

RURAL FRINGE

Journal of the Hall district



VOLUME 32 ISSUE 1

February 2025

Capital Country Woodchopping *(formerly Hall and District Axemen's Club)*



by **Steph Radovanovic**



Megan Keogh, Cheyanne Girvan, Sam Ogilvy,
Kylie Gillam and Steph Radovanovic.

photo: Elizabeth Kovacs, Canberra CityNews

We are off to a huge start for 2025, with the official launch of our new name, our new logo and a recently freshened up committee. Extremely exciting times for CCW as we move forward into the future. Our club location remains the same, at the back of the Hall Showground in conjunction with The Collectors Club and the Hall Pony Club premises. Our training days also remain the same, every Tuesday 4-6pm.

We kicked off the start of the year with a fantastic front cover photo and page 2 article on the *Canberra CityNews* magazine, showcasing our high number of women woodchoppers whilst also promoting our new name, structure and a brief history of woodchopping, our club and how much growth and diversity we have seen both within our club, nationally and internationally over the last few years, which is very exciting!

... continues on page 7



back row L-R: Sam Ogilvy, Kylie Gillam, Shaun O'Connor,
Evan Paterson, Robert Youd

front row L-R: Brad Youd, Chey Girvan, Caroline Adams,
Ally Kearsley

(Awards are listed on page 7)



Capital Wines and Kyeema Art Gallery Presents



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*Willie and the Correspondents at Cobargo Folk Festival 2024.
photo: Barbie Robinson*

Summer in the garden at Terroux

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Enjoy excellent music by local band *Willie and the Correspondents* for a good cause in a beautiful setting at Terroux Peace Gardens.

Sunday 2 March 2025

Sunset soiree from **5pm to 7pm** with country rock band. A delicious home made supper will be served.

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About Willie and the Correspondents

Friends Hugh Watson (rhythm guitar and vocals) and Phil Williams (blues harp and vocals) started their band *West Texas Crude* in 1994.

With the addition of Greg Turnbull (drums), Matthew Herbert (multi-instrumentalist and vocals) and Peter MacDonald (bass) the band became *Willie and the Correspondents*. The name is a nod to Willie Nelson, and 'Correspondents', as most members had worked in or around the Press Gallery.

As well as covers of country/rock music, the band plays original songs penned by Herbert and Watson such as *Dear Leader's Country Band* and *Sons of the Somme*. The group has released three albums, the most recent in 2023.

More about *Willie and the Correspondents*:

W: www.westtexascrudemusic.org

F: facebook.com/Willieandthecorrespondents

Note that tickets will be honoured for existing ticket holders for this event, which was rescheduled due to wild weather in December last year.

New bookings welcome.

Are you ready to learn to meditate?

by **Helen Purdam**

As a certified mindfulness meditation teacher, I would like to welcome you all to participate in an **Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation**. This secular mindfulness course provides an opportunity to bring more calm and steadiness into our lives.

No experience is necessary. Just a curiosity to try it out in a safe space, share the experience of becoming still with others and learn some valuable tools to help navigate life with more ease.

Mindfulness meditation is a way that we can find a space of clarity and calm presence that enriches our wellbeing and that of the people around us.

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Each week entails a one-hour session that includes a talk, a meditation and time for questions and discussion.

Course outline:

Session 1: **What is mindfulness?** An overview of mindfulness and meditation practice based on using the breath as the anchor.

Session 2: **Mindfulness of body.** Talk and guided meditation starting with breath and opening to sensation and embodied mindfulness.

Session 3: **Being fully human.** Talk and guided meditation working with mindfulness of emotions.

Session 4: **Mindfulness of thoughts.** Talk and guided meditation working with thoughts and beliefs, how we relate to thoughts, noticing limiting beliefs, unconscious and implicit bias, thoughts that cause suffering and those that incline the mind towards wholesome states.

Session 5: **The wise heart.** Talk and guided meditation working with heart practices, for example self-forgiveness, compassion, joy, equanimity.

Session 6: **Bringing your practice into the world.** Talk and guided meditation with practical tips on establishing a meditation practice and bringing mindfulness into daily life.

When: **Saturday 2:30-3:30pm** weekly for six sessions; **8 March to 12 April.**

Where: **Hall School Cottage**

Course cost: \$145, Concession \$120, Students \$70

For bookings or questions, please contact Helen Purdam via email hpurdam@gmail.com



Walloo philanthropist and social activist announces her candidacy for the Federal Electorate of Riverina



Resident of Wallaroo and co-owner of *Terroux Peace Gardens*, Barbara Baikie OAM, has announced her intention to stand as an Independent candidate for the newly defined Federal seat of Riverina.

The new boundaries for the electorate not only make it a very large seat, but now encompass the Yass region and other areas formally in the electorate of Eden-Monaro.

Barbara is standing entirely independently of any party or interest group. She brings to the role her passion for truly representational democracy and professional and personal interests in youth and women's affairs, Aboriginal affairs, environment, health and the arts.

authorised by:

Barbara Baikie OAM

88 Rochford Road, Wallaroo
NSW 2618

Barbara, with husband Peter Fletcher, is embarking on extensive travels around the entire electorate in the lead up to the election to meet residents and listen to their most pressing needs. She is determined to be a true representative of the voters of the region and to bring regional issues to Federal Parliament to ensure action and improved living conditions for all.

In the first week of 2025, Barbara has been visiting households in the Wallaroo and Spring Range area to chat with residents about their concerns. People have spoken with her about the cost of living, including house prices, planning provisions for solar farms and their effects on surrounding areas, internet connection, roads and access to aged care and essential health services.

One resident commented that it was the first time she'd been visited by an electoral candidate or sitting member.



BB25

Barbara can be contacted by email at: barbara@barbarabaikie.com.au

Her web address is: barbarabaikie.com.au where you can sign up for her monthly newsletter to receive news about her campaign.

She is also contactable on social media.



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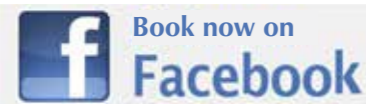


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St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

by **Beryl Pedvin**

Corner Victoria and Loftus Streets, Hall

In the shopping centres Christmas is over very quickly. Christmas decorations soon disappear with hot cross buns often appearing in the first days of January – if not on Boxing Day. At St Michael's and other churches, we celebrate the Christmas season for much longer, building anticipation through the weeks of Advent in December and then continuing for three weeks, marking the arrival of the Wise Men shortly after the birth of Jesus, and his Baptism in early January.

Here are some photos from Advent at St Michael's with the church full of candles for our Service of Lessons and Carols on 8 December.



St Michael's window and candles.

We now look forward to Easter. The anticipation of Easter starts with **Ash Wednesday** on **5 March**, marking the start of Lent. Lent is time of reflection and preparation for the solemnity of Good Friday and great celebration of Easter.

This year **Good Friday** will fall on **18 April**, and parishioners from St Michael's will join members of the other churches of Hall and community members to walk the length of Victoria Street, marking the **Stations of the Cross**. Should inclement weather cause the walk to be cancelled advice will be given as early as possible. This Good Friday walk has been held for many years and is organised jointly by the clergy of the Catholic, Uniting and Anglican churches in Hall. Members of all churches as well as community members not necessarily connected with any church are welcome to attend, and numbers have been increasing each year. The walk will start at 11am at the northern end of Victoria Street – at the Barton Highway intersection – and finish at the Remembrance Grove on the corner of Victoria and Gladstone Streets, although walkers may join at any point.

At St Michael's we will hold our usual **8am** and **11am** services on **Easter Day 20 April**, and residents and visitors are warmly invited to come along for either service, as well as morning tea after the 11am service.



St Michael's altar and candles.

Our weekly services continue each **Sunday** at **8am** and **11am**, followed by morning tea in the garden after the 11am service. All are welcome to join us at any time, or via Zoom for the 11am service at St Michael's on any Sunday using Meeting ID and password **9551044551**.

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

Craft group

Craft lovers descended on the community cottage at the old Hall Primary School site on Tuesday afternoon recently for the first gathering of a crafting group organised by Sandra Newbery. Sandra saw the idea in a country town and wanted to have a similar group here in Hall. The first meeting saw a dozen participants (and many promises of future attendance) bring along their projects to work on.

Anyone is welcome to join the group **1-4.30pm on Tuesdays**, where the aim is to enjoy each other's company while working on projects, exchange ideas, de-stash one's excess supplies and tools and learn skills and techniques from the others. There may also be more structured workshops on offer down the track (small acrylic resin painted table top?).



Crafters enjoying the warm weather under the pergola outside the community cottage.



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President's column

Robert Yallop President



The new year brings us new challenges and new opportunities. With the new year, we have the chance to strengthen relationships, to complete current projects and begin new activities.

The first meeting of 2025 for the Hall Progress Association Committee will be in mid-February. 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**, an email at robert.yallop.care@gmail.com, or send a message to info@hall.act.au.

The Progress Association Committee is preparing a submission to the ACT Government for the 2025-2026 Budget requesting the appropriation of the funding required to implement the approved design of comprehensive stormwater drainage infrastructure and to implement the agreed design of a safe cycle and pedestrian path from Gladstone Street Hall to Clarrie Hermes Drive. The planning work of both of these substantial infrastructure projects is still ongoing, and we hope to have community meetings to discuss the plans with the ACT Government in the coming months. The Budget Submission will seek to ensure that ACT Government funds are available to avoid any undue delay.

Previously, the Progress Association Committee has requested that Yass Valley Council undertake urgent repairs to potholes in the roads of Nanima, Spring Range and Wallaroo. Many areas of the streets around Hall are deteriorating with gaping holes beside the concrete curb and widening potholes and it is timely to request major repairs by the ACT Government.

Work will continue in 2025 towards improving the amenity of the Hall Reserve building on what has been accomplished in the community work days held over the last three years since 2022. The next working bee will be held on the Hall Reserve on **Sunday 23 March** from **10am to 1pm**. Some 40 people from Hall have come together at the working bees and have appreciated the opportunity to get to know each other. Everyone is invited to share in these very enjoyable times together.

I hope that you enjoy our remaining month of summer and hope to see you at the community work day on 23 March.

Capital Country Woodchopping

... continued from page 1

Nearly 50 per cent of our 43 members are female, with 75 per cent women contributing to our Executive Committee. Our numbers overall have also nearly doubled.

Our inaugural end of year Club Awards and Christmas Party was another fabulous success, this year joining up with the wonderful crew at the Collectors Club to eat, sing and celebrate!

Congratulations to the following CCW members on their 2024 Awards:

Axeman of the Year: Evan Paterson

Axewoman of the Year: Chey Girvan

Novice of the Year: Sam Ogilvy

Sawyer of the Year: Shaun O'Connor

Junior of the Year: Robert Youd

Club Member of the Year: Kylie Gillam

Encouragement Award: Ally Kearsley

Life Member: Shaun O'Connor (first recipient)



We currently have some family memberships within our club, which is great to see multiple generations of family units being active in the sport, and we also offer several membership options for juniors to both train and compete. We are also proud to be able to offer an annual 'Supporters' membership for the first time this year, which enables those who do not wish to train or compete but still wish to be part of our club membership at a reduced rate. This is proving popular with partners and family members of our axemen and axewomen. Get in touch with us if you are interested – the supporter's membership will be \$60 per annum.

All 2024 memberships are currently due for renewal and are required for insurance purposes before attending any training sessions or competitions. For newcomers we do offer a temporary 3-visit 'pass' (kind of like a 'try-before-you-buy') at a reduced cost for anyone keen to have a go at woodchopping. We are always keen to take enquiries and encourage new people to come along and have a try. Please reach out to the above contacts for further details regarding memberships and general information.

With our new branding and the start of the new year, we are also looking for new sponsors! This year, under our new club framework, we will for the very first time be running the woodchopping events at Gundagai Show, Gunning Show, Tumut Show and Yass Show! These events take much planning and time as well as the logistics of sourcing and delivering appropriate wood and equipment. As mentioned in our last edition, we were able to purchase a larger, more specific designed trailer late last year that will make these tasks easier but new/renewed sponsors are

always very welcome! We are still a very small club with some very big plans and would love to hear from you if you or your business may like to jump on board with us for 2025. Please contact Shaun **0427 323 747** or info@capitalchopping.com.au for information on our sponsorship packages.

Tuesday 14 January saw the official start of training for the 2025 year and despite the hot weather it was great to see many of our existing members and a few new ones turn up. Show season kicked off on 18 January. Many of our members will be competing and/or running the events so be sure to come and say hi if you are planning to go to any of them.

Dates are as follows:

Crookwell Show 9/2/25

Kangaroo Valley Show 15/2/25

Gundagai Show 15/2/25 (run by CCW)

Gunning show 16/2/25 (run by CCW)

Royal Canberra Show 22-23/2/25

Tumut Show 1/3/25 (run by CCW)

Goulburn Show 2/3/25

Cooma Show 8/3/25

Milton Show 8/3/25

Yass Show 15/3/25 (run by CCW)

Blayney Show 22/3/25

Mossvale Show 23/3/25

Sydney Royal Easter Show 11/4-21/4/25

As you can see, we will be covering many districts over the next few months. Hope to see you there!

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Staying hydrated and cool

health

by Kevin Stone

At last the warmer weather is here, but along with it we need to remind ourselves of the importance of drinking plenty of water.

There are guidelines and information available about how much we should be drinking, such as some of the following from NSW Health.

What I've learnt over time is we need to regularly drink plenty of water even when we don't feel thirsty. By the same token, if your doctor has asked you to limit your fluid intake, then you need to ask how much water you should be drinking.

Here's the part that's a bit of a turnoff for some, and I'll admit it, for me at times: we shouldn't replace our water intake with alcoholic or sugary drinks. Being someone who's not a big fan of water, I drink it but it's not my preferred beverage, so sometimes I add a bit of lemon cordial for taste. And yes, I'll admit it, I do like the occasional beer or wine!

Another thing I try to always do is carry a 600ml bottle of water with me wherever I go, in the car or outdoors. In fact, it's become such a habit I feel something's missing if I go anywhere without it.


So now we've got the hydration situation more or less under control, let's look at keeping cool.

Probably some of the best and obvious ways to stay cool is by avoiding being outdoors if possible during the hottest part of the day.

One of the things I really enjoy is taking my dog for a couple of daily walks, which is good exercise for both of us. But we usually go early in the morning and late in the afternoon when it's cooler.

Hopefully if you have to go outside you can find plenty of shade or shelter. But importantly, put on sun protection!

One of the great places to go is the local shopping centre, although that can be a bit of a trap because there are plenty of spending options! But the centres have air-conditioning, so that's the positive, and they're always a great place for a catch-up with friends and family.



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When you're inside the house, use the air-conditioner if it's available, or electric fans if not, although fans don't work so well during extreme temperatures.

Just by closing blinds and curtains to keep the house dark can have a cooling effect. And then when things cool down outside, windows and doors can be opened to let the warm air out and the nice cooler air in. Ah! Bliss!

And cool packs or ice in a damp towel or cloth are other very effective ways of keeping your body temperature down, as are taking cool showers or baths.


There are many and varied ways to keep cool during our summers and I've included just some of them. I'm sure you can come up with other ideas and have already included them in your day-to-day activities.

Whatever you're doing though, be aware of your body and learn the signs of heat-related illness.

I'm certainly no expert on all this, but I just try to do things as I'm getting older and hopefully a little bit wiser that I should have been doing over the years.

But it's never too late to learn and I'm always doing that.

Stay safe. Stay hydrated and stay cool!




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Is your connection to your phone affecting your mental health?

hypnotherapy

by Robyn Monteleone

If you find yourself doomscrolling on your phone during the day for longer than you anticipated, you're not alone! Phones have become an extension of ourselves in many ways. It's not uncommon for a phone to be tucked into a pocket or carried, for most of the day. Phones are small, provide us with access to work, family and friends and are now a necessary part of interacting with our world from navigating government departments to keeping up with our social circle. And yet, despite our connectivity, our collective mental health is suffering.

Over a get together recently, I was chatting with someone, let's call him John, and he casually asked me about hypnotherapy for nail biting. During the course of the quick chat, John divulged that due to the IT nature of his job, his phone is never far away. He goes to bed with his phone and reads his emails as soon as they come in, regardless of the time of day. John's apps show the number of unread emails and messages and he feels compelled to read them, even when he's on holidays and not working. Work has been really busy with deadlines to meet and as a result his nails are well bitten. He has had anxiety for a long time and his symptoms have been worse lately.

As I spoke with John, I gave him some tips to consider:

- Decide on basic work hours when work emails and messages will be attended to. Outside of those hours, log off and have downtime.

- 
- Get an alarm clock for the bedroom that isn't the phone. At bedtime, leave the phone in another room.
 - If the routine is to scroll the phone in bed, switch out the phone for a book or a magazine.
 - Set a time limit for random doomscrolling to catch up with news and social media. If this is too difficult to do, download an app to automatically log you out of the doomscrolling when the time limit has been reached. Google 'apps to limit social media use' and you'll find a LOT of options.
 - Manage stress with time out as needed, fresh air, exercise and nutritious meals.

These tips are all habit based, logical options and whilst they all sound easy enough, sometimes habits are a coping mechanism for something deeper than needs resolution. When logical solutions fall down and something deeper needs resolution, hypnotherapy can begin to provide relief, as quickly as the first session. If you're curious, you can find more information at www.robynm.com.au and download a free six minute reset hypnosis to get you started.



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The forgotten half

Many stories of local farmers focus on the registered owners, which are rarely women, so women often have minimal references, making it hard to trace their history. When they married, they simply became Mrs 'their husband' and their identity disappears from many records. One example of a disappearing name is the Logue family of the old Duntroon Dairy.

Bryan and Margaret (McAlroy) Logue emigrated in 1841 and their first daughter, Mary, was born at sea a few days before docking.

A frightening five-month voyage on the sailing ship *Margaret*, with 245 immigrants and 25 crew. Six adults and 35 children died on the voyage (17 per cent of the immigrants), including 24 from scarlatina (scarlet fever). Imagine being pregnant for the whole trip, giving birth on board and then your ship being placed in quarantine for another nine days, with another adult dying in quarantine of typhus fever.



Margaret Logue

The family survived, moved to the Murrumbidgee and were hired to run the Duntroon Dairy from around 1846 to 1857. Margaret and her daughters would have played a big role in the daily running the dairy – Mary, Margaret, Agnes, Katherine and Sarah, although little Ellen died aged only six. When they left the dairy, they were allocated a cottage on Duntroon near the Molonglo.

Bryan Logue died in 1860 and in 1863 Margaret re-married to widower John Crinigan of Crinigan's Hut. John had been transported as an Irish Whiteboy rebel, and with his first wife Maria (nee Mansfield) had 10 children, but only one daughter, Eliza, survived to adulthood to marry Duncan McInnes.

'Springbank' on the Molonglo had been leased out as 100 acres blocks, including to Timothy Ryan of Mulligan's Flat, Patrick Cavanagh of Duntroon, John Scott from Sydney and Anthony and son Edmund Rolfe, who had emigrated to join his convict brother, William.

These four each married a Logue daughter – Patrick to Mary, Edmund to Margaret, Timothy to Agnes and John to Katherine. The youngest, Sarah, married Robert Hatch of 'Rosewood'.

Mary, born on the ship *Margaret*, worked as a domestic servant for Reverend Smith at his parsonage at Canberry (Acton) House. In 1857 Mary married Patrick Cavanagh, the son of Whiteboy rebel Thomas, and they had 12 children. They soon acquired 'Fairview' on Spring Range Road and land at 'One Tree Hill', before finally settling at 'Eastview' and 'Strayleaf', Ginninderra. Mary was apparently a midwife around the district and delivered most of her grandchildren born at Mulligans Flat. These Logue/Cavanagh descendants farmed near Mulligans Flat until the land was resumed for the town centre, Amaroo and Forde, with eight generation residing in the district.



Mary (Logue) and Patrick Cavanagh with grandchildren at Mulligans Flat, c1911.

Margaret Jane married Edmund Rolfe in 1861 and they farmed at 'Springbank', until taking over 'Gold Creek' from his father Anthony. They had four children, but sadly Margaret died in 1867, aged only 24, following the birth of baby Catherine 'Kitty'. Within three months Edmund remarried to Margaret O'Keefe (Keefe), having a further 10 children, but baby Kitty was raised by her grandmother Margaret Logue/Crinigan. Edmund and Margaret left Canberra when their land was resumed for the Federal Capital Territory.

Maria Rolfe/Logue married Joseph Hibberson of 'Glenwood' and Kitty Rolfe/Logue married Robert Corkhill and they ran the dairy at 'Riverview' near Yarralumla, having 11 children.

Shumack tells the tale: around 1859 it was rumoured that old Robin Maloney, who had established a farm in Ainslie, was to marry Miss

Margaret O'Keefe. The morning of the wedding the family could not locate Margaret, her bed had not been slept in and her clothing and money were gone. She later wrote from Goulburn:

'I was never consulted on the matter and I believe I have done the right thing. When I marry, if I ever do, I will make my own choice and I will never become any man's slave if I can help it.'

However, it soon became known that, rather than the common arranged marriage, her father was bankrupt and as he was likely to be jailed, planned to flee. His only option to provide for his daughter was to quickly marry her to a husband who could provide for her.

Robin soon married Mary Welsh and they had a successful marriage with 13 children.

Agnes Annabella married in 1871 to Timothy Ryan, the son of William and Margaret (nee Byrne) Ryan of Mulligan's Flat, having nine children. William had been negotiating to acquire their block, but died in 1857 when a dog ran under his horse and he was thrown. His widow Margaret then took the lease in her own name, a rare occurrence, plus some in her sons names and farmed these with her sons. Timothy's brother, John, married Martha Rolfe and they farmed at 'Tea Gardens'.

Katherine married in 1874 to John Scott from Sydney, having 13 children, but lost two as infants. They farmed on a block near Scotts Crossing, growing wheat and maize and dairy farming. Their daughter, Mary Jane, married William Maloney of 'Hillside', North Lyneham, a founding member of the Canberra Fire Brigade and the grandson of the abovementioned Robin Maloney.

Sarah married in 1876 to Robert John Hatch, the son of William and Mary Nugent (nee Ryan) of 'Rosewood', and eventually settled at 'the Glebe', Bungendore. They had nine children, but lost Sidney in WW1.

Bryan and Margaret Logue are buried at Queanbeyan Riverside cemetery, with daughters Margaret Rolfe and Ellen, and grand-daughter Maria Hibberson.

So, Bryan and Margaret Logue left a legacy of 47 grand-children through their five daughters, who played a significant part in establishing the Ginninderra and surrounding district for generations, but the Logue family name will rarely be seen.

If you have a family history you wish to share, please contact us at the Hall Heritage Centre.



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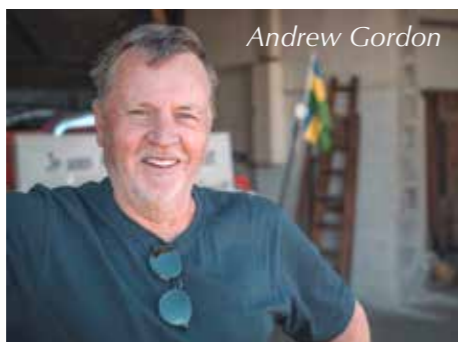
Hall Men's Shed inspires a new 'Männerschuppen' in northern Germany

A friend's visit to Hall Village five years ago has led to the creation of one of Germany's first Men's Sheds on the tiny island of Poel on the Baltic coastline. This transcontinental story highlights how a simple idea can foster community and wellbeing across the globe.

Despite being separated by thousands of kilometres, Hall Village and the island of Poel share several similarities. Both are small, tight-knit communities with deep ties to their agricultural heritage and local history.

But whereas Hall is surrounded by open countryside, Poel is surrounded by the Baltic Sea. Like Hall, Poel also has an aging population, typical of many rural areas in Germany. It's no wonder the idea of a Poel Men's Shed, born in Hall, found fertile ground on the island, where the rhythms of village life echo our own.

The driving force behind Poel's new men's shed is Andrew Gordon, a former Canberran inspired by a visit with Jonathan Palmer to Hall Men's Shed. Moved by the camaraderie, purpose and support he experienced, Andrew returned to Germany with a vision. Upon retiring, he secured a former



Andrew Gordon

agricultural workshop, gathered community support, and in June 2024 started Poel's first men's shed with just 11 members. In just six months it almost tripled its membership and continues to grow.

Currently being adapted by the members for its new purpose, the Poel Men's Shed will become a hub for woodworking, metalworking and other types of projects. Members already offer training sessions, including a course to help older residents use smartphones and navigate technology. A new common room and plans for a new kitchen ensure the shed is as welcoming as it is functional. Sporting activities and regular excursions round off the list of activities.

The weekly 'open door' offers island residents and summer visitors the opportunity to see the shed in action, showcasing its role as a place for social connection, learning, and skill-sharing. Andy envisions the men's shed as a place where men can find purpose, share skills and foster community bonds.





The Hall Men's Shed is honoured to see its model inspiring others across the globe, proving that shared ideas can transcend borders and enrich communities everywhere. If you're ever on the island of Poel, drop by their Männerschuppen – you'll find a warm welcome and a trace of Hall's influence in their vibrant community.



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When talking about natural beauty, butterflies, orchids or parrots might be what you immediately think of; moths and spiders probably not! You may also ask, why write an article about both moths and spiders, more specifically concealer moths and peacock spiders. I could give many reasons: they are both hard to find, difficult to photograph, occur in similar habitat and are small and beautiful.



The Variable Peacock Spider, *Maratus chrysomelas*, with iridescent purple scales on its abdomen.



Maratus pavonis, the Common Peacock Spider can be seen all around Hall.

Peacock spiders are very small jumping spiders, mostly between 2-5mm. Fortunately, if you look for them during the breeding season, the males have found a high point in the grass, leaf litter, twigs or rocky habitat within which they live and if you are patient, you may find one.



Maratus calcitrans, the Kicking Peacock Spider: like other peacock spiders uses its third pair of legs in mating displays.

When Christian and I first started looking for peacock spiders (*Maratus*), I knew that the very common and not very colourful varieties could be found around Hall but not whether any of the others were here. We had also never previously seen any of the interesting ones, but over the last four months that has changed with five species added to our list.

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The Venus Peacock Spider, (*Maratus Hesperus*), so named because its abdomen resembles a planet.

The first thing you notice about peacock spiders is the iridescent colours on their abdomens. This is the case for the male spiders: as with many animals the females are duller and are grey/brown.



Coeranica isabella, one of the many concealer moth species around Hall.

Peacock spiders really do behave like peacocks, they raise and expand their abdomen and strut or dance around as a courtship display.

Peacock spiders are only found in Australia and have a relatively recent scientific history. The first species was described in the late 19th Century but most of the over 100 species have been described in the past 15 years with two species first discovered in the ACT.

Concealer moths constitute a large family where new species are still being described, however they are not just confined to Australia. There are 270 species known to occur in the ACT region (however this number is regularly being expanded).

... continues on page 24

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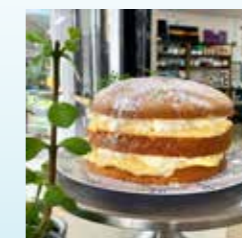
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Clearing uprooted trees on the Hall Reserve



After the wild storms on Wednesday 15 January, a few trees at the reserve on Victoria Street in Hall sustained severe damage or were uprooted. Thankfully the newly planted garden areas fared a little better and escaped the worst of the storm.

Many thanks go to Brent Gillies and his team from *CBR Trees* who donated their time and machinery to clear away the damage and mulch the downed branches. The mulch was left on site ready for spreading during the community working bee in March.



Gardening in the hot weather

Well, here we go again, unforgivable and unrelenting heat. It's unpleasant for everyone, including our plants and gardens. And it seems no matter how much we water, we can't keep up, plants still suffer, wilt and sometimes die. However, there are ways to make it easier on yourself, and there are definitely ways to make it easier on your plants.

Watering – a really good deep water in the morning is beneficial, allowing water to reach all areas of the plant before it gets hot. So, on those really hot days get up early and give everything a good soak.

Shelter and shade – if you have plants in pots and if it's possible, move them undercover or into shade. You may have noticed leaves can get 'burnt' when it's really hot, so if you can reduce that, your plants will do better. Provide shade (or trees) on the western side of your house so plants get afternoon reprieve. If your garden is really young it may be worth creating a shade cloth structure (to be removed *asap*) as a temporary measure to beating the worst heat.

Mulch – soil should not have any exposure to the sun. Provide some sort of cover; mulch or ground covers should cover your entire garden bed's surface. This will help keep some heat out of the soil and reduce evaporation, which you may have noticed is really high at the moment.

Soil – this needs to be continually worked on all year. Composting and adding organic matter is essential to gardens coping with extreme conditions. No matter your soil type, sandy, clay or loamy, consistently mulching and composting will not only help grow strong healthy plants but also assist in protecting your plants from hot dry spells. Having healthy soil is the key.

More water – at the end of the day, as the temperature comes out of the day it's worth giving your plants another water to replenish and prepare them for the next day.

Watch what copes in the heat – some plants will be less affected by the heat. Make a note of these plants and add more in the planting season. Also, watch out for seeds of plants that survive better in the heat, then you can future proof your garden by growing plants that grow well in your precise area.

My advice is to do your soil work, including composting. That will change your garden and soil dramatically. Also make sure you have an easy watering schedule and system; if it takes too long or is too difficult you may run out of patience and time.

Meanwhile, rain is forecast soon and that always makes our job easier.

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Hall Men's Shed activities

by Kevin Stone

Well, there hasn't been a lot of activity since our very successful Christmas Party back in early December. Was it that long ago?

But there's no holding back some of the lads, because over the 'official' break they were busy constructing and installing a notice board that now sits outside the Hall Post Office in Victoria Street. It has been well received and there are already some notices on display, so well done fellas.

And as I was driving around Hall recently in my little Morris Minor I noticed a few of the men working outside on something, so being the curious type I stopped to see what they were doing. Now I knew we were getting a new dust extractor system for the annexe where all the woodworking is done, but I didn't think it was going to be as big as it is! And judging by the look on a couple of the men's faces, perhaps they were a little surprised as well!

There's certainly a challenge for them to put it all together, nothing of course they couldn't handle, but what really amazed me was they were actually looking at a book of instructions!



We'll all benefit from the dust extractor system, even members who only occasionally pop into the 'workshop' to see what's happening, because our health and safety are so important. When anyone goes there, they'll see plenty of activities taking place, from making drink coasters, cutting boards of various shapes and sizes, plus other items which are all very popular.

This year is shaping up to be another successful one for the men's shed. Our membership continues to grow and there's no doubt how much the men enjoy getting together on Tuesday and Thursday for our morning teas and monthly barbeques. The chats, mateships, old and new, and feeling of belonging to a shed where people care for each other make the shed so welcoming.



Aaron Whittaker, Graham Smith and Bruce Wallace puzzling over the instructions.



The dust extractor (yet to be installed with ductwork into the workroom, and walled in to dampen noise and prevent theft) with Aaron and Bruce proudly flanking each side.

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Visit to Tarago Men's Shed

by Doug Anstess

The Australian Men's Shed Association invited regional sheds including ours to a 'Cluster Meeting' at the Tarago Men's Shed. We saw this as an opportunity for some of us to see how other sheds work and to exchange a few ideas.

Four of us (Garth Chamberlain, Graham Smith, Aaron Whittaker and Doug Anstess) set off in Aaron's Toyota Landcruiser and after a pleasant hour long trip we arrived in Tarago. There were some familiar faces and some new ones to meet us. I'd say about 50+ people attended.

The Tarago shed is quite big and for its 35 members, it is a well set up shed with good quality machines for both woodworking and metalworking. But the thing that struck us was cleanliness and lack of dust. The shed foreman spoke to the Hall representatives about the dust extraction system. Each machine has a tube or two leading away from the machine to a common tube which then leads outside to a small shipping container with a large compressor and some dust filters. The system keeps the shed clean and the noise is not too bad, because it is contained in the shipping container. Aaron and Graham reckon we could do something similar at our Hall shed.

Following inspection of the men's shed we boarded a bus and went to the Tarago Women's Shed at the showgrounds. This was impressive too and also very clean. The women do some woodworking and craftwork, and we were lucky as they put on a tasty morning tea for all the men and women. Following that we went back into town to the town hall, right next door to the men's shed. There we listened to a few talks.

One was about men's sheds in NSW and how they are split into zones. We in Canberra and the local region are Zone 13. There are a total of over 400 sheds in NSW, not to mention how many there must be in Australia as a whole. Another talk was about the Australian Men's Shed Association website and portal. This was interesting as it is a way to advertise the shed if we want to and a way to update personnel details.

The keynote talk was by a representative from Veolia. Veolia is a French company which manages 40 per cent of Sydney's red bin waste. The waste comes to Tarago via a very long freight train (which we saw coming in during our visit) and the waste is then transferred to trucks which take it up to the old Woodlawn open cut mine site. There it is properly covered, producing gas as the waste breaks down, with the methane gas producing enough electricity to power 14,000 homes. Veolia also finances the Veolia Trust, which has provided grants to regional organisations including both the men's and women's sheds in Tarago.

We drove home in the afternoon with thoughts and ambitions for our shed's future. It was a good day.

Mrs Reynold's paddock

by Ernie, the Echidna's mate

Our village walking path meanders through a paddock in the Hall Nature Reserve east of Hall Street that was originally known as Bolton's Paddock. It contains the remnants of Bolton's Well, one of the three village wells used as a community water source in the early days of Hall.

After the paddock's resumption as part of the establishment of the Federal Capital Territory, (now Australian Capital Territory) it had several uses. The last long term user was a very special lady known to many Canberran families.

The paddock became known as 'Mrs Reynold's Paddock' to village folk of the era, as it was the home and rest area for her Shetland ponies.

There would be very few Canberran children of the fifties, sixties or seventies era who would have missed a pony ride or a sit on one of Mrs Reynold's ponies. Mrs Reynolds was proportionally matched to the height of her ponies and a regular at all sorts of activities and functions, providing enjoyable entertainment to so many appreciative children.

Bough shed stables and feed shed stood under a large red stringy bark tree at the northern end of the paddock and two springs were hand dug into dams to provide water. Only the dams survive today. While under her management, the paddock was well cared for and maintained.

Unfortunately, after Mrs Reynold's passing the area quickly suffered from overstocking and deteriorated rapidly, so much so that it was closed to agistment. Ground ripping and remedial restoration was undertaken, and the area is now regenerating.

So while wandering along our walking track, spare a thought for Mrs R and her Shetlands who provided so much pleasure and childhood memories for hundreds of Canberra's children.

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polocrosse

50 years of Hall Polocrosse

by **Vanessa Jones**

The original members for the first game ever played by Hall Polocrosse (not in any particular order) were Colin Reid, Bruce Reid, Dickie Reid, Mick DeBritt, Chris Coulton, Allan Golding, Tony Coulton.

Here is a list of original clubs when Hall commenced playing in 1975 (not in any order and is as the memories allowed).

Bungendore	Canberra	Royals	Yass
Goulburn	Braidwood	Nowra	Milton
Burradoo	Queanbeyan	Bombala	Huntley
Bundex	Taralga	Moruya	
Crookwell	Moss Vale		

(Queanbeyan folded before 1st Hall Carnival, Canberra and Royals amalgamated.)

Some of the past (and some present) players for Hall (in no particular order. And apologies for any incorrect spelling of names, inclusion or omission of some people).

Reid's – Bruce, Colin, Marie, Dickie, Gary, Tracie, Kim & Tanya, plus newer kids much later – Ethan, Addison, Lavinia, Milly

Willow Cameron Clive Phillips

Hawke's – Ray, Ben & Michael and Julie

Bolton's – Kevin & Peter, Kylie, Tommy and Shelley

Bob Boatwright plus his son and maybe daughter (Brooke, Kylie and Brad)

Ken Allan Bernie Sillis - Coach

Dinah Haynes Mick & Kate Blighton and Kirsty

Hassell's – Darren & Jackie Hassell and Paul Hassell plus kids, Jack & Emerson & Jonty

Booker's girls – Emily & ? Juliette Page

Alan Golding Gary Rawlings

Matt Parker, Will (and possibly his daughter)

Julianne & Karen Heldon Vanessa Jones

Kelvin, Greg and Matthew Harris

DeBritt's – Mick, Vicki, Laurie, Warren, Kitty, Kerrie - Hayley & Brooke Cliff Walters (not sure if he played for Hall or just Yass)

Coulton's – Ronnie, Brian, Chris, Tony, Susie, Peter & Narelle

Ian and Ted Godber Sharon Chernside

Lenny & Joy Maddern Russel Chapman

Lindsay Aitchison Marcelle Scarlett

Sheridan White ? Miles

Margie White Shelley Causer

Margaret Wheatley Ross Coburn

Joanne Howard – early 90's plus kids – Jessie Yass?

Karen Prodder Julie Corkhill

Will & Gerrard Van Weedenberg (have his phone number to contact him – see AG's message) – Will was president at one stage.

Vicki Harris Terry O'Brien

Carol Trainer Juliette Page

Lee Martel Greg Kay

Marnie Rawlings Lennie & Joy Maddern

Paul Gooch Ben & Adam White

Kate Sculley Belinda Smith

Stace Jeffries Anthony Kirk Ted Lamb

Paul Varena Greg Read Andrew Ellis

Damian, Rowan & Peter Walsh

Angela, Alison & Shaun Ryan – Kids -Tom, Joe & Helen

Ian Weaver Liz Stuart Shane Keir

Steve O'Sullivan Craig Reid (Dickie's son)

Garry Hallam, (& Pat?) Katherine, Belinda & Frankie

Bruce Amey Robyn Darmody

Sally & Katie Power Geoffrey Martin

If any of the names mentioned above are familiar, please contact them and encourage them to come along to the celebration carnival. Please keep them informed as it would be fabulous to have as many past players attending and of course all the current players.

If any businesses would like to sponsor this event, please contact me email bcl40411@bigpond.net.au and I will pass your interest and information to the secretary to get in touch with you to discuss the matter further.



50 year celebration carnival

I hope that everyone has had a lovely and relaxing Christmas.

Happy New Year to you all – wishing everyone a fantastic 2025.

As you all may be aware (from my previous articles) this year is the year that the Hall Polocrosse Club will be celebrating 50 years of competition in this sport.

This year's carnival will be the celebration.

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 March 2025

The carnival will be held at the Hall Polocrosse Grounds – Sunny Corner, Victoria Street (near the bridge, where the Hall markets parking is usually).

Please save the date and come one, come all! It really is a family sport, so please bring your family and friends. You will be treated to some exceptional horsemanship, horses and sportsmanship over the weekend – guaranteed!

The carnival usually commences between 8-9am and goes until around 3-4pm, depending on the number of teams registered to play, so please make your way down and take a look.

Canteen facilities will be available throughout the weekend. The canteen provides a variety of foods and beverages which are all available to purchase for the duration of the carnival. There is bound to be something to tantalise your tastebuds and you and your family will not go hungry!



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What's going on with spraying our roadsides?

While Sydney deals with the crisis of 'forever chemicals' in its water storage and water ways, it seems our councils are not taking note.

Forever chemicals are, by definition, chemicals that build up in the environment and inside living things without breaking down.

Hazardous chemicals have become imbedded in our environment at levels that research indicate as unsafe.

The full and long term implication of this is still unknown - however according to my research, 97% of Americans have these chemicals in their organs and traces of these chemicals have been found even in extremely remote places such as the Arctic.

Obviously, we need to understand what forever chemicals are, where do they come from, how do they work, what are they used for and how do we avoid them.

Asbestos was simple by comparison.

We have literally used chemicals for so long, it's hard to know where to start. Non stick cooking items, water resistant clothing, fire fighting foams and the like have been used since the 1940's. Only recently has the World Health Organisation classified them as carcinogenic.

Letters to the editor ...
... always welcome

email: RuralFringe@hotmail.com

post: P.O. Box 43
Hall ACT 2618



Today, as I drove to work, I spotted a contracting team, probably employed by council, spraying our roadsides.

This sends up a few very loud and clear RED flags.

Is this not an area where we can all make a conscious decision to not use chemicals? I have absolutely no doubt that water running off our road ways finds its way into our water ways.

Not only that, as a registered (and resistant) user of rural and garden chemicals, I know it is our responsibility to handle chemicals with great caution and care (and as little as possible). There are guidelines to chemical use.

Roadside spray units often have a 'spray bar or wand' sitting at window level, quite high, to reach above reflector posts etc. If there is wind, the chemical particles will carry further than the desired location (directly below the spray bar). How far do you think these particles travel?

Today, we have a wind speed, with gusts, up to 48km/hour. Based on my training, this is far above the acceptable wind speed to be spraying.

It's time to show some common sense - why can't our roadsides be mown or slashed a few times a year? Let's look for non chemical solutions to our problems and maybe we can start to clear the air!

Lisa Walmsley

Springfield Rural Fire Brigade

fire safety

Rebecca Morrison President



Don't underestimate the importance being prepared can have at this time of year. We are here to help, so please get in touch if you need assistance.

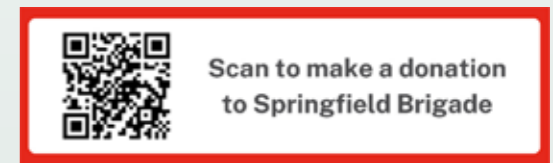


Supporting your local brigade

Our region is lucky to have a number of brigades, both ACT and NSW, supporting the community. There are a number of ways you can support them:

- **Become a member** – not all RFS members fight fires. There are many supporting roles we are always looking for like fundraising and catering.
- **Come to training** – we train on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8:30pm at the Rex Connor Shed, on Patemans Lane. Get in touch and we can talk you through what's involved.
- **Donate** – every brigade is always thankful to receive your financial support. Funds go towards improvements to facilities and equipment.

If you'd like to donate to Springfield, please scan the QR code below to donate via our Square website.



What's your plan?

We are well into the Fire Danger Period with a number of significant events already calling on the RFS for assistance. It doesn't take much for a fire to take hold when the combination of wind, dry grass and a spark come together.

Do you know what you'd do should a fire be close to you? Do you know what risk your home and surrounds are at should a fire come quickly towards it? What are your expectations about what the RFS can actually do for you?

In a rural environment such as ours, it is not realistic to expect the RFS to be able to reach your home quickly. As a volunteer service, we require our members to respond to a call out, get to the station and wait for a crew to be ready to leave. These response times are not the same as if you lived in a metropolitan area with a local Fire and Rescue unit nearby.

It's up to you to be prepared and to have your property organised to reduce the risk of fire impact. To have decided what you would do in the event of a fire and to be ready to act quickly and with purpose.

You can be prepared by taking the time to do a Fire Plan. They are a guided process, found on the NSW RFS website, together with other resources to help you get ready.

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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
or: PO Box 43 Hall ACT 2618.

Advertising rates (per issue)

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

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Many concealer moths hold their wings together 'roof-like' when resting and appear very narrow, whereas others hold their wings flat over their body in a more familiar shape for moths.



▲ *Epithymema incomposita*, like most concealer moths it has no common name.

Concealer moths tend to be small (often around one cm in length) and inconspicuous. Look closely at native grass tussocks, small bushes or even on larger trees (particularly wattles) and you may find them.



▲ *Thalerotricha mylicella*.

One might think they are called concealer moths because the adults hide in grass or bushes rather than actively flying during the day. When disturbed they quickly find another place to hide. However, the name actually comes from the fact that the caterpillars are often hidden in a case of sticks, in a wood tunnel or between leaves stuck together.



◀ *Olbonoma triptycha*, holds its wings 'tent-like' when resting.

The variety of colours and patterns of concealer moths is large, you have to look closely to see their beauty, but like peacock spiders they are worth the effort. These small creatures make it clear that it is not just the obvious that is beautiful around Hall.



▲ *Tortricopsis uncinella*, holds its wings flat.