

Hall Community Cottage Annual Report 2018

Until this year, the Hall Community Cottage was primarily for the use and benefit of the local community. VHDPA agreed that profits from the hire of the Hall Pavilion be used to offset the costs of running the Cottage, so as to provide free access to Hall and district residents.

After the introduction of the Pavilion on-line booking system in July 2017, demand for facility use increased. We saw an opportunity to hire the Cottage rather than turn away prospective hirers. Enquiries come through the Hall website and are monitored carefully to ensure only small family groups are accepted for day hire. The cost was set as \$50 for up to 4 hours use, including set up and cleaning. The full day hire costs \$75. Discounted hire has been negotiated with regular user groups. Payment is made directly into the Hall Pavilion Trust account but identified as separate to the Pavilion income.

This initiative has proved to be very successful, both in generating income to cover Cottage services as well as providing families with a comfortable, low cost venue for small groups. The comments from users have been very complimentary, including it being called "a little gem". Inspections by prospective hirers occur each week.

We have volunteered to clean and maintain the Cottage. This includes the checking before and after each hiring; the emptying garbage from kitchen and bathrooms; floor cleaning; purchasing and replacing consumables such as toilet and hand towel paper, hand soap, garbage bags etc; washing of tea towels; defrosting the refrigerator; repairs as necessary; arranging carpet cleaning when required etc. It has been suggested that a cleaner be employed but the majority of the tasks need to be carried out during the weekend and often between hiring's such as after Saturday 5pm and before Sunday 9am so a once per week contractor is not satisfactory.

Members of the Men's Shed use the Community Cottage several times a week. They are on site Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and use it for morning tea, social gathering, guest speakers and bathroom facilities. Once a month the Men's Shed and Museum members meet for a barbeque lunch for approximately 40 men and women, so the Cottage has become a community hub.

Other groups use the Cottage on average 15 times per month. Community activities are not charged and include the Catholic Church, Anglican Church, Yoga classes, Ladies' Craft, VHDPA meetings and community gatherings such as Wakes for past residents. Charged are made for three separate Meditation classes, ACT Felters, business workshops, and birthday celebrations for young children. Income has been steadily increasing as the facility becomes known with May income \$210 and June \$310.

There are currently 10 pre-paid bookings in July, so the future looks promising.

Tony and Margaret Morris