

# RURAL FRINGE

*Journal of the Hall district*



VOLUME 31 ISSUE 1

February 2024

## Imagine another 800 homes in Hall?

by Jenny Whittaker

A local Hall resident recently came across a document that shows just how close the Hall district came to having an additional 800 more homes than it does now, and possibly more.

The National Capital Development Authority (NCDC) Draft Development Plan was published in September 1973 following an Outline Planning Report submitted to the Commission during March 1973. The proposal was for the creation of an area to cater for increased population growth in a 'stand alone' development, using the geography surrounding Hall and Hall's Creek.

The valley through which Hall's Creek runs is surrounded by a horseshoe shaped ridge formation and this formed a natural amphitheatre in which the development would be built. There was a possibility that the development would extend towards Belconnen in the future. The total area available was 350 hectares.

The first stage of the development was in sectors 1, 2 and 3 comprising approximately 800 homes, a commercial area, the high school, one infants' school and open areas. Future development was to be determined from further discussion, but the area north of the first stage was to contain the remaining infants and primary schools and local activity centre. Interestingly this seemed to cross the border into NSW.

It was proposed that a Belconnen arterial link to the new development be constructed.

The village of Hall was to retain an individual identity and be physically separated from the new development by a buffer area, although the plan was for certain facilities to be combined for future use such as sports areas.



During the final design and documentation process, a request was made to examine the feasibility of incorporating, in suitable locations, a style of subdivision design which would 'favour preservation of the natural environment beyond usual practice'.

This area was to be developed as an experimental area referred to as the Preserved Environment Area (PEA) in which the necessary access and service amenities would be provided but on a 'modified scale and in such a manner as to provide a greatly reduced impact on the natural environment'. The PEA was to be part of the first development area and was to be 150 building allotments. The PEA included such things as all-weather access roads, thereby reducing the reshaping of the natural surface to a minimum. Generally, no kerb and channel was proposed and grassing and landscaping was to butt right to the edge of the road.

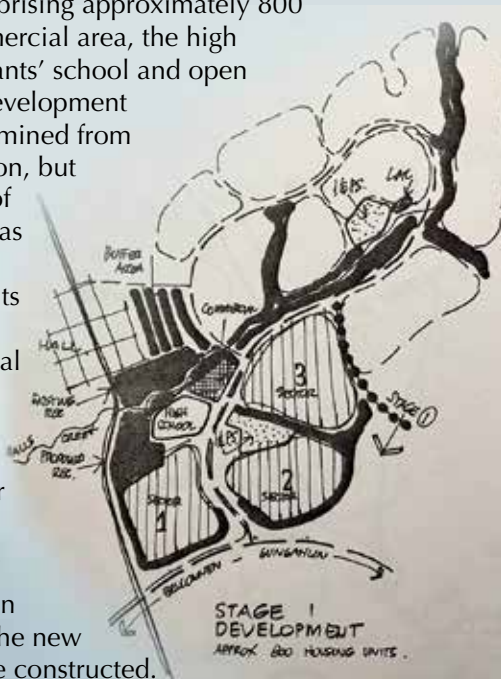


Not surprisingly managing storm water was a major consideration. Hall's Creek was to be left in as natural a condition as possible. But storm water discharge directly into the creek was considered an issue due to erosion concerns.

A tree survey was completed and every effort was to be made to protect and preserve valuable tree growth. It was noted that the powerful hill frame that virtually surrounds the proposed development required considerable attention to restore its natural tree growth in selected areas. Power was to be provided by underground cabling to reduce visual pollution.

The report doesn't say why the development didn't go ahead and to be selfish, I am so glad it didn't. You can bet that if it was built today, the blocks would be very desirable, selling for small fortunes!

You can read the full report soon, as it will find a new home in the Hall Heritage Centre.



## Mark your calendars for the 81st National Sheep Dog Trial!



Get ready for some tail-wagging excitement, because the 81st National Sheep Dog Trial Championships is about to take over Hall from **Monday 11 March to Sunday 17 March**. This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever, attracting the best sheepdog handlers and their four-legged partners from across Australia.

### A stellar lineup of champions

Fresh off his victory at last year's National Open, Mick Hudson will be back to defend his title, along with a host of other talented competitors. And with the recent screening of the popular *Muster Dogs* series on ABC featuring Border Collies supplied by Mick himself, we expect the crowds to be the biggest yet!

### Volunteers: The Heart of the National

The National Sheep Dog Trial Championships wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our amazing volunteers. Many of these heroes come from the village of Hall and district, lending a helping hand with everything from gate duty and setup/pack-up to catering.

If you're looking for a rewarding way to be a part of this iconic event, we encourage you to join our volunteer team. Come along to our morning tea at the Pony Club on **24 February at 10:30am** for a chance to chat about the volunteer roles and enjoy some famous Hall scones and tea. You can also contact Jonathan Palmer on **0419 685 358** for more information.

### Experience the thrill of the trial

Tickets are just \$10 per adult (single day), and entry is free on the Tuesday. You can buy them online or at the gate. So come on down and witness the incredible bond between humans and their canine companions as they navigate the challenging obstacles of the course. You'll see sheepdogging at its finest.

We can't wait to see you at the 81st National Sheep Dog Trial! It's going to be an unforgettable event for dog lovers and everyone in between.

**ICP**  
INSTANT COLOUR PRESS  
Digital & Offset Printing

LOCALLY & FAMILY OWNED WITH OVER 39 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Digital Printing | Graphic Design | Outdoor Signage

21 Rae Street (Units 6-8), PO Box 3303, Belconnen ACT 2617  
P (02) 6253 1866  
www.instantcolourpress.com.au  
sales@instantcolourpress.com.au

Hall Rural Fringe Proudly Printed by Instant Colour Press



### The Wollemi Pine celebrates 30 years since being discovered.

This amazing relic from the time of the dinosaurs was thought extinct.

It was discovered in a remote part of the Blue Mountains in 1994. A single stand of under 100 trees had stood the test of time in a remote canyon protected from fire, human intervention, and environmental threats.

You can now grow this amazing tree in a pot or in well drained soil in your garden.

Open 7 days a week

Shop 12  
Federation Square II  
O'Hanlon Place  
Nicholls ACT 2913

Phone. 02 6230 2000

dream.  
create.  
live.

## St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

by Beryl Pedvin

Corner Victoria & Loftus Streets, Hall

After a busy year, which included celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of St Michael's foundation in May 2023, we look forward to a peaceful year in 2024. Our weekly services continue each **Sunday at 11am**, followed by morning tea in the garden. All are welcome to join us at St Michael's on any Sunday or via Zoom using Meeting ID and password 9551044551.

We now look forward to Easter. The anticipation of Easter starts with **Ash Wednesday on 14 February**, marking the start of Lent. Lent is a time of reflection and preparation for the solemnity of Good Friday and great celebration of Easter.

This year **Good Friday** will fall on **29 March**, and 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. Should inclement weather cause the walk to be cancelled advice will be given as early as possible. 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, and numbers have been increasing each year. The walk will start at **11am** at the northern end of Victoria Street – at 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 **11am** service on **Easter Day 31 March**. Residents and visitors are invited to come along for Easter or our weekly service any **Sunday at 11am**.

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

## A year in the garden at Terroux in 2024

Good news for garden lovers. Terroux Peace Garden will open to the public over four weekends at the beginning of each season in 2024. Co-owner, designer and head gardener Peter Fletcher will conduct guided tours on these weekends and there will be musical soirées on the Saturday late afternoon/evenings.

On Sunday mornings co-owner and qualified Dru Yoga teacher Barbara Baikie will offer a one hour relax and revitalise yoga class. This is available for day visitors and people staying at Hygge House B&B on the Terroux property.

### Autumn in the garden 24, 25 February 2024

Open Garden from **10am to 4pm**.

Home-made morning and afternoon tea or light lunch will be available for purchase for day visitors.

Escorted garden tours **11am** and **2pm**, weather permitting.

Open garden entry is \$10 which is paid to *Open Gardens Canberra* upon entry: [opengardenscanberra.org.au](http://opengardenscanberra.org.au)

### Sunset soirée Saturday 24 February 2024 with music by local duo Stage3 5pm till 7pm

Stage3 is French Australian duo Isabelle Faure and Denis Marotte.

Isabelle Faure is an actress and a musician. She studied piano and classical music from 8 to 18 years old in



Lyon, France. Her interest is in classical music, film soundtracks, pop music and blues.

Denis Marotte is a musician and guitar maker. He started playing guitar as a teenager and produced himself with his band for 10 years in the Rhône-Alpes Region of France. He has been playing with different blues and rock bands in Australia for 15 years.

Isabelle and Denis started to play together two years ago. Their repertoire includes ballads and blues. They have performed outdoors in festivals and fairs, as well as indoors at more intimate settings like cocktail parties.

All proceeds from our soirées will be donated to BIGhART, of which Barbara Baikie is Chair.

Tickets \$35 per person

Book for the Autumn soiree here: [www.trybooking.com/CNUFE](http://www.trybooking.com/CNUFE)

## Album release by Willie and the Correspondents

Renowned Canberra (and Hall) band Willie and the Correspondents have launched their third album: *We're Free We're Rolling*.

The album brings together new songs written over the past few years and re-recorded versions of several previous songs. They tried many of them out at the National Folk Festival in 2023 and at the Tathra Pub, a favourite venue, and they got a great reception. Several were recorded live at Smiths Alternative in Canberra.

All the songs have been written by Hall residents Hugh Watson and Matthew Herbert with input from other band members Philip Williams, Peter McDonald and Greg Turnbull. The mixing was done by Matthew Herbert over many hours.

You can find the album on Spotify, Bandcamp, Apple Music, iTunes, Amazon, iHeartRadio and YouTube Music as well as other outlets.

You can view several of the band's clips on the band's YouTube channel and we'd appreciate likes on our Facebook page. You can check out more on our website: [westtexascrudemusic.org](http://westtexascrudemusic.org)

If you want to know more about the genesis of the songs read on . . .

### We're Free We're Rolling

1. **We're free we're rolling** (words Hugh Watson, music Matthew Herbert) A conversation heard on a train between two recent inmates inspired this song.
2. **Take your chances** (words Matthew Herbert and Hugh Watson, music Matthew Herbert) A great Matthew riff on the steel guitar during one of our legendary Tuesday nights produced this song.
3. **When the circus came to town** (words Hugh Watson, music Matthew Herbert) A memory from childhood resurfaced when the circus rolled into Merimbula.

4. **The Battler** (words and music Hugh Watson) This song was originally written for a cabaret show called 'Figments and Ligaments' performed in Canberra in 1985 during the World Cup Athletics. It recalls Hugh's childhood memories of the Bega show and Jimmy Sharman's Boxing Tent.
5. **Poetry in Texas** (words Hugh Watson, music Matthew Herbert) This song was inspired by a Scandinavian poet talking on Radio National about a visit he'd made to the town of Poetry in Texas, (U.S.). We thought we could swing it to Texas, Queensland.
6. **Feeling Lucky** (words and music Matthew Herbert) Matthew researched his family history on the Monaro to produce this evocative song.
7. **Dear Leader's Country Band** (words Hugh Watson, music Hugh Watson and Matthew Herbert) The antics of the late North Korean Leader Kim Jong Il produced this song late one night. It's always a crowd favourite.
8. **A little rain must fall** (words and music Matthew Herbert, vocals Madeleine Herbert) A series of personal challenges produced this lovely song, beautifully sung by Matthew's daughter Madeleine.
9. **Absent friends** (words Hugh Watson, music Hugh Watson and Matthew Herbert) A song for all those who serve; written for Hugh's father Robert who fought in the Middle East and the Pacific.
10. **Doesn't anybody care about the country anymore – live** (words Hugh Watson music Matthew Herbert) Country towns are dying, hospitals are closing, the trains have stopped coming and farmers are committing suicide. This song was recorded live at *Smith's Alternative* in Canberra.



### Willie and the Correspondents

Folk/Roots/Country band *Willie and the Correspondents* was born from the community in the village of Hall. They delight audiences with their original songs covering the struggles and strength of country town people and Indigenous Australians, family ties, lost love, political posturing and times gone by. Be prepared for an upbeat session that will make you sing, laugh and cry.

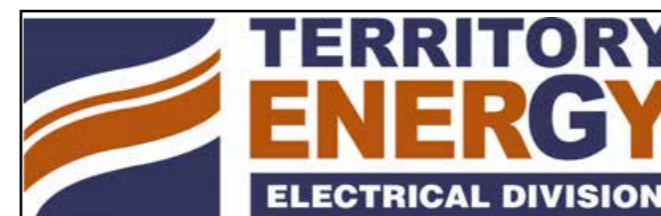
Over nearly three decades the band has helped raise more than \$300,000 for different charities in the ACT and on the coast: fires, cancer, drought, poverty. They have played at the National Folk Festival, Kiama and Majors Creek Festivals as well as numerous times at Smith's Alternative and the Tathra Pub. They have released three albums.

Their songs reflect the deep experiences of band members: growing up with Aboriginal kids, struggling through drought, politics, first loves and growing old. Their song *Dear Leader's Country Band* about Kim Jong Il has delighted audiences for years as they laugh and join in the chorus. Their poignant song *Sons of the Somme* was selected into the National Collection of the Australian War memorial.

With former ABC Chief Foreign Correspondent Phil Williams on harp, former Press Secretary to Paul Keating Greg Turnbull on drums, former Private Secretary to Susan Ryan Hugh Watson on guitar there's always some politics (and a crowd wanting to talk to Phil). With Hugh and Matthew Herbert (lead guitar and vocals) writing the songs, their country background in Bega and on the coast resonates in the songs. Bass player Peter McDonald brings decades of experience with top line performers.

Contact: Hugh Watson:

M: 0419 732 066 E: [hwatsonc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hwatsonc@bigpond.net.au)



### ASP Level 2 Electrician

- Available 24 hours/seven days a week for electrical emergency repairs
- Residential/rural/commercial and industrial
- Metering
- Overhead and underground connections

ABN 17 103 874 620  
Licence 153006C (NSW) 200313230 (ACT)  
ASP AP30672 (NSW)

0427 363 747 or 0428 288 466

## Grassfed Galloway Beef

Available at Epic Markets



### Minto Galloways Natural, pasture raised beef.

- Independent US and Canadian tests found that Galloway Beef is:
- naturally lean, but well marbled, tender and full of flavour
  - low in saturated fat, but with high levels of Omega-3
  - contains no growth hormones or antibiotics, unlike most feed lot beef available through retail outlets today.

Gently reared on pasture, stress free Minto Galloway beef tastes great as well as being good for you.

NSW Food Authority Ref No. 33313 for your confidence  
ACT Food Business number 0931/07

We sell Commercial and stud Galloway animals

To order, or for more information, contact

Greg & Chris Stuart

phone: 6230 2536 email: [fenris1@bigpond.com](mailto:fenris1@bigpond.com)



Capital  
WINES

visit our cellar door

Taste our wine, share our Epicurean Food & Wine Experience. Our friendly staff are pleased to conduct wine tastings and assist with wine purchases.



CAPITAL WINES AND  
KYEEMA ART GALLERY  
13 Gladstone Street, Hall, ACT  
02 6230 2022

Open Thursday to Sunday  
10.30am to 4pm

[info@capitalwines.com.au](mailto:info@capitalwines.com.au)  
[capitalwines.com.au](http://capitalwines.com.au)

[f](#) [@](#) [@](#) @CAPITAL WINES



What an amazing accomplishment for the *Rural Fringe* to celebrate its 30th anniversary with this February 2024 edition. I recall first receiving a copy of the *Rural Fringe* after arriving in Hall in October 1996 and was surprised to learn that such a professional-looking publication was still in its infancy. As I travel, I pick up copies of the newsletters and magazines produced in other towns and have yet to find any that compare to the informativeness and attractiveness of our *Rural Fringe*. While print media globally are struggling to survive, the *Rural Fringe* continues to share news, information and events of our wonderful Hall Village and District. I would like to thank all the advertisers who make the *Rural Fringe* viable, the numerous contributors, the Hall Men's Shed for doing the roadside deliveries in Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo and especially the *Rural Fringe* volunteers past and present for their excellent work. Thank you to former editors Shaun Robson, Lee Corrigan, Andrew Purdam, Rhiân Williams, Allyson Wedrat and Jo Hall and the current *Rural Fringe* team of Gail Condry, Jo Hall, Andrew Purdam, Kevin Stone and editor Jenny Whittaker.

You will see in this *Rural Fringe* a brief article about safety concerns at the Wallaroo Road/Gladstone Street/Barton Highway intersection. Please provide your thoughts about this to the Progress Association by sending an email to [info@hall.act.au](mailto:info@hall.act.au) or talking to any member of the committee. If a significant number of Wallaroo and Hall District residents are concerned, the Progress Association will take further action.



THE SHEARING SHED  
HAIR SALON

Monday to Wednesday 9.00 – 5.30  
Thursday 9.00 – 8.00  
Friday 9.00 – 5.30  
Saturday 8.00 – 1.00

6230 2284

Unit 1/2-4  
Victoria Street  
Hall ACT 2618



Robert Yallop President

The first meeting of your Progress Association Committee will be held on 15 February when we will plan our areas of attention for the coming year. If you have any ideas or concerns for our community, please talk to me or any member of your Progress Association Committee or give me a call on **0407 012 160**.

The committee will continue to give major priority to the detailed design and installation of appropriate stormwater infrastructure in Hall Village and the establishment of safe pedestrian and cycle access from Clarrie Hermes Drive to Hall Village. The Progress Association Committee will also continue to work with the Ginninderra Catchment Group on the development of a Management Plan for Open Spaces around Hall Village to provide a comprehensive guide for government agencies and volunteer groups wishing to contribute to the protection and conservation of our unique environment.

With best wishes for 2024.

*The ACT Government's Urban Treescape division recently replaced the ageing and dying flowering fruit trees in Victoria Street. By using big, advanced trees the improved visual effect was immediate, and lovely!*



**clearview**  
total property services

- Maintenance
- Carpentry/Joinery, Tiling, Painting, Plastering
- Roofing
- Kitchens, Bathrooms, Wardrobes & Laundries
- Gardening

**Property Image Consultant**

Stuart Hensley  
mobile 0418 449 781 email [clearview132@bigpond.com](mailto:clearview132@bigpond.com)

## Welcome to 2024 in the shed

by Kevin Stone

Well, here we are again!

All rested and raring to go at the Hall Men's Shed after the Christmas and New Year break!

But for some of the members, it's probably been a quiet time and they have been looking forward to getting back to the various projects already started or at the planning stage.

Last year was quite a busy one for the shed and Doug Anstess, our hard working and dedicated Foreman, gave a very good year in review at our combined Christmas Party with the people from the Heritage Centre. He talked about things I've mentioned in the *Fringe* in the past, but they're nonetheless worth repeating because they highlight just how successful and popular the shed is.

For example, Doug spoke about our wonderful catering officers Rob Durie and Eric Detheridge, who week after week put on a great morning tea spread. And then we have our monthly barbeques, when Garth Chamberlain assists with his wonderful selection of salads. To top this off, there's no shortage of willing helpers with the preparation and clean-up, so well done everyone.

The biggest project the shed undertook was the extension to the cottage deck, something way beyond my pay scale! But not so for the many members involved, including an architect and at least one engineer to make sure the deck complies with all the rules. Special thanks go to Graham Smith, Bill Szydluk, Paul Williams, Aaron Whittaker and all the others who contributed their knowledge, experience and time to complete this very solid addition which has already been put to good use.

Doug also pointed out the value of having a place for men to gather in a safe, caring and welcoming environment. This is particularly important for some, especially when their partners have passed away, as the men can feel they have the support of others in the time of their loss. So yes, Doug's absolutely correct when he says community work is certainly enjoyable and keeps members active, but the shed's main focus is their overall wellbeing.

And Doug definitely deserves praise for all the work he obviously puts in to making the shed the success it is, even down to his weekly updates of what's been happening, which is a good way of keeping members informed, especially if they're unable to attend each week.

Roger Smith told me about a visit to the shed last year by Graham Waite from TADACT (Technology for Ageing and Disability ACT) when he described what they do and asked if we could undertake some projects for them. Basically, TADACT is a not for profit volunteer-based organisation, including Roger

as a member, who create and modify equipment for people with disabilities to assist them perform activities we so often take for granted. In other words, enabling their independence.

As a result of Graham's talk, a couple of very worthwhile projects were undertaken, when two bikes were modified and three block trolleys made. Both these items will give children support and confidence when riding and walking and thanks go to Graham Smith, Bruce Wallace for the design and construction, Arron Whittaker and Darrell Minion for metalwork design and construction and Brian Charge for assisting Roger to make these projects come to life. There's no doubt more projects will be undertaken in 2024.



Roger Smith and Aaron Whittaker modifying a bike for people with disabilities.

### So on to 2024!

Our woodwork group, which started with Brian Charge and Bruce Wallace, and ably overseen by Brian Banyard, seems to have grown over time, to a merry mob who will continue to make a variety of toys, bread boards and other things that are just as impressive. Alan Boyd, who is always quite modest with his talents, will no doubt attract more and more work as the word spreads of his incredible workmanship, with donations to the shed from very satisfied customers much appreciated.

The guys also enjoy being involved in the enthralling Sheep Dog Trials, the wonderful Brass on the Grass and are more than happy to lend a hand helping with the various clean up jobs around Hall. They also hand deliver, or rather drive around the surrounding area, delivering the *Rural Fringe* to a number of properties. One driving, one assistant passenger having a good old chin wag while doing yet another community service.

# The key to happiness in 2024

by **Robyn Monteleone** hypnotherapist



As we get into the swing of 2024, some people are wondering if this year will be an improvement on the last few years. What are the 'terms and conditions' of 2024 and do we really want to play the game this year?

The classic saying of the only guarantees in life are death and taxes could probably be expanded. It's highly likely 2024 will bring with it tragedies, accidents and stress that we could never have foreseen. Internationally, we have wars in Ukraine and Gaza and others that don't make it into our newsreel. Celebrities will die and break up with their partners and weather events continue to cause havoc. If we look for depressing news, we will certainly find it.

Equally, if we look for things that will surprise, delight and amaze us, we'll find them too. We'll find the stories of kindness to our fellow humans as people work to improve the lives of others. We'll find amazing feats of athleticism, determination and persistence, stories of relationships that have lasted a lifetime and acts of goodwill that will touch our soul.

Guaranteed, 2024 will not be the magic pill we'd all like it to be. It's up to us to decide how we'd like to live the year. Will you live the year looking to the outside world and seeing only the darkness? Or will you live 2024 seeking out the possibilities?

The Harvard happiness study, which is the longest running study on happiness to date, released it's 85 year findings recently. The study has continually shown that good relationships are the key to optimising our brain, our health and aging well. The level of relationships we have at mid-life are now recognised as a predictor of healthy aging. Regardless of what is happening in the world around us in 2024, the state of our close relationships are what largely determine our happiness.

**BETTER BLADES**

**Sharpening Services**

- Knives, scissors, hedge trimmer blades and garden tools
- Animal clipper blades including - supply & maintenance

0415 483 089 [bblades7@bigpond.com](mailto:bblades7@bigpond.com)  
[www.betterblades.com.au](http://www.betterblades.com.au)

According to research, the three most important factors that determine the quality of our close relationships include:

- communication and emotional intimacy,
- shared values, and
- commitment and investing in the relationship.

Whilst good relationships improve our happiness, life also adds its own stresses to the mix that can make it more difficult for us to communicate well, share emotional intimacy and invest in the relationship. When life gets in the way you need to work through the stresses with your loved ones or your relationships suffer. If you are finding that life's stresses are impacting your relationships and it's time to get some help, hypnotherapy can help you find your own unique solutions to problems and help you move forward. Will 2024 be the year you decide to resolve that problem that has lingered? If you'd like more information, you can find it here: [robynm.com.au](http://robynm.com.au)

**FRESH WATER DELIVERIES**

**18,000 Litre Tanker**

Servicing the district for over 20 years

Also available - maintenance grading of driveways, dam construction & house site cuts

**PH: Geoff - 0417 632 209**

**HEWATT CIVIL PTY LTD**  
e: [info@hewatt.com.au](mailto:info@hewatt.com.au)

# Wallaroo Solar Farm update

The Wallaroo Solar Farm has progressed to the stage of 'responding to submissions'.

According to the document on the planning portal of the NSW Government, submissions were received from agencies, council, organisations and public individuals. The total number of submissions received by the end of the public exhibition period was 115.



photo/graphic: [wallaroosolarfarm.com.au](http://wallaroosolarfarm.com.au)

Based on receiving more than 50 unique objections to the project and the Yass Valley Council objecting to the project, once the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) has completed its assessment of the Project and recommended to approve or *Response to Submissions Wallaroo Solar Farm NGH Pty Ltd | 23-434 - Final V1.1 | 3* refuses it, the project will be referred to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) to make the final approval decision.

The most commonly raised issues were in relation to:

- visual impacts
- socio-economic impacts
- the location of the project
- the project's justification

To view the *Response to Submissions* document please use this url:

[www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/wallaroo-solar-farm](http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/wallaroo-solar-farm)

**What habit, behaviour or feeling is it time you changed?**  
**When it's time to make a change, hypnotherapy can help.**

*Robyn* MONTELEONE  
 HYPNOTHERAPIST AND COACH

Call Robyn: 0401 050 195  
[www.robynm.com.au](http://www.robynm.com.au)

**Gibley WATER SERVICES**

Swimming pool & spa bath water  
 Tree watering  
 All your water needs

Drinking water  
 Water tanks

0417 682 540 0428 275 701  
[charlie@gibleygardening.com.au](mailto:charlie@gibleygardening.com.au)

**SOUTHERN**  
 MAINTENANCE AND WATER PTY LTD

**FRESH DOMESTIC WATER DELIVERIES**

- 14,000L *Icon Water* approved tank
- Professional and prompt service
- EFTPOS facilities available
- Servicing all areas

0428 943 846  
[info@southernh2o.com.au](mailto:info@southernh2o.com.au)

water

**When you need water, choose Southwell Water**

FRESH CLEAN PURE DRINKING WATER  
 DELIVERED DIRECT TO YOUR TANKS

DUST SUPPRESSION  
 EVENT WATERING  
 POOL FILL AND TOP UP  
 LOCALLY SOURCED - LOCALLY OWNED

**PH 04 7676 2020**

**SOUTHWELL WATER**

BUSINESS FRIENDLY

SOUTHWELL WATER YOUR LOCAL SUPPLIER BUT WE COVER ALL AREAS  
 PART PROCEEDS FROM EVERY DELIVERY GOES DIRECT TO THE MCGRATH FOUNDATION

# The Birds of Hall

by Ken Heffernan

The Birds of Hall are a wonderful legacy of our village's surrounding heritage-listed bushland, as well as the gardens that residents fill with delicious food plants. Here I share a few photographs of birds taken in recent years in my Hall garden.



Yellow-faced honey eater



Cockatoo in wattle tree



Striated pardalote



Peewee babies in brittle gum



Spinebill in pokers



Tree creeper in Melaleuca



Spinebill in Correa



Inquisitive king parrot boy



Native miner in emu bush



Black cockatoos



Spotted pardalote

RayWhite

Your Hall Region Real Estate Specialist

Reliable service and trustworthy advice = outstanding results exceeding expectations

Mark Johnstone

Licensed agent ACT & NSW  
0414 382 093  
mark.johnstone@raywhite.com

ALAN WHITE  
ELITE  
PERFORMER

Thinking of Selling? Call me anytime for a complimentary market appraisal of your property



Fledgling magpie having a shower



Crimson rosella

## Such passion and competitiveness for quoits – in 1933!

A Southwell descendent was kind enough to pass on a copy of some pages of the *Queanbeyan Age* from 80 years ago. These were dated 16 May and 30 May 1933. Among these pages were two poems, two weeks apart, written by 'Clay Head', obviously a pseudonym but for whom we don't know. And the subject matter – a quoits competition!

The competition seemed to be a weekly Saturday local district competition with teams such as West Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Duntroon, Sutton, Hall and Langdene. Langdene is a property that came about from a grant in April 1836 to Charles Campbell, of 1057 acres to the south of Duntroon. It was later subdivided and the land purchased by Longden Richardson. He named the property Langdene and it was first mentioned in the *Queanbeyan Age* in 1894. Possibly a large enough property to be able to field a quoits team, perhaps with the addition of a few other locals.

Clay Head seems to have been a Hall local, and one poem about the upcoming match is a warning not only to the Langdene team to be on their toes, but also urging the Hall team to get some practice in. This was serious! Made all the more so by saying 'not to worry, as Hall Quoits Club has no gun'!

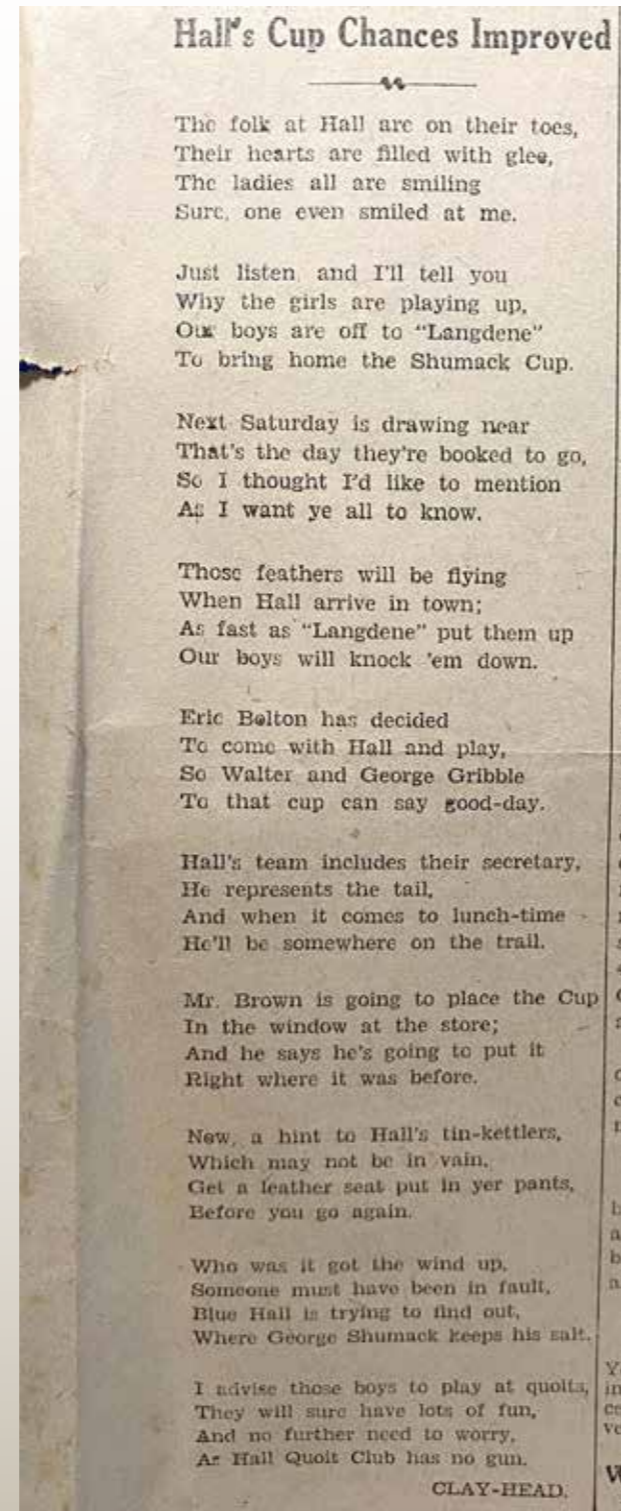
The names in the poems are familiar around the district today – Southwell, Bolton, Brown, Shumack,

and Gribble. Some of the terms in the poem, not so much. Apparently 'tin kettling' is to make a racket by banging metal objects, in appreciation, or as congratulations on a win. 'Reo' is the initials REO and stands for Ransom Eli Olds, the name of the man who designed the Reo car, and who started the Oldsmobile car brand.

Quoits seemed to be very popular in earlier times with the *Bungendore Correspondent Post* reporting in May 1893 on a match held on the flat opposite the

McAlister's Hotel for a pound each game won. As reported by the *Queanbeyan Age* in August 1902, the prizemoney was 'a fiver' at the Cricketers Arms in Hall. The *Goulburn Evening Post* reported that a series of Saturday matches was organised by the 'new and energetic publican' at a hotel at Sutton with the prize being a new bridle. They also reported in June 1902 on a sweepstake quoit match at the Cricketers Arms. So the game was also a chance to line your pockets if you were any good.

I wonder if Hall won the game that Clay Head wrote his poem about?




**KAN KREATE & Co**

NOW OPEN

4/8 Victoria Street

Full of unique small businesses from Canberra and nearby towns PLUS quirky creations by KAN Kreate

@kankreateandco



Crown Asbestos Removal

**Our Services**

**Asbestos Removal**  
Our specialties include asbestos inspections, monitoring, site decontamination, small clean-ups, commercial asbestos removal and emergency removal.

**Demolition**  
Our specialties include strip outs, recycling focused, demolition with salvage rights and demolition without salvage rights.

We are licensed, insured, professional, time-bound and provide high quality services at reasonable prices.

ABN 83 086 566 976 • LIC # ARA 00007 "A" CLASS  
 PO Box 280, Hall ACT 2618 • 0423 807 747  
 maverick250@bigpond.com • crownasbestosremoval.com.au





FOR SOME IT'S BUSINESS,  
FOR US IT'S FAMILY

We are a family business and we are here for your family. With an unrivalled level of customer service and community engagement, Team Southwell has helped to deliver the Capital Region and Southern Tablelands a real estate experience like never before!

**Ray White Rural Canberra | Yass**  
 151 Comur St  
 Yass, NSW 2582  
 02 6226 4400

WHY WAIT? raywhiteruralyasscanberra.com.au

# Farm dam restoration in Wallaroo and Sutton

In a commendable collaboration with the esteemed Murray Darling Healthy Rivers program, operating under the auspices of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water, the Ginninderra Catchment Group Rural Projects Officer, Jarrod, spearheaded a transformative initiative dedicated to sustainable farming, biodiversity enrichment, and the enhancement of water quality in the picturesque regions of Sutton and Wallaroo, working with members of the Wallaroo and Sutton Landcare Groups.

Venturing into the Wallaroo site, the project successfully introduced a thriving ecosystem by planting 300 indigenous trees, orchestrated with the dedicated efforts of 35 enthusiastic volunteers. The meticulous planning and execution extended to safeguarding these newly established plants against potential wildlife threats, ensuring their sustained growth and contribution to the local ecosystem.

The Sutton sites witnessed an even more expansive endeavour, where a



Group of volunteers and rural landholders planting aquatic plants with protection cages to improve water quality.

**Hall Veterinary Surgery**  
Phone 6230 2223

Proudly supporting the Hall community

**Keep warm in winter and cool in summer with Capital Air**

Your local Mitsubishi Electric Diamond Dealer specialising in:

- Supply & Installation
- Service
- Repairs

www.capitalair.com.au  
02 6280 6266  
service@capitalair.com.au

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC DIAMOND DEALER  
capitalair AU Licence #45916

# landcare

Kathryn McGilp

Catchment Coordinator,  
Ginninderra Catchment Group

total of 1100 mixed indigenous aquatic and water-edge plants were strategically planted across multiple locations. Employing protective cages to shield these plants, the project aimed not just for their immediate survival but for their long-term integration into the ecosystem, fostering a resilient and diverse natural habitat.

The cumulative impact of these concerted efforts is nothing short of remarkable. A total of 335 trees and 1100 aquatic plants now grace the landscape, covering an extensive 6.45 hectares of revitalised

land and water. This not only contributes to the aesthetic appeal of the region but also plays a crucial role in the restoration of its ecological balance.

This visionary project seamlessly aligns with the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, embodying the principles of best-practice Natural

Resource Management. By adopting strategies that focus on sustainable water resource utilisation, the initiative is making significant strides towards enhancing the overall health of the river system.

The far-reaching implications of this undertaking extend beyond the immediate vicinity, marking a significant milestone in environmental conservation, water quality enhancement, and the preservation of Australia's rich biodiversity. This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government's Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.



Rural landholders and volunteers at Sutton Farm Dam restoration planting.

Your Web Presence  
Web Create • You Connect

**FREE WEBSITE REVIEW**

What does your website say about your business?  
Does it build trust, promote your products or services, or scare away potential customers?  
Scan the code and we'll do an in-depth website review and tell you.

**GET STARTED**

Contact Chris  
Your local online expert  
0412 239 144  
enquiries@yourwebpresence.com

**Daughters At HALL**  
SINCE 1882

Opening hours:

Monday . . . . . 6.30am - 3pm  
Tuesday . . . . . 8am - 3pm  
Wednesday – Friday . . . . . 6.30am - 3pm  
Saturday – Sunday . . . . . 8am - 3pm

- Breakfast all day.
- Lunch all day, hot food until 2pm.
- Cake and coffee available all day.
- Home baked cakes, slices, muffins, cheesecake, cookies.
- Cakes made to order with 48 hours notice.
- Milk, bread, eggs, local honey and so much more.
- We also have a variety of giftware for purchase.



# Springfield Rural Fire Service

Rebecca Morrison  
President



NSW RFS – Springfield Brigade  
springfieldrfs@hotmail.com



## It's our 85th year

In May 1935, a number of local gentlemen held the first meeting of the Springfield Bush Fire Brigade.

By January 1940, it was officially known as the Springfield-Talagandra Brigade; one of 12 brigades in the Yass District. Over time, these groups have evolved and grown, but the dedication and commitment to protecting their communities continues.

We are very proud to be celebrating our 85th anniversary in 2024 and congratulate the *Rural Fringe* on reaching it's significant 30-year milestone.

## Electric vehicle incident management

As the sales of electric vehicles continue to rise in NSW, so does the need for our members to learn new skills to cope with the challenges these vehicles pose.

A new training course, *Electric Vehicle Incident and Emergency Response Training* has been developed by TAFE NSW for all emergency response agencies to improve safety and confidence of first responders attending EV incidents.

The course content was developed by FRNSW and RFS, based on a wide range of research, and aligns with existing RFS operational procedures.

If you have an EV, do you have strategies in place in the event of a vehicle fire?

### New to the area?

We warmly welcome those new to our neighbourhood and encourage you to get in touch with us to find out more about where you live and the area around you.

Drop us an email or register your details via the QR code below and we will get in contact with you.



Scan to update your contact information for Springfield RFS

Wishing you all a safe and incident free 2024.

**LJ Hooker**  
Country Canberra

Local People. National Brand.

Kim & Daniel Gilbert join LJ Hooker Country team

Combined hands on experience spanning 50+ years. Same unrivalled track record of successful results. Same unmatched experience in the region.

backed by Australia's No. 1 Real Estate brand.

Contact us today to find out the opportunity that exists when selling with us.

Kim Gilbert | 0438 633 378 | k.gilbert@hookercountry.com.au  
Daniel Gilbert | 0411 478 354 | d.gilbert@hookercountry.com.au

**Dave Cathie**  
0404 044 285  
davecathie@yahoo.com.au

**SECURITY DOORS  
HINGED, SLIDING  
AND SCREENS**

FREE QUOTES  
20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

# Best gardening season ever

Is your garden getting ahead of you? Do you wake up each day with a fresh batch of weeds, the lawn needs mowing again and many of your shrubs are growing in the windows!

This is a season like no other, for all the right reasons. It seems to keep raining, the temperatures are not too hot too often yet, and the pest and disease colonies are low because there was little to no bug breeding last year. Although, expect bugs to take over at the merest opportunity.

We, collectively, have spent many years figuring out how to make our gardens as drought resistant as possible. Selecting through research and trial and error, the perfect plants to cope with endless hot dry periods, getting the soil right, installing hundreds of metres of irrigation, extra taps, more mulch and shade and shelter to help protect our gardens from the hammering elements.

Like all good things, this glorious season will not last, and summer is still coming at us with its long hot days creating a garden full of thirsty plants.

So, regardless of the type of season we are having, it's good to continue to maintain your garden in the same manner every season and every year.

The major luxury of this year is lots and lots of rain. No irrigation can provide the same level of water quality as rain.

### The effect of thunderstorms

One reason could be because of the storms we have been experiencing. Thunderstorms have special qualities that can give your plants a boost. Although the wind and hail can be adverse to plant



*The heat and pressure in a thunderstorm breaks down the nitrates and ammonium in the atmosphere, making it user-friendly to plants.*

# gardening

by Lisa Walmsley

health, apparently lightning helps add nitrogen to your plants. Australian soils are very old and very low in nutrients, including nitrogen. Nitrogen is critical to plant health, in particular to produce chlorophyll, the green photosynthetic pigment. When plants are low on nitrogen they often look yellow and low levels of nitrogen over prolonged periods of time can stunt the plants growth, leading to ill health and potentially death.

We have heaps of nitrogen in the atmosphere but plants cannot access it from the air. Plants source it from a number of areas: fertilisers, decomposing organic matter in the soil and critters in the soil can break it down to something usable by plants. The heat and pressure in a thunderstorm breaks down the nitrates

and ammonium in the atmosphere, making it user-friendly to plants. And to add another layer, the bacteria in soil also hugely benefits from rain in a thunderstorm.

A good watering, lots of nitrogen and happy soil bugs all add to really happy plants.

Enjoy it while it lasts, get your mulch on, do your weeding and mowing, so you get to reap the rewards as the season heats up.

**CARWAYS 5**  
VEHICLE TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

**1300 227 929**

PROUDLY SERVICING  
VIC, NSW, ACT, QLD & SA  
FOR RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT MOTOR VEHICLE TRANSPORT

carways.com.au | office@carways.com.au

**FARMER BROWN'S**  
FREE RANGE EGGS

Using modern sustainable and humane farming techniques incorporating innovative ideas, such as pasture rotation and recycling of waste food, to create a more sustainable city. Produced on a 20 hectare property in the Hall region.

Drop in to 2 Alexandra St in the Village, or call Greg, 0402 840 834  
[www.farmerbrownseggs.com](http://www.farmerbrownseggs.com)

**The Book Cow**

47 Jardine Street, KINGSTON  
phone: 5100 2730  
website: [www.bookcow.com.au](http://www.bookcow.com.au)

For all your latest book releases and classics  
Free delivery for Hall residents

## Can you help to rediscover Ginninderra?

by Peter Browning

A section of the Hall Heritage Centre website [museum.hall.act.au](http://museum.hall.act.au) and some of our galleries are named 'Rediscovering Ginninderra' and tell the story of the Ginninderra district and Hall Village following European settlement, but what do we need to rediscover?



Now all this was changed! They would be under the control of an outsider. That they could stay on as tenants made no difference to their way of thinking.

Robert Kilby from Land's End said, "don't know where I am going, but I'm not staying here." Then he rode sadly away. In three months he was dead'.

Following the resumption of farms, with only questionable compensation, the FCT kept what it needed for a developing city and then leased back any land not immediately required. The big estates were broken up and farm boundaries were re-drawn, to be leased as Soldier Settlers' blocks or FCT rural leases.

Although some farmers on the outer areas kept their properties intact so the name and history were retained, many farms were broken up, new boundaries drawn and then leased to new occupants, who gave the farms their own names and built a new history, which is arguably better recorded than their predecessors.

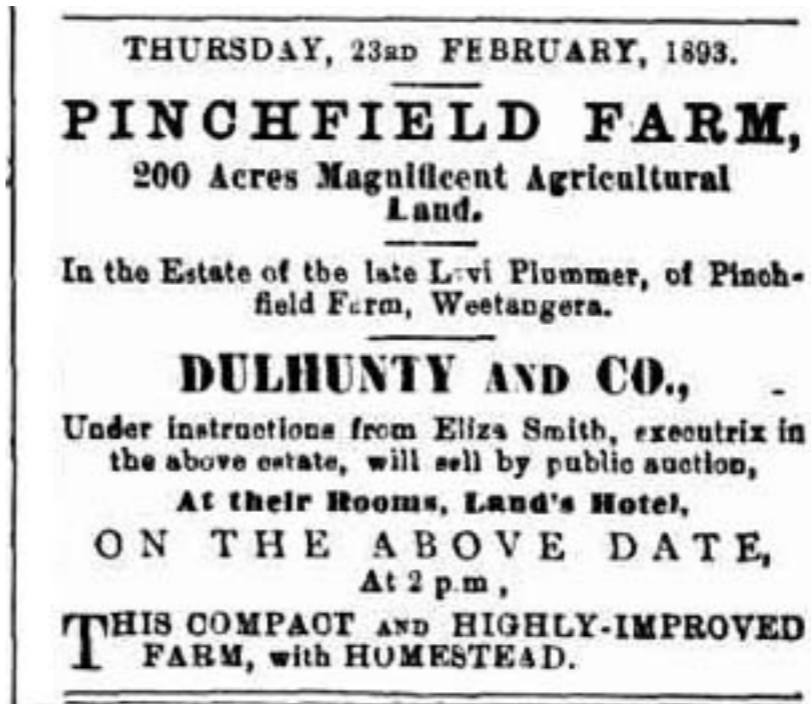
Although early settlers are remembered in Lyall Gillespie's, Shumack's and similar books and papers, others by street names or *Canberra Tracks* signs, many have disappeared and old farm buildings were bulldozed and are now unrecognised.

So, the story of many early residents risks being lost, particularly the smaller land holders, those who worked in the region but did not appear in land records and particularly families who had only daughters, who promptly became Mrs someone and lost their identity.

An example in my family is the suburb of Hawker, where a number of references are made to Dixon and 'Kama Homestead', but Dixon took up a new Soldier Settlers' block in the mid-1920s and named it 'Kama'.

Research revealed that the block was originally settled by Levi Plummer, who played a large part in establishing the Weetangera Methodist Church and Cemetery. Levi's farm was 'Pinchfield Farm' and was

located at the site of Hawker College, where Dixon later built his home. After Levi's untimely death in a riding accident, the farm was sold to George Shumack and then resumed by the FCT. It was only a chance discovery in Trove of an advertisement for the sale that confirmed this history:



Sadly, both sons died young and as the daughters married, to David Boon, Donald Murty of 'Gledeswood' and Mathew Smith, the Plummer name dropped out of the records.

'Tea Gardens' was established by Anthony Rolfe and passed down to their daughter Martha, who married John Ryan. The property was later recorded



as Ryans. Luckily the Rolfe connection is well recorded, but in lesser families could easily have been forgotten.

Rediscovering Ginninderra involves identifying these un-reported families and putting them on the record. Hall Heritage Centre website [museum.hall.act.au](http://museum.hall.act.au) already records several hundred people and places, but there are many more to identify and the Family and Local History Unit is slowly trying to achieve this.

If you have a local family connection, please look at our website and if there is an entry, feel free to correct or add to it. If there is no entry, we will be happy to add one if you have information to build on.

If anyone is writing a local family history and is willing to share it, the Heritage Centre would be delighted to add it to our library and database.

Shumack: 'Those are pioneers of the early days and the present generation know them not; they are a tablet in the archives of the great land of Australia'.

## Hall Village Motors

phone: 6230 2288

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

Saturday  
8:00am-2:00pm



**SMALL BUSINESS PARTNER**

- Small business accounting and taxation services
- Cashflow and business performance analysis
- Xero silver champion partner

**LINCOLN PARTNERS**  
CANBERRA  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

For expert advice on better business efficiency  
Call John Howlett on 6100 4732 or 0411 283746  
Email: [john@lpcanberra.com.au](mailto:john@lpcanberra.com.au)

**JACKO'S**  
Est. 1987  
FRESH & TASTY

Delicious pizza  
cooked fresh at your next function or event!

[www.jackospizza.com.au](http://www.jackospizza.com.au)  
email: [jackospizzacbr@gmail.com](mailto:jackospizzacbr@gmail.com)

Australian Government **Be Connected**  
Every Australian online.

**Free computer training**

The Hall Kiosk offers free computer classes for older individuals wishing to learn the basics of using a computer and those who wish to learn about particular types of computing. All sessions are generally held on a 1:1 basis.

We offer classes in the use of PC's, laptops, tablets and smart phones, using Windows, Apple and Android platforms.

The Hall Kiosk is part of the **Be Connected** program, an initiative by the Federal Government Department of e-safety to get all older Australians online.

phone: (02) 9051 9292  
email: [connect@goodthingsfoundation.org](mailto:connect@goodthingsfoundation.org)  
web: [www.goodthingsfoundation.org.au](http://www.goodthingsfoundation.org.au)

Venue: Old Hall School site, Victoria St, Hall

For more information and bookings:  
Rod on 0407 008 104 or [hallkiosk@hotmail.com](mailto:hallkiosk@hotmail.com)

**Gibley GARDENING**

**For all your gardening needs**

Mowing - small & large scale  
Trimming/Hedging/Pruning including roses, fruit trees  
Mulching • Weeding • Fertilising  
Soil improvement • Planting  
Green waste removal

QUALIFIED HORTICULTURIST

Phone: 0417 682 540 (Charlie)  
0428 275 701 (Lisa)

Email: [lisa@gibleygardening.com.au](mailto:lisa@gibleygardening.com.au)  
[www.gibleygardening.com.au](http://www.gibleygardening.com.au)

## Safety of Wallaroo Road / Gladstone Street / Barton Highway intersection

Since late 2021, a number of residents of Wallaroo and Hall have raised serious concerns for road safety with the Progress Association over the Barton Highway/Wallaroo Road/Gladstone Street intersection and the current speed limit of 100kmh through that intersection.

During this time, there have been serious motor vehicle collisions with some involving multiple motor vehicles.

The Progress Association has raised this matter with ACT Minister for Transport Chris Steel, Federal Members Hon Dr Andrew Leigh and Hon Kirsty McBain, NSW State Member for Goulburn Mrs Wendy Tuckerman and NRMA Motoring and Membership Chief Executive Ms Emma Harrington. On each occasion, the response has ultimately reflected the position of ACT Minister Chris Steel that between 2017 and 2022, there have been approximately three reported crashes each year and that the current speed limit of 100kmh is consistent with the Barton Highway's primary function and historical crash record. Therefore, the ACT Government has no intention to modify the speed limit.

If a significant number of Wallaroo and Hall District residents are concerned about the safety of the



Barton Highway/Wallaroo Road/Gladstone Street intersection and the current speed limit of 100kmh, the Progress Association can petition the ACT and Federal governments for further action.

Before initiating a petition, the Progress Association wants to hear from Wallaroo, Hall, Spring Range and Nanima residents whether this is of concern to a significant number of people and whether the Progress Association should take further action.

Please send your comments with the heading 'Barton Highway' to [info@hall.act.au](mailto:info@hall.act.au).

## Hall and District Axemen's Club

by Steph Radovanovic



Happy New Year from the The Hall & District Axemen's Club!

We have a huge 2024 planned, with Competition preparation well underway for our Axemen and Axewomen. We have Competitions from across NSW planned for almost every weekend for the next 3 months as all the 2024 Agricultural Shows kick off, including another TBC Woodchopping Demonstration at Gunning Show.

Our 2 big Competitions will be The Royal Canberra Show 24-25<sup>th</sup> February, and the "Wimbledon of Woodchopping" at Sydney Royal Easter Show 22/3-2/4/24 – the biggest Woodchopping Competition in the world.

We are super excited to have 8 of our Axewomen chopping at Canberra, along with our Axemen, as well as many of our newer members committing and preparing for their first chop at Sydney Royal.



**Congratulations to our Inaugural 2023 HADAC Award Recipients:**

Axeman of the Year: Austin O'Connor  
 Axewoman of the Year: Cheyanne Girvan  
 Novice Axeman of the Year: Pete Garbutt  
 Junior Axeman of the Year: Austin O'Connor  
 Club Member of the Year: Roland Trease  
 Encouragement Award: Ben Philippe  
 Scoop of the Year: Ben Osbourne  
 Chip of the Year: Vince Kelly

We are also very excited and proud to announce @localspiritmarketplace & @cheersmatesinglemalt have come on board and created our very own 'Axemen Rum' which was unveiled at the 2023 Hall Christmas Fair. Virtually all proceeds will go directly to our Club. Massive thanks to Ben @localspiritmarketplace (formally Hops n Vine) for his support. Go check out his shop for a bottle!

We are also very happy to announce that from 2024, we will be officially affiliated with The Southeast Axemen's Association, where we look forward to even more opportunities to grow, learn, compete and promote Woodchopping.

**Want to know more? Contact us!**

Insta: @hallaxemen

Fb: @The Hall and District Axemen's Club

Email: [hallaxeman@gmail.com](mailto:hallaxeman@gmail.com)

**SMOKEHOUSE & VINEYARD**  
 FINE FARE  
**POACHERS**  
 SINCE 1991

**- creating delicious stories -**

Poachers Pantry  
 Restaurant & Cellar door

The Smokehouse Restaurant is all about the meats we cure & smoke and the wines that come from our vineyard that grows on the hills that surround the restaurant.

Cellar Door & Farm Shop open 7 days 9:30-17:00  
 431 Nanima Road, Springrange, NSW 2618  
**02 6230 2487** [poacherspantry.com.au](http://poacherspantry.com.au)

**CANBERRA**  
**Equine HOSPITAL**

24/7 Equine Care  
 @CanberraEquineHospital

**Caring for your horse like they are our own**

**Our passionate team of equine professionals offer:**

- 24/7 care from experienced equine vets & nurses
- Complete ambulatory service
- Purpose built equine hospital & surgery
- Full range of veterinary services including imaging and dentistry, see our website for details



02 6241 8888 | [www.canberraequinehospital.com.au](http://www.canberraequinehospital.com.au)  
 Cnr Barton & Federal Hwy, Lyneham ACT 2602

A unique **BED & BREAKFAST** Experience

**LAST STOP**  
 AMBLEDOWN BROOK (02) 6230 2280

Our vintage carriages have come to rest in picturesque and peaceful surroundings, and so can you...

The *Rural Fringe* turns 30! 180 editions of local news, views, photos, ads, sports coverage and results, award winners, friends who have passed away, business openings and closings, memorial day coverage, exhibitions and everything in between.

The *Rural Fringe* has always been part of my life since moving to Hall, with all the family reading it, the latest edition hanging around the lounge room until we'd all finished reading it, usually just in time for the next edition to land in our post office box. As a newcomer it was a way to get the 'feel' of village life, hear the names of people we would later meet, find out about what was going on and keep up with heritage rules, school closures, highway upgrades, and new business opening in the main street. Social media might be more immediate but I think it is complemented by the written word in the Fringe, which can explore issues in more depth.

The Progress Association sends copies of the Fringe to our local MLA's every edition and they are very impressed with the quality of our little mag.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed or advertised over the last 30 years; it's what makes the magazine live on!

## Dumping

There has been a lot of rubbish dumped at the entrance and exit of the village recently, and sadly also a few chicken carcasses, live possums and even a goats head. If anyone sees any of this activity taking place it should be reported through 'Fix my Street' on the ACT Government City Services website.

## Speeding

Speeding through the village continues to cause angst. Please obey the 40kmh limit from before the bridge at the entrance to the village and all the way up the main street.



Bob Richardson with ACT Government Treescape employees planting more trees.

## Weeding

Two mornings have been scheduled by the Friends of Grassland in coming weeks to tackle weeds in the woodland at Hall Cemetery. Saturday 3 February and 2 March 2024. Starting time is 9am and generally work is for two hours or so. If you'd like to take part please email John Fitzgerald as he will make sure you receive any changes that may occur to time, date and inclement weather. His email is [john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au](mailto:john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au).

## Planting

We are getting to know the Treescape crew as a few of us helped them plant 20 or so young saplings at the reserve with the well, near *Sunnyside* last year. Apparently there's more to planting trees around here than just getting them in the ground. Apart from choosing the correct species, the Urban Treescape department goes through a fairly involved process of considering such things as heritage requirements, water needs, visual aesthetics, and the list goes on. Thanks to Danny Clink and Aaron Whittaker for watering them recently. Thanks also to Bob Richardson who is constantly busy planting trees around Hall – any that he can get his hands on. Bob's motto is 'the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago'. Ain't that the truth!

Until next time,  
Jenny Whittaker

## Community partnership with Hall Men's Shed

by Kellie Shoemark

At Gold Creek Preschool we have a strong partnership with Hall and the men's shed next to Hall Preschool. We are lucky to still have these connections to Hall and the wonderful people out at the men's shed. When we found ourselves short of quality resources for imaginative play, we called on our local heroes at the shed. Brian Charge and the boys were very quick to heed our calls, showing immense generosity with their time and resources by creating these unique wooden people for us at Gold Creek Preschool, Nicholls campus. The design we had initially thought of was not going to work with the lack of timber, so the men used their innovative and creative skills by producing this new wooden design. The children have loved using these wooden people to create imaginative play scenarios as well as pretend play games with their friends.

Thank you so much!



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

#### Contributions

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

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

- February issue deadline is 10 January
- April issue deadline is 10 March
- June issue deadline is 10 May
- August issue deadline is 10 July
- October issue deadline is 10 September
- December issue deadline is 10 November

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

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

#### Advertising rates (per issue)

large (quarter page)	\$80	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](mailto:ruralfringe@hotmail.com)

Proudly printed by Instant Colour Press

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

## VENETIA MAJOR

BESPOKE JEWELLERY



Browse the unique collection of Australian made jewellery in the gallery.

Have your jewellery repaired or custom made by the qualified jewellers, or join our fun silversmithing classes that run three times a week.

Go to the website to find out more, or pop in for a chat.

[venetiamajor.com.au](http://venetiamajor.com.au)

6230 9587 3/8 Victoria St, Hall



**LJ Hooker**  
Country Canberra

**We've come to the country.**

Servicing Yass, Murrumbateman, Bungendore, Sutton, Braidwood, Royalla, Michelago, & Land Marketing.

Contact us today to find out the opportunity that exists when selling with us.

[country@ljhookercountry.com.au](mailto:country@ljhookercountry.com.au)  
(02) 6213 3999

out & about



photos: Paul Porteous