

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district



VOLUME 30 ISSUE 1

February 2023

Vale Andy Fulton

by **Jenny Whittaker**

Late last year the village lost one of its stalwarts and local identities, Andy Fulton. Andy was one of Hall Village's longest standing business owners, one of the instigators of the Hall Collectors Club, a friend to very many in the village and who will be very much missed.

Andy started life in Victoria and completed his mechanical apprenticeship in South Australia, commuting across the border every day from his home at Edenhope.



After resuming work as a mechanic he found his way to Hall and loved the country atmosphere in the village. Pam followed Andy to Canberra and they were married for over 40 years.

Andy worked for Gus O'Connor at the Hall service station, then purchased the mechanical section in 1986 and went on to run his business there until about 2003. He then sold the mechanical section and specialised in metal fabrication until retiring in 2021. I was told that Andy was a top mechanic, able to work on anything from small engines and cars, to trucks and tractors – you name it he could fix it. He had a very inventive, creative mind.



In the early 90's Andy also embarked on a metal working business with Brian O'Connor. Brian worked with Andy for 36 years and says that they never had a really cross word. Brian says it was a pleasure working with him and they had many laughs and adventures together. Pam also often worked with Andy over the years, something that not all married couples can do successfully, so they found the secret of a long working relationship.

Although his wife Pam wasn't a resident she had family in Edenhope and that's where she first came into contact with Andy. She thought he had the most loving and lovely family, values that were very important to Pam.

In 1980 Andy came to visit a friend at Duntroon and ended up staying in Canberra and, for a time, was a dishwasher out at Duntroon. I've heard he also cut timber in Queensland for railway sleepers.



... continues on page 5

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Wattle Park Uniting Church

Barton Highway, Hall

by **Kate Pope**



The small but robust congregation of Wattle Park Uniting hopes you all had a safe, peaceful and joyful Christmas and that the New Year brings opportunities to connect with our community and build new friendships!



We held an impromptu Carols by Candlelight on 20 December at Wattle Park (next year we will advertise it better!) and enjoyed our annual display of nativity animals and pretty lights, along with the singing and good cheer.



Our relaxed and friendly weekly services are at 10.30am each Sunday. Wattle Park does not have a minister – services are delivered through a combination of visiting preachers and our own devices.

All are welcome to join us!

80 years of sheepdog trials

The National Sheepdog Trial Championships are to be held at the Hall Showground from the **13-19 March 2023**. This year celebrates 80 years of trialling in the national capital.

Come down and watch the art of sheep dog trialling which is described as 'under the direction and control of the handler to balance the three allotted sheep between fight and flight'. See them tackle the race, bridge and pen, for points in the class of Maiden, Improver Trial or Open trial for the ultimate prize of the Duke of Gloucester Sash.

You have to love their names – Riverbone Muddy, Bredbo Razz, Quickstep Don Quixote who apparently loves dog dancing and Trinity Breezer who, as a seven year old, only now believes that her handler knows more than she!



Trialling starts at 7am each day however spectators will get the best of the trials from 9am-4pm.

Dogs on lead welcome. Monday 13 March is free entry and other days are by gold coin donation.

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St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

Corner of Victoria St and Loftus St, Hall

What a joy the community carols were at the Pavilion on 10 December! It was great to see so many families come together to share the celebration of Christmas music with the wonderful Canberra Brass, Strange Weather Choir and of course the voices of all in attendance – and the dancing of some! It was unfortunate that the combined churches choir couldn't make it on the day, but aren't we all used to sudden changes to plans after three years of the pandemic? Look out for community carols in Hall Pavilion again next Christmas!

Between the Hall Village Christmas Fair, community carols, the Christmas Park event and Christmas services in all the churches, Hall has been a very festive village for the last month or so.

In May this year, we will mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of St Michael & All Angel's church in Hall. The church was consecrated on 22 May 1948, with the Governor-General Sir William McKell and his family in attendance, along with a congregation of around 300 people. Anyone familiar with St Michael's will know that must have involved a large proportion of attendees having to gather outside the building! St Michael's was a bit of a latecomer to the church community in Hall, with Wattle Park having been opened in 1882 and St Francis Xavier in 1910, but what an achievement for this vibrant village and surrounding district just three years after the end of World War II.

We are planning to celebrate this important milestone at our **I Iam service on Sunday 21 May 2023** and hope that members of families who have had a connection with St Michael's over the years will join us. Please save the date and do spread the word to others who live further afield. We would love to hear from anyone who has memories, stories, photos of the early days at St Michael's, or any years in between. Please contact Rev Peter Malone on **0429 350 207** or Beryl Pedvin on **0408 488 526** to share information.

Of course, before our anniversary in May, we will celebrate Easter. On **Good Friday 7 April**, parishioners from St Michael's will join members of the other churches of Hall and community members to walk the length of Victoria Street, marking the Stations of the Cross. This Good Friday walk has been held for many years and is organised jointly by the clergy of the Catholic, Uniting and Anglican churches in Hall. Members of all churches as well as community members not necessarily connected with any church are welcome to attend. The walk will start at **I Iam** at the northern end of Victoria Street – at the carpark near the Barton Highway intersection - and finish at the Remembrance Grove on the corner of Victoria and Gladstone Streets, although walkers may join at any point.

At St Michael's we will hold our usual **I Iam** service on **Easter Day 9 April**. Residents and visitors are invited to join us for Easter Day, or at the weekly service on any **Sunday at I Iam**, followed by morning tea in the garden at St Michael's.

And on the topic of the garden at St Michael's – many, many thanks to the wonderful blokes who quietly and anonymously mow our lawns periodically. It was a special joy to find the lawns looking trim and neat in time for our Christmas services. The gardening team at St Michael's is getting smaller and the members older, so the job of mowing is getting tough – especially with the rainy seasons we've had lately.

All are welcome to join us at our regular St Michael's services each Sunday at I Iam, or via Zoom using Meeting ID and password 9551044551.

For more information about our services please call Beryl on **0408 488 526** or contact Rev Peter Malone please call **0429 350 207**.



On the 12th day of Christmas the Star at St Michael's was taken down.

Vale Andy Fulton

... continued from front page

Andy's son Richard completed his apprenticeship under Andy and worked with him at Hall Metal Fabrication as well.

When Andy moved to Hall he joined the Bush Fire Council which had bought a 'crappy' appliance, totally unsuitable for firefighting. He was always pushing for more training and better equipment so Andy and Brian, with advice from John Baird, a hydraulic engineer from the ANU, designed and re-engineered that appliance for the Hall Brigade. Working with aluminium welding and manufacturing they built over 30 light fire fighting units and three fire tankers, mostly for the ACT Fire Brigade. Apparently these units then held more water but at the same time were lighter than before. Another unique invention was a pump in a metal frame which could be lifted by helicopter into remote areas, dropped next to a water source, pump water into the frame and then be lifted, full of water ready to pump out at the fire front. The 'quick-fill units', a trailer mounted pump, now used across the ACT and parts of NSW were Andy's creation. Andy's shop originally doubled as the fire station's headquarters, with the fire alarm on the roof. His dedication to the Rural Fire Service over the years, and the quick-fill unit, led to him being awarded an OAM for services to the community of Hall as a volunteer with the RFS.

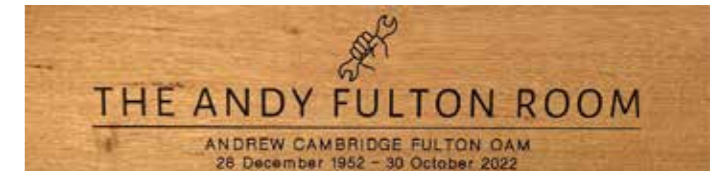
Andy also ran the Hall Sporting Supplies and was a member of the Pistol Club.

But it wasn't all work for Andy. He bought a bright yellow 1972 Datsun 240Z and it was his pride and joy. He was also one of the instigators for a Collectors Club here in Hall. A small group of men outgrew the sheds of Hall and migrated to Gold Creek Station. Discussions were mostly about junk and collections and after being a member of the Yass Machinery Club Andy suggested forming a club for all the local and district collectors. Apparently there were a few too many rules that Andy felt kept people out of sharing their vehicles because of say, tiny non adherence to technical standards etc so his

idea was to have only two rules at the new club:

1. No anti-social behaviour
2. No more rules!

With an official club new premises were needed so a clubhouse was established at the old Pony club at the Hall Showground. He loved the Collectors Club and Friday night meetings were sacrosanct and you could count on one hand the number he missed in 10 years. There is a lovely tribute to Andy made by one of the club members, Jonathan Palmer, which hangs proudly at the clubhouse. The clubhouse has been renamed the 'Andy Fulton Room' in honour of Andy.



Andy could turn his hand to anything and once bought an old Jaguar car and remade all the interior woodwork out of red gum, his favourite timber. He was part owner of a bush block in Victoria's high country and also had amazing bush skills. Apparently there were rules up here though – no peeing off the verandah! The bush loo had no door, so when the women guests complained, Andy built a door on the path – no-one could see the loo from the house, so job done!

To Pam's dismay sometimes Andy often dropped everything at the shop to help someone out. Bill Pearson's wood splitter stopped so up went Andy and got it running again. If the post office needed the locks changed for a new box owner, no problems, Andy was there to get it done. He did keep Jenny at the coffee shop guessing his daily order, he changed it often and kept the staff on their toes. The notice board outside the *Daughters at Hall* was made by Andy and donated for use by the village.

When talking to people about Andy's life I was struck by how moved they were. Brian says he'll 'miss their morning coffees and Friday beers, oh, and our Sunday beers'. Bill and the Collectors Club members will miss Andy's smiling face and enthusiasm, he was always a positive person. Others remembered Andy always had a smile and a greeting for the village kids as they walked up the lane past his shop. I met Andy's family when preparing this article and Andy's lovely granddaughters, Evelyn and Eliza obviously felt comfortable and right at home in his house. Andy's children, Richard and Paula, spoke lovingly of him with Paula warning me she could talk about Andy for hours. Pam and Andy were married for over 40 years and they created a loving family home, a value important to Pam, that drew her to Andy all those years ago.

Vale Andy.



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President's page

The new year brings the potential to start a new chapter. With the new year, we have the opportunity to learn from both past successes and past mistakes, to strengthen relationships, to complete current projects and begin new activities.

The first meeting of the Hall Progress Association Committee of 2023 is in mid-February. Nevertheless, committee members have already been preparing some activities for this year.

Work will continue in 2023 towards improving the amenity of the Hall Reserve following the community work days held last June and November. A plan by the Progress Association has been approved by ACT Parks to create five clusters of shrubs under established clumps of trees to suppress grass and weeds where mowers cannot reach and provide understory and habitat for small creatures. Approval has also been given to plant nine eucalyptus trees in keeping with existing trees to replace dead ones. Thank you to Danny Clynk, Olga Minion, Jonathan Palmer and Aaron Whittaker for their contributions to this work on the Hall Reserve.



The work day last June.

In February and March, the Progress Association will arrange two community work days. On 19 February we will have a community work day to prepare the areas for the planting of shrubs in the five 'clusters' including removal of weeds and soil preparation. On 26 March, the community work day will do the actual planting of the shrubs. We are grateful for the support of the Ginninderra Catchment Group in providing the shrubs and trees to plant.

While contributing to the enhancement of our village environment, these community work days are a great opportunity to work beside our neighbours and meet others in our community.



The Progress Association Committee is continuing efforts to address the need for appropriate storm water drainage infrastructure in Hall. We have been advised by the Transport Canberra and City Services Project Manager that the consultant is still in the model building phase of the project and is waiting the results of the expanded survey. The area was expanded to include flooding hotspots for the entire village after input from residents and businesses in Hall. The Project Manager has said that they intend to have the flood study and options study completed by 30 June 2023 which should still be in time for inclusion in the FY 2023 ACT Government budget.

Following concerns raised by Hall district residents in NSW, in December the Progress Association requested Yass Valley Council to repair the atrocious state of the main roads in Spring Range, Nanima and Wallaroo. Chris Berry, General Manager of Yass Valley Council responded that the council's road maintenance staff have inspected Wallaroo Road and advise that there is only a small area with potholes just after the Orthodox Monastery and this has been signposted with 'Rough Surface' signs. Mr Berry further advised there were 'one or two other unsatisfactory sections further along Wallaroo Road but at this stage they are no worse than comparable roads in Yass Valley'. Apparently, Mr Berry has added Wallaroo Road to the council's list of damaged roads but it is not considered a high priority for repair.



Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo residents are encouraged to contact Chris Berry at Yass Valley Council to encourage repair of their major roads.

If you have any ideas or concerns for our community, please talk to me or any member of the Progress Association Committee, give me a call on **0407 012 160**, send me an email at: **robert.yallop.care@gmail.com**, or send a message to **info@hall.act.au**.

I hope that you enjoy our remaining month of summer and hope to see you at the community work days on 19 February and 26 March.

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None of these photographs taken on Wallaroo Rd is anywhere near the monastery.





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Quadrille tunes circling round the world

by Mahesh Radhakrishnan

Ex-Hall resident Mahesh White-Radhakrishnan reflects on their 2022 Folk Fellowship residency at the National Library of Australia.

Recollections of going to dances in sulkies ... 'Claypan' dances in Aboriginal communities ... An old 1850 manuscript of an exotic 'Nepalese quadrille' based on 'Indian melodies' ...

These were just some of the intriguing nuggets I came across during my Folk Fellowship at the National Library of Australia. This was a four week stint during 2022 with privileged access to the library's folklore and other Special Collections' materials for the purposes of drawing on these to create new musical work. It was a

delightful honour to listen to hours and hours of music and reminiscences from performers past. Collections I accessed included those of John Meredith, Peter Ellis and Rob and Olya Willis, all Australian musicians and folk music collectors. As this collecting work began in the 1950s, I got to hear recordings dating back to that time, some involving senior people recalling memories and music going back to the 19th Century. I was reminded of accounts of Hall Village life around that time.



Fun times outside the NLA featuring Tapestries of Sound musicians Dave Carr, Nitya Bernard Parker, Andrew, Mahesh and Phillipa Murphy-Haste. Photo by Stephanie Morris, National Library of Australia

My research was focused on the tunes used to accompany quadrilles (or square dances) which were all the rage in the 19th Century, and what these circulating tunes reveal about connections between South Asia and Australia. It was inspired by my own journeys and encounters as a musician and researcher working across many different cultures.

I started my research with ideas about where I might find these connections and was not disappointed with

what I found in the library! I heard folk musicians all over Australia playing the same tunes which had influenced part of the repertoire of Mutthuswami



Mahesh with Canberra-based Nitya and Andrew in the NLA studio. Photo by Stephanie Morris, National Library of Australia

Dikshitar, a key Carnatic composer. These included *Lord McDonald's Reel* and *The Rakes of Mallow*. I heard tunes present in the music of Sri Lanka's Portuguese Burghers such as *The Irish Washerwoman* (arguably one of the biggest earworms of the colonial era). I accessed an old manuscript of Louis Jullien's *Nepalese Quadrille* and identified a genuinely Indian sound

in the notations as claimed. And I found recordings from around 1960 of an Afghan camel driver's song which ended up becoming part of Australian bush music. I also found other surprising connections in the collections. For example, I learnt about the Aboriginal tradition of playing these jigs and reels etc. and dancing quadrilles and similar forms in what were called 'claypan dances'. I also heard gumleaf music for the first time and came across some hauntingly beautiful examples. Another mind-blowing insight came from Cecil Orth, an accordionist who believed his father learnt his jigs, reels and other accordion tunes from an Indian hawkker, an unlikely cultural exchange.

At the end of the Fellowship I found that when it comes to finding connections through the frame of these old square dance tunes, truth is stranger than fiction – or even *Bridgerton* for that matter! My Fellowship resulted in an EP recording of five songs, mostly original work drawing on these very tunes putting a new spin on the story of the quadrille, one which looks at colonial encounters from a different perspective. I recorded these songs at the NLA recording studio with musicians from my band, *Tapestries of Sound* featuring Hall's very own Andrew Purdam.

Mahesh & *Tapestries of Sound's* new EP *Circling Beyond the Square* will be launching at Smiths Alternative on **Saturday 18 February at 3pm.**

Visit tinyurl.com/3p8265tr or the Smiths Alternative website to book tickets and tapestriesofsound.bandcamp.com to stream or buy the EP. The National Folk Fellowship is sponsored by the National Library of Australia and the National Folk Festival.

St Francis Xavier church choir

by Judy Smith

After a long and illustrious history, it has been decided to disband the SFX Hall church choir. This decision was not made lightly but was necessary due to fewer singers and the departure of our Choir Director.

This choir began in 2000 under the baton of Irene Pellegrino, then from 2006 until the present, by Nikki Carson. In our 22-year history, we have learnt to sing more than 250 different hymns and songs, representing approximately 50 hours of practice each year. We have sung in English, Latin, German, Bisaya (Filipino) and Maltese.

It has been our great pleasure to sing for Masses, weddings, funerals, baptisms, First Holy Communion, Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, SFX Feast Day, SFX Centenary celebrations, Festival of Santo Nino (since 2006), entertainment in retirement homes, Remembrance Day and Canberra Eisteddfod.

We have also derived much enjoyment from choir trips to sing in churches at Adelong, Gundagai, Tumut, Young and Bateman's Bay, usually at the invitation of ex-SFX priests who had been transferred to these country towns.

The choir has been actively engaged in fundraising for many charitable causes. The team of volunteers doorknocking at Hall for Vinnies was largely made up of choir members. Other fundraising has been for Nardy House for the Disabled, flood victims in Kerala, World Youth Day, Tony's Place (a house for rehabilitation of drug users) and, in 2022, Ukrainian refugees.



It is also worth noting that the choir has enabled considerable community bonding through inter-denominational experiences, monthly morning tea after church and combined singing with a Spence choir. We have become a close-knit group, celebrating with joint dinners, birthdays and supporting those suffering bereavement,

Over the years we have become somewhat of a Parish football, being allocated to a variety of Parishes for our spiritual and pastoral needs.

With each change, we have ensured our priest was invited to join us for coffee at Hall Café. In this way we were able to get to know him in an informal setting, and strong friendships were forged between the clergy and the laity.

I am sure that when the Church administrators in Kerala decide to send a priest to Canberra, someone will pipe up and say 'You are so lucky, especially if you are posted to the Parish where SFX Hall is. Their singing is divine and you will enjoy their company at coffee after church.'

Unfortunately, the choral singing will be no more but our commitment to the existence of SFX Hall as a place of worship and community solidarity remains as strong as ever.

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Powering ahead at the shed

men's shed

by **Kevin Stone**

January has come and gone, now we're in February and the Hall Men's Shed is already geared up with plenty of activities happening.

But the men will need to be a bit active after our fantastic Christmas party at the Gold Creek Station, which was so well attended by many from the shed and the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre, along with their wives, husbands, partners and friends who all thoroughly enjoyed the day. There was plenty of wonderful food, and along with the Festive Season break, maybe one or two Christmas kilos were put on!

One of the tasks the shed willingly took on last year is delivering the *Rural Fringe* along Wallaroo, Nanima and Spring Range roads. It's quite amazing to see the eight volunteer drivers crowd around and collect their allocated boxes of the Fringe so they could immediately get on the road.

They've certainly been doing a very prompt and reliable service and to everyone's pleasant and unexpected surprise, Jo Hall from the Fringe presented each volunteer with a Certificate of Appreciation and a bottle of wine, kindly donated by long term advertisers *Hops and Vine* at the Christmas party. The men looked so proud of their certificate and no doubt the very good wine will be one to share and enjoy.

Many thanks to Shaun O'Connor and *Hops and Vine* and the volunteers:

Doug Anstess	Garth Chamberlain
Brian Banyard	Danny Clynk
James Beatty	Roger Smith
Malcolm Bosworth	Aaron Whittaker

And there's plenty to keep everyone busy and amused on Thursday morning, or even Tuesday mornings for the keen ones who like to work on their projects twice a week. And there is already a list of projects at the planning stage, to be started or started to ensure there's plenty to do throughout the year. But there's always time for a cuppa, eats and a good old chin wag!

No doubt the Hall Preschool will benefit from some new and exciting toys or whatever there is in store for the students. The shed has a fantastic relationship with the teachers and students and it's always a delight to see the children's faces when they see what the men have created. And if last year is anything to go by, the children will really enjoy getting involved in painting the wooden items.

So yes, 2023 is already shaping up to be another successful year for the men's shed.

Stories come to life: the Princess and the Pea

by **Rhiân Williams**

*You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself in any
direction you choose.*
Dr. Seuss



I recently visited my wonderful friend Alison, and in our delightful chat over the best ever lemon cake we spent some time discussing treasured children's toys. Alison showed me a rather fetching small wooden bed topped with many little mattresses and a very lovely crocheted doll. She then removed the mattresses to reveal a tiny green pea.

As many of you would know *The Princess and the Pea* is the story of a prince who wants to marry a princess but cannot seem to find one that meets his exacting standards. One stormy night, a young woman drenched with rain seeks shelter in the prince's castle. She claims to be a princess, but no one believes her because of the way she looks. The prince's mother decides to test their unexpected guest by placing a pea covered by 20 mattresses in the bed she is offered for the night.

In the morning, the princess tells her hosts that she endured a sleepless night, kept awake by something

hard in the bed that she is certain has bruised her. Her back is indeed revealed to be bruised and the prince rejoices, for only a real princess would have the sensitivity to feel a pea through such a quantity of bedding. The two are happily married, and the story ends with the pea being placed in a museum, where, according to the story, it can still be seen today unless someone has stolen it.

Alison says her grandchildren have had great fun in playing with the Princess, including taking her on adventures

where she has been chased by dinosaurs or fighting off aliens – all of which sounds much more fun than being the consort of a rather persnickety prince obsessed with table manners!

If you have any toys based on books or stories that you or the children in your life simply adore, please do share them with the *Rural Fringe*: ruralfringe@hotmail.com



The Men's Shed volunteers, with Jo Hall.



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Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade

Volunteering for the Community

by **Shona Jenkin**

Happy New Year! We are pleased to report it has been a quiet start to the fire season in our local area. Nevertheless, our volunteers have been kept busy supporting other communities across the state who have been affected by recent flooding. Members of Wallaroo RFS have deployed five times to multiple areas from Yass to Deniliquin to undertake flood response and recovery.



In recent weeks we have started to see a number of grass fires across the state, including in our local area, as the drying effect of summer takes hold. In early January our members attended two fires in Sutton and Yass. Wallaroo RFS and other local brigades also supported Jeir RFS in responding to a machinery fire. This was a timely reminder of how quickly a grass fire can start and spread. We urge you to take care when using any machinery or mowers in and around long grass, as the grass is drying out and the risk of fire is increasing.

Prepare, Act, Survive

We encourage you to ensure you and your family are prepared.

Know the risk: New fire danger ratings are now in place. Understanding what these mean will allow you to make potentially life-saving decisions.

Prepare: ensure your property and your fire plan are ready for this fire season. This could be key to protecting your life and those of the ones you love.

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2023

The brigade will continue to build our skills and experience through regular training every second Wednesday night in 2023.

Our volunteers will also continue to dedicate their time to fundraising activities, including Bunnings bbqs, support to the Murrumbateman field days and community events. These funds



help us to ensure we have the skills, equipment and facilities we need to provide quality service to our community in times of crisis. We greatly appreciate the ongoing and generous support of local communities. If you wish to make a donation to the brigade, please contact Treasurer Peter Vincent.

The brigade is also able and willing to support the local community with planned burns on private property, pending RFS headquarters approval. Please contact Captain Neil Shepherd to discuss.

Brigade contacts

If you have any questions about fire safety, preparedness, RFS membership or Wallaroo Brigade activities, please feel free to reach out to our Brigade Executive or the Southern Tablelands Zone.

Captain: Neil Shepherd 0418 628 095
nshepherd@shepelectrical.com.au

Senior Deputy Captain: Geoff Morris 0407 188 192
geoffmor@hotmail.com

President: Amy Goldstraw 0410 763 936
amy.goldstraw@gmail.com

Secretary: Mike Textor 0408 825 281
tw43887@bigpond.net.au

Treasurer: Peter Vincent 0415 630 560
tyndarah@bigpond.net.au

Yass Fire Control Centre: 02 6266 3100
southerntablelandszone@rfs.nsw.gov.au

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Another year . . . bring it on!

by **Kevin Stone**

How time flies!

We're already down one month and well into February. Let's hope that anyone who made New Year resolutions have at least started on the right foot and made a positive start to 2023.

And for us who aren't brave enough to tempt fate, at least we can start the year by counting our blessings.

It hasn't been easy for so many over the past two years, and in some cases the bad times continue. You may know someone who's going through hardships due to the recent flooding in the various states, or indeed still having issues from the bushfires, let alone the pandemic. And unfortunately we're in the fire season again, with high grass loads as a result of the heavy rainfall we've had and now warm weather.

So yes, it can be hard at times for some when people say 'have a good day' and you may be feeling a bit down. Thank goodness it's being said less and less when we go through the supermarket checkout, but replaced by a genuine friendly smile and 'thank you'.

I looked back at my 2021 diary when I wrote down the things that made me happy. It was a time when things seemed to be getting on top of me.



I can recommend writing down 'feel good' things that bring happiness in your life, even if it's just a nice memory. Not something overarching like 'family', but drilling down and thinking about what part of family life it is. Maybe it's having coffee with your daughter, son or sibling. Watching your children play in the park. It could be a phone call, a visit to or from someone. A good friend giving you a plant.


Going for a walk and chatting to people. Birdsong. How good is that!? What is it about living in Hall or wherever you live that you love and enjoy?

There is so much to appreciate in life, even if you have ongoing pain or illness, but some days are better than others. And especially if you're sleeping better, surely that's something good and worth writing down.

One of the things I wrote and believe in is 'never giving up'. It's certainly not about being stoic, but thinking about the positives in life.

And let's face it, 2023 has to be better than what we've put up with!

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Crinigan's Clocks

Marilyn Folger, a descendant of the Crinigan/McInnes family, has been involved in the conservation of Crinigan's Stone Hut ruins near Ling Place, Amaroo. An archaeological dig revealed that the cottage comprised three small rooms with two internal fireplaces, as well as a resident family of brown snakes.

The remains of three old clocks and a pocket watch were found amongst the ruins and were passed to the Hall Heritage Centre's resident clock enthusiast, Alf Wilford.

Nineteen-year-old John Crinigan (aka Donohoe), an Irishman from County Westmeath, was transported for life on the 'Waterloo' in 1836 for 'assaulting habitation', which suggest that he was involved with the Irish 'Whiteboys' rebels. He was assigned to 'Palmerville', where in 1842 he married Maria Mansfield, who had arrived in 1832 from Norfolk on the 'Madoline'.

After his assignment at 'Palmerville', Crinigan worked as a bullocky at 'Dunroon'. It is uncertain when the Crinigans built their stone hut on Ginninderra Creek, near Mulligans Flat, but it was probably in the mid to late 1840s.

Alf investigated the origin of the clock parts and remarkably was able to identify the source of all of them.



The oldest clock relic was a single brass minute hand, which Alf identified as belonging to a mid 1800s Black Forest postman's alarm wall clock, similar to the example shown.



A set of components was identified as belonging to a Westclox 'Big Ben' alarm clock, similar to the example shown, which was typically sold in the early 1900s.



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Other components belonged to an E Ingraham Co. striking shelf clock, made in Bristol, Connecticut, USA in February 1909.



Also in the rubble were parts of a small Swiss enameled copper pocket watch, similar to the example shown.

It was wound and set from the back with a key and would have had a ring to attach to a watch chain.



Only the Black Forest postman's alarm clock dates to Crinigans time in the hut, with the others possibly belonging to later residents, the Cavanagh or Ryan families.

How a Black Forest wall clock came to be in the possession of a poor farming family with convict origins is unknown. Did John or Maria bring it out from Ireland or England, was it a gift, or did John acquire the clock to aid in his work?

Imagine what this clock could have witnessed. The birth of John and Maria's 10 children, and the sadness as only one, Eliza Jane, survived to adulthood. It is thought that the nine children who did not survive are buried in close proximity to Crinigan's Stone Hut.

It may have also witnessed an altercation in the hut in 1858 involving Thomas Wells. An employee of Crinigan, Samuel Marley, heard about a party at the hut involving Mrs Wells and went to the hut and persuaded the characters to leave. However, he had a couple of nips with Mrs Wells and they were well under the influence when Wells returned and, suspecting infidelity, attacked them. Marley later died from his injuries and Wells was convicted on a charge of manslaughter, but was saved from a more serious charge by the testimony of his wife. He received a light sentence and upon his release he returned to Ginninderra and was employed by William Davis.

Maria died in 1863, aged only 37, and John Crinigan remarried to the widow Margaret Logue of the old Dunroon Dairy, but they lived in a cottage assigned to Margaret on the Dunroon Estate, near where the National Library now stands.

The hut was refreshed with the marriage of 16-year-old Eliza Jane Crinigan to Duncan McInnes. They lived in the hut from 1867 until about 1875 with the first four of their 13 children, before they moved to 'Glenwood' near Hall.

The hut then remained vacant and was in ruins by the 1920s. Much of the Crinigan farm became part of Cavanagh's 'Strayleaf', presumably through Margaret's eldest daughter, Mary (nee Logue) Cavanagh, with the remainder merged into Ryan's 'Tea Gardens'.

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Summer gardening

I knew this would happen, *snap*, and it's hot and dry, although the storm this afternoon is most welcome.

One of the wonderful things about this part of Australia is the seasons and when they don't perform as expected, it does throw out our sense of normalcy. And even though most of us are incredibly adaptable and open to change many of our plants are not so happy about weird seasons.

The prolonged cool/wet weather encouraged many plants to continue to grow past their normal spring flush and lots of new healthy foliage can become easily detrimentally impacted by hot dry weather.

Good preparation is essential for your garden to survive and thrive the wilting effects of our summers.

We also have the combination of dividing our time and effort between making sure our gardens are kept in good shape and enjoying them in the summer months.

Jobs important to consider in summer:

- 1 Look after budding plants.** Plants such as camellias develop buds in the summer – if they dry out their defence mechanism is to drop its buds – mulch and water at least twice weekly when it's hot and dry to eliminate this potential problem.
- 2 Keep pots cool.** Many pots are subject to overheating. It can help to mulch your pots and position them out of the hot sun. The practice of keeping your potted plants in saucers of water really only encouraged root rot and mosquito problems. A good alternative is to fill the saucer with sand and keep the sand moist, this way the roots stay cool and the plant remains healthy. If plants become so dry that is difficult to get the soil to take up water, soak them in a bucket of water for about half an hour then drain.
- 3 Water early, not late.** It is wrong to assume that watering in the late afternoon is ideal (even though, mentally we feel better doing it). Plants go to sleep, if they are not photosynthesising, they cannot uptake water and they only photosynthesise when there is daylight. Plants are also more susceptible to fungal problems if moisture remains on their foliage over night. So if you must water in the afternoon, do it before sundown and allow plenty of time for the foliage to dry out.

gardening by Lisa Walmsley

- 4 Add nutrients to your water.** If you can only water occasionally, add nutrients such as seaweed and water deeply.

Roses and fruit trees are particularly fond of potash.

- 5 Keep your lawns long and lush.** There is a temptation to scalp lawns when they are growing prolifically, but this will only encourage bare, brown, weed infested lawns.

It's a misconception that cutting lawns low reduces the cutting frequency. Mowing lawns high permits turf to wear better, creates a thicker sward that in turn suppresses weeds such as oxalis and bindii. Lawns also do well with a seaweed feed used as a tonic once a month during the hottest time of the year.

- 6 Check watering systems and hoses.** Sounds easy but often forgotten until it's super hot. Flush all irrigation lines and clean gutters if you rely on water catchment. With this crazy summer it's hard to tell when suddenly you need to water because it seems to be drying out really quickly. Is it worth considering a water tank if you don't have one, or a bigger one!

- 7 Labour intensive work.** Get this sorted early in the day – remember to have a big drink of water and a large smear of sunscreen as you head out – with your hat and sunnies firmly in position.



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- 8 New plants.** Most of us cannot resist planting in the spring – nurseries are full of flowering goodies that look amazing and veg seedlings are bulging on the shelves. However, plants simply don't have enough time to settle before the heat hits and will need some time to sun harden. A bit of protection with shade cloth or something similar will help them to establish without thumping heat. Extra water goes without saying, although I will say it. Remembering that plants get watered every day in the nursery – they will need the same in your garden, until they develop roots in the soil.

- 9 Shade.** Every garden needs it. I have been banging on about trees in your garden for years. Strategically placed trees for shelter, protection and privacy are a must. Just make sure you think about the size, shape and cultural requirements of the tree and seriously consider its placement.

- 10 Watch for pests.** Our plants have been very wet and now it is crunchy dry, both can create stress, which leads to vulnerable plants that tend to send a beacon to anything hungry, leading to attack.

- 11 Going away.** Re-mulch, liquid feed and set tap timers – veggies need extra care when it's hot and dry.

- 12 Mulch, mulch, mulch.** This is essential to help retain moisture, suppress weeds and helps keep the soil temperature a little cooler.

poetry

Weather changes

Harry Redfern

The sun comes out, but not for long.
The rain falls, but soon is gone.
So should we go and run for fun
while the sky is blue between the clouds?
Or sit and read a book here in the sun?
Look up BOM or Weatherzone.
Here or there upon your phone.
Should we go or stay here all day?
I think I'd rather go away.
So goodbye to you, my friend, I'm gone.
Know I won't be gone for long.
Do what you wish, you're on your own,
we can contact each other on our phone.
Read, run or ride or go for a walk,
Or maybe sit inside and talk.
Rain or sunshine, that's the weather.
It's always good to be together.
Out in the garden, or find someone to meet.
Maybe a movie or Adventure Street.
C'mon, my friend, let's do it now.
Let's do it together, before the next shower.

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Ingredients

100ml olive oil, plus extra for the tin
275g self-raising flour
200g caster sugar
1 tsp baking powder
170 ml cold water
1 lemon, zested, 1/2 juiced

For the icing (optional)

1/2 lemon, juiced
150g icing sugar

Method

- Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Oil a loaf tin and line it with baking parchment. Mix the flour, sugar, baking powder and lemon zest in a bowl. Add the oil, lemon juice and 170ml cold water, then mix until smooth.
- Pour the mixture into the tin. Bake for 35 mins or until a skewer comes out clean. Cool in the tin for 10 mins, then remove and transfer the cake to a wire rack to cool fully.
- For the icing, sieve the icing sugar into a bowl. Mix in just enough lemon juice to make an icing thick enough to pour over the loaf (if you make the icing too thin, it will just run off the cake).



7 steps to achieving your goals (and SMART goals is only one of them)

Did you make a new year's resolution? And have you kept it? According to a recent ABC article, more than half of new year's resolutions fail. And they fail because we fail to create a plan and then implement the plan. Whilst the new year is a good excuse to evaluate our lives and think about the future, any time of the year is good to make positive changes; it's getting them to stick that's the challenge.

A common way to set goals is to use the SMART acronym:

- S** • Specific
M • Measurable
A • Achievable
R • Realistic
T • Time bound

And adjust as necessary. Life gets in the way sometimes and unexpected things happen. Regroup and adjust when you're able to. You set the timing, so you can adjust the timing if need be.

Why?

Why is your goal important to you? Deciding to exercise everyday or eat healthy foods when you normally don't, or anything new is challenging. Focus on why achieving your goal is important to you. If you don't have a good enough reason, you won't keep going when it gets tough.

Who do you need to be to fulfill your goal?

Another angle on goal setting is working through who do you need to be? If your goal is to lose weight, you need to be the person who eats nutritious foods the majority of the time and moves your body regularly, as an example. If your goal is to exercise more, you need to be the person who chooses when and how you're going to exercise and set yourself up for success and then, actually exercise. Who is it you need to be?

Just do the next step

It's easy for someone to say plan and strategise, but sometimes you may not know all the action steps you need to achieve your goal. Then it's time to focus in on the one thing, that next step, that you can do. Identify one thing you can do and do it. Keep focussing on the one, next step and little by little, you'll make progress if you keep implementing small steps. Action in small steps is more achievable and less overwhelming than trying to implement big changes at once.

Visualise your success

If you can't imagine it, it won't happen. Imagine achieving your goal; imagine what it looks like, sounds like, smells like, tastes like. Imagine how you

will feel once you've achieved your goal. Unless you believe you can do it, it won't happen and imagining your success is an important part of believing in your success. Even if you're unsure in the beginning, the more you imagine success, the more you'll believe in yourself and vice versa. Imagination plus action is a powerful combination.

Don't beat yourself up

If you have a goal that you're having trouble bringing to fruition, beating yourself up is never the answer. We're all human and our brain prefers to keep the status quo, rather than making changes. Making new neural pathways can be challenging. It's much better to get curious.

- What is happening when you fall down?
- What prevents you from achieving your goal?
- What are the underlying emotions?
- Is there a way to anticipate the challenges and implement alternative strategies?

If you fall down, accept you're human, accept that it happened and move on. It's not the end of the world and you don't need to start from scratch. It was a blip; regroup and continue on.

Seek additional support

If you are finding that despite planning and strategizing, something, somehow is always getting in the way, there might be a subconscious pattern that is holding you back. Our brains' way of working more efficiently is to automate the patterns of behaviour that we do repeatedly. Once upon a time, that habit or behaviour you're

by **Robyn Montealeone**
hypnotherapist



considering changing (insert here) was a useful response. I work under the assumption that all habits and behaviours have a positive intention. If we find a way to fulfill that positive intention whilst implementing more useful habits, behaviours and emotions, then change can be easy. It may sound weird, but a little bit of weird can go a long way if you get the results you're after.

What habit, behaviour or emotional response is now holding you back now? Hypnotherapy can help you create change quickly without the struggle. Find out more here: www.robynm.com.au



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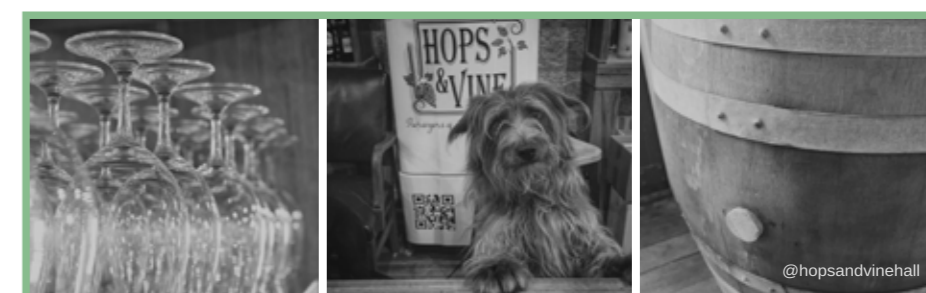
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From the Editor

A New Year brings with it a new editor of the *Rural Fringe*. I have provisionally taken over the editorship of the Fringe from Jo Hall who is stepping back from the editor role after 11 years to manage the magazine's advertising and accounts and be my advisor until I am off my training wheels.

So my New Year's resolution is all about maintaining the role of the *Rural Fringe* as the publication of the Hall Village and District Progress Association (VHDPA), to keep articles interesting and informative, to maintain the advertising revenue (thanks to all our wonderful supporters) and to continue to showcase our village and district events.

A special thanks goes to *Hops and Vine* for donating lovely bottles of wine to accompany the Certificate of Appreciation given out at the Christmas party to those Hall Men's Shed volunteers who deliver the Fringe to all the outlying 2618 areas of Wallaroo and Spring Range.

Our regular contributors keep us up to date on the issues being tackled by the VHDPA, the activities at the men's shed and the Heritage Centre, how to maintain our garden, our minds and bodies, church service times and general village life. It is always lovely to receive contributions of articles and photos from around the district on many and varied topics too so please send in anything you would like to see in the magazine.

Here's to a great 2023, see you out and about enjoying our beautiful rural life.

Until next time,
Jenny Whittaker

Australia Day award recipients

We were very pleased to see two local Hall district residents acknowledged in this year's Australia Day honours list.

Philip Williams was awarded an AM 'for significant service to the broadcast media as a presenter and journalist'

Barbara Baikie was awarded an OAM 'for service to women's affairs, and to the community'

We congratulate both Philip and Barbara on their service, and on receiving their awards.



Letters to the editor always welcome

email: RuralFringe@hotmail.com

post: P.O. Box 43
Hall ACT 2618



The *Rural Fringe* acknowledges the Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri peoples who are the traditional custodians of the land of Hall Village and District and acknowledges their continuing relation to their ancestral lands. We pay our respect to the Elders of the First Nations past, present and future.

The Rural Fringe – ISSN: 1329-3893

The *Rural Fringe* is a community newspaper published in 660 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.

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: Jenny Whittaker
Roving editor: Jo Hall
Proofreader: Kevin Stone
Email: ruralfringe@hotmail.com

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The views expressed in this journal do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or the VHDPA. Some of the material in this journal may be copyright. Please contact the author or the editor for permission before reproducing articles.



Scenes from the Ginninderra Catchment Group Christmas party, which included members from Wallaroo, Hall, Flynn and Fraser Landcare Groups.

out & about



Reflection on another Wallaroo pothole.



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Hall Village Community Work Days

19 February
and
26 March
11am-3pm



The five proposed clusters for planting shrubs.



On 19 February the Progress Association will arrange a community work day to prepare the areas for the planting of shrubs in the five 'clusters', including removal of weeds and soil preparation.

On 26 March, the community work day will do the actual planting of the shrubs.



We are grateful for the support of the Ginninderra Catchment Group in providing the shrubs and trees to plant.

For further information talk to any member of the Hall Progress Association Committee, email info@hall.act.au or call **Robert Yallop** on **0407 012 160**.

