alike. It shows that aged care facilities can be places to lift the spirits and where the residents can find great joy and connection and this helps the children to develop their confidence and resilience as well.

There was a special screening of the last episode at Parliament House and the entire audience was transfixed. One of the frailest participants who at



the beginning of the series had withdrawn from most activity because they were very nervous about falling was enticed into play by their 4-year-old friend. But in the last episode, whilst playing bowls they fell – the very thing they had most been dreading. As all the helpers crowded around their 4-year-old friend was most insistent that his adult needed help. The person made it back to their feet unharmed and the bowls game continued with much laughter. A fear had been conquered and the hand of friendship from a 4-year-old was strong enough to lift up the adults and the hearts of all those watching.

Since the series has screened there have been more than 5000 requests to set up these intergenerational playgroups in aged care facilities throughout Australia. Economists who have looked at the payoffs associated with playgroups have identified that the health, wellbeing and educational benefits greatly outweigh the costs. So not only is it possible to have a more humane and joyous experience in aged care facilities – it makes

enormous economic sense to do so.

So go play – and let's start a contagion of happiness and see what comes from all that joy and if we can't just find the solutions we need to some of those problems we are facing.

Be brave life is joyous! The Smiling Kangaroo

PS: To find out more visit playgroupaustralia.org.au

An occasional column by the Smiling Kangaroo



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Vale Wolfgang Wanjura

September 2 1930 – November 3 2019

Wolfgang Wanjura, master craftsman, poet and musician, built his house in Alexandra Street in 1960 and lived there with his wife Ursula, and later their four children, for the next almost 60 years. Those children paid a very moving tribute to Wolfgang's full and rich life at a Service of Thanksgiving at St Francis Xavier Church last month. Including lovely details like the use of a tingle to keep the string from sagging when laying a line of bricks. Originally from Silesia, Wolfgang was held with great affection by the Hall village community. We thought the best way to honour Wolfgang was to reprint an article he wrote for the *Rural Fringe* in 2010, in which he tells his own story of living in Hall. Our deepest sympathy goes to Ursula and all Wolfgang's family.

Fifty years living in Hall

by Wolfgang Wanjura

The other day an exercising bicycle rider, surveying the Hall environment passed our house. When he saw me gardening he stopped for a chat. Remembering that I came to the village about 50 years ago, he asked me to write a little about the early times. It was my 'almost neighbour', living a few houses away, Alastair Crombie.

As with every day, history is coming and going. Let me recite a translation of the first verse of the society song by August von Kolzebu:

It cannot stay for ever
Here under the travelling moon
As times do change like the weather
Tomorrow we wilt and be ruined!

A bit sad but very true. So, before this happens to us I will write our story.

It was in the so-called 'holy town' of Cologne in Germany that we saw on our church door a poster. It read 'Australia needs tradesmen and professionals for the land of the future!' Passage would be paid, and a two year stay suggested.

As a forcefully thrown out East German citizen from Silesia (now Poland) in 1946, West Germany was not really our home any more. With the spirit of adventure, like the millions of foreigners in every country of the globe, my young wife of one year and I decided to give this idea a go.

From Hamburg, through Rome, Beirut, Karachi, Delhi, Singapore, Darwin and Melbourne, our plane landed in Australia on 4 November 1959. The Bonegilla Migrant Camp at Wodonga was our next stay for 10 days. The German camp priest suggested that we go to the capital, Canberra. For the first six months there we stayed in Yarralumla.

As a trained brick-layer with a German master course certificate in the building trades, it was not difficult to get a job. While working on the American Embassy extension I met Frank Pustavrh who lived in Gibbes Street at Hall. Frank, who came from Serbia, and his Austrian wife, tried to talk to me with the German that he knew from his early years. He did not know that I had three years of English lessons at high school. When I asked Frank about where he lived, he described Hall as a bit remote, but with biggish blocks. There was no water supply at that time, and no sewerage, but it was a lovely place. Of course there was no Belconnen, and the closest suburb at that time was Lyneham, ten kilometers away.

When I asked Frank how much he had to pay for his block, he said 'nothing – you just pay for the legal papers'. 'Wonderful' I said, and went with my wife for an inspection. In Alexandra Street where I built our place there were just four houses in those days – ours was the fifth. At the recent celebration of the Centenary of St Francis Xavier's church I met Tom Penders, an early citizen of Hall. (Tom and his family came to Hall in 1952 and built the home that the Crombies now live in in Hoskins Street). Tom told me that Alexandra Street was not created until 1953-54.

So, in 1960 I went to the Department of the Interior to inquire about obtaining a block of land in Hall. The Department sold me a block with pleasure – for the paperwork fee of two pounds and ten shillings. The wages in those times were around sixteen to eighteen pounds a week. So for the pittance of about one days work, we were the proud owners of a block of land. Nowadays it would cost in the hundreds of thousands. Ten shillings per quarter was payable for the Crown lease. Firstly a 25 year, then 50, and later a 99 years lease was issued. A government loan of three thousand five hundred pounds over twenty years was available in those days.

So on 1 May 1960, my wife and I moved to the village of Hall. We were able to rent two rooms with a Dutch family named Daamen, in the house where our good Vet Jan Spate now lives. From there it was a stone's throw to our block in Alexandra Street.

Before building a live-in garage, or the house, some sweaty activities had to be performed. About fifteen gum trees had to be felled; the virgin bush had to be sent to the heavens.

Coming from a country where the decimal system was the rule, measurement had to be adjusted to inches and feet. However there seemed to be some wrong measures on my plans when they came from the Department. The building would not fit properly on the block. Why not, was the question. Reluctantly, and hoping not to make a fool of myself, I went back to the Building Section and asked for the plan measurements to be checked. After a long wait he came back and apologized. 'Yes' he told me, 'you are right. Your measurements are in "links" ' – an old English surveying measure of about five and a half inches! With new figures I went happily home. Now things could go ahead as planned.

Jim Rochford, then in his prime, operated the Hall Service Station and looked after our cars. He was always a nice person, and very active. He also had some work for a builder! He wanted the shearing shed on his farm extended, and a house to be built there. Some block work at the Garage, some stone and brick work at St Xavier's, and a toilet for the church-goers. Later his residence on Gibbes Street had to be built. For his 80th birthday I wrote him a little poem, in which I referred to him as the 'Mayor of Hall'.

I must mention too the Southwells – Ursula and Max. Ursula Southwell took my wife – also Ursula, but a newcomer to the village – under her wing. They went to outings and parties, and helped us make friends with the locals. Ursula remembers that the Daamens, the Penders, and the Edwards family were very friendly and helpful.

Let me mention four locations in Hall – all close together – that were of some importance in the early days.

The first is the Hall showground. Some people might not know that the – now huge – Canberra Show used to be held here. I remember that one year my good wife received a prize for a piece of needlework. The wood chopping was held in the Hall school yard. Most of the judges for the different events were from the Hall area.

Secondly, where the Wood Duck Inn and other parts of Hall Village Court are now found, we once had a second garage and service station operating. One must remember that the Barton Highway was running through the village at this time. Some entrepreneur was hoping to outdo the established service station. My eldest son earned some pocket money there when going to high school. When the Hall bypass was opened there was no room for two and the new one said 'goodbye'.

Thirdly, the post office used to stand next to Kinlyside Hall, now occupied by the Hall Attic. It was a small wooden building, where Mr Murphy, a resident of Victoria Street, was the postmaster. Later the post office was located for a time in the small office next door to (then) Allan Golding Real Estate.

Fourthly, the Hall village 'cinema' used to operate at Kinlyside Hall, then owned by Jim Rochford. I went a few times on Saturdays to see the 'pictures'. In winter time a pot belly stove tried to warm the spectators, but people also brought their own blankets to keep warm. Young people especially seemed to enjoy this!

Before Hall got the sewerage system installed the 'poo-man' came once a week to pick up our digested food from the outside loo. Our little village was well perfumed by the collection truck. Getting connected to the sewerage system was well worth the \$1,100 cost. After years of dusty streets they were finally sealed with tar one day, despite some opposition to this development.

Our four children – Andrea, Wolfgang, Markus and Martina all went to Hall Primary, where Mr Laurie Copping was the head master for a long time.

A good friend my wife liked to see at times to talk about the problems of the world and other matters, was Marion Ward, who lived on the corner of Hoskins and Alexandra Street.

For a time there was a shopping bus from Hall to Canberra every Friday at noon, returning at 4.00 pm, giving the carless a chance to go to town.

Hoping that health will allow us to enjoy the village for some time yet, let me finish with a little poem that I penned some time ago:

Quickly flows, races the time,
Towards the past, to yours and mine.
Nothing stops it on its way,
Schedule bound all night and day.

We humans too are racing fast
Each minute, day, towards the past.
While you are young and fresh today,
Next morning you are nearer to decay.

One is lamenting how quick it went
From youth to our retirement.
Therefore use wisely the hours, the days,
For eternity once we all must face.

W.W. May 2010



Wolfgang and Ursula on their porch in Alexandra Street



Wanjura family near Hall Pavilion

The 'Progress Association' is an incorporated, not-for-profit community association which promotes the interests of Hall and district community members. While the Association is incorporated in the ACT, the Hall district extends across the border towards Murrumbateman and Gundaroo, and down to the Murrumbidgee River.

The Progress Association has been part of this community for more than a hundred years, and is the oldest community association in the ACT. It has a long and proud history of representing the needs and interests of the community and is recognised by government for its capacity to represent the village and district.

Over its history, the Progress Association has:

- Brought piped water and sewerage connections to households, paved roads and street scaping in Hall;
- Successfully campaigned against rural residential development around the village and secured the designation of Hall village as a heritage precinct in the Territory Plan including protection from being subsumed by Canberra suburbs through establishing the green zone buffer;
- Secured the continuation of Hall Preschool amid the ACT government closure of 11 preschools and 11 primary schools in 2006;
- Obtained agreement of the ACT government for continued use and management of village facilities including the Pavilion and old school site;
- Undertaken construction of the Village bush walking track and reconstruction of Halls Creek wooden bridge;
- Acquired development of sporting facilities of irrigated football field, polocross, cricket pitch and refurbishment of grandstands;
- Secured Hall village as a trackhead for the Bicentennial and Centenary trails;
- Been responsible for major renovation of former school facilities and upkeep of grounds.



The Association, working in partnership with government agencies, statutory bodies, residents of Hall village and district and other stakeholders when needed, performs a number of functions including:

Advocacy and representation of the Hall and district community in relation to significant planning, development, heritage and environmental issues and the provision of government services.

Custodianship and management of the **Hall Showground, Pavilion and School Site.**

Informing the community about local issues, events, and personalities – through the *Rural Fringe* newsletter, and the Association's website.

Organising or helping to organise a range of **community social and fund-raising activities.**

Facilitating or undertaking **minor repairs and maintenance** in and around the village, such as at the showground and barbeque sheds.

Convening public meetings or facilitating other types of **consultation on issues** of widespread community interest or concern.

The Progress Association provides the legal basis and insurances for multiple groups and activities in Hall village and district including:

- Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre;
- Hall Men's Shed;
- Hall and District Collectors Club.

The Progress Association continues to lodge grant applications in support of village activities including heritage, environment, playground and other community amenities on behalf of and in consultation with Hall village and district residents.

Current activities

Some current activities with which the Progress Association is involved are:

- Extension of the Centenary Trail bike track between Gladstone Street and the Barton Highway to increase safety;
- The upgrade of the playground on Gladstone Street;
- Hall village and district events including financial support for the Hall village Street Party;
- Provision for trapping the Indian Myna Bird avian exotic pests;
- Support to the development of Hall as a Bee-Friendly village.

Membership:

VHDPA membership is available to any person who is a resident or rate payer of the Village of Hall or the surrounding district or any person who is approved as a member of one or more of the VHDPA special interest groups such as the Museum, Men's Shed, Collectors club, etc.

Any business operating in the village of Hall or in the surrounding district can also be a member. Affiliated group membership is also available to any not-for-profit community group or Association, such as a local sporting club, or church, in Hall village and district.

Progress Association Committee

Each August at the Annual General Meeting members of the VHDPA elect four office bearers and up to seven committee members to manage the ongoing activities of the Progress Association.

The 2019 - 2020 Progress Association Committee is:

- Peter Toet (President)
- Tony Morris (Vice President)
- Olga Minion (Secretary)
- John Starr (Treasurer)
- Peter Howard
- Margaret Monahan
- Phil Robson
- Yvonne Robson
- Ralph Southwell
- Heather Wilford
- Robert Yallop

Other key contacts are:

Hall and District Collectors Club [Secretary: Bill Pearson] email: bilypearson@gmail.com

Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre [Honorary Curator: Alastair Crombie] email: museum@hall.act.au

Hall Men's Shed [Foreman: Alan Boyd] email: ar.boyd@bigpond.com

Rural Fringe newsletter [Editor: Jo Hall] email: RuralFringe@hotmail.com

info@hall.act.au www.hall.act.au
Village of Hall and District Progress Association
 PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618

Walleroo Rural Fire Brigade

fire safety

Chris Ellison Deputy Captain

Fire season is here!

NSW has seen one of the busiest and most destructive starts to a bush fire season in decades. Since 1 July 2019, there have been more than 5,000 bush and grass fires across the state.

These fires have burnt through approximately 950,000 hectares of bushland – almost times the total area burnt statewide in the entirety of the last bush fire season.



Harrington NSW (near Taree) on Friday 8 November 2019. photo: Kelly-ann Oosterbeek, via Facebook.

More than 660 homes have been destroyed, in addition to a large number of outbuildings, community facilities and other buildings approaching 1100. There has also been extensive damage and destruction of valuable farmland, equipment and fencing. Sadly, the fires have also claimed the lives of six people over October and November.

What is pleasing to report is that, despite these heartbreaking losses, more than 9000 buildings in the areas directly affected by bushfire have been saved.

At times, the number of firefighters working on these fires has exceeded 1000 per day. This has included more than 4,500 firefighters in out-of-area strike teams, and interstate assistance from firefighters and Incident Management Team personnel from all states and territories, as well as New Zealand.

As local residents, you will be pleased to know that Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade has been contributing to this commitment. Since calls for assistance commenced, the brigade has contributed 19 individual rotations on and off northern firegrounds, and we expect to deploy more people to other regions over the season.

While never a guarantee, we should expect some reciprocal out-of-area support if our circumstances demand it and resources can be made available from other jurisdictions.

Walleroo RFB 'Fireball' – thank you

Hosted by Brindabella Hills Winery, Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade held its 'Fireball' fundraising dinner and auction on the evening of Friday 1 November.

The brigade had a particularly successful evening, and the funds raised are set to support brigade operations over the fire season and beyond, including helping us to fulfil plans to develop a training area immediately adjacent to the fire station.

The brigade would take this opportunity to again thank our hosts at Brindabella Hills, those individuals and businesses who donated goods and services which were offered during our auctions, and those many members of the local community who joined us on the night to have a good time and make a contribution. We look forward to your continued support of the brigade between now and the next Fireball.

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Garden Meanderings

gardening

by Lisa Walmsley

It's such a joyous time in the garden, everything is coming to life. Every day there are more flowers in the garden and more foliage on the trees and shrubs. The days are becoming warmer and we have had a little rain. All making it a little easier to toil in the soil and potter in your plot.

But gardening can be truly heart breaking when dealing with our unrelenting wind, lack of rain, rogue birds and all the other glorious (naughty fauna) animals that take up residence in our gardens.

Wind has been endless this year (for many years, actually), surprisingly it has also hammered us from the east this year which is extremely unusual in the winter. It's important to create wind breaks in your garden and generally I would say to protect your garden from the north west but the ongoing unpredictability of our weather means we may need to rethink our gardens, again. Creating wind breaks in your garden serve a multitude of purposes, not only breaking the wind but also reducing evaporation, providing shade and allowing plants to grow and flourish with less environmental hardship.

If you have a rural or semi rural garden and you are starting with a blank slate, my advice would be to plant wind breaks as your first exercise. In town, you have a little more protection from surrounding properties but any extra plant protection is only going to enhance your space with faster growth, more shelter and less watering.

There are quite a few plants that really resent wind. Make sure when initially planting your windbreaks and garden, that you plant trees and shrubs that don't mind wind.

Another gardening dilemma is our wildlife. Most of us want a bird attracting, animal cohesive spot and I'm often asked to include plants that will encourage birds into our gardens. However, during establishment your



garden is quite vulnerable and your young plants taste delicious to anything that happens to be flying, hopping or rummaging by. How do you have both?

I'm still not sure about this but I am experimenting with a few things so that both plants and animals remain happy and unharmed.

I have found a sensor activated sprinkler, this is having a great affect keeping my dogs off the garden, but I am still to see a bird alerted by an unexpected squirt of water. Meanwhile my bulbs are been brutally attacked by our hungry beaked friends. To add salt to my gaping gardening wounds, I arose a few mornings ago to find

my peonies tragically snapped off at the ground, this is unforgivable. I realise with the drought our wildlife are hungry with very little or none of its natural food supply available, animals have become opportunistic and perhaps a little mischievous. Many of our native parrots get some sort of 'sick' satisfaction out of decimating your bulbs, without eating any of them. This mindless destruction causes even the most tolerant soul to distraction.

I am also trying reflective discs, they look like they would be a little scary as they flash sparkly spots all over the ground. The obvious problem with these is they don't work at night and they have little effect if its not windy or sunny.

Parrots are also well know for 'nipping' the buds of the new growth of roses. All I can suggest, is to be prepared in advance with some sort of bird scare, before they cause too much damage. I do quite like to use toy rubber snakes, they work, sometimes, but don't forget where they are as they can give you a nasty fright if you forget them.

If you are lucky enough to have other wildlife wandering through, it can be a constant balancing act, and learning to grow plants that they don't like and having a few they do like is probably a good solution.

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'Old Hundredweight' – Charles William Thompson ('CWT')

A schoolteacher for 46 years from 1886 to 1933, 'Charlie' Thompson taught in seven country schools during his teaching career, five of them within the now ACT – Gibraltar, Naas, Ginninderra, Gungahleen and for 22 years, Hall.

Born in 1868 at Sutton Forest, he was the ninth child in a family of eleven. His father came from Liverpool, England, a labourer with no known relatives. His mother was an Irish orphan from Tipperary. In 1871 the family moved to Towrang near Goulburn. Charles grew up and went to school in the district. His father was a fletcher on the railway until he was killed in a train accident in 1888. Charles was a bright student and at the end of his normal schooling at 14 years became a 'pupil teacher' assisting the Teacher in Charge until 1885.

After the Public Instruction Act was passed in 1880, little schools began popping up west of the Murrumbidgee, along the eastern fringe of the mountain country – at Uriarra, Barnes Creek, Church Rock Valley, Gibraltar, Tharwa, Naas, Naas Upper, Bobeyan ('Tin Dish') and Shannon's Flat. Usually the parents had to provide or build the first school room themselves, which was often just a simple slab hut. If the school survived long enough, and maintained a decent enrolment, a more permanent structure might be provided by the government.

Naas and Gibraltar (1886 – 1888)

In 1886 at the age of 18 Charles joined the NSW teaching service. He received his first teaching appointment as the inaugural 'House to House' teacher at the remote and difficult locations of Naas and Gibraltar. These were 16 miles apart, and Charles taught for one week at each alternately.

Charles next two postings were to public schools in the Goulburn district; Claremont – 1888 to 1890 and Yarra (between Goulburn and Canberra) from 1890 to 1895. In 1893 he married Matilda Jane Wetherspoon, daughter of a prosperous farmer from the Crookwell region.

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Alastair Crombie
Honorary Museum Curator

Ginninderra and Gungahleen (1895 – 1910).

In 1895 Charles and Matilda took up residence at the Ginninderra Schoolhouse where they lived and raised their family for 38 years until 1933. Initially Charles taught at both the Ginninderra and Gungahleen schools (North Lyneham today). Matilda, who took weekly classes in needlework and sewing, assisted him. Charles on occasions also took adult classes in the evenings and helped members of the community with their business and private correspondence.



Ginninderra School group

Charles also became deeply involved in the wider Ginninderra district community. He was Secretary of the Ginninderra Farmer's Union for the 11 years of its existence, Secretary of the School of Arts, and involved in many more community activities. He was a cricketer, fisherman, poet, the author of many NSW school magazine articles and a great contributor to the local press, mainly the *Queanbeyan Age*. Charles and Matilda had four children who were all taught by Charles at Ginninderra or Hall. In 1907 Ginninderra became a full time Public school with about 45 pupils and Charles as teacher. Gungahleen became a separate Provisional School with its own teacher.

1882
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HALL

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Cricketer's Arms Hotel, Hall, c 1905



Hall (1911 – 1933)

In 1910 the Ginninderra School closed and the new school at Hall opened with 29 pupils and Charles as teacher. Charles and Matilda continued to live in the Ginninderra schoolhouse. In 1913 Thompson successfully applied for the position of Ginninderra postmaster, with the idea of installing his daughter Bertha in the position. He secured the agreement of the Education Department to this arrangement.



Ginninderra School group

Charles continued his association with many community and sporting activities, including secretary of the committee raising funds for the building St Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Hall. On 12 March 1913 the Federal Government took responsibility for funding Federal Capital Territory services, including education, but it was still operated by the NSW Government. Under this arrangement Charles Thompson became the first schoolteacher to be employed by the Federal Government. Charles has been characterised as a fair but strict disciplinarian – a judgement that is typically in the eye of the beholder! He was a naturalist, a scribe, and a great contributor to the community; he loved children and was born to be a teacher. He and Matilda were very popular within the Hall/Ginninderra community.

Charles Thompson retired on 8 February, 1933. A public farewell in Kinlinside's Hall was attended by a large gathering of citizens and pupils to pay tribute to a devoted teacher who had given 38 years loyal service to the community. An illuminated address and a wallet of notes was presented and many eulogised his qualities. A plaque was later unveiled in the school in honour of his faithful service. Responding, Charles said he felt that his greatest privilege was in personally knowing the original pioneers of the district. 'Knowing what a sterling lot they were, it was not to be wondered that their grand-children, many of whom he had taught, had made a success in life'.



In 1933 Charles and Matilda retired to Manly, calling their new home 'Ginninderra'. Charles died on 10 December 1948 at age 80 after a short illness, survived by Matilda and their four children – Bertha, Doris, Kathleen and Kevin. Matilda and family received many letters of condolence when his past pupils and friends heard of his passing. Matilda survived him by 15 years passing away in 1963 aged 89.



A community project of The Rotary Club of Hall

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Springfield Rural Fire Brigade

The fire season is well and truly upon us.

As I am writing this piece, a state of emergency has been declared for the whole of NSW with catastrophic fires burning to the north of us, and total fire bans across the region. We have had firefighters from the area who have volunteered for deployment up to the devastated regions to assist since September.

Even though we are in drought, and there doesn't appear to be much grass around, bushfires are still a major threat to our region.

There is no more prudent time to go over your fire plan, and make sure that your family knows their roles.

There are some key points to consider:

Know your risk and be prepared

- Make a plan and talk about it

Make sure your family has a general understanding about bush fires and bush fire safety. If they are in an area that is affected by a bush fire, such as at work or on holiday, they will be able to make the safest choices. The Bush Fire Household Assessment tool can be used to help you make an informed decision regarding your 'Leave Early or Stay and Defend' choice for this bush fire season.

- Make preparations to your home.

Embers can travel many kilometres ahead of a fire, so even if you are not directly threatened by a bush fire, you may be impacted by embers. Preparing your home can reduce the risk of embers starting spot fires around your home.

- Keep yourself informed on days of increased fire danger.

Pay attention to your local radio and TV stations and monitor the NSW Rural Fire Service webpage on hot, dry, windy days. And make sure if you have the Fires Near Me NSW app that your watch zone is set.

Prepare your home

A well-prepared home is more likely to survive a bush fire.

Even if your plan is to leave early, the more you prepare your home, the more likely it will survive in a bush fire or ember attack. A well-prepared home can also be easier for you or firefighters to defend, and is less likely to put your neighbours' homes at risk. A well-prepared home will also give you more protection if a fire threatens suddenly and you cannot leave.



Rebecca Morrison
President

Here are some basic maintenance tips to prepare your property:

- clean your gutters of leaves and twigs
- install metal gutter guards
- repair damaged or missing tiles on the roof
- install fine metal mesh screens on windows and doors
- fit seals around doors and windows to eliminate gaps
- enclose the areas under the house
- repair or cover gaps in external walls
- attach a fire sprinkler system to gutters
- keep lawns short and gardens well maintained
- cut back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings
- clean up fallen leaves, twigs and debris around the property
- have hoses long enough to reach around your house
- if you have a pool, tank or dam, put a Static Water Supply (SWS) sign on your property entrance, so firefighters know where they can get water
- check and maintain adequate levels of home and contents insurance. Ensure it is up to date.

Prepare yourself and family

Preparation isn't just about cleaning up around the house and having a bush fire survival plan.

It's also about making sure you consider your physical, mental and emotional preparedness.

A bush fire can be a terrifying situation. Strong gusty winds, intense heat and flames will make you tired quickly. Thick heavy smoke will sting your eyes and choke your lungs. It will be difficult to see and breathe.

The roaring sound of the fire approaching could be frightening. Embers will rain down, causing spots fires all around you. Power and water may be cut off. You may be isolated, and it will be dark, noisy and extremely demanding both mentally and physically.

If you have any doubts about your ability to cope, you should plan to leave early, well before a fire reaches your area and well before you are under threat.

People who are at higher risk, such as children, elderly, disabled or with medical problems, should always leave early. Leaving early is always your safest option.

To help your family prepare for a bush fire, you need to make a bush fire survival plan. This will help you make important decisions like when to leave, what to take, and what to do with animals.

All these key points are available on the NSW Rural Fire Service website, www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

Follow the links on the website to download your Bushfire Survival Plan.

Alternatively, if you would like a physical copy, contact your local brigade and we will be able to deliver one to you.

If you haven't done so already, download the Fires Near Me NSW app from Google Play or the App Store onto your mobile phones.

Other news

Springfield Brigade participated in the Zone exercise at Marulan on 10 November. Our crew included three Junior Members who participated in activities including Motor Vehicle Accident, First Aid, and Fire overruns. The event was well attended with crews from all over the Southern Tablelands participating.



Springfield volunteers at the Bees Nest fire near Dorrigo in September



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The Bees Nest fire near Dorrigo in September

Please think about joining the brigade. We always welcome new members, male and female, young and old, into our brigade. Our membership currently has an age range between 16 and 80, with active (firefighting) and non-active (community based) members. We also have a juniors program for ages 12 to 20. If you are interested in joining our brigade, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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Stimulating mealtimes

It's not just what you eat that's important, it's also HOW you eat. Do you take the time to sit and calmly eat, or do you eat on the run, scoffing it down so you can get on with the next activity? For proper digestion to take place, your nervous system has to calm down, not be on alert for the next thing to happen. A few minutes of deep 'sloooow' breathing, in and out through the nostrils, before meals can help switch on your calming parasympathetic nervous system to enhance digestion and help reduce digestive symptoms.

Digestive juices start to flow before food gets anywhere near your stomach. The thought and smell of food starts saliva production. Saliva starts the breakdown of starches from the first bite and moistens it all for swallowing. Chewing activates the entire digestive system, increasing blood flow to the gut and releasing digestive enzymes. How many times do you chew each mouthful? Take a moment next meal to count. Ideally it would be at least 30. If you don't chew enough it's hard to get all the nutrition out of your meal, particularly from tougher foods like meat.



If what's happened in your mouth hasn't sufficiently stimulated your stomach, then you might not release enough stomach acid to break proteins down into smaller peptides and then single amino acids. Ongoing low acid levels can lead to iron deficiency anaemia, deficiencies of vitamin B12, calcium and magnesium, and generally reduced absorption of nutrients. Food needs to be broken down into its smallest parts for the intestines to be able to absorb the nutrients.

Poor digestion of proteins can lead to food sensitivities. Peptides that get into the bloodstream can elicit an immune response. The immune system can make antibodies against proteins/peptides, but it doesn't make antibodies against amino acids. If you stimulate your digestion and break your proteins down properly you can reduce food sensitivities. You may also need to repair your gut lining, but that's another story.

You need good stomach acid levels to kill off any harmful pathogens in your food. A common cause of inflammation in the stomach is *Helicobacter pylori*, a bacterial infection that can cause ulcers and is now also linked to autoimmune, cardiovascular and other diseases if it gets into the bloodstream. This nasty bug burrows into the stomach lining, taking advantage

of low acid levels to set up shop, then its toxins alter how much acid the stomach can secrete, keeping acid levels where it likes them. This in turn alters the pH throughout the rest of the digestive system and disturbs the healthy balance of downstream bacteria, causing another set of symptoms.

If you are having symptoms such as belching /burping or bloating within one to two hours of eating, particularly with high protein meals, you should suspect low stomach acid. Bad breath can also be a sign as it can be caused by bacteria that should have been killed by acid. Reflux can be a sign of either low or high acid. Bloating can also occur a little later due to insufficient bile (after meals high in fats), or low pancreatic enzymes (after meals high in fibre or starch).

The gallbladder stores bile produced by the liver. The release of bile is firstly stimulated by the taste of fatty foods and chewing, and then by the activity of the stomach. Poor fat digestion can lead to low levels of the fat-soluble vitamins (A, D, E and K) and the essential fatty acids (omega 3 and 6). These can cause symptoms such as dry skin, poor vision, poor immune function, weak bones, increased inflammation and excessive bleeding.

Bile salts also help regulate the balance of bacteria in the intestines and immune function around the gut. Gallbladder issues need to be addressed before

Anita Kilby
naturopath



you can effectively treat intestinal digestive issues or rebalance intestinal bacteria.

The pancreas is, again, stimulated to release its digestive enzymes by taste, chewing and stomach activity. Chronic low stomach acid and chronic intestinal inflammation can lead to pancreatic enzyme deficiency. The body can use pancreatic enzymes to dampen inflammation, so you can create a vicious cycle of poor digestion and increased inflammation if pancreatic enzyme production is compromised.

Foods like pineapple, pawpaw/papaya, kiwi fruit, sauerkraut and kimchi provide a dietary source of digestive enzymes. You can use them as a marinade to pre-digest the proteins, or have them as part of your meal.

Before resorting to stomach acid lowering medications like Nexium, try improving HOW you eat. Stomach acid is critical to so many processes, we need to have it in good supply. How you start your meal will hugely affect how you stimulate digestion. Slow down. Breathe. Use all your senses and chew thoroughly! It's all interconnected.



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Unit 1/2-4
Victoria Street
Hall ACT 2618
6230 2284

When the cat's away

Here at Miss U Motel for Moggies, we have a fair bit of practice settling our guests into their new environment and making them feel comfortable. Some of the things we do may come in handy if you are moving house, having visitors or new additions to the family.



photo: RSPCA

Yvette and LouEllen

cat' pheromone. *Feliway* is a product we have been using for many years with positive results.

Another helpful tool is *Zylkene*. This is a derivative of the protein in mothers' milk called casein which helps to relax their newborn kittens. It is also useful to promote a sense of well being in adults cats. *Zylkene* comes in capsule form and can be sprinkled on their food as it is palatable. This works best when started this a few weeks before needed.

Both these products are over the counter (no Veterinary prescription required) at vet hospitals and may also be available at pet shops.

This article is proudly provided by Yvette and LouEllen from Miss U Motel for Moggies. The information is gained from our 13 years of experience as cattery owners. It should not be considered as veterinary advice.

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.

Advertising rates (per issue)

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

Other information

Editor: Jo Hall 0417 693 545 Email: ruralfringe@hotmail.com
 Sub-editor: Bob Richardson 0407 071 245

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

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Saving the World One Brussels sprout at a time!

Mulled wine, mandarin and dark chocolate pears



Ingredients

- ½-¾ mugs coconut sugar
- 4-6 cloves
- 1 cinnamon stick
- a slice of freshly grated ginger and/or a hint of vanilla (extract or seeds)
- 1½ mugs red wine (plus a little more, if needed)
- 1 orange
- 4-6 firm pears
- 2-3 mandarins
- coconut cream, soya cream or dairy-free yoghurt (to serve)
- dark chocolate (to serve)

A food column based on *The Planetary Diet* – a simple way to combat climate change, preserve biodiversity and improve our health.

For more info on the *Planetary Diet* visit www.thelancet.com/commissions/EAT

Instructions

1. Place a lidded saucepan over medium heat. Add the sugar and spice. Stir to warm through. Slop in a bit of wine and stir till the sugar has dissolved. Add the remaining wine.
2. Cut a strip of zest off the orange. Add to the pot. Halve the orange and squeeze in the juice.
3. As your wine simmers, prep your pears. Cut a small slice off the bottoms to help them stand straight. Peel. Pop into the mulling wine. If your pears are sticking out of the wine quite a lot, add a bit more wine, so they're nearly submerged. Cover. Cook till tender, about 30 mins.
4. Just before time's up for the pears, peel and segment your mandarins. Swirl them through the wine. Let them cook for a few minutes.
5. Spoon the pears into bowls. Divide the mandarin segments between the bowls. Add a good puddle of wine to each.
6. Finish with a dollop of soya cream or a slosh of coconut cream, then a generous grating of dark chocolate.

For recipes for the following dishes to create your Solstice Feast, go to: www.high50.com/food/how-to-have-a-happy-vegan-christmas



Red Cabbage with Pomegranate

Goodwill Pie

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From the Editor

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Hall on its achievement of 30 years of service. The night of birthday celebrations was made extra special by the presence of their Excellencies the Governor-General of Australia and Mrs Hurley. Rotary's support for activities in Hall, including the upcoming park upgrade and the bee-friendly village is much appreciated as well as their support for numerous activities throughout Australia and overseas; remarkable achievements for a small club.

It was very sad to farewell Wolfgang Wanjura from Alexandra Street and we are pleased to be able to honour his memory in these pages after nearly 60 years in Hall. Some physical memorials of Wolfgang's include brick work at the Garage and St Francis Xavier's church and the fish pond at our house. I wonder how many other of Wolfgang's artefacts are in and around Hall?

As we start a hot and dry summer I think we are all very conscious of the fires raging across the country and very grateful to our local firefighters for helping out elsewhere as well as looking after us. We hope everyone in Hall and the district is well prepared and stays safe over the coming period. We at the *Rural Fringe* thank you all - readers, advertisers and contributors - for your support throughout 2019 and wish everyone a safe a peaceful festive season.

Until next time,
Jo Hall



Christmas Greetings
from the
Rural Fringe

Thank you to all our readers and advertisers for supporting the *Rural Fringe* in 2019.

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

Jo	(editor and accounts)
Bob	(sub-editor and roving reporter)
Gail	(layout artist)
Andrew	(layout artist)
Kevin	(proof-reader)



Out and about



Volunteer firefighters at a recent deployment to the Myall Creek Road fire (south of Casino NSW) - every member in the team photo is from the Southern Tablelands, and includes four individual members from Wallaroo [photo: Facebook]



A photo from the fireline [photo: Lizzie Bradley via Facebook].



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Daughters At HALL

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CHRISTMAS BREAK

Closing: 23 December 2019
Opening: 2 January 2020

Note from Jenny

Every day that I arrive I'm grateful to be in this peaceful tranquil little village Hall. And as the day begins, I'm greeted continuously by warm smiles new and old faces and I feel blessed to love where I am.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all our customers for making *Daughters At Hall* Your meeting place, Your place to relax, unwind, Your place to enjoy our fresh roasted coffee, yummy breakfast, delicious lunch and all the beautiful homemade sweets made with love. Thank you all for your support, loyalty, friendship. For the laughs and caring hearts.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Safe Holidays!

Daughters Christmas cake

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- Our **bread waste** goes to a local for their horses and **food scraps** to a local pig farmer
- **Mulch** for your garden - come daily and pick up our **old newspapers**
- We collect **cans and bottles** for recycling, proceeds to the Hall Bushrangers

Remember we are a Pet Friendly Café

Have your dog's photo taken and pegged on the board.

Treat your puppies with a Lactose Free Puppucino

In 2020 we will be naming Hall's best-looking dog, along with the best and most creative name, with prizes to be won!

Book exchange

Come in have a look at the book exchange!

It has a good turnover of new and interesting books. Exchange or sit and have a coffee and a read.

Exchange books are always welcome.

As we break for Christmas and New Year I would like to also thank my Team 'Jen's Angels' (customer's nickname)

To Liv, Elle, Jackson, Ellia, Lily, Miranda, Chloe, Beck, Darcy, Hayden, Layla, Ally, Alex, Jack, thanks for all the support, laughter and fun, friendship, lots of hard work. I very much appreciate it.

To Thea our manager, thank you. I'm going to miss everything you do for me, your bubbly spirit, words of wisdom. We wish you all the best with the birth of your baby.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Special thanks to Dad & Mum for your love, support and hard work.
Special thanks to Nando and my family - I couldn't do it without you all.

Love you xx lots.

Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!

