

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district



VOLUME 31 ISSUE 3

June 2024



The Hall Village public toilet block has been transformed into an absolutely beautiful work of art! Flowers, birds and animals painted in stunning colours have lifted the loos to another level of beauty.

A bit of a false start to this upgrade in the park a few years ago when an adhesive mural on the brick toilet block failed due to rain/weather, and it was also gradually picked off and vandalised. After being fully replaced once, a decision was made that the bricks would be painted in a similar way to other public buildings in Canberra.



Another matching adhesive mural didn't stick too well to the timber bus shelter and it was also removed; the murals on the BBQ's' although a bit damaged, remain in place.

The Hall Park Upgrade Group, headed up by Graeme Bryce, liaised with the ACT Government graffiti section to select a design for our outlying outhouse. The theme is native and endemic plants, birds and animals, with Hall local, Greg Flowers assisting by providing photos to the artists of flora from our local horse paddocks,

... continues on page 3



Changing of the guard

After 42 years as the owners of 'Allwood' on Wallaroo Road, Rod and Judy Roberts have sold the property and made the move into the Canberra suburb of Florey. As you can imagine there were many difficult decisions to be made . . . lots of boxes and a container still to be emptied.

They have both been involved in the community through the Hall Primary School and the Village of Hall & District Progress Association. Rod remains an active member of the Wallaroo Bushfire Brigade, the Hall Men's Shed and coordinates *Computing for Seniors*, while Judy remains a volunteer at the Hall Heritage Centre.

The original slab cottage on the property was listed on the Yass Valley Council's Local Environment Plan and with the National Trust NSW. They are hopeful that it will survive for many years into the future.

We wish them well.

The Hall artists

Our local artist group has taken the big step of exhibiting their works produced here in Hall.

Story and photos: page 12.



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Is Alexandra Street home to Hall's oldest and youngest residents?

Ursula Wanjura, who moved into the village in 1959 after emigrating from Germany with her husband Wolfgang (who died in 2019) may be Hall's oldest resident.

And now with the arrival of Poppy Jean Wanjura, born 9 March 2024, who may be Hall's youngest resident, there have been four generations of Wanjuras' living on Alexandra Street. Poppy is the daughter of Amelia Kennedy and Nick Wanjura, and great granddaughter to Ursula.

The house that Wolfgang built in the 1960's has been a wonderful home to Ursula and Wolfgang, their four children, several of their grandchildren and now to the next generation of the Wanjura family. Ursula reflects that her home has provided so much to the lives of her family, and has greatly enjoyed her life in the village of Hall.



Pictured left to right: Nick Wanjura (29), Poppy Wanjura (2 months), Ursula Wanjura (91), Wolf Wanjura (62), Finn (dog, 3)

Hall Village public toilet art . . . continued from page 1

(with majestic names such as the pink *Stylidium graminifolium* or trigger plant, and the yellow *Gompholobium huegelii*, common wedge-pea). The echidna is a nod to the big boy that often trundles though Alan and Margaret Monahan's nearby garden.

Two artists brought this mural to life. Geoff Filmer, who runs Graffikpaint, was commissioned by the ACT Government for this job because of his previous nature based painting work highlighting native and endangered animals. Examples of his other works include water towers at Hindmarsh Drive and Taylor, Floriade Stage 88, Kambah School, ANU, odour control buildings (to the left of the lights at Gundaroo Drive and the Barton Highway), and 'Floyd' the Floriade Gnome.

Geoff has always been a keen artist, influenced by his father who was a woodturner at Tharwa. He started his working life as a diesel mechanic while pursuing his art as a recreational painter at places such as legal graffiti practice walls (and drains) located throughout the ACT.

Geoff eventually switched to being an artist full time and has taken on a colleague, Raph Tait.

Raph moved to Canberra from Sydney three years ago to pursue a fine arts degree at university. He met Geoff while doing a painting workshop for children, and

then started working for Geoff doing small murals together. You can see some of Raph's work at *Brodburger*, and South Point Tuggeranong.

Using photos for accuracy of colour and design, finding inspiration for colour and shape from the surrounding trees and shrubs, the mural is certainly very lifelike and eye-catching. Special street art spray cans were used. These are of a professional level, with paint pigments that resist fading in the sun, have different nozzles for different finished effects such as a 'banana' cap for skinny lines, other colour nozzles for detail work. But control of the can is the all important talent.

Wander down to the reserve at the bottom of the village, opposite the rural supplies shop to find this lovely work of art.



Raph working on the eucalyptus flowers.

50-year anniversary of the Hall Polocrosse Club

by Vanessa Jones

Next year, 2025, the Hall Polocrosse Club will be celebrating 50 years of competition!

Some fun facts about polocrosse. It is a team sport:

- which caters for all levels of riders, from novice to the competitive and highly experienced players
- which is played internationally
- exciting to watch, 'action packed', and most importantly
- for the whole family, young, old and anyone in between.

The sport is held in winter and the competition usually runs from March to June. During the season, the Hall Polocrosse Club grounds hosts a number of carnivals organised by other polocrosse clubs within our zone.

The next carnival to be hosted at the Hall Polocrosse grounds will be Wollondilly on 8-9 June 2024.

I encourage everyone to come along and take a look, sit back and enjoy some of the most amazing horses and horsemanship around. And best of all, it's 'right on your doorstep'!

The founders of the Hall Polocrosse Club were two horse legends from Hall, Mick DeBritt and Les Coulton, who were very much involved in the Hall Pony Club. Word has it these gentlemen got together to discuss what could be done for the 'older kids' in the pony club.

More about this in later editions of the *Rural Fringe*. So 'watch this space'!

The Hall Polocrosse Club has been continuously competing on the polocrosse circuit for the



entire 50 years, which is an outstanding length of time to have a club in operation.

So to get the 'ball rolling' in organising a 50-year celebration, we would like to contact, or hear from, as many people as possible who may have been involved with the club in any capacity. Word of mouth is a powerful tool, and I'm sure many people in the district would know someone who was once a player for the team or involved with the club in some way.

So yes, please help to get the word out, because I'd love to hear how you were involved.

Maybe you'd be happy to share photos or stories of those times.

Wouldn't that be fantastic?

Any contributions can be emailed to Vanessa Jones at bcl40411@bigpond.net.au.



N.B. No dogs allowed at polocrosse events, even when on a lead, thank you.

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Springfield Rural Fire Brigade

Rebecca Morrison President



Before you light that fire

The Bush Fire Danger Period may be over, but that doesn't mean you can just do what you want when it comes to lighting fires.

If you're planning to burn on your property, whether it's garden waste, household rubbish, or an agricultural burn, you need to let us know before you light up.

It is a legislative requirement to provide a minimum of 24 hours notice (unless specified otherwise in your fire permit).

Notifying us of your burn can help reduce unnecessary emergency calls and can save you from being fined by the authorities.



What do you need to do?

It's pretty simple.

- Check you're allowed to burn – contact council or your local Fire Control Centre.
- Get a permit – scan the QR code and complete the online form. It's free and easy to obtain.
- Notify your neighbours – at least 24 hours in advance of your planned burn.
- Check conditions – such as weather and fire danger ratings.
- Monitor the fire – if it gets out of control call Triple Zero.

We want your stories

In December 1939, Thomas McAuliffe of 'Springfield' called for a meeting of all landholders in the vicinity of Nanima, Tallagandra and Wattle Park to form a bushfire brigade.



After 85 years, Springfield is still an important part of the local community and includes members whose families have been associated with the brigade for generations.

As we start to plan our celebrations for the end of the year, we are keen to hear from people who have had an association with our bushfire brigade. If you have stories, photos, documents or anything of interest, we would love to hear from you.

New to the area?

If you're new to the area and want to find out more about our brigade, contact us via email or check out our Facebook page. New members are always welcome.



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Regenerative Gardening

This term has been banging around for a while now, but what exactly does it mean and how do we do it?

It's important to focus on building healthy soil using organic growing techniques and completely avoiding synthetic fertilisers, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides, taking a no-till approach (or as little digging as possible) as well as planting to increase diversity.

Applying a layer of compost to your garden provides a host of benefits. Compost adds nutrients and in doing so increases water retention, decreasing your water usage even in drought conditions and erosion will also be hugely reduced.

Attempt to reuse your yard debris, small branches such as fruit tree pruning, chip really well and are perfect to add to compost. Big branches can be turned into small seats or for firewood or even get creative and make something.

Leaves can be raked onto garden beds or if space allows, leaf litter compost is fantastic and can be used for garden beds as compost in a year's time.



In a Wallaroo garden, pumpkin plants thrive in a mound consisting of garden debris.

gardening by Lisa Walmsley

It's best to remove your spent summer vegetables from your vegetable garden as pests and diseases can over-winter in their dead material. Ideally, don't let your veg patch ever be dormant. When you pull plants out add new ones straight away, remembering that vegetables are 'hungry' feeders, so add composts and manures to the soil in every change over season.

Recent studies have shown that it's advantageous to grow cover crops on the soil, under vegetables, but selection is important as you don't want your underplanting to take over. Alyssum and thyme are good choices.

When planting whether for food or general garden beds always be mindful of what you are planting. Some plants are more water needy while others cope quite well with little attention.

Think resilience – what is going to survive in all of our extreme weather conditions?

There is a wide range of exotics and natives that thrive in our unpredictable climate. Be careful of 'impulse' buying 'that' plant that happens to look terrific in the nursery. Do a little research, walk around your neighbourhood, ask a horticulturist or keen gardener, take pictures of plants you like and ask someone who knows – you will soon build up a catalogue or plant ideas that grow in your space.

Try to foster biodiversity, remove invasive species and weeds that birds have brought in.

Encourage wildlife into your garden (preferably not the ones that eat, stomp or decimate all your hard work). Make your garden a haven for beneficial insects, frogs and birds. Add water somewhere, even if only a small pond.

free! You're invited! **Sat 8th June**
@ Flynn
Community Hub

Nature in the Suburbs Festival

Ginninderra Catchment Group

Ginninderra Catchment Group is hosting a day of free activities and talks for the whole family about how you can find and nurture nature in your backyard and surrounding suburb. Come along!

WHEN
Saturday 8th June 2024,
11am-3pm

WHERE
Flynn Community Hub,
21 Bingle St, Flynn

MORE INFO & RSVP

Schedule & more details to come
facebook.com/GinninderraCatchmentGroup/events

ACTIVITIES

- Frog habitat workshop
- Waterwatch demo
- Propagation workshop
- Waterbugs table
- Planting natives
- Guided tours
- Become a citizen scientist
- Talks on turtles, frogs, wombats, biodiversity, more!

Free lunch & afternoon tea ● Get a free native plant

This event is made possible through the ACT Government's Connecting Nature, Connecting People program.

gardening

Rewilding is another term buzzing around – it's basically letting nature take over a space that was once 'managed'. I love the idea in larger gardens or rurally but it's harder to 'manage' in a smaller garden. If you like the idea of leaving a space unmanicured, you could create a spot where you plant a few natives and leave it to it's own devices for a few years and see what happens.

We can all do a lot to nurture biodiversity and improve our soils health. And if in doing so we also create habitat, attract pollinators and grow some of our own food we are doing our bit to regenerate our small space on this planet.

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President's page



It seems that the previous edition of the *Rural Fringe* saw the final days of summer, yet here we now are at the beginning of winter!

The simple ANZAC Day ceremony organised in recent years by Bill Pearson and Dennis Greenwood has been warmly welcomed by the Hall community and by people outside of Hall with many locals and visitors coming to reflect together at the Hall War Memorial. The message by Dennis Greenwood was a poignant reminder of the tragedy of war that is being faced by many people today in Gaza, Ukraine and elsewhere, and our own hard-won freedom.

The Hall Heritage Centre was again the focus of local activity during ACT Heritage Week with the opening of the exhibition *The Journey of Lyall L. Gillespie 1919–2006*. The exhibition features the life and work of Lyall Gillespie, the well-known Canberra historian who attended Hall School and lived in the village and surrounding district as a young man. ACT Minister for Heritage, Rebecca Vassarotti, also attended the opening.

With the upcoming ACT election on 19 October, the Progress Association Committee is approaching all candidates to seek their views and commitments to some key priorities of

the Hall community including storm water drainage infrastructure, safe cycle and pedestrian access from the Barton Hwy to Hall Village, assessment of the safety of the intersection of the Barton Hwy with Gladstone St and Wallaroo Rd, and maintaining the Hall Village Heritage Precinct to conserve its historical significance as a rural village and the natural, aesthetic and Aboriginal values of its landscape.

The responses received from the candidates will be posted to the Hall Village website www.hall.act.au and summarised in the *Rural Fringe*.



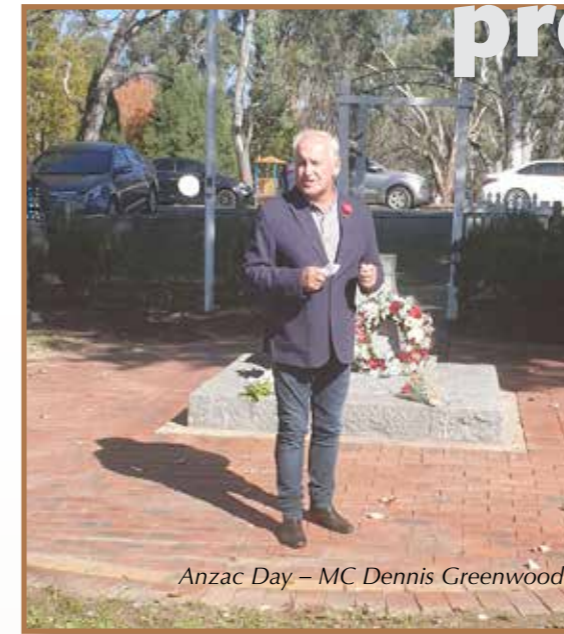
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Anzac Day – MC Dennis Greenwood

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Robert Yallop President

We were very pleased to learn that the detailed design work for stormwater infrastructure in Hall Village has been tendered by the ACT Government. Similarly, the design of safe pedestrian and cycle access to Hall Village is in a tender for work on cycle paths, including extension of the C7 Main Community Route to Hall and Gold Creek.

The Progress Association Committee generally meets each month. If you have any ideas or concerns for our Hall Village and District community, please talk to me or any member of your Progress Association Committee, give me a call on 0407 012 160 or email info@hall.act.au.



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For decades naturalists have followed the villagers' tracks through Hall reserves, marvelling at and recording the exceptional biodiversity found in their multiple habitats. Hall's reserves and open spaces are natural treasure troves of animals, plants, fungi and microbes including common, unusual, rare and undiscovered species.

The mosaic of agricultural activity that commenced with the Village Commons, that are now the agistment paddocks and the Travelling Stock Route, as well as the spacious rural properties provide an atmosphere that is expansive and relaxed. For wildlife: bats, birds, insects, mammals and reptiles, this rural landscape provides connectivity to the residual bushland we concentrate on.



© A. Cowan: *A Spotted Grass Frog* – a common frog around Hall.



© A. Cowan

These bushland areas, just beyond the village are areas of grassy woodland, rocky grassland, and various types of eucalypt dominated woodland, provide multiple habitats and biodiversity hotspots where countless native species thrive.

Who are we?

I am Rosie, known by some as a volunteer at the Hall Heritage Centre. My formative years on an 18-acre Kentish dairy farm with British wildflowers in fields, hedgerows and ponds and then 50 years surrounded by Australia's uniqueness meant that discovering and regularly visiting Hall landscapes and reserves is an ongoing delight. Finding, observing and recording the species found in the habitats and reserves that surround Hall Village creates an evolving portrait

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of the intersections between natural habitats – ecosystems with the mosaics created by the village's gardeners, the farmland's custodians since settlement. I've learnt from nature as a Landcare volunteer for 30 years on Mt Rogers, visible to Hall's west, and at Umbagog on Ginninderra Creek at Latham.

My name is Christian, also known as the "Swiss" in the village, testament to where I grew up before coming to Canberra in the early '90s. Ever since, I have gained a great appreciation of the wonders in nature around us, particularly orchids, amphibians and insects. My daily dog walk allows me to be amazed every day about something that I had not witnessed before. Before settling in Hall, I was part of the landcare efforts at the Pinnacle near Hawker and on my walks quickly noticed that the surrounds around Hall in regard to its botany, bird, amphibian and insect life are simply exceptional. To help preserve this unique asset, Rosie and I started to remove woody invasives and weeds that pose a great threat to this unmatched diversity.



© A. Cowan: © C. Stricker: *A Hop-bush Leaf Beetle* – lives and feeds on Hop-bush species.

And I am Anna Cowan, recently retired and recently returned to live in Hall after close to 30 years. My hobbies include bird watching, orchid hunting and nature photography – Hall and its surrounds are ideal for all three, and being able to pursue those hobbies in such a wonderful and unique environment is an



© R. Blemings: *Christian and Anna removing ivy from a Eucalyptus nortonii*

absolute privilege. I have come later to the volunteer landcaring than Rosie or Christian, but now feel a great deal of satisfaction when we have worked hard to prevent thistles from setting seed, or removed blackberries, ivy or honeysuckle that are overwhelming a patch of otherwise wonderful native habitat.

So, what are we doing?

Our informal and voluntary efforts are aimed at mapping and preserving the biodiversity around Hall. To map the biodiversity of the Hall Village surrounds, so that we understand its current status, we are building on the previous efforts to identify the native flora and

fauna. Many of our sightings are reported to Canberra Nature Map, a volunteer-run initiative that compiles data about species photographed by anyone in and beyond the ACT. canberra.naturemapr.org



© A. Cowan: *A Blue Banded Bee*, one of the most iconic native bees.

We simultaneously make an effort to preserve the natural environment and remove invasive plant species. To this end, we concentrate on those plants that out-compete native species and where a small group of sporadic volunteers can make a difference. Paradoxically, the plants we remove were essential to English life: blackberries, briar roses, cotoneasters, firethorns, hawthorns, honeysuckle, ivy and grass species previously recommended for 'pasture improvement'. This is an ongoing effort which sometimes feels overwhelming, but where we believe we can make a difference.

Can you contribute?

That could be by helping to map the biodiversity by submitting your sightings to Canberra Nature Map. It could also be by considering the likelihood of plant or seed spread when you are adding to your garden, pulling up an obvious weed or two as you walk around Hall and its surrounds or removing a little rubbish if you see it.

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The Hall artists

by Jenny Whittaker

Our local artist group has taken the big step of exhibiting their works produced here in Hall. Invited by the *Link Art Space* at Strathnairn to collate a range of works, a total of 49 pieces entitled *Thank God It's Friday* have been hanging during April and May. The invitation to exhibit was extended via Sue Cox, one of the group's members who studied visual arts at CIT and through a contact there was invited to create the exhibition.



Curious to learn more about this group, I met with them one Friday at their creative space in the old Hall Primary School and had a chat about all things art, funding, workspaces, and life!

Formed approximately two and a half years ago the group stemmed from an art studio in Weetangera. One of the group's members, Felicity, ran an art studio from her home for 12 or so students. The pandemic had a drastic affect on this venture but Felicity wanted to keep painting, producing collage, pencil drawing and printing so, along with some fellow artists, a home for art classes was found at the Hall school. The group is very pleased to have access to the room which has great natural light, but would love a larger space. There is a general feeling that the arts is being left behind in the funding stakes.

Young and older, with differing artistic passions, the group meets twice a week, enjoying each other's company, inspiration and knowledge. Group members Hannah, Helen, Paula, Sue, Felicity, Inneke and others are at different levels of artistic experience and loosely call themselves a group of emerging artists. The works produced vary from abstracts to landscapes, portraits, historic buildings, human figures, urban art (think Canberra at night), colourist work, houses, flowers and ducks. Most of the works are acrylic and oil



paintings, drawing, printing and collage as the work space isn't large enough for sculpture or larger works.

While the aim of the exhibition isn't necessarily to sell the works, 19 pieces sold on the first day of the exhibition. We had an interesting discussion on how a piece is priced; think 'how long is a piece of string' or 'what are you prepared to pay?' The

works may take many, many hours to produce, may look simple to create, or very



complicated and intricate. At the end of the day a decision has to be made, a price is set and buyers seemed very happy with value.

The converted 1920's homestead, Strathnairn, not only has the art gallery but also a shop, café, and Artist in Residence accommodation, located at Ginninderry in West Belconnen.

The gallery is open **9am-5pm Monday to Friday** and **10am-2pm Saturdays** and, while the Hall artist group exhibition closed on 26 May, the gallery might be well worth a visit to see what's on the walls when you do.

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Canberra Stockfeeds opens

stockfeeds

by Charlotte and Toby

In 2017, the prolonged drought saw hay prices constantly rising, and hay got harder and harder to find. The combination of having a fussy mare and both of us being full-time students who couldn't afford the drought prices resulted in us organising our first truck of hay for a group of close friends. Demand for affordable, high quality hay was rising, and having found a family farm that prides itself on producing quality hay, we kept the trucks coming. Soon the trucks grew from a small truck to a semi-trailer and the progression from a few messages to spreadsheets and Facebook groups.



Then the rains finally came and the drought broke. We thought this was going to be the end, and we would head back to the pre-drought norm. Yet, as the grass started to shoot rapidly turning desolate paddocks into lush fields, the messages started to come asking, 'when will the next delivery be?'.

After a few years of throwing hay bales (without owning a horse of his own!) Toby said it was time to make it more of a business. That's how Neigh Hay came to be. We were lucky to find a spot in Gundaroo to set up a small stockfeed, which we have been running for two years, supporting locals with a couple chickens up to commercial farms. We pride ourselves on delivering quality hay and feed, and are lucky to have loyal customers who have supported us to grow, some travelling as far as from the South Coast.



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stockfeeds

So when the opportunity came up in Hall, Neigh Hay became Canberra Stockfeeds and we started the next chapter in our story – but only the next page, in what we have learnt from locals, of a long proud history of having a rural store in Hall. We really hope we can continue to provide for Hall and the surrounding region and be part of the village. We are excited to announce the Canberra Stockfeeds will be having a launch week of specials from Saturday 25 May - Saturday 1 June. There are some major prizes including a year's supply of chicken food, a year's supply of dog food and over \$1000 worth of horse hay and feed - or swapped for feed for other livestock. We will be holding our launch finale between 3-5pm on Saturday 1 June where there will be lots of free samples and sausage sizzle to celebrate - we hope you can join us!



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Hall and District Axemen's Club

As the cooler weather slowly but surely moves in, many of the Hall Axemen and Axewomen will be taking a brief but well earned rest from the competition circuit, after having a very busy, successful start to the year.



Since our last newsletter, we have been out and about Woodchopping at the Royal Bathurst Show, Hawkesbury Show, Orange Show and Dubbo Show with a highlight being invited to enter our own team in a State Relay Competition in the Main Arena on the Friday night of the Hawkesbury Show.



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Thank you to our friends at Metropolitan Axemen's Club for arranging such a great event!

Probably our most exciting highlight of this year so far has been attending the annual Sydney Royal Easter Show 125th Woodchopping and Sawing Competition, with nine of our members competing, three of them for the first time at this prestigious event. Well done to all our members who made the journey to the 'Wimbledon' of woodchopping. It's a massive 11 days of chopping and sawing against the best in the world.

It was also fantastic to see the sport of woodchopping growing in competitor entries for both Men and Women, with entry numbers reported to be the highest ever for Sydney, with 20 per cent of entries being women!

Sydney also played host for the very first time in Australia – the Women's 275mm World Championship Underhand. It is definitely a very exciting time to be involved with this amazing sport that dates back to 1890 in Tasmania.



Our club training grounds have recently been fitted with lights which will be very useful for our regular Tuesday night training sessions as the days get shorter and darker.

We are also looking forward to an incredible opportunity for all our members to have a training week with a VIP axeman coming to Canberra to offer his tuition and time to our cutters, which is extremely special!

Want to learn more about us or want to have a try or see what we do? Get in touch with us! We love to meet new people and share our love of chopping and sawing and welcome new members. We have men, women and our youngest junior is 10 years old.

email: hallaxemen@gmail.com

Fb: [@The Hall and District Axemen's Club](https://www.facebook.com/TheHallandDistrictAxemenClub)

Insta: [@hallaxemen](https://www.instagram.com/hallaxemen)



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Cricket ACT Hall of Fame 2024 inductee - Lisle Read Maloney

Lisle Read Maloney of 'Hillside', North Lyneham was inducted into the Cricket ACT Hall of Fame in April 2024 for his exploits with the Ainslie and Hall cricket teams in the 1920s to 1940s. He joins Lorne Lees, Bill Tickner and Keith Carnell from the early years of Canberra cricket.

Lisle, the son of Richard and Margaret (Read) Maloney, played in multiple premierships winning teams with both clubs. He played with his brothers Willian, Valentine, Edward and Harold and his Read cousins. His uncle Robert and father Richard were Ainslie Cricket Club President, Patron and umpire and his sister Marie also played.

In 1923, Ainslie won the premierships and Lisle, then aged only 15, was awarded the Ainslie Cricket Club medal for the most outstanding performance of the season. Edward Maloney was awarded the batting medal and John Read the medal for the 1922 best performance.

Over his career, Lisle played 170 matches, scoring 7,032 runs, taking 379 wickets for the number one all-rounder rating of 266.5. He is one of only two players in ACT cricket history to have scored a century and taken five wickets in an innings, which he did twice.

He ranks 11th and 19th in the Canberra all-time annual batting averages, with 83.4 in 1933-34 over 11 matches, with a top score of 166 for Hall, and 75.2 in 1928-29 over 12 matches, with a top score of 136 for Ainslie.

Lisle played 50 representative matches for the ACT,



captaining them eight times. He scored 1,505 representative runs and took 61 wickets in a career that lasted 16 seasons, only curtailed by World War II.

The Maloney family was settled in North Lyneham by 1859, with Robin, then 47, marrying newly arrived Mary Welsh, aged 20, in an early episode of *Farmer wants a Bride*. They had a successful marriage with 13 children, the last when Robin was 68 not out. The Maloney and Read families were excellent cricket, tennis and rugby league players and bred winning race horses.

Cricket had been played on the Limestone Plains from the early days of European settlement, particularly at Ginninderra under William Davis.

By the mid-1920's, Canberra had a population of only 5,000 and was mainly rural, with limited facilities. It was alcohol free from 1911 to 1928, so there were no pubs or club to support the teams. Schools were

typically one-teacher with minimal sporting facilities, so the community had to provide their own.

Peter and Mary Shumack had built a Methodist Church on the western end of their block at Lyneham in the



late 1800's, but it was soon relocated to Weetangera. In 1914, their adopted son George Potter built an ant-nest cricket pitch on that block, opposite the Lyneham Tennis Centre, between the Maloney and Read farms. Sadly, George was lost in WWI, as was Mac Southwell.



The Maloney family at 'Hillside', Yass Road, Ainslie (now North Lyneham) circa 1920's

Richard, Maria, Edward- Ted, Lisle, Val, Margaret (Read), William - Bill, Frank, Harry (young boy)

This became the home of the Ainslie Cricket club in 1914, with Robert Maloney as President and included the Maloney, Read, Shumack and Southwell families as foundation members. This cricket pitch near their farms was an ideal place for the growing children to hone their skills.

In the 1920's, cricket was played on Saturday afternoon from 2.15pm to 6pm and no play was allowed on Sundays. The 6pm time was strictly enforced as many players lived in men's hostels and if you weren't seated at the dining table at 6.30 pm you did not get fed. There were no boundaries and all runs were actually run, with the record said to be 10 off one hit, so being young and fit was beneficial. However, from the 1930s and with the opening of Manuka Oval, the game of cricket soon became the game we know today.

The ACT and Hall Cricket Clubs won several ACT premierships each, being awarded the Douglas Cup. In 1931, Lisle, Edward and Harold Maloney and John Read played in the longest ever grand-final, played over 12 Saturdays and three grounds due to weather and scheduling conflicts. Ainslie finally conceded to Northbourne when they refused to play the final day on a sub-standard matted wicket. Lisle Maloney had scored 56 and had taken 3/110.

In one 1930 match Lisle scored 65 runs and then took 4/19, including a hat trick, for Ainslie against Acton.

In 1932 when Ainslie was defeated by Kingston, being bowled out for only 61 in their first innings, Lisle Maloney averted outright defeat with 5/74, then 103 not out (of 138) in Ainslie's second innings.

In 1935, playing for Veterans against Graziers at Queanbeyan, L Maloney took 6/42 and scored 52, backed up by young Harold Maloney with 3/30 and 78 not out – so the brothers scored 130 of 140 runs and took nine wickets.

In 1936-37 Hall defeated Manuka in A-Grade final, becoming Federal Capital Territory Cricket Association A-Grade Premiers for the first time, with Lisle Maloney scoring 94. In 1940 Lisle Maloney scored 120 not out for Hall vs Queanbeyan in the ACT Final.

Ironically, the day this trophy was awarded, the Old Ginninderra Police Station, which had been the home of Edward Maloney from 1928 to 1943, burned to the ground, so some history recognised while other was lost.

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Wallaroo Rural Fire Brigade

by Shona Boyle



We are very pleased to have reached the end of another quiet fire season. A healthy balance of rainfall and sunshine over the summer months means fuel loads are high and will only continue to build over the winter months. Where you can, we recommend keeping on top of fuel loads throughout winter rather than waiting for the warmer weather – and the risk of fire – to return.

We are always happy to come and assess how best to mitigate fire danger at your property, or support agricultural burns when the conditions are right.



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www.farmerbrownseggs.com

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	tw443887@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

Please feel free to come by the station during training (first and third Wednesdays of every month) or reach out to our Brigade Executive or the Southern Tablelands Zone if you wish to discuss your property, an agricultural burn or have questions at any time throughout the year.

Our training will continue on Wednesdays and Sundays over the winter months, including with local NSW and ACT brigades. We were pleased to welcome ACT Molonglo Brigade out to the Southern Tablelands Zone to practice working together across borders.

We had so much fun at Bunnings in April, and we are looking forward to a number of opportunities to meet with Wallaroo and surrounding communities over the course of this year:

Community Dinner: Saturday 7 September

Murrumbateman Field Days: 17-20 October

Santa run: Saturday 21 December

We are very excited to be re-establishing some old habits of community engagement this year. More information on the community dinner and Santa Run to come!

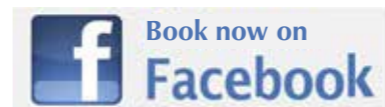


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Farm Gate Forum Tackling Invasive Species



1st June 2024. 10AM-3PM at Gold Creek Station, Hall

Landholders and land carers are invited to a public forum covering invasive species management and identification

All **landholders** and **land carers** from ACT and surrounds (including NSW) are invited

Date: **Saturday, 1st June, 2024 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**
Venue: **Gold Creek Station**
Address: **Victoria Street, Hall 2618**

Please Register by 30th May
Contact: rural@landcareact.org.au

Our goal is to empower you, our landholders and land carers, with the knowledge and skills needed to tackle invasive species head-on.

Come and be a part of a community moving towards healthier, more sustainable land management.

This project is funded by the Australian Government's Smart Farms program. It will be delivered by Landcare ACT in partnership with Southern ACT Catchment Group, Ginninderra Catchment Group and ACT Rural Landholders Association of Farmers (ACT Farmers).



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.

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

Advertising rates (per issue)

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

Other information

Editor: 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.

Men's Shed projects

Graham Smith repairing the dangerously rotten picnic table that lives outside the Post Office and Local Spirit Marketplace and Cellar Door.



Graham Smith also made some new shelves for the Heritage Centre.



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ANZAC Day



Brian O'Connor and Jessie Smith raise the flag.



Archer Cowling 5, and Grace Cowling 2, from Palmerston admiring the wreaths.



Aidan Soho of the Mt Majura scout group with a picture of his grandfather in World War II.



MC Dennis Greenwood.

Meagan Wilkes, Courtney Smith and Hamish Smith from Fraser and Ngunnawal. Meagan is wearing the medals given to her great uncle by the King of Belgium including the Croix de Guerre, which Meagan explains is the equivalent to the Victoria Cross.

Courtney is wearing medals from World War II and the Vietnam war. Young Hamish wears his great, great, great uncle's World War I medals.

