

# RURAL FRINGE

*Journal of the Hall district*



VOLUME 31 ISSUE 5

October 2024

## Canberra Brass

### 40 years of marching

#### *Canberra Brass band celebrates in Hall Village*

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the *Canberra Brass*. It is the 16th year of their involvement in annual concerts in Hall, working together with the Hall Heritage Centre. It represents the band's ongoing connection with the Hall community. The Hall Heritage Centre is delighted to again be hosting the annual Brass Band Concert with *Canberra Brass*. Come along to our annual *Brass On The Grass* concert on **Sunday 13 October**.



*Marching at the Canberra Show.*

Plenty of food will be on sale and there is space for a picnic on the grass, so bring all the family! Help the band to celebrate.

Free entry and parking.

Read the history of the *Canberra Brass* on page 10.

*The band marching in Queanbeyan.*

This year, to celebrate such an important birthday, the band will march up Victoria Street (where it all began), from the Hall Post Office to the Heritage Centre grounds playing a march especially written for Hall called 'Village March'. This march will include up to 60 band members so it will be a spectacular and exciting spectacle.

The march along Victoria Street will begin at **1pm**, and the music at the Old School grounds (Hall Heritage Centre) will begin at **1.30pm**.



*Brass on the Grass concert.*





Come and join your Hall Village neighbours at a spring working bee on the Hall Reserve, Victoria St opposite old Hall School.

**Sunday 27 October**  
**10:00 – 12:30**

*Prepare for summer, spreading mulch and some replacement planting.*



St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

## St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

Corner Victoria & Loftus Streets, Hall

There have been some exciting changes in our church! Since 29 September, our Anglican brothers and sisters from St Paul's, Gininnderra have been conducting their services at both St Michael's and our other parish church, St Barnabas at Charnwood. We now have an 8am service at St Michael's each week, as well as our usual 11am service. Newcomers and visitors are welcome to attend either service.

This is almost a homecoming. The original St Paul's church was one of the first churches built in this district – a little slab and weatherboard building on Charles Campbell's property Gininnderra, which served this community for over 40 years from the early 1860s.

As we rush toward the end of 2024, our church community members are also looking forward to the Christmas events in the village.

### Hall Village Christmas Fair/Street Party Friday 29 November

What a great event this has grown to become in just a few years. Come along to browse and buy from the many artisans and craftspeople at the fair, and look for our stall of cakes, jams, and other homemade goodies on the corner of Loftus and Victoria streets. You can also make your own nativity silhouettes for the garden and enjoy carol singing or the music of *Canberra Brass* in St Michael's garden.

### Service of Lessons and Carols

**Sunday 8 December** at St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church – starting at **7pm**

Once again, everyone is invited to share the story of Christmas told through six short Bible readings and well-loved Christmas carols in this traditional, candle-lit service. Join us for a cuppa in the garden afterwards as well – weather permitting.

### Christmas services

Residents of Hall and surrounds as well as visitors will be warmly welcomed at the Christmas services at St Michael & All Angels this year:

- **Christmas Eve @ 10.30 pm**
- **Christmas Day @ 10 am**

... or at regular services at 8am or 11am on any Sunday.

For more information please phone Priest-in-charge Rev Peter Malone on **0429 350207** or church warden Beryl on **0408 488526**.

## Summer in the garden at Terroux

Sunset Soiree; **Saturday 30 November, 5pm – 7pm**  
with country rock band *Willie and the Correspondents*.

Open Garden; **Sunday 1 December, 10am – 4pm**  
by donation. Escorted garden tour 11am, weather permitting.

### Willie and The Correspondents

Friends Hugh Watson (rhythm guitar and vocals) and Phil Williams (blues harp and vocals) joined together in 1994 to start their band firstly *West Texas Crude* and later with Greg Turnbull (drums), Matthew Herbert (lead guitar and vocals) and Peter MacDonald (bass) to form *Willie and The Correspondents*. 'Willie' being an acknowledgement to Willie Nelson, and 'Correspondents' as they were mostly correspondents throughout their careers.



At Terroux Garden



They largely play a lot of covers of country/rock music. However of late Hugh and Matthew have ventured in to writing their own songs, with Hugh mainly writing the lyrics and Mathew the music. Recently they have launched a new album. They will be playing in the beautiful Terroux gardens surrounded by roses and views of the Brindabellas.

To book go to: [www.trybooking.com/CVJTC](http://www.trybooking.com/CVJTC)

W: [www.westtexascrudemusic.org/](http://www.westtexascrudemusic.org/)

F: [www.facebook.com/Willieandthecorrespondents](https://www.facebook.com/Willieandthecorrespondents)

All funds raised go to BIG hART, Australia's leading Arts and social change organisation [www.bighart.org/](http://www.bighart.org/)



Friends of Grasslands work party  
Hall Cemetery

**Sat 5 Oct** 9am-11am  
**Sat 2 Nov** 9am-11am

Register: [john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au](mailto:john.fitzgerald@fog.org.au)



## Brass on the Grass

**Sunday 13 October 2024, 1.00pm**

Victoria St, Hall

*A marching brass band of 60 members, Victoria Street, beginning at 1pm!*



- Free entry and parking.
- Food on sale.
- Raffles.
- Heritage displays open from 12 noon.
- Music begins 1:30pm.
- Accessible facilities.
- Seating provided, or BYO.





# Hall remembers the fallen

After the First World War, the villagers of Hall planted a Memorial Grove at the foot of Victoria Street, beside the oval, each tree marked with a plaque with the name of a soldier inscribed upon it. The trees were provided by Charles Weston, Canberra's afforestation officer.



Memorial Grove.

The trees of this memorial grove were planted as a living memory to each of the 16 young men of the Hall district who served in the war. To the 16, Weston added another, Malcolm 'Mack' Southwell, his forester who had been killed at Flers in 1916.

A memorial cairn, commemorating those who served in the armed forces, was built just inside the new entrance gate in 1992.



Memorial cairn and gate.

# heritage happenings



Saturday 19 July 1919 was celebrated as Peace Day. Each child at Hall School, and more than one million children across Australia, were presented with a Peace Medal.

'The Peace of 1919' medalet was issued by the Defence Department to school children throughout Australia to commemorate the signing of the Versailles Peace Treaty in 1919.

On what was a day of general thanksgiving, Susan Hollingsworth was invited to plant the Peace Tree, a juniper pine, in the Hall school grounds, in recognition of her son Clyde who was killed in action on the western front in 1917.

Charles Thompson, the teacher, expressed a hope that 'whatever parties in the village were in dispute, they would come to the tree and resolve their differences'.



Peace Tree.

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# heritage happenings

by **Judy Roberts** and **Marion Banyard**

## Roll of Honour board

The Hall Returned Soldiers Presentation Association commissioned a Roll of Honour bearing the names of soldiers welcomed home along with the names of the fallen, Clyde Hollingsworth and Morley Brown. It was unveiled at the Hall Schoolroom on Empire Day 1920 to remind the children, as Charles Thompson put it, 'of the sacrifices that had been made for their security and happiness'.



The Roll hangs in the Schoolroom at the Hall Heritage Centre to this day.



The Hall Heritage Centre has a room dedicated to those who served – *When Hall Answered the Call*.



Soldier Settler blocks were made available to returned servicemen. Around 150 applied for blocks in the Federal Capital. Only 56 were successful in the first issue, including Athol and Keith Kilby on Homeleigh and Lochleigh and Frank Southwell at Crowajingalong. A further 21 were granted blocks in later rounds.

One worthy of remembrance is Seargent George Potter, the adopted son of Mary (nee Mathieson) Shumack then McDonald of 'Hawthorn Cottage' – Mrs McDonald's Dairy – on the Yass Road, now North Lyneham, who was killed in action in France on 1 September 1918. George had built the first Ainslie cricket pitch at North Lyneham.

At the end of August 1918, the 2nd Division assaulted Mont St. Quentin and as the 53rd Battalion advanced, Potter's company was faced by German machine guns firing from behind wire and a barrage of shells. The only way through the wire was a gap where the road to Péronne passed through.

The Company Sergeant Major, Clarrie Burns, who was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his own actions that day, wrote:

'Men died like flies there and we faltered, but old George Potter, firing burst after burst from the Lewis gun at his hip, silenced a nest of German machine-guns and enabled us to stream through the narrow inlet. Potter was the main figure in the attack and became the focus of the German machine guns, sacrificing himself for the sake of his fellow soldiers'.

'Every Anzac Day a section of the old 53rd Battalion drink a silent toast to the memory of George Potter. We feel like pooling the decorations issued to us and casting them aside, for this truly great man received but a wooden cross for the part he played in laying down his life for his country and the saving of his friends'.

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## President's page



I always welcome the arrival of spring heralding the end of frosty mornings and cold days and the many spring treats of blooming wildflowers and wattles, the spectacular display of Floriade and the Brass on the Grass concert supporting the Hall Heritage Centre. This year *Canberra Brass* celebrates 40 years since its beginning when four men who lived and worked in Hall Village came together to make music, eventually developing into Hall Village Brass Band. I fondly remember our first Christmas after coming to Hall when members of the brass band walked the length of Victoria Street playing Christmas carols.

In this October edition of our *Rural Fringe* I am very pleased to report progress on two major ongoing pieces of advocacy work being done by the Village of Hall and District Progress Association: storm water infrastructure; and, the safe pedestrian and cycle link from Hall Village to Clarrie Hermes Drive.

### Storm water infrastructure

It is now more than two and a half years since I first wrote in January 2022 to then Minister for City Services, Chris Steel, to arrange for the relevant ACT Government authority to work with the Progress Association on the assessment, design and completion of appropriate works on storm water infrastructure in Hall Village. It is also two years since more than 60 village residents and businesses responded to an ACT Government

Robert Yallop President

questionnaire seeking information of the effects of storm water in Hall. Following an initial storm water study in early 2023, the 2024 ACT Government Budget included funding for detailed design for storm water improvements at Hall Village on the basis of a matching contribution from the Commonwealth Government through its Disaster Ready Fund.

Last month, members of the Hall Progress Association Committee met with staff from Major Projects Canberra, City Services Infrastructure Delivery and the contracted design consultants to review initial assessment and possible options for comprehensive storm water infrastructure in Hall Village. From the meeting, it appears that the work being done is comprehensive and recognises the multiple dimensions of the storm water issues affecting Hall Village. We secured the commitment that, at an appropriate stage of development of the detailed design of storm water infrastructure, the ACT Government staff and consultants will meet with the wider Hall community of residents, businesses and other stakeholders.

The Hall Progress Association Committee will not stop advocating for full implementation of the required storm water infrastructure in Hall until all works are completed.

### Safe pedestrian and cycle link from Hall Village

A couple of weeks ago as I was driving out of the village along Victoria Street I noticed a worker taking measurements around the area of the current scraped dirt cycle track. I stopped and, in talking with the person, confirmed that he was involved with the feasibility and design study for the safe pedestrian and cycle link from Hall Village to Gold Creek (Nicholls) as outlined in the ACT Government Active Travel Plan 2024-30. In mid-September, members of the Hall Progress Association Committee met with staff from the ACT Government City Services Infrastructure Delivery to discuss options for the safe pedestrian and cycle link from Hall Village. ACT Labor in the pre-election Gungahlin Plan committed to delivering 'a walking and cycling path to connect the historic Hall Village to the broader Gungahlin path network'. This commitment is similar to those made by candidates of the ACT Greens and Independents for Canberra. As with storm water infrastructure, the Hall Progress Association Committee will not stop advocating for a safe pedestrian and cycle link from Hall Village until all works are completed.

### Spring working bee on Hall Reserve

We will hold a community working bee on **Sunday 27 October** from **10 am to 12:30 pm** to prepare the Hall Reserve plantings for the coming summer. Come and join your neighbours for a relaxing couple of hours spreading mulch on the existing beds and doing some replanting of a few shrubs and trees. Everyone is welcome and those who have come before have all enjoyed their experience.



### Annual General Meeting

Subject to finalisation of the Annual Review and preparation of the Annual Report, the Annual General Meeting of the Village of Hall and District Progress Association will be held on 17 October 2024 at 11:30 am the Hall Community Precinct (Hall Heritage Centre main display area). All residents, rate payers and businesses in Hall Village and District (2618 post code including Wallaroo, Spring Range and Nanima) are eligible and welcome to be members of the Progress Association. All members are encouraged to nominate for a position of office bearer or committee member of the association.



Village of Hall and District Progress Association Inc

### Annual General Meeting

**11:30am Thursday 17 October 2024**  
Hall Community Precinct  
(Hall Heritage Centre main display area)  
19 Palmer St




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

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# men's shed

## Hall Men's Shed update

by Kevin Stone

In the August edition of the *Rural Fringe* I wrote about the Hall Men's Shed partnering with the Yass Valley Men's Shed to produce 100 nesting boxes for the endangered Greater Glider Possums. That is 50 boxes for each men's shed. We took on this rather large task for the Australian National University who will install the boxes in forests throughout New South Wales and Victoria.

Now it seems these little critters don't mind the cold, but are not so happy when it comes to the hotter summer weather. So what we had to do was make the boxes as comfortable as possible, which took a bit of an effort! A lot of effort!

Just for starters, three of the walls are insulated inside with a 9mm air gap, 20mm of polystyrene, as well as 4mm of internal lining of plywood. And this is all inside the 18mm thick marine ply outside walls! Talk about comfort! Any more luxurious and they'd have a lounge and large TV installed!

The top and base are also insulated, but don't have the air gap. However, the back of the box is not insulated because it will be nailed up to a tree, which is considered insulation enough.

So that's the assembly part done! Then the painting begins!

The external surfaces of the boxes are painted with three coats of special fireproof paint, which apparently is quite watery and so it really sinks into the plywood. Following this, there is a coat of white sealant and to finish off, three coats of brilliant, reflective white paint which is designed to reflect direct sunlight.

The guys formed an assembly line during this operation and there were paint pots and brushes everywhere, plus some 'colourful' clothing during the process. It looked like quite a bit of paint sloshed onto a few jumpers and pants, which hopefully were old! Well, they are now!

The greater gliders will certainly see the boxes after all those coats of paint! Even in the dark!

And if you're wondering how they get in, well the guys have cut a little triangular hole under the eaves so the gliders can pop right in. Small enough for them, but with a bit of luck, not large enough for unwelcome visitors.

The boxes will be fixed high up on tree trunks and the greater gliders can climb up adjacent trees and glide down to a box which will become their home. And here we all hope they do what greater gliders do and raise a family to increase the population of these wonderful little marsupial possums.

This has been a huge undertaking, probably one of the largest tasks the shed has done, and as always many hands make light work, but it wouldn't have been possible without help from so many members, too many to name.

Thanks go to everyone who's done something to make the boxes a reality, whether it's from the design concept to the finished product. And yes, even guys who were there to lend their support. Everyone is appreciated. And that's what a shed is about. Supporting each other.

But of course it doesn't stop other jobs getting done at the shed. Oh no! Because some of the guys are always doing something, whether it's restoring furniture to making imitation food such

as vanilla slices, small cakes, lamingtons, biscuits and sandwiches for the Heritage Centre. I thought some were real because the lamingtons look so delicious, and the children from classes 1 and 2 who tour the centre are equally fascinated by the 'food'.

And for us not so skilled ones, there's always something to chat about and enjoy each other's company over a cuppa or even better, getting stuck into the delicious barbeque cooked by our resident chefs Eric Detheridge and Rob Durie, with tasty salads provided by Garth Chamberlain and others. In fact, thanks go to everyone who once again helps to make the barbeque days such a success.

Some of us bring along our vintage and veteran cars for a 'show and tell', which always adds interest to the topics we chat about. It's a bit of fun to compare cars, and surprising once you get started talking what it leads to.

We now have 68 members, but there's room for more if you're thinking of joining a great men's shed.

I can thoroughly recommend it.



Ken McClean 'measuring twice and cutting once'.



Completed Greater Glider Possum nesting box.



Imitation food made from wood. Looks almost good enough to eat!



Afternoon tea awaiting consumption!



Eric and Rob - our wonderful chefs in action.



## Hall Veterinary Surgery

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**Saturday – Sunday**  
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... more photos of Greater Glider Possum boxes on page 24



## 40 years of marching; brass band marches even further ahead

Picture this . . . four youngish chaps – Brent Newberry, Tom Russell, Peter and Tim Nash – all living and working in the village of Hall c.1984 having a quiet Wednesday night beer at the Hall garage in Victoria Street. As conversation flowed they discovered they had brass band experiences in common. And so it all began, the *Hall Village Brass Band* was established!



Stan Galloway conducting the band in the Hall hall.

They set up their instruments wherever there was space: the Newberry garage, the Hall hall as it was then known (pavilion now), the primary school classrooms. Some of their first meetings were held in the lounge room of what used to be the Headmaster's (Laurie Copping) residence. That space is now known as the Cottage which hosts the Hall Men's Shed weekly get-togethers and other public events.

Their very first outing for a concert was held at a Wallaroo Road Nursery – their fee – beer for the musicians! As the band expanded so did their gigs. Any public event in the village was serenaded by the band and their 'playouts' were always a family affair with children dancing to the beat and mimicking the conductor from afar. In the early days their first conductor, Tom Russell,

used a knitting needle as his baton – there was much merriment amongst the musicians.

It was also a marching band and the asphalt quadrangle on the primary school campus was an ideal practice space.

In the inaugural issue of the *Rural Fringe* (February 1994) one of the articles featured the band.

**Brass band marches ahead**, written by SHORN, waxed lyrical about the village and the music:

*The long, hot summer evenings in Hall are perfect to sit and listen. The scent of scorched dust and dry grass mingles with the eucalyptic tang of thirsty gum leaves. The warm air is still and silent except for the occasional cockatoo screeching across the sky. A line of lightning cuts the black clouds gathering in the distance and thunder rumbles a warning of rain that doesn't come.*

*It is a twilight of perfect peace and I wait for it to begin.*

*Bom . . . Bom . . . Bom . . .*

*This week it is fainter. They must be down the other end of the village. I open my ears further.*

*Bom . . . Bom . . . Bom . . . the big drum echoes the beat and the trumpets and horns begin.*

*It is a Tuesday night and the Hall Village Brass Band is rehearsing again.*

By this time, in February 1994, the band had been playing music for 10 years and boasted about 30 musicians from Hall, Yass, suburban Canberra and Queanbeyan under the bandmaster, Peter Robertson. The band played at festivals and parades and was establishing quite a reputation in the district.

They went on to win the 1994 National Federation Festival competition in Corowa, judged the festival's most entertaining band.

The band became a feature of the Canberra Festival events held every year to mark the founding of the nation's capital in 1913 and their participation in community events expanded over time. Over the years the band grew both in numbers and stature within the national brass band community, winning the National Band Championships B Grade Brass category in 2002. The band and its successors have become an important part of the cultural community of the ACT and regularly provide music support for a wide variety of functions and occasions.

In 2012 the organisation changed its name to *Canberra Brass Inc.*, which now comprises



Performing at the True Blue Do in Victoria Street, Hall – note the huge pile of sand in the main street.

three brass bands, *Canberra Brass*, which is highly competitive at the national B grade level; *Victoria Street Brass*, *Victoria Street Brass*, which provides playing opportunities for musicians with a wide range of skills and experience; and the very dynamic *Newberry Brass*, a newly established training band.

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## Springfield Rural Fire Brigade

At this time of year, the messaging from the Rural Fire Service starts to shift to planning and preparation for the upcoming fire season. The reality of fires in a rural community is very different to those in metropolitan area.

Bush fire is a part of life in New South Wales, so you need to live bush fire ready. That means knowing your risk and having a plan for what to do during a fire.

Property owners need to take more responsibility in preparing for fire than our city cousins. We don't have the assurance that the emergency services can get to us quickly when we live rurally. It's up to us to plan and prepare to keep our families and property safe.

The RFS has a number of planning tools and guides to help you work out what you need to do in the case of a fire. You can make your plan online in as little as five minutes at [www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au).

We urge you to take the time to go through the material. Get in contact with your local brigade if you have questions or need advice.

### Springfield's history

This year Springfield Brigade is celebrating its 85th anniversary and our team has been spending time



Rebecca Morrison President

with some locals sharing their stories of their time in the brigade.

It has been a fascinating exercise, and we have been piecing together stories, photos and memorabilia from 1939 through to now.

We are really looking forward to pulling this all together for a community celebration on **Sunday 1 December** at our Patemans Lane Shed.

That day will also celebrate some incredible milestones and achievements of members of Springfield Brigade. We are truly blessed to be part of such a dedicated and service focused community.

### Join our community

If you are interested in finding out more about our brigade or would like to receive our communications, drop us an email using the address below or scan the QR code and register your details.

[springfieldrff@hotmail.com](mailto:springfieldrff@hotmail.com)



NSW RFS – Springfield Brigade



# Hall and District Axemen's Club

axemen

Spring is upon us and with it comes the fresh excitement of another season of regional agricultural shows and woodchopping competitions.



Our axemen and axewomen have spent the winter months busily training, with some of our members purchasing new axes, axe handles and axe boxes, all in preparation for up-coming shows.

The HADAC Committee has also been busy keeping up with managing our ever-expanding membership numbers as well as arranging some awesome club singlet's, polo shirts and hoodies for our members.

We recently had a big 'Spring Clean' of our club house, gear sheds and grounds that we share with The Collectors Club and Hall Pony Club and they look fabulous! Remember that we always have firewood available by donation to the club.

Our next wood chopping demonstration days are coming up quickly, at The Culcairn Show on Saturday 5 October, the Boorowa 'Running of the Sheep' Festival on Sunday 6 October, The Cootamundra Show on Saturday 19 October and Bungendore Show on Sunday 27 October. They are always very

by **Steph Radovanovic**

popular with the spectators and the show committees that ask us to be exhibitors and it's always a great day out for our axemen.

The next competition cuts for our axemen will be at Eugowra Show on Saturday 21 September, Dapto Show on Saturday 28 September, Bribaree Show on Saturday 5 October, Wandandian Woodchop on Sunday 20 October, Carcoar Show on Saturday 26 October and the Queanbeyan Show on Sunday 10 November.

We also have several of our axemen and axewomen competing at the Melbourne Royal Show, Royal Geelong Show and Royal Hobart Show over the next few weeks.



Congratulations to Austin: 1st Double handed sawing; 3rd Open 300UH, Chey: 2nd Ladies 300UH, Evan: 1st 250SB; 2nd 300UH; 4th 2 Board tree, Frank: 1st 275UH, Megan P: 3rd Ladies 300 UH, Shaun: 1st Double handed sawing; 3rd 275 UH, Steph: 4th Ladies UH at the recent Woodstock Show. Congratulations also to Evan who picked up the overall point score for the day, winning the Brian Leduke Memorial Trophy. Nice one Evan!

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axemen



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# Wild about Hall

## Wild about Hall: Native terrestrial orchids

A walk through the bushland areas around Hall Village reveals a surprising variety of native flowering plants and reinforces the privilege of living in such a beautiful environment. Among these plants are a variety of terrestrial orchids.

Orchids are one of the most diverse and widespread plant families, occurring in most habitats across the world. They can be showy and spectacular or quite dull and inconspicuous. Around Hall, Hall Cemetery is one of only two known locations of the rare and threatened Tarengo Leek Orchid, but there are many other species of orchid around the village itself. After a wet autumn/winter this year, that promotes a good flowering season (in contrast to last year), we will be out looking for orchids.

One of the first to flower in spring is a species of 'donkey orchid', the Golden Moth Orchid (*Diuris chryseopsis*). This orchid genus is commonly referred to as either donkey orchids, because



Golden Moth Orchid (*Diuris chryseopsis*)

two of the petals resemble donkey ears, or as doubletails as they have paired lateral sepals that extend downwards like animal tails.

Another early orchid is the Dusky Finger (*Caladenia fuscata*) that can occur in larger groups. These are small orchids that vary in colour from white to pink. They are sometimes hard to see as they can occur in scrubby understorey and be hidden by larger plants.



Dusky Fingers (*Caladenia fuscata*)

A more vibrant pink orchid is *Caladenia carnea*. It flowers a bit later and occurs more sparsely than *C. fuscata*.



Pink Fingers (*Caladenia carnea*)

# Wild about Hall

by Anna Cowan and Christian Stricker



Around the same time, you can also find the wax-lip orchid with a vibrant blue flower (*Glossodia major*) appearing either as a solitary plant or in small groups in grassy woodland.

A wax-lip orchid (*Glossodia major*)



Sun Orchids (*Thelymitra* sp.)

As the weather warms up, Sun Orchids (*Thelymitra*) appear. Their name is very apt as some species flower only briefly on a warm sunny day. If overcast or cool, having never opened up, these can still self-pollinate and produce fruit bodies. Others, particularly the taller species, can flower for weeks in grassy woodland.

Other taller 'donkey orchids' can be seen in the grassy woodland areas around Hall Village. *Diuris pardina*, the Leopard doubletail can be seen in good numbers flowering from mid-September to early October.



Leopard doubletail (*Diuris pardina*)

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Beard Orchids also flower in late spring and summer. The aptly named, Purple Beard Orchid (*Calochilus platytilus*) can be found around Hall.

... continues on page 24



A Purple Beard Orchid (*Calochilus platytilus*)

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## Please, don't kill snakes

by John Connelly

There is no need to kill snakes. They are not out to attack you and only in very rare circumstances where the snake is surprised at very close quarters do they have any instinct to attack. They much prefer to escape provided that option is available. If you see a snake keep a good 10 metres away and simply stamp on the ground to get it to move away. In nearly all cases this will work and the snake will make no attempt to attack you. The snake may return for a period of a few days but eventually it will get the message and you will not see it again.

In rural areas snakes are part of the natural world. We are the intruders and we need to accept that they have as much right as we have to live in the rural environment.

Data provided by the National Coronial Information Service ([www.ncis.org.au](http://www.ncis.org.au)) provides a whole range of data about deaths from animal encounters in Australia. *Fact sheet - FS20-01 - Animal-related deaths in Australia* records all deaths from animal encounters in the period 2001-2017.

From these documents there were a total of 541 deaths during this period. Top among the causes was falls from horses (172), next was incidents involving cattle (82), then dogs (53). Then followed kangaroos (37) not direct attack but the result of car accidents, snakes (37), bees (31), sharks (27) and crocodiles (21).

Clearly falls from horses are the leading cause of death but it should be remembered that possibly some millions of Australians participate in horse riding so the 172 figure represents a very small risk of death. There is a clear acceptance by the community that the pleasure achieved from horse riding far outweighs the risk of death. People climbing onto the back of a horse do not have any dread or fear 'Oh I am at risk of death'. In stark contrast people seeing a snake instantly feel fear of death thinking 'I need to kill this animal before it kills me'.

In contrast to the acceptance of risk for horse riding people seem unable to accept the very low risk of snake bite which comes from living in a rural environment. We need to accept that risk as part of the fact of living in a rural environment. In relation to shark and crocodile attacks which have a very similar death rate to snake bites it is now accepted by society that just because a shark or crocodile attack occurs we do not then go on a rampage to kill all sharks and crocodiles.

This attitude that sharks and crocodiles have a right to occupy their natural environment needs to be extended to snakes.

I reiterate some points made in the excellent article in the April 2024 edition of the *Rural Fringe* by Professor Rick Shine. He also emphasises the low risk from snakes and makes the point that they are very beneficial to farmers and rural residents in keeping in check populations of rats and mice. He also notes that it is highly likely that a significant proportion of people suffering snake bites occur when people are trying to kill snakes. If that is the case then snake deaths would probably be even lower, if people refrained from trying to kill snakes.

So I say again it is not necessary to kill snakes. Just move them on and after a few days they will get the message and you will not see them again.

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# Hall Polocrosse Club – preparing to celebrate 50 years

I hope that you have all been enjoying the articles that I have put together so far for the celebration of 50 years of your local Hall Polocrosse Club.

I would still love for you all to share your photos or stories of what you can remember from those days. Please contact your old friends and start ‘spreading the news’ of the proposed celebrations which will be happening next year, 2025! Watch this space.

I’m sure that there are many people in and around our community that have some wonderful stories and I would love for any of you to contact me by email or write down your memories and send them to me at my email address (at the end of this article) – please.

All the details of the planned celebrations will be revealed and published in the *Rural Fringe* (and other media outlets) next year, prior to the carnival (date to be advised) in 2025. I am hoping that ALL past and present players will be able to attend. We are looking forward to welcoming back as many of the past players as possible. They can reminisce of the glory days, but most importantly it will be a wonderful time and opportunity for them to rekindle their old friendships. The more the merrier! Get to it everyone and let all your family and friends know about the celebrations in 2025!

I have been fortunate enough to catch up with a few more members of the original first team that competed at their first carnival in 1975. Here is a little bit of information that I was able to put together for you for this article.

In May 2024, I was able to catch up with Allan Golding, one of the original members of the Hall Polocrosse Club and the first President. He was also a president of the Zone Polocrosse.

Allan is responsible for securing the current polocrosse grounds and also some much-needed sponsorship. Some of the sponsors were, Bob Cameron, Gus and Brian O’Connor and Peter Morgan and Harvey Brown.

He recalls that Hall had a very good junior team.

There were many ‘working bees’ to develop the facilities over time and many more to have the facilities to what they are now. Thanks to all the volunteers and workers.

He also said that the first carnival to be held by Hall at the current Hall Polocrosse grounds were in 1977.

As the president of the club, it was his job to preserve funds to build the facilities.

Allan and Evie Golding have provided a number of photos to me. Some of these were of a convey of cars and horse floats heading to Darwin.

In 1985, the Hall Club was invited to participate in the annual polocrosse competition at Fred’s Pass in Darwin, at the Darwin Show that year. Allan also thinks that Hall may have won it! Well done to the players and families that travelled that distance to compete.

When I caught up with Colin Reid recently, he said that he had originally started a book when the Hall Club

commenced playing at carnivals. The first game the Hall team played was at the Royals Carnival (in Watson). This book was always left in his truck at each carnival. The book contained his notes and details regarding all the games played by Hall, the team they played against, names of the team members and the final scores for each and every game over the weekends. Unfortunately, at a carnival in Burradoo in 1988 it went missing. If by any chance anyone has come across it, seen it, or maybe even knows of its whereabouts, it would be fabulous if it could be returned to our club please.

Hall was the first club to hold an ‘Over 40’s’ Carnival – it was held in 1984 and 1988. At the inception of this carnival it was planned to hold an Over 40’s Carnival at Hall every four years (in line with the Olympic games).

Colin Reid was Club Captain for around 15 years and Marie was Secretary and Treasurer for almost that long.

Les Coulton was the Patron for the Hall Polocrosse Club for many years. Back in those days, apparently, all clubs had to have a patron.

Both Colin and Marie remember that the Hall Club was basically one big family. The ‘family’ consisted of the Coulton’s, DeBritt’s and Reid’s, with a few ‘ring-ins’ to make up the numbers for the teams to compete.



At the first carnival ever played by the Hall Polocrosse Club, there were all of seven players. It was a Men’s A Grade team. Keep in mind it takes six players to make up a team of two sections (three players per section), so Hall had a spare! The team members for that first game were (in no particular order): Colin Reid, Bruce Reid, Dickie Reid, Mick DeBritt, Chris Coulton and Allan Golding, with Tony Coulton as the spare player.

Originally Colin, Bruce and Dickie Reid played for Queanbeyan Polocrosse Club and Queanbeyan shut down and the Hall Polocrosse Club was started.

You will notice all the huge logs that are on the sideline of the Green Field. These logs have been placed along the field for spectators to sit on and watch the games played on that field. There is a story behind those and for that story (and probably many, many more), you’ll need to come along to the celebrations and ask the ‘old gentlemen’ of the club!

Again, I am still asking you to put on your thinking caps and pen to paper and provide me with *YOUR* stories of the early days of the Hall Polocrosse Club. Please share your experiences with our locals. Photos and stories can be sent to me at: [bcl40411@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bcl40411@bigpond.net.au). I would love to hear from you.



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## Lawn clippings

No matter how much you do or don't like gardening, at this time of the year if you don't mow regularly you will soon find your lawn/grass growing in the windows. With the extreme variables of warm sunny days to wild stormy weather, grass is thriving and growing like mad.

Some of you have the luxury of mulching mowers or catchers, but many of us leave clumps of clippings on the lawn that not only look bad but can smother the grass underneath and lead to dead spots.

Generally grass clippings 2.5cm or less in length can be left on your lawn, where they will filter down to the soil and decompose quickly. Contrary to popular belief, lawn clippings do not contribute to increased thatch. The causes of thatch are vigorous grass varieties, infrequent mowing, over fertilising and compacted and water logged soils.

- 1 Lawn clippings can be a valuable source of nutrients to the lawn.
- 2 The organic matter created by lawn clippings may be helpful to your soil if its heavy clay, sandy or low in organic matter.
- 3 If you mow regularly you can reduce your need to collect clippings – avoid cutting your lawn too short – only cut 1/3 of the grass height at a time.

So, when should you pick up clippings:

- 1 If your lawn has any kind of fungal disease such as leaf spot, this will help reduce the severity.
- 2 When the lawn is too long or wet, otherwise the clippings will smother the grass.
- 3 If it looks unsightly and you just want your lawn to look tidy.

## gardening

by Lisa Walmsley

### Can you use lawn clippings for mulch?

Generally using lawn clippings as mulch around your flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees is okay, with a few precautions:

- 1 Never add more than 2cm of grass clippings to a garden bed.
- 2 Only use dry clippings. Wet clippings will mat down, reducing oxygen and moisture from getting to the soil. Limited oxygen will lead to anaerobic decomposition of the clippings leading to potential disease and bad smells.
- 3 If you have recently treated the grass with any herbicides – do not compost or mulch as the residue may impact or kill your plants.

### Composting clippings

Lawn clippings are great in your compost heap as long as they are mixed with other plant materials and a small amount of soil that will aid the organic matter (grass) to decompose. Clippings are great because they add nitrogen to the compost. Adding extra materials such as leaves and straw will also benefit your compost.

Chickens love love love lawn clippings and they provide nutrients that are good for them and make eggs more nutritious and the yolks a richer colour.

Worm farms are another great spot to use your grass clippings as long as they are dry – avoid adding wet clippings – the decomposition will cause the farm to heat up and may harm the worms.

When all else fails clippings can go to green waste at the tip where it is often recycled, composted and turned into a lovely, organic mulch.

## Wallaroo solar installation update

## solar energy

by Ben Cranston

Independent Planning Commission NSW – Statement of Reasons for Decision

Wallaroo Solar Farm Pty Ltd has sought consent for the development of a 100-megawatt (MW) solar farm and 45MW /90 MW-hour (MWh) battery energy storage system (BESS), known as the Wallaroo Solar Farm (SSD-9261283) (the Project). The site is located approximately 1 kilometre south of the rural area of Wallaroo and is adjacent to the New South Wales (NSW) and Australian Capital Territory (ACT) border, within the Yass Valley local government area.

After consideration of the material, including additional information received from the Department, and having considered the views of the community (including residents of the ACT), the Commission has determined that development consent should be granted to the Application, subject to conditions.

The Commission has imposed conditions which seek to prevent, minimise, mitigate and/or offset adverse impacts of the Project and to ensure appropriate ongoing monitoring and management of residual impacts. The Applicant will be required to prepare a number of comprehensive management plans and strategies and to report on mitigation and monitoring outcomes as well as to demonstrate compliance with performance criteria on an ongoing basis.

The conditions as imposed include several changes made by the Commission to the Department's recommended Conditions of

Consent. The changes strengthen the environmental management of the development, including the requirement for a Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan. The changes also respond to concerns raised by the community and stakeholders during the Commission's consideration of the Project, including increased density of vegetation screening and increased consultation with the relevant ACT Government and emergency response agencies.

The Commission finds that the Site is suitable for renewable energy development given its location close to existing electricity transmission networks, topography, solar resources, avoidance of major environmental constraints, access to the regional road network and potential for continued use of the land for grazing. The Commission finds that the Project is consistent with the strategic land use planning and energy frameworks and relevant statutory requirements. The Commission is also satisfied that the Project is in accordance with the Objects of the EP&A Act and is in the public interest.

The Commission's reasons for approval of the Project are set out in the Statement of Reasons.



The Project represents an approximately \$166 million investment, generating up to 200 construction related jobs and up to five operational jobs.

The NSW Independent Planning Commission (Commission) is the consent authority for the Project as more than 50 public objections were made to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Department) and Yass Valley Council objected to the proposal.

Commissioners Andrew Mills (Panel and Commission Chair), Dr Bronwyn Evans AM and Richard Pearson were appointed to constitute the Commission Panel in determining the Application. As part of its determination, the Panel met with representatives of the Applicant, the Department and Yass Valley Council. The Panel also undertook a site inspection.

The Commission held a Public Meeting for the Project on 18 July 2024 which was livestreamed via the Commission's website. The Commission also received written submissions on the Project.

Key issues which are the subject of the findings in this Statement of Reasons for Decision relate to energy transition, visual impacts, land use compatibility, traffic and transport, decommissioning and rehabilitation, and contamination.



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## Lacking motivation?

Three tips to getting motivated.

Is there an area of your life where you are having trouble getting started? Perhaps you tell yourself you lack motivation and if you were more motivated, you'd be doing x, y and z. The good news is that motivation is only a part of the puzzle.

Most of us have something that we have been putting off: tidying up, eating healthier, exercising, doing the tax. Some things have a deadline and some things don't. Things that don't have a deadline are much easier to put off. So how do we get them done?

Activation energy is actually what we need. Activation energy is the energy to get started on a task. Once you get started, you are more likely to keep going.

Firstly, we need to decide the task is important to get done. Perhaps give a few moments thought to why it's important to do. Will you feel really good once it's done? Is it important to someone else perhaps?

Secondly, understand what is behind the procrastination? Is it lack of time? Are you lacking the specific skills to get it done? Is there some sort of emotional response around a person? Do you simply dislike doing the task?

Thirdly, identify one small step that you can take towards getting this task done and get started. It may just be working on the task for five minutes. Chances are, if you can just do five minutes, you may well be motivated to continue.

Of course; sometimes, it's not that simple. Sometimes, a task you've been putting off generates such strong resistance within that you simply can't get started. Sally, had a room full of boxes that she'd had sitting there for five years cluttering up her space. She wanted to get them unpacked and tidy the room, but hadn't been able to. In hypnotherapy I was able to help her to remove the emotional blocks to unpacking the boxes and by the end of the session she was itching to get started unpacking and unpacked three boxes that day. She unpacked the rest of the boxes quickly and has used her newfound energy to kick other goals.

If there's something that you want to do, but haven't been able to get on with it and it's time you did, hypnotherapy can help. You can find out more here: [robyn.com.au](http://robyn.com.au).



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Alan Boyd and Roger Smith on the assembly line.

Drying some of the 50 glider boxes.

men's shed

## Greater Glider Possum nesting box construction at Hall Men's Shed



Mal Voysey and Brian Charge on painting duty.



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

#### Contributions

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

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

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

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## Wild about Hall: Native terrestrial orchids

... continued from page 15

Around this time, you may also start to find some taller, mostly white *Caladenias* referred to as 'caps'. One of them, the Lemon Cap (*Caladenia cucullata*) can be found among bigger tussocks or shrubs, and as the name suggests, the flowers release a lemony scent that you may notice well before you find the flowers.



Lemon Caps (*Caladenia cucullata*)

In late spring/early summer, you may find mass flowerings of Tiger orchids (*Diuris sulphurea*) typically in association with stringybark trees.



Tiger orchids (*Diuris sulphurea*)

by **Anna Cowan** and **Christian Stricker**



Thereafter, there is a flowering hiatus in the Hall reserves, until in late summer, early autumn and rains permitting, the Rufous Midge orchid (*Corunastylis clivicola*) and Little Dumpies (*Diplodium truncatum*) emerge.

Rufous Midge orchid (*Corunastylis clivicola*)

Orchid flowering typically ends around Easter, when Parson's Bands (*Eriochilus cucullatus*) emerge, each of them only flowering for a couple of days, afterwards producing a leaf that may remain for months.

Parson's Bands (*Eriochilus cucullatus*)



The orchids mentioned above represent only a partial listing of orchids around Hall.

So far, we have identified over 20 orchid species, and are still finding new ones.

You will see orchids if you walk through the natural areas around the village but unlike many other Australian native plants, terrestrial orchids are fragile. Dry periods or overly wet ones affect their flowering and presence in a particular location. Trampling by both humans and animals and grazing can impact on their viability. Being considerate of this natural environment will help ensure that orchids and other wildflowers can be enjoyed into the future.