

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district



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August 2024

Wild about Hall

Wild about Hall: A Bee Friendly Garden

by Anna Cowan

When Christian and I bought my mother's home in Hall, one of the first things I did was get the Bee Friendly Garden signs, a bee hotel built by the Hall Men's Shed and the free native plants that were available at the time. The plants were added to the native garden my mum had established and that we continue to develop. This year, I decided to see how bee friendly the garden actually is.

That decision has taken me on a fascinating journey with a steep learning curve. The first bee I 'discovered' was a Blue banded bee, which I now realise was around all the time – I just didn't know what to look for. I probably assumed it was

a fly buzzing and darting around. Blue banded bees are very noisy, you usually hear them before you see them and they have a very distinctive flight, periods of hovering punctuated by darting to a new spot.

Looking into the habits of the Blue banded bee a bit further, it was clear that the bee hotel was of no interest to it. They rest/sleep on plant stems and lay their eggs in holes in sandy ground: We have since made sure we have patches of ground

that they prefer; bee hotels with added

A Blue banded bee, *Amegilla asserta*, resting on a plant stem.

mud bricks are an alternative. Having said that some other bees have utilised the bee hotel and sealed the entrance to several holes. Hopefully as they emerge in spring I can discover which bees they are.

Looking at the large numbers of European honey bees in the garden, I realised that there were other bees among them. Some of the halictid bees, particularly *Lasioglossum* species look like a small dull honey bee.



Halictid bee (*Lasioglossum* sp.)



Striking halictid bee: *Lipotriches australica*

Other halictid bees are more striking in appearance, with a metallic sheen to their thorax and abdomen and/or white or orange hair bands.

I discovered we had large numbers of predominantly black native bees particularly on callistemon flowers.

These were various types of small masked bee varying in size from about 4mm to 10mm.



Four different species of masked bee demonstrating the variation in size.

... continues on page 24



Brass on the Grass



Sunday 13 October 2024
Victoria St, Hall

A lunch time fund-raising concert for the Hall Heritage Centre

Save the date!

Ken Heffernan took his hat off to this fantastic Alexandra Street fungus.



Strathnaim Arts.

Nancy Tingey

Over Time 13 July to 11 August, 2024

Woolshed Gallery
Curated by Jacqueline Schultze



Image: Nancy Tingey, Woolshed Quilt, 1999, corduroy cotton and woolbag hessian reverse dyed, machine and hand stitched, 143 x 110 cm. Photo by George Serras.

This retrospective will feature highlights from Nancy Tingey's 60-year career as a practising artist living in the North of England and Australia. They include works on paper, stained glass studies, patchwork, her MA project "Two Ply" on the migrant experience, collaborations with a poet and fibre work relating to the foundation of the Networks Australia group in 2008. Her most recent watercolours depict Lake George (Weereewa). Work books and visual diaries will enrich the visitor experience.

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	Batteries Any type of small single-use or rechargeable household battery (AA, AAA, C, D, button etc) Tape over 6v/9v terminals to prevent fire.		Metal ring pulls Any size/type from aluminium & steel cans
	Corks Any size/type from glass bottles		Metal Twist-Ties & Wire Paper or plastic coated metal twist-ties and small volumes of coiled metal wire
	E-waste items Small electrical items including coiled cables, accessories and devices (reset to factory settings).		Moisture Absorbers Small desiccant or silica packs. (Repackage if original pack is split.)
	Medicine Blister packs 100% aluminum or 50% aluminum/50% plastic. No Webster packs. Ensure medicine is removed.		Plastic bread tags Tag test: cardboard bread tags can be folded or torn in half and can be composted or discarded
	Metal Fasteners & Scrap Pieces Small metal items including nails, screws, nuts, bolts, washers, keys, brackets, off-cuts etc.		Plastic bottle Lids Milk, soft-drink and water bottles only. Remove and discard foam inserts.
	Metal Lids Any size/type from small glass jars and small/large bottles including beer, wine, champagne.		Yoghurt pouch lids Larger kid-safe lids from squeeze pouches not smaller toothpaste tube type lids.
			Rubber bands Clean and in reusable condition eg flexible elastic, not dried, cut or snapped.

Lids4Kids

The Rotary Club of Hall and Hall Village Post Office have partnered to establish Hall Village and District as a *Lids4Kids* Community. Together we can support *Lids4Kids* efforts to recycle small items that would otherwise end up in landfill.

How it works:

- Hall Rotary will pay for up to 200 households and businesses in the 2618 postcode to become members of *Kids4Lids*.
- As a member you will receive a 'Zero Waste Warrior Tub' for the collection of recyclable items.
- When your tub is full, simply swap it for an empty tub at the Hall Post Office.

To get started just visit Hall Post Office, register your household/business, and pick up your Zero Waste Warrior Tub!

Lids4Kids now collect more than just lids. Their efforts to stop small items from going into landfill have expanded to cover recycling of a wide range of small items.

Hall Village Christmas street party



Zina Richardson, Event Director and Coordinator
M: 0437 616 717

The long running annual Hall Street Party (on hiatus since 2019) and The Hall Village Christmas Fair, previously held at the showground, have combined this year to bring you a spectacular seasonal community family friendly event.

And we're taking it to the streets!

In keeping with Street Party tradition, we have switched the event to Friday afternoon/eve and invited our local village shops and eateries to stay open later on Friday and join in the fun! There will be a dedicated artisan Christmas market showcasing your favourite stallholders, gorgeous gifts available to purchase from our local retail traders, food trucks, as well as delicious offerings from our local cafes and village pub, community group displays, and live music and entertainment, so bring your dancing shoes!

The event will run the length of the village on Victoria Street, between Gladstone Street and Hoskins Street from 4-8:30pm, with the road being closed to vehicle traffic from 3-10pm. (We will make allowances for businesses and residents requiring vehicle access to their premises during this time.)

New Hall self-guided Heritage Tour brochure



On Thursday 25 July the Minister for Heritage, Rebecca Vassarotti, launched a new National Trust (ACT) brochure which highlights 24 sites of heritage interest in and around the village. Many of the sites are easily identified by a nearby Canberra Tracks sign, others are not so prominent. The new brochure includes a centre-fold map which easily identifies each site's location and offers background information about each site.

Volunteers from the Hall Heritage Centre provided the research information and the period photographs for the brochure. To celebrate the launch we have set up an interesting pop-up display showcasing one of the heritage sites – *Sunnyside* – a small farm beside Halls Creek. *Sunnyside's* story is noteworthy.

In the 1880s Government surveyors began identifying larger blocks of land surrounding the village for commercial options and market gardens. In 1886 David Rule, a local selector at *Allwood* on the Wallaroo Road, was one of the first locals to purchase land in the newly surveyed village – a 3½ acre portion on Halls Creek, for which he paid £17. The land had access to the water from Halls Creek and rich, alluvial soil. Whether it was purchased as an investment or as a retirement block it is difficult to ascertain, but Rule eventually sold the block in 1904. No evidence remains to suggest that he improved the land in any way.



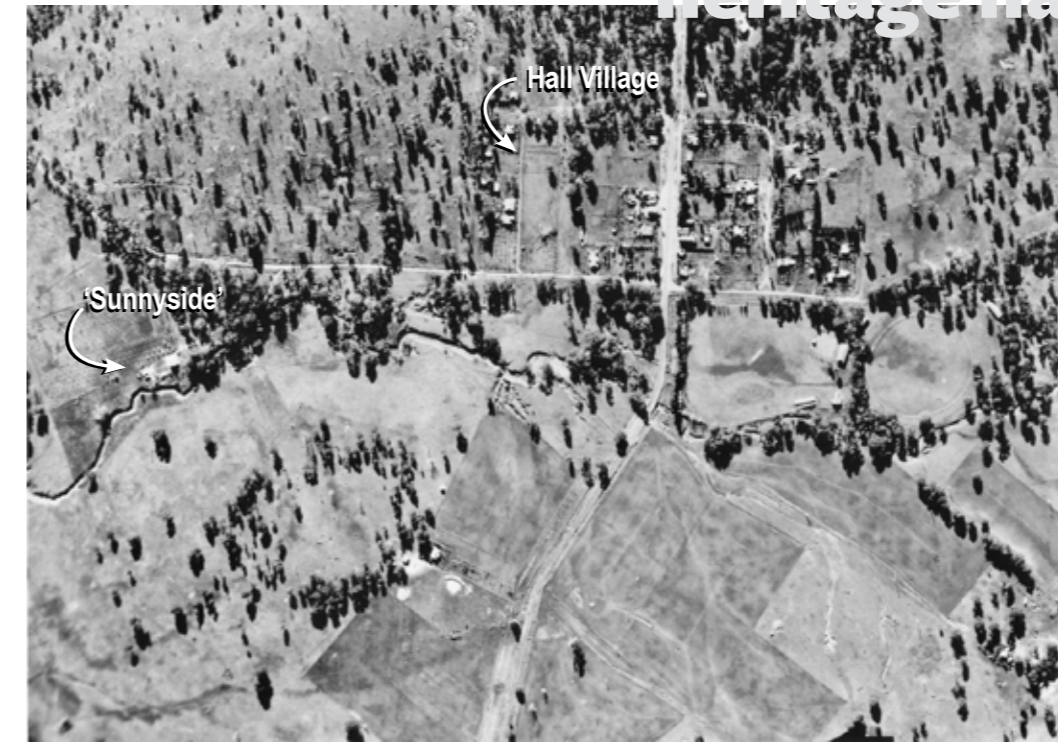
'Sunnyside' in the 1960s.

By 1906 George Southwell had purchased the land and set about building a new home for his soon-to-be wife Ethel Moon. George and Ethel first met when she was a teacher at Brooklands School from 1903–1906. George had worked as a local labourer and shearer. With the assistance of the Hatch brothers who lived at nearby Rosewood, George built a simple four-roomed cottage. The walls are of pisé (rammed earth) construction, with front and side verandahs and gable roof. Timber found in the roof cavity was dated 1902, perhaps an early example of salvaging during difficult economic times. Changing economic conditions around the turn of the century saw an increase in the use of pisé construction. The basic building material was free, the form work to shape the walls could be made by hand and knocked up using local timber. Tools were simple and readily available or easily made. The cottage remains today and looks much like it did 100 years ago. On the western end of the roof, a pressed metal covering survives.

George and Ethel developed the land, establishing themselves as poultry farmers,

bee keepers (selling their honey by the tin from the front gate) and orchardists, specialising in prunus plums, peaches and apples such as five crowns and rome-beauties which they sold by the case from the farm and through a delivery service to the newly established Canberra suburbs.

Like many families they were largely self-sufficient with a milking cow, pigs and a large vegetable garden.



Aerial view of 'Sunnyside' in the 1950s.

Ethel was recognised as a good cook, specialising in jams and preserves, for which she won many prizes in district shows. They had no children, but cared for Tom Moon, Ethel's nephew.

Ethel and George were committed to the Wattle Park church: Ethel with the Ladies Church Aid and George as a lay preacher. A memorial window is dedicated to them in the church, funded by Tom, their adopted son.

by Mardie Troth

George died at Sunnyside in 1942 and Ethel in Sydney 1944 – both buried at Hall Cemetery. On his return from WWII Tom Moon sold the home and land to Mervyn Southwell and family who lived there for many years.

More recently the original orchard, planted by Ethel and George, has been restored by the new owners with new fruit varieties planted including an old-fashioned favourite, quinces.

The Hall Village brochure (available from the centre) is one of five new publications recently launched by the National Trust.

Others in the series are:

- Kingston
- Campbell- Russell
- Dairy Flat, and
- East Lake.

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In recent weeks, I have been fortunate to have had a number of occasions to talk to a variety of people about the very unique character and environment of our Hall Village and District. In these conversations, I have been reminded how others value the way in which our community maintains and promotes the thousands of years of Indigenous, European and now ethnically diverse settlement of the Hall District.

The Hall Men's Shed continues to be a hive of activity. Weekly morning teas and monthly barbeques provide a great opportunity for members to share interests, stories and experiences. Currently, the Hall Men's Shed is working together with Yass Men's Shed to produce 100 Greater Glider Nesting Boxes for the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society.

The Hall Heritage Centre is again in the spotlight of ACT Heritage with the launch of the Hall Self-Guided Heritage Tour brochure by ACT Heritage Minister, Ms Rebecca Vassarotti, on 25 July. The Self-Guided Heritage Tour brochure was developed by the National Trust with input from the Hall Heritage Centre and supported with funding made available by the ACT Government.

As I mentioned in the last *Rural Fringe*, with the upcoming ACT election on 19 October, the Progress Association Committee has approached 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 summary of responses received from the ACT Greens, ACT Labor, Canberra Liberals and Independents for Canberra are included in this edition of the *Rural Fringe*. The full responses are available on the Hall website at hall.act.au.

We have been advised by ACT City Services Directorate that the contract has been signed for the detailed design work for storm water infrastructure in Hall Village and have been assured that the design work will include input by Hall Village residents, businesses and stakeholders.

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.

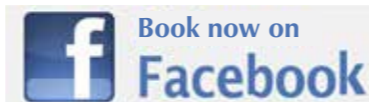


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Update on the Hall Land Management Plan Project: a community effort to protect and enhance our natural spaces

Shirali Davé Rural Projects Officer – Landcare ACT

In the October 2023 edition of the *Rural Fringe*, the Ginninderra Catchment Group introduced the project to develop a Management Plan for open space areas around Hall Village.

The Ginninderra Catchment Group secured funding from the ACT Environment Grants Program to develop a plan in cooperation with the Village of Hall and District Progress Association, Hall Landcare Group, and with input from Hall residents and stakeholders.

This project is aimed at enhancing the ecological condition and connectivity of the open spaces surrounding Hall. Priorities include connecting people with nature, protecting native plants and animals, and rewilding Canberra. This initiative is crucial as several patches of remnant Box Gum Grassy Woodland, a threatened community in the ACT, surround Hall. These woodlands support vulnerable bird species such as the Superb Parrot, Hooded Robin, Brown Tree Creeper, and Regent Honeyeater. The area is also potential habitat for Rosenberg's Goanna, and the cemetery supports the rare leek orchid, *Prasophyllum petilum*.

Several community consultation and engagement events have been held to seek input to the management plan. These events aim to identify areas needing habitat restoration to support native flora and fauna and reduce the impact on local ecosystems.

The Ginninderra Catchment Group had engaged a project manager to coordinate development of the Management Plan, Jarrod Ruch. Jarrod organised a survey of residents, a meeting in August 2023 and discussions with various people, organisations and ACT Government agencies for input towards the Management Plan. The work towards the development of the Management Plan was put on hold for some time after Jarrod left the Ginninderra Catchment Group.

Work on the development of the Management Plan recommenced with a meeting on 5 June with the Ginninderra Catchment Group, the Village of Hall and District Progress Association, Landcare ACT, and members of the 'Wild About Hall' team (highlighted in the June 2024 edition of the *Rural Fringe* and on the front page of this edition).



In the meeting, 10 unique areas around Hall Village were identified for which Management Plans will be developed with priority on the area beside Halls Creek East and West, the Nature Park area east of Hall Street and Palmer Street, the Horse Paddocks area west of Gibbs Street and the Hall Reserve. Action items were identified, including the development of a draft template management plan and the need for selective implementation of the plan across various priority sites to ensure effective land management and engagement. The management plan will also address the perception of neglect and lack of communication between government agencies, ensuring consultation at all levels to create a more efficient and effective management strategy.

Stay tuned for more updates and community event announcements as we work together to protect and enhance the natural beauty of Hall's open spaces.

Please contact Bruno at projects@ginninderralandcare.org.au with any questions or for more information.

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Farmer Brown's Free Range Eggs

by Greg Palethorpe

Well, it has been a tough couple of weeks with a lot of stress and sleepless nights.

High pathogenicity avian influenza (commonly known as bird flu) was identified in Canberra at Pace Farm Eggs in MacGregor on 26 June 2024. As such ACT Biosecurity has introduced a 10km quarantine radius around the infection site, which places restrictions on the sale and movement of poultry products and equipment within the zone. Unfortunately Farmer Brown's Free Range Eggs falls within this zone.

How?

Numerous strains of bird flu are present in Australia and from time to time flair up into a highly pathogenic strain with high mortality. The scale of industrialised eggs production with the housing of hundreds of thousands of birds in close proximity gives any virus entering one of these facilities the opportunity to mutate at a much faster rate than found in the natural environment, and as such increases the potential for the virus to turn into something really nasty.

Bird flu was transported to Pace Farm Eggs grading facility via equipment or eggs from an infected farm in the Hawkesbury area. It has then been transferred into the nearby poultry laying sheds and infected the hens there. This strain of bird flu is reported to have an incubation period of up to two weeks and once active results in 5–20% mortality in the hens per day!

A week later a case of bird flu was found in a backyard flock in the Belconnen area that has likely originated from Pace Farm. This could be quite disastrous if it has been transferred by wild birds, as it means there may be far more uncontrolled spread of bird flu in the Canberra region.

Why?

The large scale egg industry moves eggs from many farms across the country for washing and grading at centralised facilities. Eggs are also amalgamated from farms and sold back and forth by the pallet and truck load as commodities (one study showed some eggs produced in Victoria, purchased by egg traders, travelled to Sydney before being sold to the public in Melbourne), and yes, a dozen eggs from the supermarket may contain eggs from up to 12 different farms. Unfortunately, from a disease control point of view, this behaviour is inherently high risk. Small scale egg producers do not engage in this behaviour, but unfortunately suffer the consequences and costs of the preventative or remedial actions.

Biosecurity controls

This has meant I've had to increase my biosecurity controls at the farm and divide it into a 'hot' and 'cold' zone, where anything crossing this hot/cold line must be decontaminated. This means changing clothes and shoes on each side of the line, going through a boot wash, spraying down vehicles and egg equipment with disinfectant, and washing all eggs. These procedures add about 20–50% extra time to our daily tasks.

Sales restrictions

We are also forbidden to sell eggs from the farmgate/honesty egg fridge and the Capital Region Farmer's markets. Although we are allowed to sell to retailers (Ziggys – Fyshwick markets, Ainslie IGA, Choku Bia Jo – North Lyneham, Country Pride Sausages – Lyneham) who have all taken significantly more eggs.



Farmer Brown's hens in Wallaroo

Risks

Our risk of introducing bird flu from humans and equipment is very low as we generally have few people on the farm and our equipment is effectively in a closed system. However, being fully free range, we do face the risk of introduction of bird flu from wild birds. Most wild birds don't come into close contact with the hens, however starlings from October–February can be particularly bold.

What if infected?

Unfortunately if a farm becomes infected with bird flu, all the hens on the farm must be destroyed to help contain the virus, but also limit the opportunity for the virus to mutate into something worse, or develop the ability to transfer to other species. For example, humans, which would be extremely catastrophic (think pandemic, but maybe worse!). After all the hens are culled, the farm is cleaned and disinfected, and a testing regime is implemented in order to prove there is no virus remaining. This whole process on a free range farm would likely take longer than six months, and then take about six months again to restart production. In my case I would need to give serious consideration as to whether we would start up again, due to reinfection risks and ACT rural lease risks. So at the moment each morning I have a sense of anxiety when returning to the farm, hoping not to see any signs of bird flu, but knowing if I do it is game over.

What can you do?

If you have chickens, try to keep wild/pest birds away from them (remove accessible sources of food or water).

Report any hen deaths to **ACT Biosecurity, 1800675888**. They will swab the hen and test for bird flu.

Don't feed wild birds as it will encourage different bird species, that are usually separate, to mingle, and have bird flu cross between species and spread further.

Are your eggs safe to eat?

Yes, the strain of Bird flu in Canberra is not known to infect humans; of course usual food safety standards still apply, such as cooking the eggs.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this difficult period.



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Elizabethan Feast

by Andrew Purdam

The unstoppable Judith Clingan AM has staged yet another mammoth musical program, this time an Elizabethan Feast on a dark mid-Winter's night at Hall Pavilion on 6 July.

The more than 60 patrons and cast of 40 actors, singers and musicians were all dressed in clothing of varying nobility from the Elizabethan age and were very capably taken care of with a menu featuring such beguiling names as Fartes of Portingale (puffed Portuguese pastries, most likely a 15th Century joke) and Jowtes in Almond milk (spinach, leeks and other greens and herbs ground and simmered in a soup of almond milk). The night was likewise stuffed full with entertainment, consisting of many settings of extracts from Shakespeare's plays, including a gripping witch scene from Macbeth and a hilarious Pyramus and Thisbe. This was interspersed with several sets of music from the period, both sung a cappella or with period instruments including buzzy crumhorns, cornetti, rackett, diverse recorders, drums and sackbuts, augmented with slightly more modern but equally exotic hammered dulcimer, trumpets and bassoon. A goode time in Halle was had by alle.



Two Gentlemen of MacKellar (or Majura, you decide).

The Three Witches from Macbeth.



Assistant musical director Jordan London.



Elizabethan 'above the salt' family.

The Taming of the Shrew.



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My Morris tribute

by Kevin Stone

The things we do!

A few months ago I was out enjoying a leisurely breakfast with my daughter Nikki and son-in-law Daryl when I mentioned that it was coming up to eight years Mum (my wife Susan) had passed away and I wanted to honour the date by doing something a bit special.

'What do you want to do, Dad,' asked Nikki.

'Well, I saw a Morris Minor advertised in South Australia, and I thought as Mum had one years ago, she would have loved one now.'

And no sooner I'd spoken about it, Daryl booked flights to Adelaide for a few days later and off we both went. Talk about an impulsive decision!

We saw the car at Collectable Classics (CC) at Strathalbyn in the Adelaide Hills. It included a 'sandwich board' setting out the full history of where it was restored,

the previous owners and various Australian states it had 'lived' in. It was definitely the one I wanted and felt it was meant to be. We agreed that it was rather appropriate, because as Daryl rightly pointed out, Sue and I had lived in each state! So I bought the car and had it transported over here the following week. And I didn't even test drive it! But I didn't need to, because I just knew it was the one Sue would want.

The people from where I bought the car could not have been more understanding and nice when I told them about my wife, our wonderful marriage and why I wanted to buy this particular model. There were a few misty eyes, plenty of smiles and yes, a warm and genuine hug from Ebony, one of the female staff. She added a note with the documentation

I received when the car arrived, saying 'you've definitely made her proud'.



My fully restored 1964 Morris Minor 1000.



Susan's car, with our young and beautiful daughter Nikki (hat on) and friend.

'slow and steady' through the gear changes after driving an automatic for so long, especially after hearing a few grinding noises between second and third!

I have had the opportunity to display my new pride and joy at the Queanbeyan Showground *Wheels Show* where I learnt the car has an electric fuel pump and where it's situated! I felt rather embarrassed about it and had to shift the conversation to safer grounds about the history of the car and why I bought it.

As you may guess, I don't know much about the mechanical side!

But I'm sure others do, including some people in Hall who have other vintage and veteran cars I've seen being driven

around the streets. So yes, it would be great to read other

stories about these cars and why the owners acquired them because it's nice to keep the good memories alive.

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Hall Polocrosse Club – preparing to celebrate 50 years

On a beautiful autumn day in April, I had the pleasure of sitting in the sunshine with Mick DeBritt to get some history regarding the Hall Polocrosse Club and its formation. I have since had the opportunity to speak to some other long-standing members of the club and still have more to catch-up with.

The club formed in 1975 and played at their first carnival at the Royal's Club Carnival held at Watson (up behind the old Starlight Drive-In – for those of you who can remember a drive-in theatre).

Hall held their first official carnival 1977, which was at the current grounds at Sunny Corner.

Initially, there were only seven members. I have been told that the first game was against the Goulburn Team and it was A Grade Men's. It was a draw and extra time was played. The team consisted of (not in any specific order) Colin Reid, Bruce Reid, Mick DeBritt, Dickie Reid, Alan Golding and Chris Coulton (with Tony Coulton as a spare). Apparently, five times in the extra time the ball was passed to the number 1 (the goal scorer) before the winning goal was scored. If anyone has been fortunate enough to watch a Men's A Grade Final, you will understand how exciting and nerve racking this would have been! Hall came out victorious! Not bad for their first time in a carnival!

The club uniform for Hall has an interesting story behind it, one that you will need to discuss with the 'elders' at the 50-year celebration next year. Believe

it or not, apparently there was even a 'white tie' involved!!

As mentioned earlier, the first carnival held by the Hall Club was at Sunny Corner in 1977. Initially there was only one field. The goal posts were 'old stringy bark poles' with hessian wrapped around them! When I played it was always just referred to as 'Field 1'. This is still the main field where most finals are played. These days, it's known as 'The Green Field' and five in total, the others are Blue, Red, Yellow and White.

The canteen used to be a big marquee and usually run by Lorna Reid, Marie Reid, Evie DeBritt and Evie Golding. At the first carnival, Mr Lees from Kiara donated a steer, Colin and Mick killed it and Gary Foster cut it up. The skillful canteen ladies made several gallons of Stroganoff to sell throughout the day. Wow, haven't things changed?!

On the Saturday night of any carnival there is generally a meal provided (at a reasonable cost). Mick recalls that the first Saturday night meal for the Hall carnival was held in the Hall Pavilion. Mick also remembers putting up lights from the polocrosse grounds across the creek from the pavilion to enable people to safely walk over from the grounds to the dinner and return the same way.

In the early days the main food served by the canteen during the day was generally sausage and steak

sandwiches, all of which were cooked up on 'a lump of old steel', propped up on bricks with a fire underneath it. Believe it or not, Mick still has that 'lump of steel'! This is certainly not the case now, as the club can boast a fantastic canteen, with so many choices of food – not just sausage sandwiches!

To get the facilities to what they are now, there were so many 'working bees'. The facilities that were developed over years of work are what all the polocrosse families and spectators now enjoy. The grounds also include a bar – THE most important spot after a hard day of competition riding and/or spectating! Showers, toilets, a horse washing area and three sets of yards for around 100 horses and electricity (three power poles) are some of the many improvements.

There is also a commentator's box in a prime location, which is right on the sideline of the Green Field, between the canteen and bar. Most finals are played on this field and are called from the commentator's box. Some of the commentators I can remember were Alan Golding, Gary Rawlings and Brian Luton, but we have had many others and they always made the games even more exciting, because their knowledge of the players and horses was outstanding.



There is always a warm and very welcoming log fire, located outside the main building, which burns all weekend. It's a great place to warm up, meet up with old friends, meet new ones and watch some excellent polocrosse and sportsmanship.

But of course the carnivals could not be run without the support from the families of the players, or the volunteers, many who do so in a variety of ways all weekend, and all year round. This includes cooking all the delicious slices, cakes, biscuits which are sold, the wonderful people in the canteen who cook the variety of foods that are available to purchase and consume, people who work in the canteen, the ones who organise the playing draw, goal wavers, time and score keepers, and the umpires.

There is just so much that goes on behind the scenes that we as spectators or even players don't realise. What is accomplished to provide such a spectacular weekend for everyone involved is all done by volunteers. The countless hours spent by these dedicated people, doing all the necessary preparation before, during and after the carnivals should be applauded. Our hats go off to all those involved for their tireless and unselfish efforts. There has been a number of people over the 50 years of the Hall club and we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their massive and unwavering commitment to the Hall Polocrosse Club and the sport. Their dedication would be one of the main reasons for the continued success of the club, along with all the enthusiastic players and their families over the years.

I am still seeking any stories or photos that anyone may have. Anyone who may have been involved with the club in any capacity, please contact me. There is still much to be told about this club and I look forward to hearing from you!

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

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Lyall Gillespie collection

The Hall Heritage Centre presently has an exhibition of interesting items from Lyall Gillespie's collection. Lyall also accumulated a great deal of family research material, all compiled before the internet existed by many visits to libraries, archives and similar.

Lyall would write his findings into notebooks, then come home and copy the details onto around 40,000 individual cards, in alphabetic order. These were then filed into old public service metal registry drawers, but were not actually cards, they are flimsy pieces of paper cut from exercise books.



A major project transcribed most of these cards some years ago, but several significant batches were missed and those are now being transcribed. There is currently a project underway to scan all of the cards to preserve them for the future.

I have extracted a sample of interesting snippets from the recently transcribed cards to see if you can guess the content or date referred to, although many are timeless.



1. A toll-bar has been erected on the Clyde Road, the right to recover tolls will be offered for sale at the Braidwood Courthouse on 5th July ? .

2. When and why were obstructions removed from the road through Mr Crace's property by a group of residents? They removed the paling fence around the orchard, and when the fences were replaced, they were removed, or burnt, again.
3. An amount was included in the estimates for the road from Hall to Wallaroo, but Tenders were invited without notification in Council paper, resulting in a Yass Contractor getting the job and bringing his own labour, much to the dissatisfaction of locals who are looking for work.
4. Our roads in all directions are in a very bad state at present. Bitter complaints are heard

about the penny wise and pound-foolish policy of retrenchment adopted by the government in knocking off the maintenance men.

5. There are several places on the Gundaroo Road which are badly in need of repair. Our member has succeeded in getting fairly liberal grants for the repair of roads in this locality. It is to be hoped that he will insist on the money being expended, as for the last three or four years, grants have been voted for the repair of various roads, and yet none of the money has ever been expended. We are told that the traffic does not

justify the expenditure, but of course, the money is kept back to help to swell the surplus.

6. Report of a strong protest from locals about dangerous condition of a culvert on the Yass Ginninderra Road near the Old Ginninderra Police Station. Rabbits are stated to have burrowed under the culvert which has collapsed in part leaving a dangerous hole.
7. Roads to the South the custom has been to proceed with a new road and finish it up without ever repairing the bad parts of the old road and when the new road wants repairing, such parts are left to get worse and worse until the road is put under a total and thorough repair, which perhaps is delayed for years.
8. A young man of about 19 years of age, who resided with his parents on the Ginninderra Creek, was feeling unwell. He went to a person residing in the neighbourhood of Ginninderra who practiced as a medical man and was told that he was suffering from Typhoid fever and was directed to drink large quantities of ? at frequent intervals overnight and report back next morning. Sadly, he died overnight.
9. Why were William Roohan and John Lenhane, on the evidence of Snr Constable Carnell, fined 5/- each?
10. Why did Anthony Moon of Uriarra, unlawfully cut and wound one Robert Roper with intent to do him grievous bodily harm? There had been an argument and Moon had an altercation with Roper's wife and later with Roper, culminating in Roper being seriously injured. Moon was sentenced to three years hard labour on the road.

Answers

1. 1862 – this was a main access to Sydney – down the coast and then by coastal steamer.
2. 1884 – an ongoing dispute when the Crace family insisted that the Yass-Queanbeyan Road



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by Peter Browning

be re-directed around their property, making the road virtually useless. Fences were torn down and several residents were prosecuted.

3. 1892
4. 1894 – some things never change.
5. 1897 – and many years since.
6. 1905
7. 1834
8. The prescribed potion was RUM and the young Methodist chose not to take this remedy. Sgt Brennan concluded that death was not a result of malpractice, but that death resulted from carelessness on the part of the patient, who neglected to follow the advice given to him. However, the illness was actually Scarlet Fever. Joseph Roffe was buried at Weetangera Cemetery in April, 1876.
9. ... for breaking the sabbath by reaping a field of oats on Sunday last – 1871.
10. Moon had boarded with Roper and his family for £1 a week, but there was no bread on the table. I guess he got plenty of bread and water in jail!



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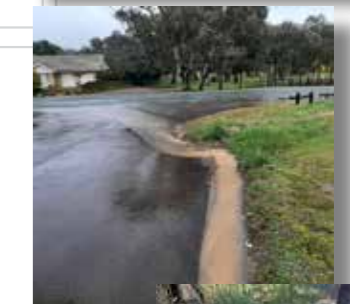
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ACT Election candidate responses on Hall concerns

With the upcoming ACT election on 19 October, the Progress Association Committee has approached party candidates in Yerrabi electorate to seek their views and commitments to some key priorities of the Hall community. Following is the summary of responses received from the ACT Greens, ACT Labor, Canberra Liberals and Independents for Canberra. The full responses are available on the Hall website at hall.act.au.

	Independents for Canberra 	Canberra Liberals 
Maintaining the Hall Village Heritage Precinct including the buffer zones specified in the Heritage Places Register 2001.	We are fully committed to maintaining the Hall Village Heritage Precinct and ensuring compliance with the management guidelines outlined in the Heritage Places Register 2001.	The Canberra Liberals understand the unique nature of Hall as a rural village and the consequent unique needs its residents face.
Completion of comprehensive stormwater infrastructure works as agreed with Hall community stakeholders.	We will advocate for the completion of comprehensive stormwater infrastructure works as agreed upon with community stakeholders, addressing crucial drainage issues.	MLAs, Leanne Castley and James Milligan, together with the Hall Progress Association, have been instrumental in arranging for the ACT Government to undertake a detailed design for stormwater infrastructure in Hall Village. Completion of works will depend on the detailed design and budget process.
Establish a safe cycle and pedestrian path to Hall Village from Clarrie Hermes Dr beside Victoria St.	Establishing a safe sealed cycle and pedestrian path to Hall Village from Clarrie Hermes Drive beside Victoria Street is a priority for enhancing accessibility and safety.	ACT City Services is currently undertaking a feasibility study of a safe cycle and pedestrian link from Hall to Nicholls. Construction will depend on the outcome of the feasibility study and future budget processes.
Undertake a thorough assessment of the safety of the intersection of the Barton Hwy with Gladstone St and Wallaroo Rd.	We will push for a thorough assessment of the Barton Hwy intersection with Gladstone St and Wallaroo Rd to address safety concerns comprehensively.	The Canberra Liberals will consider Barton Hwy safety in development of broader policies.
Full implementation by the ACT Government of the Adventure Trail and Natural Play Space Gladstone Street Hall Design (TCCS November 2019).	We are committed to the full implementation of the Adventure Trail and Natural Play Space Gladstone St Hall Design and promoting inclusive recreational opportunities.	The Canberra Liberals have committed to the 'Putting Your Suburbs First' policy to provide funding for local community projects such as all-abilities playground equipment. Under the policy, residents will be able to propose projects based on community need.
Ongoing security of 'peppercorn' lease tenure of the former Hall School site and the Hall Pavilion.	We support providing ongoing security of 'peppercorn' lease tenure for the former Hall School site and the Hall Pavilion, recognising their importance to the community.	The Canberra Liberals will work with the Progress Association to consider future arrangements of the former Hall School site and the Hall Pavilion in development of broader policies.

ACT Labor 	ACT Greens 
ACT Labor acknowledges that Hall is an important community with unique heritage and place in our city. ACT Labor will continue to work with the Progress Association in good faith on current and future matters.	The ACT Greens are committed to upholding the heritage values of the Hall Village Precinct, and its intrinsic 'rural village' character, and its setting buffered from other urban areas.
ACT City Services is considering the design of stormwater works in Hall. If re-elected, ACT Labor will continue to work with the Hall Progress Association to advance these matters.	The Greens continue to support the conduct of stormwater rectification works, noting that these would be rightly subject to engagement with community stakeholders and directorate advice on technical needs.
A feasibility study into the construction of a new shared path has been funded with any proposed construction works subject to future budgetary processes.	The ACT Greens agree that Hall would be improved through better active travel connections, including the provision of a sealed cycling and walking path along Victoria Street. The ACT Greens will have announcements regarding active travel in the near future.
ACT Labor will consider any assessment as part of any future Barton Hwy works.	The Greens would welcome the conducting of a road safety assessment of the Barton Hwy intersection with Gladstone St and Wallaroo Rd, or the direct implementation of any improvements that the government may have already identified are needed at this location.
ACT Labor will consider the playground works subject to competing priorities and future budgetary processes.	The Greens support the installation of all-abilities playground equipment on Gladstone Street, be it through the <i>Greens By and For the Suburbs</i> package as a community chosen project, or otherwise through district-level planning decisions of the government.
The ACT Government intends to issue a new peppercorn lease prior to the 2024 election.	The Greens are very comfortable with continuing the current 'peppercorn lease' arrangements over the former Hall School site and the Hall Pavilion.



Winter pruning

Many folk are under the false assumption that gardens offer a 'go slow' period during the colder months.

There is so much to do during the dormancy of our winter gardens and pruning your roses and fruit trees sits right at the top of your work priority.

It's one of those jobs that just has to be done and not simply for aesthetics – pruning your roses and fruit trees is essential to the long term health of the plant.

Pruning reduces disease, allows air circulation and lets in more light. Not pruning will increase your risk of diseases, reduce potential blooms or fruit and create general ill health of the plant.

Up until a few weeks ago, our roses were continuing to bloom, somewhat bruised and brown. Hanging on to your winter flowering roses is not a good idea, you want them to shut down and rest, ready to burst into bloom in the spring. So if you really want those last scraggly blooms, trim them off the prunings and pop them in a vase to enjoy the last remnants of this season.



Roses need to have the oldest flowering stems cut out every year to encourage new growth to form and in turn this prevents the plant turning into a tangle mess of unproductive branches. An old rule of thumb suggested cutting just above a leaf joint, sloping away from a bud. However, in my experience the 'style' of cut is not critical. In fact, you can be quite brutal with your rose pruning (unless the rose is unwell or very old), most will grow back thicker and stronger than before. Always remove any dead, dying, damaged or diseased stems.

If you happen to have had a really nasty year of powdery mildew or black spot, your roses will likely need a spray. Lime sulphur helps to eliminate fungal spores and eggs from insect pests, allowing your plant to start fresh and healthy in spring.

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gardening

by Lisa Walmsley

I also think it is imperative to pick up all 'rose' material from under the roses after pruning as the leaves or branches tend to harbour diseases and you will quickly reinfest the plant.

Fruit trees are very similar to roses, but rather than causing bloom problems it will cause fruit production problems if left to their own devices.

Pruning fruit trees also provides balance to the tree as it forces dormant buds in the old wood to produce vegetative growth which will become the next young fruiting wood. Pruning also controls the position and age of the cropping wood, which also improves the quality of the fruit.

The form of the tree is also important, allowing air and light but also the trees structure, mitigating the risk of broken branches. In a properly pruned tree, there is no risk of compromising branch structures and incorrect weight distribution that can lead to breaks and disease.

My own rule is *you must be able to reach the fruit*, so trees I prune are always brought down to my height. You need to give the tree the opportunity to have maximum fruit yield – unpruned trees tend to grow smaller fruit.

When to prune is often asked. It generally comes down to when you have time. But the dead of winter is great, late June to late July. Pruning does not stimulate growth, temperature does, so your plants don't tend to get new shoots until the season starts to warm up.

It really is hard to get it wrong, so give it a crack and in the summer you will be picking gorgeous bunches of roses and making delicious jams and pies.



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Hall Men's Shed activities

by Kevin Stone

Another month, another great barbeque!

This one was once again a success, although not so many members braved the cooler weather (cooler?) with about 34 enjoying the snags and rissoles cooked by our wonderful chefs, Rob Durie and Eric Detheridge. And our other ever reliable volunteer Garth Chamberlain made his delicious salads before he headed off to Geelong for his special birthday celebration, including watching his number one Aussie Rules team the Cats defeat the Hawks. Thanks go to these three and others who made the barbie another one so enjoyable.

Rob, Eric and Garth, along with our Foreman Doug Anstess do so much behind the scenes work to make the shed so enjoyable to be a part of. They, in some ways, are the unsung heroes in my view, because there can be a lot of work that goes into making any organisation run smoothly, which the Hall Men's Shed certainly does.

And as good as eating and chatting have been a long standing and important part of the shed, there are other activities that the members do. Well, some of them! And each time I pop in I see the usual suspects beaver away at their chosen projects, happy working either as part of a team or individually.

The new dust extraction system has made a positive difference, but everyone still makes sure they're looking after their health and wear masks when working with material which may cause dust to pollute the air.

Speaking of which, one of the major projects several of the fellas are involved in is cutting ply for the construction of 50 Greater Glider Nesting Boxes for the Australian National University. This is a very large undertaking for the shed and we're working with the Yass Valley Men's Shed who are also making the same number of boxes.

Alan Boyd, with his vast knowledge and experience, has been the 'brains' behind the project and worked out exactly how many cuts were needed and where they were to be made. There were a number of main 'cutters', including Bruce Wallace, Brian Charge, Mal Voysey and Doug Anstess. Mark Bozzato, Paul Williams and a couple of others also helped when more hands were needed. So overall a good crew, supervised by the ever present and keen eyed Brian Banyard!

Now a major part of the project is out the way, the assembly portion can commence. I can see an assembly line situation taking place, so it may not

be too long before the boxes are painted and ready to be distributed by our ANU friends and the Greater Glider possums are able to comfortably nest in their new homes.



Early stage of nesting boxes production, with Alan Boyd closely supervising.

I've mentioned it in other articles, and it's true. The shed has made a positive difference and impact on several of the members. Some have been a bit reserved when they started, but now join in the conversations and that's great to see, because we're all there to look after each other. Men's health,

whether it's physical or mental, plays a large part of our lives, especially as we age, and the shed has helped so many, especially when our life circumstances have changed and find ourselves living alone.

So if you, or you know someone who would like to join a men's shed that is second to none, the one in Hall is the one to get in touch with. There's always a guaranteed welcome smile,

handshake and cuppa. But don't be surprised if you have some woodworking skills, you may be asked if you'd like to join in with one of the projects on offer.



Doug Anstess and Alan Boyd working on the early stages of the glider boxes.

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Hall and District Axemen's Club

It may be cold and quiet around town, but the Hall Axemen have been very busy getting in their off-season training every Tuesday night despite the winter temps, as well as busily putting together plans and preparations for an action packed spring and summer. Big thanks again to Accurate Electrical for providing our outdoor lighting which has been fantastic through these darker winter days.

We had *The Gatton Show* on 20 July where Austin represented NSW against Queensland and Victoria, accompanied by Shaun (our President and founder of HADAC), who was also recently elected as President of the NSW Axemen's Association. Congratulations Shauno!

Last year the Hall Axemen were approached by several Ag Societies to provide wood chopping demonstrations at their Ag Shows, which were a great success for all involved, and we are very proud and excited to be invited back this season to provide a day of wood chopping demo's at:

- Ganmain Show **24 August**,
- Culcairn Show **5 October**,
- Boorowa 'Running of the Sheep' Festival **6 October**
- Cootamundra Show **19 October**.

Our planned wood chopping competitions for the next few months are:

Woodstock Show **1 September**, Berowra Show **7 September**, and Eugowra Show **14 September**. We also have eight of our axemen and axewomen heading to Tasmania in October to cut and saw at the 2024 Royal Hobart Show which is a solid crew from ACT/HADAC, as well as another of our intrepid axewomen, Meg, who is competing in Canada at Powell River on her home turf! Good luck Meg!



by Steph Radovanovic



Last month our club arranged for multiple World Champion Axeman Harold Winkel to come to the ACT to provide two intensive training sessions for our members, which was an amazing opportunity for all of our axemen. Thank you Harold for sharing your wisdom, skills and time, we all learnt so much and made some great friendships along the way!

Our club continues to grow which is awesome to see that our love of wood chopping is becoming more and more popular. We currently have 34 members, of which 15 are female. Wood supply continues to be an issue. We are always looking for wood to cut. If anyone has straight-grain trees they would like removed please contact us. We also have cut wood available (great for firewood) for a donation to the club. We are always looking for sponsors, as well as any locals interested in woodchopping or just improving their core strength, fitness and hand-eye co-ordination in a fun, friendly, safe and professional environment,

Want to learn more about us, or want to have a try or see what we do? Get in touch with us!

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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 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
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They all have yellow or cream markings on their face, thorax and legs and it is these markings that allow identification of different species as well as male from female of the same species.

You can often see these masked bees 'bubbling'; a process where they regurgitate and concentrate nectar. Other native bees collect pollen, on their back legs like European honey bees or on hairs on their abdomens.



Hyleoides concinna: A wasp mimic bee.

Hylaeus chromaticus – not previously reported in Canberra or the region.



Hylaeus amiculinus 'bubbling' to concentrate the nectar it has collected.



The variety of native bees in our garden, and presumably in other Hall gardens is amazing. There are wasp mimic bees, that look very much like some of the native wasps, plaster bees, resin bees and reed bees among others. So far I have identified about 20 different species, and several more where I have been able to determine the genus but not yet the species.

Many of my photos of bees have been submitted to Canberra Nature Map (canberra.naturemapr.org/) to have identification confirmed by an expert moderator. During this process I was excited to be told that one of the bees in our garden is *Hylaeus chromaticus*: a bee that has never been reported previously in the Canberra region.

I am looking forward to the spring blossoms and will be out with my camera again: I don't think I have found all the species around Hall yet and will be looking to extend the list.

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